

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالِي تَمُودَ أَخَاهُمْ صَالِحًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُمْ مِنْ إِلَهٍ غَيْرُهُ هُوَ أَنْشَأَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ وَاسْتَعْمَرَكُمْ فِيهَا فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ ثُمَّ تُوبُوا إِلَيْهِ إِنَّ رَبِّي قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبٌ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
إِنِّي اللَّهُ حَيْثُمَا كُنْتُ، وَأَتَّبِعِ السَّيِّئَةَ الْحَسَنَةَ تَمَحُّهَا، وَخَالِقِ
النَّاسَ بِخُلُقٍ حَسَنٍ.

THE CIVILIZATION OF ISLAM

Honorable Muslims!

Allah the Almighty says in Surah Hud: “**And to the people of Thamud We sent their brother Salih. He said, ‘O my people! Worship Allah. You have no god other than Him. He is the One Who produced you from the earth and settled you on it. So seek His forgiveness and turn to Him in repentance. Surely my Lord is Ever Near, All-Responsive to prayers.’**”¹

Dear Believers!

Allah the Almighty created humankind as trustees on earth and entrusted them with the responsibility of cultivating it. This responsibility is to build cities while establishing a life in which morality and virtue are preserved. This understanding, which upholds spiritual and moral values alongside material achievements, is what we call civilization.

Esteemed Muslims!

The civilization of Islam, founded upon the guidance of the Qur’an and the Sunnah and shaped by fifteen centuries of experience, has flourished by uniting knowledge with worship, work with honesty, strength with justice, and wealth with generosity and sharing. Throughout history, mosques, foundations, and libraries have stood as enduring symbols of this vision of civilization, serving people and sustaining society.

Honorable Believers!

The fundamental purpose of Islamic civilization is to win hearts and to unite minds and souls in the same faith, sentiment, and ideal. The divine principles set forth in the noble verse, “**Indeed, Allah commands justice, grace, as well as generosity to close relatives. He forbids indecency, wickedness, and aggression,**”² form the very foundation of this civilization. For no society in which goodness is

forgotten and morality is neglected can build a lasting future.

Noble Muslims!

Our mosques should be places that strengthen our brotherhood; our schools should impart virtue alongside knowledge; and our workplaces should uphold honesty, respect for labor, and halal earnings. If each of us can embody goodness wherever we are, our civilization will likewise grow stronger. Our responsibility is to preserve the legacy we have inherited from our forefathers and pass it on to future generations, enriched even further. In accordance with the command of the Prophet Muhammad (saw), “**Be mindful of Allah wherever you are. Follow a bad deed with a good one, and it will erase it. And treat people with good character,**”³ while fulfilling our duty of worship to our Lord, we should also make serving humanity the purpose of our lives. Likewise, it is our duty to draw inspiration from our civilization and build our future upon faith, knowledge, wisdom, and noble character.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Today marks the day when the Hagia Sophia Grand Mosque, the symbol of the conquest of Istanbul and a precious legacy entrusted to us by our forefathers, was once again reunited with its congregation. The adhan echoing from Hagia Sophia Mosque proclaims to the world, just as it did at the conquest of Istanbul, the justice and mercy of our glorious nation. Our mosques are our spiritual fortresses, where our beloved nation builds bridges with its past and shapes its future. These sacred houses of worship, which bring together every member of society—the young, the old, and the children—as one family beneath the same dome, will continue to embody their unifying spirit until the Day of Judgment.

With the prayer that the adhan proclaimed from the minarets of our mosques may continue to echo beneath our skies for all eternity, we conclude this week’s khutbah with the following verse from Surah al-Tawbah: “**The mosques of Allah should only be maintained by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, establish prayer, pay alms-tax, and fear none but Allah. It is right to hope that they will be among the ‘truly’ guided.**”⁴

¹ Hud, 11/61.

² Nahl, 16/90

³ Tirmidhi, Birr, 55.

⁴ Tawbah, 9/18.

