

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ

يَتْلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَنْ عَلَّمَ عِلْمًا قَلَهُ أَجْرُ مَنْ عَمِلَ بِهِ ...

## KNOWLEDGE LEADS TO DIGNITY, VIOLENCE TO MISERY

### Dear Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states: **“Indeed, Allah has done the believers a great favor by raising a messenger from among them—reciting to them His revelations, purifying them, and teaching them the Book and wisdom...”**<sup>1</sup>

In the hadith I have read, our beloved Prophet (saw) says, **“Whoever teaches some knowledge will have the reward of the one who acts upon it...”**<sup>2</sup>

### Dear Believers!

Our sublime religion, Islam, is a faith that commands the pursuit of learning and the acquisition of knowledge. Islam regards it as an act of worship to engage in acquiring knowledge that lead to Allah’s pleasure. It makes the acquisition of knowledge an essential duty for every Muslim, both men and women. The fact that the first verse revealed to our beloved Prophet (saw) was the commandment,

إِفْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ **“Read, o Prophet, in the**

**Name of your Lord Who created.”**<sup>3</sup> points to this truth.

Islam has put goodness, justice, mercy, love and respect at the basis of education and training. According to Islam, the purpose of reading and writing is to benefit humanity and contribute to the development of societies. In this regard, the Messenger of Allah (saw) says in one of his hadiths,

خَيْرُ النَّاسِ أَنْفَعُهُمْ لِلنَّاسِ **“The best people are those**

**who are most beneficial to other people.”**<sup>4</sup>

### Dear Muslims!

After the family, our teachers play the most important role in shaping our personality, developing our character, and forming our identity. The Messenger of Allah (saw) informs that teachers have a prophetic heritage by saying, **“Verily I**

**have been sent as a teacher.”**<sup>5</sup> Right, teachers are exceptional individuals who play a vital role in shaping the spiritual and moral development of people, as well as influencing the future of nations. Individuals and societies are the masterpieces of teachers. Thus, as in the past, it is through our teachers that our children—

who are the cherished gifts of our Lord (swt)—will be introduced to faith, worship, good morals, respect, and kindness. Through the guidance of our teachers, our young people will have the opportunity to grow into a generation that is beneficial to themselves, their families, and their nation.

### Dear Believers!

Every teacher, regardless of their subject, should work to instill in their students our national and spiritual values, as well as moral principles. They should aim to raise individuals who know their Lord (swt), recognize their Prophet (saw), are aware of the Hereafter, and love their state and nation. A school where teachers treat their students like their own children, and students respect their teachers as parents, will foster the creation of happy families, a peaceful society, and ultimately, a civilization rooted in love. Our Almighty Lord (swt) states, **“Let there be a group among you who call others to goodness, encourage what is good, and forbid what is evil—it is they who will be successful.”**<sup>6</sup> Indeed, all our teachers are members of a blessed profession, endowed with the opportunity to attain this glad tidings.

### Dear Muslims!

Unfortunately, due to the growing distance from the mercy-filled messages of the Qur’an and Sunnah, oppression and injustices are increasing day by day across the world. As the knowledge, wisdom, and guidance prescribed by Islam have faded away, love and respect have diminished, while violence and hatred have risen. Not a day passes without hearing heartbreaking news of violence against women, children, and the elderly. However, according to our sublime religion, Islam, violence is considered cruelty, a grave sin forbidden by Allah, and a violation of the rights of others, with severe consequences. Violence cannot be justified under any circumstance. Violence in any form is unacceptable, regardless of who perpetrates it or who the victim is. Islam, the religion of mercy and peace, and violence can never be mentioned together.

### Dear Believers!

Today is the day to unite knowledge with wisdom and morality. It is time to protect our families and children from harmful habits and false ideologies. It is time to strengthen our country and nation by harnessing all available technology and the opportunities of the modern era.

On this occasion, I respectfully and gratefully remember all our teachers, Qur’an course instructors, and lecturers who have guided us to this day. I pray for mercy on those who have passed away and wish health and well-being to those who are still with us.

<sup>1</sup> Ali ‘Imran, 3/164.

<sup>2</sup> Ibn Majah, Sunnah, 20.

<sup>3</sup> ‘Alaq, 96/1.

<sup>4</sup> Quda’i, Musnad al-Shihab, I, 365.

<sup>5</sup> Darimi, Muqaddimah, 32.

<sup>6</sup> Ali ‘Imran, 3/104.