

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَسَخَّرَ لَكُمْ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا مِنْهُ إِنَّ

فِي ذَلِكَ لآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

عُرِضَتْ عَلَيَّ أَعْمَالُ أُمَّتِي حَسَنَتُهَا وَسَيِّئَتُهَا فَوَجَدْتُ فِي

مَحَاسِنِ أَعْمَالِهَا الْأَذَى يُمَاطُ عَنِ الطَّرِيقِ...

ENVIRONMENT IS ENTRUSTED TO US

Dear Muslims!

We live within a perfect system known as the universe. It is our Almighty Lord (swt), Who created, sustains, and manages this magnificent work created out of nothing. It is Allah the Almighty, Who provides us with water, our source of life, and the air we need with every breath. He (swt) is the One, Who makes the soil a source of fertility and the forests a source of oxygen. It is Allah the Almighty, Who has created the sun, moon, stars, the oceans, lakes, and rivers—in other words, all the blessings available to humankind. In the verse I have recited at the beginning of the khutbah, our Almighty Lord (swt) states, **“He also subjected for you whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth—all by His grace. Surely in this are signs for people who reflect.”**¹

Dear Believers!

The environment we live in is a gift from Allah the Almighty. It is a trust we have inherited from our ancestors and must pass on to future generations. In one of his hadiths, the Messenger of Allah (saw) says, **“He who is not trustworthy has no faith.”**² and refers to honoring the trust as a manifestation of faith. By caring for and protecting our environment, we will be honoring that trust.

Dear Muslims!

No corruption on earth ever occurs by its own making. In this regard, Allah the Almighty states in the Holy Qur'an as follows:

“**Corruption** ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ

has spread on land and sea as a result of what people's hands have done.”³ Yes, today, people who

focus solely on themselves and seek happiness through unlimited consumption are disrupting the natural balance of the earth. Many people, enslaved by greed and avarice, and succumbing to the insatiable desires of their nafs, are irresponsibly destroying the common resources shared by all creatures. The oppressors, who render the earth uninhabitable with the chemical

weapons and bombs they produce, not only kill innocent people but also destroy natural life with the genocides they commit in various parts of the world, particularly in Gaza. In this regard, Allah the Almighty describes these wrongdoers to us as follows: **“And when they leave you, they strive throughout the land to spread mischief in it and destroy crops and cattle. Allah does not like mischief.”**⁴

Dear Believers!

Shortage of water and drought are among the most pressing environmental problems facing the world today. Our Prophet (saw) forbade wasting even a drop of water and advised us to use water sparingly, even when performing wudu in the river.⁵ Today, however, water resources are disappearing in many places, including our own country, due to unnecessary consumption. Irresponsible waste, unplanned wells, and careless irrigation threaten the future of water, which is the source of our life.

Dear Muslims!

We are not the owners of the world; we are its custodians. What we need to do is avoid waste and extravagance and protect our environment with a sense of worship. It is to keep clean and protect our natural habitats, forests, picnic areas, and especially our water resources. It is to be careful against forest fires, especially in summer. It is to avoid all attitudes and behaviors that could harm our environment and living creatures, disrupting the natural balance. It is to strive to leave a habitable world and a clean environment for future generations. Let us not forget that cleanliness is half of faith⁶ and a prerequisite for worship. It is the most important trait of a Muslim. Therefore, a Muslim must keep their workplace, streets, surroundings, and recreational areas clean. They should strongly avoid attitudes and behaviors that disrupt the divine balance our Lord (swt) has established in the universe.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with our Prophet's (saw) following hadith: **“The deeds of my people, good and bad, were presented before me, and I found the removal of harmful objects from the road among their good deeds, and phlegm which might be in a mosque left unburied among their evil deeds.”**⁷

¹ Jathiyah, 45/13.

² Ibn Hanbal, III, 134.

³ Rum, 30/41.

⁴ Baqarah, 2/205.

⁵ Ibn Majah, Taharah, 48.

⁶ Muslim, Taharah, 1.

⁷ Muslim, Masjid, 57; Ibn Majah, Adab, 7.