

Date: 16.06.2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

... وَمَنْ يُعْظِمَ شَعَائِرَ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّهَا مِنْ تَقْوَى الْقُلُوبِ .
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
مَنْ قَالَ مِثْلَ مَا قَالَ هَذَا يَقِينًا دَخَلَ الْجَنَّةَ .

TWO SYMBOLS OF ISLAM: ADHAN AND QURBANI

Honorable Muslims!

Nations stand and survive by their symbols. The Muslim ummah also has its own symbols. These are the symbols that build the Muslim identity and remind us of tawhid and the need to be a worthy servant of our Lord (swt). These are the values that Allah the Almighty (swt) commands to be respected, protected and sustained. In the verse I have recited, our Lord (swt) states, "...Whoever honors the symbols of Allah, it is certainly out of the piety of the heart.."¹

So, in this Friday's khutbah, let us recall the importance of the adhan and the qurbani, two of the symbols of Islam.

Dear Believers!

Adhan is a prophetic call to humanity to be servants of Allah. It is the strong voice of tawhid. Five times a day, muadhhdhin reminds people with adhan that there is no god but Allah and that Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw) is the last prophet. Through adhan, he invites us to the mercy and forgiveness of our Lord (swt). Through adhan, he calls to tranquility and salvation, to security and peace. Adhan is a declaration of wahdat, i.e. the unity of the ummah. It is the declaration of our freedom, and the symbol of our independence. How beautifully this point is expressed in the Turkish National Anthem:

*Oh Allah, the sole wish of my heart is that,
No heathen's hand should ever touch the bosom of
my sacred temples.*

*These adhans and their testimonies are the
foundations of my religion,*

*May their noble sound prevail thunderously across
my homeland, forever.*

Dear Muslims!

Adhan is originally in Arabic, as is the Holy Qur'an. The words of the adhan are the common language of Muslims. It is the universal code and common value of Prophet Muhammad's ummah. It was taught to us in the same form it is recited today by our Prophet (saw) himself. Therefore, if it is not recited in its original form, the worship of adhan is considered unfulfilled. May our Lord (swt) not deprive us of the adhan, the testimonies of which are the foundations of the religion, from our minarets until the Last Day.

Dear Believers!

The adhan is the herald of paradise for us as expressed in the hadith, "Whoever says the likes of this with conviction, he will enter Paradise."² It is a unique value reflected from minarets to our hearts, encompassing every aspect of our lives. As Muslims, regardless of our language, skin color, or sect, we all feel the same excitement when we hear the adhan. When our children first open their eyes to the world, we recite the adhan in their right ear and the iqamah in their left ear, and give them an Islamic identity.

Dear Muslims!

Another symbol of Islam is qurbani. Qurbani means divine closeness, our effort to get closer to our Lord, our desire to achieve piety, and our endeavor to be the recipient of divine grace. Qurbani means submission, obedience to Allah (swt) and His commandments. Qurbani means being loyal, putting Allah the Almighty's (swt) consent above all else. Qurbani means remembrance, keeping in mind the true owner of blessings. Qurbani means sharing, bringing happiness and affection to the homes, hearts, and dining tables of those in need. Qurbani means brotherhood, building bridges of sharing and solidarity between hearts.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Let us unite around the high values of Islam that make us "us", keep us standing, and strengthen our unity and solidarity. Let us not forget that our happiness in this world and in the Hereafter depends on embracing, living by, and keeping alive these values.

Dear Believers!

As I conclude this Friday's khutbah, I would like to point out an important issue. It is essential to perform the worship of qurbani, by oneself or by proxy, at the place of residence. Those who do not have the necessary facilities for the performance of the worship of qurbani where they live, as well as those who want to offer qurbani meat for those in need in addition to the amount obtained from the worship of qurbani, can do so by proxy. Our Türkiye Diyanet Foundation, similar to other charitable organizations, is at the service of our brothers and sisters who want to perform the worship of qurbani by proxy. This year, too, just as it was before, we will deliver your entrustment of qurbani to those in need all around the world, particularly to our brothers and sisters who have survived the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes in our country, through the call "Share Your Qurbani, Get Closer to Your Brother". Insha Allah, we will strengthen our sense of brotherhood, and bring the joy and happiness of the 'eid to the saddened hearts. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you, my dear brothers and sisters, that you can join this charitable caravan through our religious officials, provincial and district mufti offices, and online on our Türkiye Diyanet Foundation's website. We pray to our Lord (swt) that we may be among those servants who get closer to Him through qurbani and successfully pass the test of submission to Him (swt).

¹ Hajj, 22/32.

² Ibn Hanbal, II, 352.