

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

رَبَّنَا إِنَّا سَمِعْنَا مُنَادِيًا يُنَادِي لِلْإِيمَانِ أَنْ آمِنُوا  
بِرَبِّكُمْ فَأَمَنَّا رَبَّنَا فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَكَفِّرْ عَنَّا سَيِّئَاتِنَا  
وَتَوَقَّنَا مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ يَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ  
اللَّهِ صِدْقًا مِنْ قَلْبِهِ إِلَّا حَرَّمَهُ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّارِ.

### KALIMAT AL-SHAHADAH: THE ESSENCE OF FAITH

#### Honorable Muslims!

The Messenger of Allah (saw) was travelling with Mu'adh ibn Jabal one day. He (saw) said, "O Mu'adh!" Mu'adh ibn Jabal (ra) replied, "Yes, o Messenger of Allah! Your word is my command!" This dialogue between the two was repeated three times and then he (saw) said, "Whoever sincerely testifies that there is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger, Allah will save him from the Hellfire."<sup>1</sup>

#### Dear Believers!

The exalted words our Prophet (saw) mentioned is called the kalimat al-shahadah that enables human to be honored with the blessing of being a servant of Allah (swt). The kalimat al-shahadah, **أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ**,

means "I bear witness that there is no deity but Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger." Whoever says this proclamation of tawhid with their tongue and affirms it with their heart becomes a ring in the chain of faith and so a believer. They submit their heart to the sublime religion of Islam and become Muslims. They attain happiness in this life and in the Hereafter.

#### Dear Muslims!

By saying, **أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ**, we declare that we do not recognize any deity other than Allah, that we will be only His (swt) servants, and that we will never submit to anybody else. By saying **وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ**, we acknowledge and accept that Muhammad Mustafa (saw), who was sent as mercy to the worlds, is a servant and messenger of Allah (swt).

#### Dear Believers!

The kalimat al-shahadah is the essence of faith and the first pillar of Islam. It is a covenant between Allah (swt) and us. It is our commitment that we will be in the pursuit of our Lord's (swt) approval and that we will not stray from the path of the Qur'an.

The kalimat al-shahadah is a promise between our Prophet (saw) and us. With this promise, we declare that embracing his (saw) sunnah is a requirement of our faith. We acknowledge once again that we may be able to attain the pleasure of Allah (swt) through obedience to His Messenger (saw).

The kalimat al-shahadah is also a stance. A stance entailing that Islam is reflected in all spheres of life... A stance entailing the declaration of not straying from the right cause and the true path... A Muslim's stance undertaking that no concessions will ever be made on the high values of Islam...

#### Dear Muslims!

The kalimat al-shahadah is a lofty deed, a meritorious dhikr, and a wonderful du'a. With the kalimat al-shahadah, we as the ummah of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) surrender to Allah (swt), the Lord of the worlds, and attain salvation. We liberate ourselves from the enslavement of the Satan and our nafs, and thereby enjoy true freedom. We grow safe and certain of every kind of evil, trouble, and misfortune. With this declaration of tawhid, we absolve ourselves of the grave's wrath and the retribution on the Day of the Resurrection. It is with this remark that the gates of Heaven open. It is with this statement that one may be honored with the Beauty of Allah (Jamalullah).

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following du'a Allah the Almighty (swt) has taught us: "O our Lord! Indeed we have heard a caller calling to faith, [saying], 'Believe in your Lord', and we have believed. O our Lord! So forgive us our sins and remove from us our misdeeds and cause us to die with the righteous."<sup>2</sup>

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I want to bring a matter to your notice. New and highly contagious variants of the coronavirus have lately become widespread around the globe, as well as in our own country, as we all know. So, we should pay much closer attention to the measures taken against the pandemic. Let us always be meticulous about the measures to protect our own and our loved ones' health.

<sup>1</sup> Bukhari, 'Ilm, 49.

<sup>2</sup> Al-i 'Imran, 3/193.