

Date: 22.09.2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا. وَدَاعِيًا

إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

ذَاقَ طَعْمَ الْإِيمَانِ مَنْ رَضِيَ بِاللَّهِ رَبًّا وَبِالْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا

وَبِمُحَمَّدٍ نَبِيًّا رَسُولًا.

MAWLID AL-NABI

Honorable Muslims!

Next Tuesday night is the twelfth night of the month of Rabi' al-Awwal. It is the anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad Mustafa's (saw) honoring the world with his birth, who is sent as mercy to the worlds. May endless praise and thanks be to our Lord Almighty (swt), Who has allowed us to reach the Night of Mawlid al-Nabi once again. Salat and salam be to our beloved Prophet (saw), for being whose 'ummah we are happy, as well as to his family, and companions. I wish you all a blessed night of Mawlid al-Nabi.

Dear Believers!

In the verse I have recited at the beginning of the khutbah, our Allah the Almighty states, **“O Prophet! We have sent you as a witness, and a deliverer of good news, and a warner, and a caller to the Way of Allah by His command, and a beacon of light.”**¹

In the hadith I have read, our Prophet (saw) says, **“He has found the taste of faith who is content with Allah as his Lord, with Islam as his religion and with Muhammad (saw) as his Prophet.”**²

Dear Believers!

The Messenger of Allah (saw) blessed the world at a time when compassion had been withdrawn from the hearts and mercy from the consciences. Hearts that were barren grew green with his coming. He became a guide for humanity drowning in the vortex of the Jahiliyyah and a hope for the hearts that lost hope. He brought people out of the darkness of oppression into the light of Islam.

Our beloved Prophet (saw) called upon humanity to be servants of Allah (swt), Who is one and only, to justice, goodness, brotherhood and good

morals. It was he (saw) who taught humanity to embrace faith and steadfastness on the true path (istiqamah) in the face of polytheism; truth and justice in the face of oppression; knowledge and wisdom in the face of ignorance; and compassion and mercy in the face of violence.

Dear Muslims!

It is our Prophet (saw) who communicated the Holy Qur'an to us, lived by it in all circumstances and taught it to us. The Sunnah of our Prophet (saw) is the embodiment of the Holy Qur'an. The Qur'an and the Sunnah are a whole and can never be separated from each other. Islam cannot be understood and practised without the Messenger of Allah (saw).

The way of obedience to Allah (swt) is to be a follower of our Prophet (saw). Attaining the love of our Lord (swt) is only possible by obeying our Prophet (saw). In fact, the verse is very clear in this regard: **“قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ**

o Prophet! ‘If you sincerely love Allah, then follow me; Allah will love you.’”³

Dear Muslims!

Let us see the Mawlid al-Nabi as a great opportunity to review our lives. Let us strive to make the life-giving principles that our Prophet (saw) introduced to humanity dominant in our homes, workplaces, environment and relationships with people. So that our world may be filled with peace and our Hereafter may be paradise.

Dear Believers!

As we do every year, we will observe the week in which the Night of Mawlid falls as the “Mawlid al-Nabi Week” this year as well. The theme of the Mawlid al-Nabi Week 2023 is set to be “The Prophet Muhammad, Faith, and True Path” by our Presidency of Religious Affairs. We will try to present the exemplary life of our Prophet (saw) to all segments of our society, especially our children and young people, with the programs we will carry out during the Mawlid al-Nabi Week. I would like to take this opportunity to pray to Allah the Almighty (swt) that the Mawlid al-Nabi Week may bring prosperity to our great nation, to the Muslim world, and to all humanity.

¹ Ahzab, 33/45-46.

² Ibn Hanbal, I, 208.

³ Al-i 'Imran, 3/31.