

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ تَفَرَّقُوا وَاخْتَلَفُوا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ

الْبَيِّنَاتُ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَا تَبَاغَضُوا ، وَلَا تَحَاسَدُوا ، وَلَا تَدَابَرُوا ، وَكُونُوا عِبَادَ

اللَّهِ إِخْوَانًا...

IN UNITY LIES MERCY

Honorable Muslims!

We are now in the spiritual atmosphere of the month of Muharram, one of the four sacred months¹ that our Almighty Lord has commanded to be held in reverence and which our Prophet Muhammad (saw) described as **"worthy of honor and respect."**² The Messenger of Allah (saw) declared, **"The most virtuous fast after Ramadan is the fast observed in Muharram, the month of Allah."**³, reminding us that this blessed month is to be embraced with worship and obedience, praise and gratitude, and sincere repentance and the seeking of divine forgiveness.

Dear Believers!

Next Thursday, we will observe the Day of Ashura. The Day of Ashura, marked by many significant events in the history of the prophets, is, sadly, also the day on which Husayn, the beloved grandson of our Prophet Muhammad (saw)—whom he described as **"the leader of the youth of Paradise"**⁴—along with more than seventy Muslims, the majority of them from our Prophet's Household (Ahl al-Bayt), was mercilessly martyred at Karbala.

Esteemed Muslims!

Karbala serves as a reminder to the believers of the necessity of maintaining unity and cohesion, and of refraining from division and dissension. It conveys the imperative of upholding the right and the truth, and of not deviating from justice and benevolence. Karbala urges us to respond with prudence and

spiritual discernment to those who wish to plant the seeds of discord and corruption among us and to incite brother against brother. It calls upon us to heed the admonition of our beloved Prophet (saw), **"In unity lies mercy, and in division lies punishment."**⁵, and to share, as we do in joy and blessings, also in sorrow and hardship.

Honorable Believers!

Today, those who seek to condemn believers to suffering and tears, and to exploit the underground and above-ground resources of Islamic lands, are resorting to every means to create new Karbalas in many regions of the world, especially in Gaza and Palestine. As the Ummah of Muhammad, if we are to avoid experiencing such grief once again and to deny joy to the forces of evil, we must seek avenues of common understanding instead of exacerbating our differences. For our Lord is one, our Prophet is one, our Book is one, and our Qibla is one. In accordance with the command of the Almighty Allah, **"And do not be like those who split into sects and differed after clear proofs had come to them."**⁶, we must hold firmly to one another and avoid all words, attitudes, and actions that would harm Islamic brotherhood.

On this occasion, we commemorate with mercy all those who gave their lives in the cause of religion, homeland, and sacred values, foremost among them Husayn and the Ahl al-Bayt of the Prophet Muhammad.

We conclude our khutbah with the following warning of the Messenger of Allah (saw): **"Do not harbor hatred or enmity toward one another. Do not envy one another. Do not turn your backs on one another. Be you, o worshippers of Allah, brothers."**⁷

¹ Tawbah, 9/36.

² Muslim, Siyam, 203.

³ Muslim, Siyam, 202.

⁴ Tirmidhi, Manaqib, 30.

⁵ Ibn Hanbal, IV, 278.

⁶ Ali 'Imran, 3/105.

⁷ Bukhari, Adab, 62.

