

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

...قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَبْتَغِي فِيهِ عِلْمًا سَلَكَ اللَّهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا

إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ...

## EDUCATION AND INSTRUCTION

### Esteemed Muslims!

The most important factor in enabling people to establish positive relationships with their Lord, themselves, society, and their surroundings, and to lead measured and balanced lives, is education and instruction. The following verse expresses most beautifully the value that learning and acquiring sound knowledge hold in the sight of Allah: “Say, ‘O Prophet,’ ‘Are those who know equal to those who do not know?’”<sup>1</sup>

### Dear Believers!

The foundation of education should be an approach that seeks to raise good people who make it their guiding principle to worship the Creator and show compassion to His creation, while remaining committed to their national and spiritual values. For the purpose of education is to raise a generation nourished by faith, strengthened by knowledge, and embracing all humanity with compassion—a generation that is a source of hope for our nation, the ummah of Muhammad, and all humanity. The purpose of education is to build a society that embodies wisdom under the guidance of divine revelation and noble character by following the example of our Prophet Muhammad (saw). The purpose of education is to contribute to enabling our country to have a leading voice in science, technology, the arts, and, in short, every sphere of life.

### Dear Parents!

### Esteemed Teachers!

We are living through a time in which everything is changing at a tremendous pace. In this process, we see that the interests, perceptions, and expectations of young people are also changing rapidly. Therefore, to provide a good education, we must first know and understand our children well. We should support them in keeping pace with the spirit of the times, understanding the age in which they live, and acquiring the knowledge and skills required for the future. At the same time, in accordance with the divine command, “O believers! **Protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones,**”<sup>2</sup> we must protect our children and young people from deviant ideologies, false movements, and all forms of addiction.

### Dear Muslims!

Our duty today is to introduce our children to our faith, customs and traditions, history, and culture in the most accurate way. It is to guide them in preparing provisions for the Hereafter just as diligently as we strive for their worldly success, and even more so. Let us not forget that, for those who believe in the existence of an eternal realm, true success lies in attaining the pleasure of Allah the Almighty.

On this occasion, we pray to Allah the Almighty that the new academic year, which will begin this coming Monday, may be blessed and auspicious for our children, teachers, parents, and our nation.

We conclude this week’s khutbah with the following glad tidings from our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw): “**Whoever sets out on a path in pursuit of knowledge, Allah will make the path to Paradise easy for them...**”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Zumar, 39/9.

<sup>2</sup> Tahrim, 66/6.

<sup>3</sup> Tirmidhi, ‘Ilm, 19.

