

Date: 11.11.2022

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ
لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ يُحِبُّ إِذَا عَمِلَ أَحَدُكُمْ عَمَلًا أَنْ يُتَّقِنَهُ.

PRECAUTION FIRST, PROVIDENCE LATER

Honorable Muslims!

Our Almighty Lord (swt), the Sole Owner of sovereignty, has created everything in harmony and order, from the smallest particle to the vast universe. This marvelous harmony in creation is in accord with “Sunnatullah”, that is, Allah’s (swt) laws and rules. What falls upon us is to act according to this divine order and laws, and to act in accordance with the cause and effect relationship that exists in the universe.

Dear Believers!

One of the events that occur within the circle of causes is natural disasters. It is naturally impossible to prevent disasters such as earthquakes. However, it is our primary duty to take precautions against disasters in the light of reason, science and experience and to mitigate the damage they may cause. This is also what Islam enjoins by the concept of providence (tawakkul). Our religion commands us to take all precautions and fulfill all our responsibilities first. Then it calls on us to place our trust in Allah and, to rely on and surrender to Him (swt). In this regard, when a man asked our Prophet (saw), “O Messenger of Allah! Shall I tie my camel and rely upon Allah, or leave it loose and rely upon Allah?”, he (saw) said, “Tie it first, and then rely upon Allah.”¹

Dear Muslims!

When we face a painful event despite all the precautions we take, we should be patient and forbearing, and consent to Allah’s decree. We should evaluate the situation we experience through common sense, and draw the necessary lessons from negligence, mistakes and errors. We should supplicate to Allah the Almighty, seek refuge in Him (swt) through repentance and praying for forgiveness, invocation and begging, and ask for His (swt) mercy and help.

Dear Believers!

It is stated in the Holy Qur’an as follows, “Corruption has spread on land and sea as a result of what people’s hands have done, so that Allah may cause them to taste the consequences of some of their deeds and perhaps they might return to the Right Path.”² Yes, some of the bitter consequences of disasters are due to our own mistakes and negligence. Then, come! Let us be conscious, cautious and prepared against disasters. Let us take the following hadith of our beloved Prophet (saw) as our guide: “Allah will be pleased with those who try to do their work in a perfect way.”³ Let us take steps in accordance with the realities of our country, which is located on a seismic belt. Let us strive to build our houses in appropriate places, with the strongest materials and in the most proper way. Let us avoid constructing buildings in areas at risk of landslides and floods, and in riverbeds. Let us not put ourselves in danger with our own hands.

Dear Muslims!

Tomorrow at 6:57 p.m., the anniversary of the November 12, 1999 Düzce earthquake, which caused the death of hundreds of our citizens and affected thousands of others, a nationwide earthquake drill focused on the “Drop, Cover, and Hold on” action will be held to raise awareness in our society against earthquakes. In the Holy Qur’an, our Lord (swt) states, وَمَنْ أَحْيَاهَا فَكَأَنَّمَا أَحْيَا النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا

“Whoever saves a life, it will be as if they saved all of humanity.”⁴ Saving a life, helping someone’s survival, and engaging in activities for this purpose are extremely respectable and valuable. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you, my dear brothers and sisters, to take part in this drill at the safest spot in your location and to participate in the trainings provided by the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Türkiye.

As I conclude this Friday’s khutbah, I pray for Allah’s (swt) mercy on all our brothers and sisters who have lost their lives in natural disasters from past to present. May Allah the Almighty (swt) protect our country, our nation, and all humanity from all kinds of disasters.

¹ Tirmidhi, Sifat al-Qiyamah, 60.

² Rum, 30/41.

³ Tabarani, Mu’jam al-Avsat, 1/275

⁴ Ma’idah, 5/32.