

وَاطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ  
وَاصْبِرُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ.  
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
الْمُؤْمِنُ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبُنْيَانِ يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا.

## DEFENDING THE HOMELAND: A SACRED DUTY Dear Muslims!

In one of his hadiths, our Prophet (saw) emphasizes the importance and virtue of defending the homeland as follows: **“Guarding the homeland for a day and a night is better than fasting and standing for night prayer for a whole month. If a person dies while guarding the homeland, he will receive the reward for his righteous deeds perpetually, will receive his provision...”**<sup>1</sup>

Through this hadith, the Messenger of Allah (saw) teaches us that defending the homeland is a sacred duty. He (saw) conveys that those who stand guard to protect the homeland will be rewarded as if they are engaged in worship. He (saw) informs us that martyrs who sacrifice their lives for this cause will receive Allah's (swt) eternal blessings and be rewarded with everlasting paradise.

### Dear Believers!

Defending the homeland goes beyond merely safeguarding the land we live on. Defending the homeland means protecting our religion, lives, property, honor, and future generations from all forms of danger. It involves striving to safeguard our independence and future, as well as strengthening our unity and brotherhood. Defending the homeland also means strengthening our families, our most precious treasure. It means ensuring that our children and youth are not left at the mercy of superstitious ideologies and deviant influences. Defending the homeland involves performing our work and professions with excellence and integrity, and ensuring we do not harm the property or lives of others. It requires vigilance against those traitors who seek to exploit our religion and emotions for their own personal ambitions.

### Dear Muslims!

As a nation, we have faced numerous hardships and overcome many adversities in our enduring quest to protect our beloved homeland throughout history. In the face of all difficulties, our only support has been our Almighty Lord (swt). We have placed our trust in Him alone and sought refuge in Him in every circumstance and situation. With the reassurance of the verse,

“Do not falter or grieve, for you will have the upper hand, if you are true believers.”<sup>2</sup>, we have never given up, faltered, or despaired. We have shouldered each other in accordance with our Prophet's (saw) hadith, **“A faithful believer to a faithful believer is like the bricks of a wall, enforcing each other.”**<sup>3</sup> In Malazgirt, Çanakkale, and during the War of Independence, we defended our homeland against

the mightiest armies, overcoming all obstacles. Alhamdulillah, we have never yielded to oppression or the oppressors.

### Esteemed Believers!

Just as in the past, the malicious traps set against our country and beloved nation will fail today and tomorrow. Internal and external murder networks, devoid of humanity and disregarding moral and human values, will never succeed in achieving their vile ambitions. The traitors who aim to undermine the indivisible integrity of our homeland will never succeed in disrupting our atmosphere of trust and peace, weakening our strength, or destroying our hopes for the future. Our Lord's (swt) promise, **“Allah will certainly perfect His light, even to the dismay of the disbelievers.”**<sup>4</sup> will certainly come true. As stated in the verse, **“Soon their united front will be defeated and they will be forced to flee.”**<sup>5</sup>, all terrorist organizations seeking to turn the world into a battlefield, along with the evil forces behind them, will undoubtedly be defeated.

### Dear Muslims!

In these times when they seek to transform our surroundings into a ring of fire, it is our duty to uphold our unity and solidarity rooted in Islamic brotherhood. This means we must strive harder and put in greater effort to strengthen ourselves in every area. It involves making goodness prevail in every aspect of our lives and preventing the influence of evil and wrongdoers. It means fulfilling our responsibility to raise our children—the light of our eyes—as good individuals and responsible Muslims. It involves standing as a united front against those who threaten the peace, lives, and property of the people. It means to live by and keep alive the noble values for which our beloved martyrs sacrificed their lives and our heroic veterans fought valiantly, running from front to front. In short, it means to thwart the malicious schemes being plotted against our country and beloved nation with both courage and prudence.

On this occasion, I commemorate with mercy and gratitude our beloved martyrs, who have made our beautiful homeland our home where we live in peace, and our heroic veterans who have passed away. I would also like to take this opportunity to pray for our Lord's (swt) mercy on our brothers and sisters who lost their lives in the heinous attack in Ankara, a speedy recovery to the wounded, and patience and condolences to their grieving families and our beloved nation.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the Verse 46 of the Surah al-Anfal: **“Obey Allah and His Messenger and do not dispute with one another, or you would be discouraged and weakened. Persevere! Surely Allah is with those who persevere.”**<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Muslim, Ijarah, 163.

<sup>2</sup> Ali 'Imran, 3/139.

<sup>3</sup> Bukhari, Adab, 36.

<sup>4</sup> Saff, 61/8.

<sup>5</sup> Qamar, 54/45.

<sup>6</sup> Anfal, 8/46.