

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبُنْيَانِ، يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا.

UNITY AND SOLIDARITY

Honorable Muslims!

One of the values that brings people together as a society and enables nations to take their place on the stage of history is the sense of unity and solidarity.

Our exalted religion, Islam, commands us to live together as brothers and sisters in love and respect, and to treat one another with compassion and mercy. Allah the Almighty, by declaring, **“And hold firmly together to the rope of Allah and do not be divided...”**¹, prohibits separation, the severing of ties of brotherhood, and the withdrawal of interest and concern from one another.

Dear Believers!

The most beautiful manifestation of our unity and solidarity is revealed in love for the homeland. For the homeland is our history, our culture, our past, and our future. It is our heavenly land for which we endure all kinds of hardships for the sake of our freedom. It is the most precious trust bequeathed to us by our noble martyrs who gave their lives for its sake and by our heroic veterans who rushed from front to front in its defense.

Esteemed Muslims!

The symbol of our unity and solidarity, and of our freedom and independence, is our glorious flag. Where our star-and-crescent flag waves, there is no place for oppression or tyrants, for fear or sorrow. We have regarded it as an honor to hold our flag, whose color comes from the blood of our martyrs, high above our heads. We have lived our happiest days under its shade. Wherever we saw it, we found peace. Our poet of the flag expressed these feelings that we have nurtured within our hearts most beautifully:

O white and crimson ornament of the blue heavens,
The bridal veil of my sister, the final shroud of my martyr,
My flag, glowing with light, rippling in waves!
I have read your epic—I will write your epic.

Honorable Believers!

One of the strongest indications of our unity and solidarity is the spirit of mutual assistance and cooperation that we display during times of disaster and hardship. Indeed, three years ago today, we experienced two major earthquakes that deeply shook us all. As always, on that day we stood shoulder to shoulder. We rejoiced together for every one of our brothers and sisters rescued from the rubble, and we shared the same sorrow for every life that was lost. Through the grace of our Lord, the resolve of our state, and the solidarity of our nation, we tended to our wounds. By sharing our food and our homes, we alleviated our pain. We became living witnesses to the noble hadith: **“You see the believers as regards their being merciful among themselves and showing love among themselves and being kind, resembling one body, so that, if any part of the body is not well then the whole body shares the sleeplessness (insomnia) and fever with it.”**²

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

What falls upon us today is to carry the spirit of unity and solidarity into every aspect of our lives. In accordance with the hadith of our Beloved Prophet (saw), **“A faithful believer to a faithful believer is like the bricks of a wall, enforcing each other,”**³ we are to clasp our hands and our hearts together. It is to keep the affection among us alive and to strengthen our bonds of brotherhood even further. Let us never forget that as long as we remain united and together around the same faith and ideals, on this blessed homeland, under the shade of our star-and-crescent flag, there is no obstacle we cannot overcome and no difficulty we cannot surmount.

On this occasion, we pray to Allah the Almighty to bestow mercy upon our brothers and sisters who passed on to the Hereafter due to the disasters we have experienced, especially the earthquakes centered in Kahramanmaraş, and upon our martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of our sacred values. We beseech our Exalted Lord to protect our homeland, our noble nation, and all of humanity from every kind of disaster, and from the evil of strife and corruption.

¹ Ali ‘Imran, 3/103.

² Muslim, Birr, 24.

³ Bukhari, Salah, 88.

