

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَلَا تَهِنُوا وَلَا تَحْزِنُوا وَأَنْتُمْ الْأَعْلَوْنَ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

جَاهِدُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ وَأَلْسِنَتِكُمْ وَأَمْوَالِكُمْ.

LOVE OF THE HOMELAND

Esteemed Muslims!

As a nation, we are commemorating the 955th anniversary of the Victory of Manzikert and the 104th anniversary of the Great Offensive. Our glorious history, extending from Manzikert to the Great Offensive, is one of the greatest symbols of our noble nation's devotion to its homeland, independence, and future. Our beloved homeland became our home through the Victory of Manzikert; our sovereignty in Anatolia was firmly established with the conquest of Istanbul; and with the Great Offensive, it was proclaimed to the entire world that no passage would be given to the enemy.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

For a person, one of the most precious blessings is the homeland upon which one lives freely. Protecting one's homeland is so sacred that those who sacrifice their lives for its sake are rewarded with martyrdom. For if we have a homeland, we have a state, a national identity, and honor. If we have a homeland, we have our homes, our livelihoods, and our sustenance. If we have a homeland, we have peace, security, and a future.

Esteemed Muslims!

Love of the homeland has been regarded in our civilization as a part of faith. What is meant by love of the homeland is to safeguard our flag, the symbol of our independence; our adhans, the emblem of our brotherhood; and our sacred values that make us a nation. To love one's homeland is, when the occasion calls for it, to wholeheartedly

adhere to the command of Prohet Muhammad (saw): “**Strive with your hands, your tongues, and your wealth.**”¹ To love one's homeland is to perform our duties in the most proper and excellent manner and to build a society in which honesty and justice prevail.

Honorable Believers!

As the descendants of a nation that has brought peace and tranquility wherever it has gone throughout history, we know that our enemies have never ceased to covet our homeland. Though times may change, oppression may assume different guises, and discord may be known by different names, the struggle between truth and falsehood has not come to an end. Yet we believe that if we hold fast to the command, “**Do not falter or grieve, for you will have the upper hand, if you are 'true' believers,**”² and if we remain vigilant against schemes targeting our homeland, our nation, and our unity, Allah will turn the schemes of the plotters against them,³ truth will prevail, and falsehood will perish.⁴

Noble Muslims!

Our supplication to our Almighty Lord is that He may perpetuate the unity and solidarity of our nation, preserve our state, and make our country a land of peace and well-being forever. May Allah the Almighty have mercy upon our honored martyrs who made these lands our homeland and upon our heroic veterans who have passed on to the Hereafter.

We conclude this week's khutbah with the meaning of a verse from Surah Ali 'Imran: “**O believers! Patiently endure, persevere, stand on guard, and be mindful of Allah, so you may be successful.**”⁵

¹ Nasa'i, Jihad, 48.

² Ali 'Imran, 3/139.

³ Ali 'Imran 3/54.

⁴ Isra, 17/81.

⁵ Ali 'Imran, 3/200.

