

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَنْ يُوقِعَ بَيْنَكُمُ الْعَدَاوَةَ وَالْبَغْضَاءَ فِي الْخَمْرِ

وَالْمَيْسِرِ وَيُصْذِكُمْ عَن ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَعَنِ الصَّلَاةِ فَهَلْ أَنْتُمْ مُنْتَهُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

كُلُّ مُسْكِرٍ خَمْرٌ، وَكُلُّ خَمْرٍ حَرَامٌ.

## LET US NOT BE A SLAVE TO HARMFUL HABITS

### Honorable Muslims!

Islam, our sublime religion, mandates the safeguarding of the security of religion, life, intellect, progeny, and property. It prohibits all forms of detrimental habits that contravene our religion, disturb our inherent nature, inflict harm upon our physical and spiritual well-being, and undermine the integrity of future generations.

### Dear Believers!

Alcoholic beverages come on top of the habits that dull the senses and impair cognitive functions. In one of his hadiths, our Prophet (saw) says, "**Every intoxicant is unlawful.**"<sup>1</sup> Alcohol is the mother of all evil. Many homes are destroyed because of alcohol. Because of alcohol, numerous traffic accidents resulting in injuries or fatalities occur, leading to the loss of lives and shattered hopes. For this reason, according to our religion, the production, consumption, purchase, and sale of alcoholic beverages are haram.

### Dear Muslims!

One of the harmful habits that lead humanity to disaster is gambling. Gambling, often perceived as a shortcut to financial gain, is deemed an unjust means of acquiring wealth. It ensnares individuals in loneliness, despair, and myriad troubles and calamities. According to Islam, engaging and having others engage in games of chance and all forms of gambling is forbidden. Our Lord Almighty (swt) commands us to abstain from alcohol and gambling as follows: "**Satan's plan is to stir up hostility and hatred between you with intoxicants and gambling and to prevent you from remembering Allah and praying. Will you not then abstain?**"<sup>2</sup>

### Dear Believers!

Another peril that has proliferated among the youth, the beacon of our future, is drug and substance addiction. Our young individuals, distanced from parental care and familial affection, succumb to various forms of drug addiction spurred by peer pressure, companionship, or curiosity. Our youth, misled by the notion of "Trying it

just once won't hurt," are enticed into the treacherous realms of drug abuse. Allah the Almighty (swt) states in one verse as follows: **“وَلَا تُلْقُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ”**<sup>3</sup> **“Do not let your own hands throw you into destruction.”**<sup>3</sup> So, let us unite as families, schools, mosques, public institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Let us combat alcoholic beverages, drugs, and all other addictions that undermine human health, mind, and will. Let us work diligently to safeguard our youth and children from the clutches of those who are evil and prevent them from being ensnared in the spiral of what is evil.

### Dear Muslims!

Virtual environments, including the Internet and social media, can indeed become detrimental habits when utilized irresponsibly and recklessly. The proliferation of digital addiction in recent times estranges individuals from genuine life experiences, leading to neglect of their loved ones and squandering of their life capital. In certain media platforms, personal and familial privacy is disregarded, the rights of individuals are violated through deceit, slander, and dissemination of baseless news, resulting in the erosion of human dignity.

### Dear Believers!

Alcohol and all detrimental addictive behaviors serve as lethal traps set by the modern era. Safeguarding peace of mind and ensuring the preservation of future generations are attainable through abstaining from harmful habits. These habits, which run counter to human nature, never bestow tranquility upon individuals or society. Let us not forget that adherence to the boundaries prescribed by Allah (swt) and abstaining from all forms of prohibited and evil deeds are the pathways leading to happiness in both this world and the Hereafter. It is to never let the following warning of our Prophet (saw) slip out of our mind: "**There are two blessings that many people are deceived into losing: health and free time.**"<sup>4</sup>

### Honorable Muslims!

As Ramadan al-Sharif approaches, let us pray for Gaza, East Turkestan, and all oppressed people around the globe, following the Friday prayer, with the hope that these blessed days will lead to the acceptance of our supplications in the sight of our Lord (swt). May Allah the Almighty (swt) have mercy on all our martyrs and grant healthy lives to our veterans.

<sup>1</sup> Muslim, Ashriba, 74.

<sup>2</sup> Ma'idah, 5/91.

<sup>3</sup> Baqarah, 2/195.

<sup>4</sup> Bukhari, Riqaq, 1.