

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا تَحْنُّ
مُضْلِّوْنَ. أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ وَلَكِنْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِيَّاكُمْ وَالْعُلُوُّ فِي الدِّينِ فَإِنَّمَا أَهْلَكَ مَنْ
كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ الْعُلُوُّ فِي الدِّينِ.

EXPLOITATION OF RELIGION

Honorable Muslims!

One of the divine wisdoms behind the creation of human beings is to build and cultivate the earth. People build a life upon wisdom to the extent that they attain authentic religious knowledge. However, when people turn away from this knowledge and pursue whims and desires, ignorance, and superstitions, cultivation gives way to corruption, and reform is replaced by mischief.

Dear Believers!

Our sublime religion, Islam, rejects extremism. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) stated in a hadith, **“O people! Beware of exaggeration in religious matters, for those who came before you were doomed because of exaggeration in religious matters.”**¹ Islam calls upon Muslims to follow the middle path and to lead a balanced life. Allah the Almighty states in the Noble Qur'an, **“And so We have made you 'believers' an upright community so that you may be witnesses over humanity and that the Messenger may be a witness over you.”**² Despite this, those who exploit the noble values of Islam, the religion of peace and tranquility, have existed in the past and, unfortunately, continue to exist today. The true aim of such individuals is to cause strife and corruption within the Islamic community under the guise of religion and to sow discord among Muslims.

Esteemed Muslims!

Those who exploit religion present themselves as if they are the sole representatives of the faith. They confine Islam within the limits of their own ideologies. In order to support their views, which are not based on authentic religious knowledge, they detach the Noble Qur'an and the sunnah from their true meanings and resort to arbitrary interpretations.

They do not hesitate to dismiss hadiths in order to legitimize their divisive and exclusionary rhetoric. They manipulate concepts such as shirk, takfir, and jihad to justify taking lives and murdering fellow Muslims. The Holy Qur'an reveals the true nature of these groups, who present themselves as reformers and defenders of tawhid, with the following words: **“When they are told, 'Do not spread corruption in the land,' they reply, 'We are only peace-makers!'** Indeed, it is they who are the corruptors, but they fail to perceive it.”³

Honorable Believers!

The Owner of the religion is Allah the Almighty. The Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw) is the one who lived Islam in the most correct and perfect manner. According to Islam, no one can place themselves in the position of Allah or His Messenger. No one has the authority to issue rulings on behalf of Allah and His Messenger. They cannot disregard the religious and historical legacy inherited from our tradition. No one can regard themselves as the sole representative of the religion. No one can claim that the absolute truth belongs to them alone. No one can cast a Muslim out of the circle of faith by accusing them of shirk or disbelief or harm their life, property, or honor.

Noble Muslims!

Unfortunately, today, Muslim societies are confronted with a dangerous mindset that views Islam as their own exclusive domain and excludes anyone who does not align with it. These deviant groups, who seek to confuse the minds of Muslim youth through digital platforms and attempt to associate the religion of peace, Islam, with violence, have now become a global problem. We must be vigilant against these structures that threaten our unity and solidarity and aim to cast a shadow over our future. We must ensure that our youth acquire authentic religious knowledge through proper methods and approaches, and from officially qualified individuals. We must preserve and uphold our Islamic tradition, which originates from the Noble Qur'an, the sunnah, and our civilization. We must not forget that those who inflict the greatest harm upon Islam and Muslims are those who exploit our religion, our values, and our sacred concepts.

¹ Ibn Majah, Manasik, 63.

² Baqarah 2/143.

³ Baqarah, 2/11-12.

