

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ...
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
إِنَّ الْعُلَمَاءَ وَرِثَةُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ...

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT

Dear Muslims,

One day in Masjid al-Nabawi, the Messenger of Allah (saw) saw two circles, one reciting the Qur'an and the other learning and teaching. He said both of them were good and added, **إِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ مُعَلِّمًا** "Verily I have been sent as a teacher." Then he sat down with those learning and teaching.¹

Respected brothers and sisters!

Our sublime religion attaches great importance to knowledge and wisdom. The first revelation that reads as **اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ**, meaning, "Read, in the name of your Lord Who created!"² invites us to read and comprehend all beings and the whole universe in the light of the revelation. The value of knowledge and knowledgeable people in the sight of Allah is indicated in the following verse as, "Say (O Prophet), 'Are those who know equal to those who do not know?'"³ The verse stating that Allah (swt) swears by the pen, and the fact that there is a separate surah in the Holy Qur'an with the name "al-Qalam" (meaning the Pen in Arabic) put emphasis on the high value of knowledge as well.

Dear believers!

Knowledge is an invaluable treasure that guides humanity in every field. Because people know themselves thanks to knowledge. They know about their Lord thanks to knowledge. They understand the messages of Allah thanks to knowledge. They comprehend the purpose and wisdom behind creation thanks to knowledge. They train their nafs thanks to knowledge. It is again thanks to knowledge that they learn what is right, just, moral, and meritorious. They can fulfill their responsibilities of servanthood to Allah by knowledge only.

Honorable Muslims!

The true Owner of knowledge is Allah the Almighty. It is Allah (swt) Who created human and taught him what he did not know. The purpose for

acquiring knowledge is to know the Exalted Creator (swt), to attain His approval, and to be beneficial to humanity. The knowledge deprived of such purposes results in not peace and tranquility but war and calamity. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) supplicated as follows: "O Allah! I seek refuge in You from the knowledge that does not benefit."⁴ "O Allah! Benefit me with that which You have taught me, teach me that which will benefit me, and increase me in knowledge."⁵

Respected Muslims!

The Messenger of Allah (saw) said, "Indeed the scholars are the heirs of the prophets. The prophets do not leave behind dinar or dirham. The only legacy they leave behind is knowledge."⁶ So, let us protect the legacy of our beloved Prophet (saw). Let us be among those who demand knowledge and act according to what they know in order to earn the love of Allah (swt). We should also make efforts for raising our children, who are the assurance of our future, as individuals equipped with knowledge, wisdom, and good morality.

Dear brothers and sisters!

Next week, pre-university education year will start in Türkiye with more than eighteen million students; and then university education will begin with over eight million students. It is the most important responsibility for us to raise our children and youth, who are the greatest wealth for us, with knowledge, wisdom, and good morality. In the meanwhile, we should keep in mind that our homes are also centers of education. We should not withhold our care and support from our children. We should help them love the school, teachers, and books. I would like to take this occasion to pray to Allah the Almighty that the new educational year be conducive to goodness for teachers, students, families, and our nation.

I would like to conclude the khutbah with the good news of our beloved Prophet (saw), who is the nicest teacher: "Whoever takes a path upon which he seeks knowledge, Allah makes the path to Paradise easy for him."⁷

¹ Darimi, Muqaddimah, 32.

² 'Alaq, 96/1.

³ Zumar, 39/9.

⁴ Nasa'i, Isti'adhah, 13.

⁵ Tirmidhi, Da'awat 128.

⁶ Tirmidhi, 'Ilm, 19.

⁷ Tirmidhi, 'Ilm, 19.