

رَبَّنَا وَابْعَثْ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ  
وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ.  
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَبْتَغِي فِيهِ عِلْمًا سَلَكَ اللَّهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ...

## MORALITY EXALTS KNOWLEDGE AND EDUCATION

### Dear Believers!

In the verse I have recited, the Prophet Ibrahim and the Prophet Isma'il made the following supplication to the Almighty Allah: **“Our Lord! Raise from among them a messenger who will recite to them Your revelations, teach them the Book and wisdom, and purify them. Indeed, You alone are the Almighty, All-Wise.”**<sup>1</sup>

In the hadith I have read, our Prophet (saw) says, **“Whoever takes a path upon which he seeks knowledge, then Allah makes a path to Paradise easy for him. And indeed the angels lower their wings in approval to the one seeking knowledge...”**<sup>2</sup>

### Dear Muslims!

Our sublime religion, Islam, places on every Muslim, man and woman, the primary duty of acquiring knowledge. Allah the Almighty has stated, **“Read, o Prophet, in the Name of your Lord!”**<sup>3</sup> and commanded us to read and acquire knowledge in the name of Allah and in line with His pleasure. Our beloved Prophet (saw) praised those who were on the path of knowledge and sought refuge in Allah (swt) from useless knowledge.<sup>4</sup> For it is through knowledge that human beings come to understand themselves, their Lord (swt), and the world around them. They make sense of the purpose of creation through knowledge. They equip themselves with morality and virtue, goodness and piety through education. Through wisdom, they distinguish truth from falsehood, good from evil, and right from wrong.

### Dear Believers!

One of our Lord's (swt) beautiful names is “al-‘Alim”. He (swt) alone is the source of all knowledge, teaching people what they do not know through the intellect He has granted, the divine books He has revealed, and the prophets He has sent. Thus, knowledge reaches its true meaning when guided by revelation, enriched with prophetic morality, and used for the benefit of humanity. It guides human beings to peace and happiness in this world and to the eternal blessings in the Hereafter. The believer, who is in a position to learn and teach the truth, fulfills their responsibility to the extent that they can harmonize the Qur'an with reason, the Sunnah with the Prophet's (saw) life, and Islam with humanity.

### Dear Muslims!

Knowledge and education are not just a matter of being loaded down with knowledge. The goal of

knowledge, education, training, and upbringing is to cultivate good morals and deeds. It is to raise good people. It is to be useful for the society and humanity. It is to build a world where all can live in peace. When knowledge and education are accompanied by wisdom and elevated by morality, whatever and whoever is evil can have no place in the society. Compassion replaces violence, and mercy replaces hatred. If knowledge, education, science and technology are used solely to serve personal interests and ambitions, then human and moral values will be disregarded. Such misuse can lead to unprecedented genocide and massacres with devastating weapons and bombs, as we are witnessing today in Gaza and other parts of the world.

### Dear Muslims!

Millions of children will be returning to their schools on Monday next week. Schools are crucial institutions for developing the identity and character of our children, as well as for their education and upbringing. Our teachers are exceptional individuals who impart knowledge, faith, and good morals, and correct and authentic knowledge to our children, and who shape our future. Teaching is a profession highly praised by the Messenger of Allah (saw). In this regard, through his hadith, **إِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ مُعَلِّمًا** **“Verily I have been sent as a teacher.”**<sup>5</sup>, our Prophet (saw) reminds us of the importance of teaching. It is our collective responsibility to educate our children and young people so that they can become a generation that will benefit both their nation and humanity. Let us strive for the eternal salvation of our children, the light of our eyes, alongside their academic success. Let us remember that a generation that is well-educated in line with contemporary needs and raised with good morals will be our greatest asset and our strongest foundation.

### Dear Believers!

Next Monday, at the same time, our Qur'an courses for the 4-6 age group, organized by our Presidency of Religious Affairs, will commence. We continue to receive applications for the 7-10 age group, needs-based and distant learning courses, which will begin on September 16 this year. We invite our children, young people, and adults of all ages, man or woman, to our Qur'an courses and mosques. Please contact our provincial and district mufti offices for more information.

I would like to take this opportunity to pray to our Lord Almighty (swt) that the new school year may be auspicious for our students, teachers, Qur'an course instructors, families, and our great nation.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following invocation from our Prophet (saw): **“O Allah! Benefit me with what you have taught me. Teach me what will benefit me, and increase my knowledge.”**<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Baqarah, 2/129.

<sup>2</sup> Tirmidhi, 'Ilm, 19.

<sup>3</sup> 'Alaq, 96/1.

<sup>4</sup> Muslim, Dhikr, 73.

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

<sup>6</sup> Tirmidhi, Da'awat, 128.