

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ لَا تُفْسِدُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا نَحْنُ مُصْلِحُونَ. أَلَا إِنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْمُفْسِدُونَ وَلَكِنْ لَا يَشْعُرُونَ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
...بِئْسَ الْعَبْدُ عَبْدٌ يَخْتَلِ الدُّنْيَا بِالْدِّينِ... بِئْسَ الْعَبْدُ
عَبْدٌ هَوَىٰ يُضِلُّهُ...

EXPLOITATION OF RELIGION

Honorable Muslims!

Next Wednesday, the calendars will once again mark July 15. July 15 is the day when FETÖ, acting as a proxy for global powers, sought to undermine our unity, brotherhood, freedom, and liberty. At the same time, July 15 is the day when our noble nation, through the help and support of Allah the Almighty, turned the treacherous plots of the traitors back upon themselves. It is the day when men and women, young and old alike, stood together as one heart. It is the day when, accompanied by the salas proclaimed from the minarets, we stood in defense of our homeland, our national and spiritual values, and our independence and future.

Dear Believers!

Our glorious nation, with heartfelt faith in the noble verse, “Do not worry; Allah is certainly with us,”¹ has, throughout history, shielded the state, the flag, and its sacred values with their very lives whenever they were threatened, never allowing shameless aggressors to prevail. Those who carried out the vile attack on July 15, those who continue to devise treacherous schemes, and those who show no respect for the blood of our martyrs should know this well: our heroic nation has never been left without a state throughout its history, and by the permission of Allah, it never will be. What enabled us to rule over three continents on the stage of history, to open the gates of Anatolia to Islam through the Battle of Manzikert, to change the course of history with the Conquest of Istanbul, to rise to greatness at Gallipoli and during the War of Independence, and to declare “Stop!” to treachery on July 15 is our submission to Allah, the faith within our hearts, and our consciousness of martyrdom. The following verses of the poem express these truths so beautifully:

A flag is made a flag by the blood that stains it.

Only the land for which lives are given deserves to be called a homeland.

Esteemed Muslims!

The most distinguishing characteristic that sets FETÖ apart from other networks of treachery is its

exploitation of our exalted religion of Islam and our cherished values. By assuming the appearance of righteousness, it has manipulated concepts belonging to our civilization—such as “hodja,” “community,” and “service”—for its own despicable ambitions. It concealed its true intentions, ruined the futures of countless young people, and, for the sake of its own interests, regarded lies, hypocrisy, and every form of evil as legitimate. It also exploited acts of worship such as zakat, sadaqah, and qurbani as instruments to achieve its sinister objectives. Allah the Almighty describes such movements of hypocrisy as follows: **“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.”**²

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Those who seek to divide our homeland and weaken our unity and solidarity have not abandoned their ambitions. Forces of evil will continue to exploit our religion and, under different guises and through various methods, target our faith, our brotherhood, and our social cohesion. Whenever they find the opportunity, they will strive to sow the seeds of discord and undermine the peace and harmony of our society.

Noble Muslims!

In order not to give opportunity to exploitative groups and fall into their traps, let us learn the Qur’an, our exalted Book, and the Sunnah of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw) from officially qualified and trustworthy individuals and institutions, and put their guidance into practice in our lives. Let us ensure that our children and young people are equipped with authentic religious knowledge. Let us strengthen trust and sincerity, friendship and brotherhood, especially within our families and throughout our social relationships. Let us not become complacent by thinking, “Such dangers are now behind us.” Rather, as Muslims, let us act with insight and discernment. Let us never forget that discord never sleeps, treachery is always seeking an opportunity, and the enemy changes its methods every day.

On this occasion, we pray that Allah the Almighty grants His mercy to our noble martyrs, who from the past to the present sacrificed their lives for our religion, our homeland, and our sacred values, as well as to our heroic veterans who have passed on to the Hereafter.

We conclude this week’s khutbah with the following hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (saw): **“...What an evil servant is the one who seeks the world through the religion!... What an evil servant is the worshipper who is misled by his desire.”**³

¹ Tawbah, 9/40.

² Baqarah, 2/11-12.

³ Tirmidhi, Sifat al-Qiyamah, 17.

