

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِيَ لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ  
فَاسْعَوْا إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَذَرُوا الْبَيْعَ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ  
كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

خَيْرُ يَوْمٍ طَلَعَتْ عَلَيْهِ الشَّمْسُ يَوْمَ الْجُمُعَةِ...

## FRIDAY AND THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE UMMAH

### Honorable Muslims!

Today is Friday... As our beloved Prophet (saw) said, **“The best day on which the sun has risen is Friday...”**<sup>1</sup> Today is the weekly gathering day for us believers. It is an exceptional time in which our unity, togetherness, and brotherhood are strengthened.

### Dear Believers!

Among the foremost responsibilities we must fulfill on Friday is performing the Friday prayer. Allah the Almighty says: **“O believers! When the call to prayer is made on Friday, then proceed ‘diligently’ to the remembrance of Allah and leave off ‘your’ business. That is best for you, if only you knew.”**<sup>2</sup> This call is not merely for bodies to gather in one place; it is for souls to come together and for hearts to unite upon the same truth. This call is so that, just as shoulders touch one another, hearts may also touch one another. This call reminds all believers—whose languages, colors, madhhabs, ranks, and positions may differ—to support one another like the bricks of a wall.

### Honorable Believers!

The call made for the Friday prayer is meant to teach Muslims to set aside their differences, to embrace unity, to stay away from division, and to hold firmly to one another—in other words, to be an Ummah. This call points to the exemplary lives of the noble companions, who would listen to the sermon and the khutbah as if a bird were perched upon their heads<sup>3</sup> and would fly away if they moved. And this call reminds us to convey the truths and realities of

Islam and the mercy-laden messages of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) to every corner of the world.

### Esteemed Muslims!

Believers who take care with their bodies, their clothing, and their fragrance in order to stand before Allah on Friday should also be mindful of their words and conduct in social life, and they should not turn their backs on one another. They should be a remedy for each other’s troubles and a solution to one another’s difficulties; they should not fall into fruitless disputes nor be confined by shallow understandings. The Ummah of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), who come together in mosques and masjids to perform the Friday prayer and turn toward the same qiblah, should also keep their ranks firm outside the mosque and show patience together in the face of hardships. They should be united as one body against their enemies and protect their mosques, their masjids, their qiblah, and their homeland.

### Noble Muslims!

In these days when wars and suffering are taking place, when humanity longs for peace, and when oppressors prevent prostration in Masjid al-Aqsa, our duty is to keep alive the consciousness of Friday and the Ummah. It is to unite our minds and hearts upon the same faith, the same feeling, and the same ideal. It is to make Friday a means of renewing our covenant of brotherhood, of standing together like the limbs of a single body, and of strengthening our unity and solidarity. And it is to remember that mercy lies in unity, while torment lies in division.

We congratulate you on your Friday and conclude this week’s khutbah with the following hadith of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw): **“Whoever performs ablution properly and then comes to the Friday prayer, and listens attentively to the khutbah, his sins committed between that Friday and the following Friday will be forgiven...”**<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Muslim, Jumu’ah, 18.

<sup>2</sup> Jumu’ah, 62/9.

<sup>3</sup> Abu Dawud, Tibb, 1.

<sup>4</sup> Muslim, Jumu’ah, 27.

