

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

اللَّهُمَّ! إِنِّي أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الشَّقَاقِ وَالنِّفَاقِ وَسُوءِ الْأَخْلَاقِ.

## ISLAM

### Honorable Muslims!

Allah the Almighty has granted us intellect and free will so that we may cultivate and prosper both our worldly life and our Hereafter. He has sent prophets and revealed books for our guidance. With the decree, **“Certainly, Allah’s only Way is Islam,”**<sup>1</sup> He has chosen Islam for all people who will come until the Day of Resurrection.

Islam is a religion that invites humanity to peace and happiness. It is a religion that purifies minds from evil thoughts, cleanses the souls from selfishness and greed, and shows humankind the path to salvation. It is a religion that teaches the ways of establishing honesty and justice, goodness and beauty on the earth.

### Dear Believers!

The essence of Islam is tawhid. Tawhid is the declaration and affirmation that majesty and greatness belong only to Allah the Almighty. It is to submit to the true Owner of existence and to attain genuine freedom by being liberated from the captivity of whims and desires. Tawhid is to bow before no one and nothing except Allah, while standing with unwavering dignity for the sake of truth and reality. Allah the Almighty declares: **“That is Allah—your Lord! There is no god ‘worthy of worship’ except Him. ‘He is’ the Creator of all things, so worship Him ‘alone’. And He is the Maintainer of everything.”**<sup>2</sup>

### Esteemed Muslims!

The reflection of Islam in social life is wahdah. Wahdah means unity, togetherness, and brotherhood. Even though their languages and geographies may differ, the believers—whose Lord is One, whose Prophet is one, whose Book is one, and whose qiblah is one—remain

firmly united with one another in every circumstance, and together they do not allow oppression or oppressors to prevail. They regard differences as a source of richness; they make them a means for unity and integration, not for separation and division. Concerning this matter, the declaration of our Exalted Lord is very clear: **“‘O prophets!’ Indeed, this religion of yours is ‘only’ one, and I am your Lord, so worship Me ‘alone’.”**<sup>3</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

Today, what will deliver humanity from the crises into which it has fallen are the guiding messages of Islam. What will transform our world—intended to be turned into a place of devastation—once again into a land of peace are the life-giving principles of the Noble Qur’an. What will warm hearts toward one another and unite people together is the noble character of the Messenger of Allah (saw).

### Noble Muslims!

The Owner of Islam is Allah the Almighty. He is the One Who revealed it and the One Who will preserve it until the Day of Resurrection.<sup>4</sup> The Book of this religion is the Holy Qur’an. Its prophet is the Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw), who taught Islam by living it in the most exemplary manner. Therefore, no individual or group can claim a monopoly over Islam. Under the pretext of defending tawhid, which is the most fundamental characteristic of Islam, no one may spread discord and corruption or harm the unity of the Ummah and the peace and solidarity of our homeland. It should never be forgotten that Islam is a sublime religion that cannot be confined within narrow boundaries, nor can it be limited to the borders of any single geography.

May our Exalted Lord never separate us from wahdah, from unity, togetherness, and brotherhood. We conclude this week’s khutbah with the following supplication of the Prophet Muhammad (saw): **“O Allah! I seek refuge in You from divisiveness, hypocrisy, and evil character.”**<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ali ‘Imran, 3/19.

<sup>2</sup> An’am, 6/102.

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

<sup>4</sup> Hijr, 15/9.

<sup>5</sup> Abu Dawud, Witr, 32.

