

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُونِ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْمُسْلِمُ أَخُو الْمُسْلِمِ لَا يَظْلِمُهُ وَلَا يُسْلِمُهُ...

WE ARE ONE SINGLE UMMAH

Honorable Muslims!

One day in the Masjid al-Nabawi, some of the companions were in the midst of a conversation. They had entered into a race of racism and tribalism against each other with an understanding of the Jahiliyyah. One of them asked the Iranian-born Salman al-Farisi, whom our Prophet (saw) held in high esteem, in a suggestive way: “What tribe are you from, what is your lineage?” Thereupon, Salman (ra) said, **أَنَا سَلْمَانُ ابْنُ الْإِسْلَامِ** “I am Salman, the son of Islam.” and continued as follows, “I was lost and Allah has guided me with the Prophet (saw). I was poor and Allah has made me rich with Muhammad Mustafa (saw). I was a slave and Allah has released me with His Messenger.” When ‘Umar (ra) heard this conversation, he asked the people there, “Do you want to know about my tribe?” and continued as follows, **أَنَا عَمْرُ ابْنِ الْإِسْلَامِ أَخُو سَلْمَانَ ابْنِ الْإِسْلَامِ** “I am ‘Umar, the brother of the son of Islam, Salman.”

Dear Believers!

This incident, full of lessons, teaches us the following: Superiority is neither in lineage nor in race. The true superiority is that of being a true servant of Allah (swt). The true honor is to be honored with Islam. The true brotherhood is to act with the consciousness of the ‘ummah.

Dear Muslims!

To be the ‘ummah of Muhammad (saw) is to embrace the Islamic faith based on tawhid by adhering to the verse, **“Indeed, this religion of yours is only one, and I am your Lord, so worship Me alone.”**¹ It is to embrace the brotherhood of faith, which is based on standing united against the oppressors.

To be the ‘ummah of our Prophet (saw) means to be the leader of the right and the guide of the truth in accordance with the verse, **“You are the best community ever raised for humanity— you encourage good, forbid evil, and believe in Allah...”**² It is to bring justice and goodness to all humanity and to strive for the elimination of oppression and evil.

To be the ‘ummah of the Messenger of Allah (saw) is to be one heart and one body. It is not to leave our believing brothers and sisters at the mercy of the enemy. It is not to leave them alone and helpless. It is to embrace our Prophet’s (saw) following hadith as our guiding principle in all areas of our life, **“Muslim is a brother of another Muslim. So he should neither oppress him nor hand him over to an oppressor...”**³

Dear Believers!

The ‘ummah, which should be in unity and solidarity, is unfortunately in disarray today. It burns with the fire of sedition, mischief and dissension. In different parts of the world, Muslims face discrimination, marginalization and oppression. The oppressors, who know no rights or laws, are emboldened by this disarray of the ‘ummah of Muhammad (saw). The murderers, feeding on hatred and enmity, brazenly attack Muslims before the eyes of the world. The killers, who draw their strength from the silence of the ‘ummah, are cruelly raining bombs on the innocent people in Palestine, without distinguishing between women, men, the elderly, or babies. These merciless ones, moreover, are preventing humanitarian aid and are depriving the oppressed of a morsel of bread and a sip of water. The so-called human rights advocates, on the other hand, turn a blind eye to the massacres and genocides in Muslim lands, do not raise their voices against the trampling of human values, and thus support the oppressors.

Dear Muslims!

Let us put aside all kinds of disputes and dissimilarities, and take the brotherhood of Islam as a basis. Let us represent our religion in the most beautiful way with our faith, worship, morals and all our words and behavior. Let us always keep alive our sense of being an ‘ummah. Let us protect the strength we get from our faith, the honor we get from Islam, and the strength we get from our brotherhood. Only then will the geographies of our ‘ummah be free from the oppression of oppressors and the treachery of traitors. Only then will the poor rejoice, the orphans smile, and the helpless find a remedy.

I would like to conclude this Friday’s khutbah with the following hadith of the Messenger of Allah (saw) where he reminds us of our responsibility of being an ‘ummah: **“Do not inflate prices by overbidding against one another. Do not envy one another. Do not hate each other. Do not desert each other. O servants of Allah! Be brothers.”**⁴

¹ Anbiya, 21/92.

² Ali ‘Imran, 3/110.

³ Muslim, Birr, 58.

⁴ Muslim, Birr, 28.