

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

جَعَلَ اللَّهُ الْكَعْبَةَ الْبَيْتَ الْحَرَامَ قِيَامًا لِلنَّاسِ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْحَجُّ الْمَبْرُورُ لَيْسَ لَهُ جَزَاءٌ إِلَّا الْجَنَّةُ.

## HAJJ: A WORSHIP THAT REVIVES THE INDIVIDUAL AND BUILDS THE SOCIETY

### Dear Muslims!

Today is the eighth day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the Day of Tarwiyah. Tarwiyah is the day when the guests of al-Rahman set out from Mecca towards 'Arafat. And tomorrow is the Day of 'Arafah. Tomorrow, all the pilgrims will gather at 'Arafat for the waqfah. They will present their supplications to Allah. May our Almighty Lord (swt) grant Hajj Mabrur (the one accepted by Allah) to all pilgrims and accept their prayers.

### Dear Believers!

Hajj is a worship that contains many divine wisdoms and blessings. It revives individuals and builds the society. Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam. It is a gathering of brotherhood where Muslims from all over the world come together. Hajj is qiyam (standing up); it is resurrection. Allah the Almighty expresses this truth as follows: **“Allah has made the Ka‘bah, the Sacred House, standing for the people...”**<sup>1</sup>

### Dear Muslims!

A believer who seeks to attain the glad tidings of **“The reward of Hajj Mabrur is nothing except Paradise.”**<sup>2</sup> from our beloved Prophet (saw) first enters the state of ihram. Ihram is to abandon all sins and prohibitions and to clothe oneself in the garment of piety. Ihram advises us to purify ourselves from worldly desires, ambitions, positions, fame, and prestige. It teaches us to avoid spiritual illnesses such as hatred, enmity, anger, and violence. It reminds us to keep our tongues from lies, our ears from gossip, our eyes from the haram, and our hearts from envy.

The believer who puts on ihram climbs 'Arafat to fulfill the fardh of hajj. 'Arafat is the place where the evils that corrupt individuals and societies are trampled upon, and where humanitarian and conscientious values that ensure peace and harmony are proclaimed to the world. 'Arafat signifies reflection on death, resurrection, and the Day of Judgment. It informs us of the need to adopt the consciousness of being an 'ummah and highlights that we should never compromise on unity and solidarity. It emphasizes not only the indispensability of belief in

the oneness of Allah (tawhid), but also underlines the crucial importance of preserving the unity of the 'ummah (wahdah). Our Almighty Lord (swt) informs us of this truth with the verse, **“Indeed, this religion of yours is ‘only’ one, and I am your Lord, so worship Me ‘alone’.”**<sup>3</sup>

### Dear Believers!

Another fardh act of hajj is the Tawaf al-Ziyarah (circumambulation of visit). Tawaf is to place the Ka‘bah, the first temple built on earth, at the level of our hearts and circumambulate around it seven times. Tawaf engraves in our hearts the consciousness of organizing our lives according to the measures set by Allah (swt). It tells that believers, diverse in color, language, and race, yet united in purpose and ideals, should support each other like the bricks of a building.

After tawaf, believers proceed to sa‘y. Sa‘y is a pursuit, and an effort. Sa‘y reminds us to strive for the peace and well-being of our children and youth, drawing inspiration from the effort Hajar, the mother of Isma‘il, made to quench his thirst. The threats endangering our children today are no less significant or trivial than the thirst that threatened the Prophet Isma‘il in his childhood. For if our children and youth are deprived of Allah, awareness of the Hereafter, prophets, the Book, faith, and morality, they will face challenges greater than those Prophet Isma‘il could have encountered.

### Dear Muslims!

As I conclude this Friday’s khutbah, I would like to bring an issue to your attention. First, many of our brothers and sisters will be traveling for the ‘eid. Let us be patient, understanding, and attentive throughout the journey so that the joy of the ‘eid does not turn into sorrow. Let us respect the rights each other. Let us avoid behaviors that put ourselves, our families, and others in danger. Another important point is not to forget to recite the Takbirs of Tashriq, starting with the fajr prayer tomorrow morning and ending with the ‘asr prayer on the fourth day of ‘eid, after the fardh prayers.

On these blessed days when prayers are accepted, I pray to Allah the Almighty that the ‘Eid al-Adha will bring goodness to our dear nation, the Islamic world, and all of humanity. I pray for peace and salvation for all oppressed and suffering people around the world, especially our brothers and sisters in Gaza.

<sup>1</sup> Ma‘idah, 5/94.

<sup>2</sup> Bukhari, ‘Umrah, 1.

<sup>3</sup> Anbiya, 21/92.