

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ كَانَتْ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتُ  
الْفِرْدَوْسِ نُزُلًا خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا لَا يَبْغُونَ عَنْهَا حِوَلًا .  
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْإِيمَانُ بَضْعٌ وَسَبْعُونَ شُعْبَةً أَفْضَلُهَا لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَوْضَعُهَا  
إِمَاطَةُ الْأَذَى عَنِ الطَّرِيقِ وَالْحَيَاءُ شُعْبَةٌ مِنَ الْإِيمَانِ .

### FAITH EXALTS PEOPLE

#### Honorable Muslims!

Our Lord Almighty (swt) has bestowed upon us countless pleasant blessings. There is one such blessing among them that is more valuable and important the others. This great blessing is faith. For faith exalts people. With faith, hearts are filled with peace. With faith, consciences become purified. With faith, minds are at ease. With faith, graves are illuminated. With faith, the place of resurrection finds serenity. With faith, al-Sirat is crossed. With faith, one enters the paradise.

How great that treasure, o Allah, which is faith!

A mere burden in the chest is a heart without faith!

#### Dear Believers!

Faith entails acknowledging through heart and testifying through tongue all the messages our Prophet (saw) conveyed to us from Allah the Almighty (swt). Upon Jibreel's (as) question, "What does faith mean?", the Messenger of Allah (saw) replied as follows, "**Faith is to believe in Allah, His angels, His books, His prophets, the Resurrection, and destiny with all the good and bad things it entails.**"<sup>1</sup>

Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds - they will have the Gardens of Paradise as a lodging, wherein they abide eternally and they will not desire from it any transfer.<sup>2</sup> When it comes to those who disbelieve in the verses of their Lord and in [their] meeting Him, and ridicule the prophets, their deeds have become worthless. Hell is their destination in the Afterlife.<sup>3</sup>

#### Dear Muslims!

The first condition of being honored with Islam is to believe in Allah (swt) Believers believe wholeheartedly that their Lord is one, who has created all things from nothing, and who keeps alive and oversees all things. They worship Allah (swt) only and only Him (swt) they ask for help.

Believers who are sincerely devoted to Allah (swt) attain peace thanks to the angels who stand by them from birth to death, protect them, and pray to Allah (swt) to forgive them.

Believers hold tightly on to the Holy Qur'an, which is the cure for the soul and body, calmness for the heart and mind, and meaning for the words and life. They adhere to the sunnah of our Prophet (saw) who lived by our Holy Book in the best way. For they know that the most beautiful of words is the Book of Allah (swt) and the finest guidance is that of our Prophet (saw).<sup>4</sup>

Believers also believe in the Afterlife. They acknowledge that the world is temporary and the Afterlife is the permanent residence. They live aware that they will account in the Afterlife for what they have done in this world. Finally, believers believe in qada and qadar and that all good and evil occurrences take place as Allah (swt) has created them. With this belief, they use their will, mind, and conscience as well. They strive using all their strength to reach the best, the most truthful and the most pleasant. For what falls upon us as servants of Allah (swt) is to make the effort, and the result naturally depends on the decree of Allah the Almighty (swt).

#### Dear Believers!

For faith to take root in our hearts, we need to reflect the principles of faith on our life. In this respect, our Prophet (saw) states in one hadith as follows, "**Faith has over seventy branches. The most excellent of which is the declaration that "there is no god but Allah." The humblest of which is the removal of what is injurious from the path. And modesty (al-haya) is the branch of faith as well.**"<sup>5</sup>

Let us endeavor to live up to and keep up the values we believe. Let us pay attention to ensuring that all living beings are safe from our hand and tongue. Let us protect and observe human and public rights, as well as the orphan's property and rights. Let us spread love and affection around us. Let us be happy and thankful when we do good, and be sad and repent when we do evil. Let us not forget that happiness in this world and in the Afterlife are enjoyed by believers who duly obey their Lord (swt), embrace the faith principles truly, continue their worship sincerely, and make no concessions on good morals.

<sup>1</sup> Ibn Hanbal, I, 28.

<sup>2</sup> Kahf, 18/107, 108.

<sup>3</sup> Kahf, 18/103-106.

<sup>4</sup> Ibn Hanbal, III, 320.

<sup>5</sup> Nasa'i, Iman, 16.