

Date: 24.02.2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَنْ كَانَ فِي حَاجَةٍ أَخِيهِ كَانَ اللَّهُ فِي حَاجَتِهِ...

TIME FOR BROTHERHOOD, SOLIDARITY AND SUPPLICATION

Dear Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Lord Almighty (swt) states, **"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah and do not be divided."**¹

In the hadith I have recited, our beloved Prophet (saw) says, **"If anyone fulfills his brother's needs, Allah will fulfill his needs."**²

Dear Believers!

As a nation, we are going through difficult times. As one heart, one body, we are trying to heal our wounds. We are continuing to ease our pain and keep our hopes alive. As believers who are wholeheartedly devoted to Allah (swt), we believe that these clouds of distress will pass away with the winds of divine mercy. The doors of goodness and blessings will open through the keys of supplication, brotherhood, and solidarity. Our hearts will attain peace and tranquility. Our hearts full of faith will find solace, inshallah. For Allah the Almighty (swt) is the guardian and helper of the believers. He (swt) is closer to us than our very selves. He is the One, Who knows our every state, Who bestows on us fortitude, and Who comforts our hearts.

Dear Muslims!

In the face of disasters, it is a requirement of our servitude to Allah (swt) to draw strength from our faith and seek refuge through supplications. So today is the time to turn our hearts to supplication and to present our selves to Allah the Almighty (swt). It is time to ask for the help and grace of the Infinitely Powerful. It is the time to heed our Lord Almighty's (swt) commandment, **أَدْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً**

"Call upon Me, I will respond to you."³ It is the time to obey His (swt) order,

أَدْعُوا رَبَّكُمْ تَضَرُّعًا وَخُفْيَةً "Call upon your Lord

humbly and secretly."⁴, and join together in sincere supplications. Today is the time to ask for mercy, fortitude, strength, and power from our Lord Almighty (swt) for our nation, which is struggling with the devastation caused by the earthquake.

Dear Believers!

A requirement of being a nation is to keep our spirit of brotherhood alive in such difficult times. It is to be caring and sincere and to sympathize with each other in our suffering. It is to ease the burden of our brothers and sisters in distress and to instill confidence in their disaster-stricken world. It is to make them feel that they are not abandoned, alone, and helpless, and to extend our hand to them. It is especially to take care of children and to be the guardian of those children who have lost their parents. Now is the time to keep our virtues alive and to glorify the brotherhood ethics, without leaving any room for suspicion and worry, sedition and corruption!

Dear Muslims!

Let us pray to our Lord Almighty (swt) to grant us the same remedy that He granted to His prophets as a result of their perseverance. Let us beseech Him (swt) to rain down serenity on us, to heal our hearts, and to cure our wounds. Let us invoke Him to bring our hearts together and to make our spirit of unity, solidarity, and brotherhood permanent.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again wish Allah the Almighty's mercy upon our brothers and sisters who passed away and a speedy recovery to those who were injured. May our Almighty Lord never again allow our great nation and all humanity to suffer such suffering.

¹ Ali 'Imran, 3/103.

² Muslim, Birr, 58.

³ Ghafir, 40/60.

⁴ A'raf, 7/55.