

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

اللَّهُمَّ انْفَعْنِي بِمَا عَلَّمْتَنِي وَعَلِّمْنِي مَا يَنْفَعُنِي

وَرِزْنِي عِلْمًا.

EDUCATION IN COMPASSION

Honorable Muslims!

One of the matters that our sublime religion, Islam, emphasizes with great care is education. In our civilization, education is regarded as a pursuit of truth in which knowledge and wisdom, as well as learning and morality, coexist. An understanding of education is embraced that brings the human being closer to Allah the Almighty and unites them with virtues such as love, respect, and compassion. Alongside worldly success, it is aimed to cultivate an awareness of education in which a person fulfills their responsibilities toward their Lord, their family, and their surroundings. The supplication of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw), **“O Allah! Benefit me with what You have taught me. Teach me knowledge that will benefit me, and increase me in knowledge,”**¹ is one of the finest examples of this.

Dear Believers!

Education is a lifelong process. For the human being is shaped through education. One can comprehend the wisdom of creation and the purpose of existence through education. One can distinguish good from evil, and truth from falsehood through education. A virtuous society—where religion, life, property, lineage, and intellect are protected—can be built through education. A civilization in which justice and compassion prevail can only be established through education.

Esteemed Muslims!

Today, the entire world is passing through a period in which the values that make a human truly

human have weakened. Deliverance from this is possible only when people return to their essence, follow the guidance of revelation, and take the noble character of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) as an example. As a society, we too can find remedies for our difficulties, become a source of hope for one another, and look toward the future with greater confidence through an understanding of education imbued with our national and spiritual values. For we are members of a civilization that has taken as its guiding principle the noble verse, **“Invite ‘all’ to the Way of your Lord with wisdom and kind advice.”**² We are the ummah of the Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw), who was sent as a teacher³ and, through his noble Sunnah and education of compassion, served as a guide not only to the society in which he lived but to all of humanity. We are the descendants of a glorious forebear that bears upon its shoulders the responsibility of being representatives of goodness on earth, in accordance with the noble hadith, **“The best of people are those who are most beneficial to people.”**⁴

Esteemed Muslims!

The duty that falls upon each of us today is to hold firmly to the values that define us and sustain us. It is to strive with all our strength to protect our children and youth from every false ideology, deviant movement, and harmful habit. It is to give greater importance to instilling knowledge in their minds, faith in their hearts, and worship and morality in their lives.

We conclude this week’s khutbah with the following supplication of the Prophet Muhammad (saw): **“O Allah! I seek refuge in You from a heart that does not feel humility, from a soul that is never satisfied, from knowledge that does not benefit, and from a supplication that is not accepted.”**⁵

¹ Tirmidhi, Da’awat, 128.

² Nahl, 16/125.

³ Darimi, Muqaddimah, 32.

⁴ Quda’i, Musnad al-Shihab, I, 365.

⁵ Nasa’i, Isti’adha, 13.

