

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

فَإِنَّ حَقَّ اللَّهِ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ أَنْ يَعْبُدُوهُ وَلَا يُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا...

WORSHIP: EASE FOR THE SOUL, PEACE FOR THE SOCIETY

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited at the beginning of the khutbah, our Almighty Lord commands: **“Worship your Lord until the inevitable comes your way.”**¹

In the hadith I have read, our Prophet (saw) says: **“The right of Allah over His servants is that they worship Him and do not associate anything with Him. If they do this, then the right of the servants over Allah is that He will not punish them and will admit them into His Paradise.”**²

Dear Believers!

Worship is the command of Islam, the emblem of a Muslim, and the manifestation of faith in life. It is the expression of our submission, gratitude, and love towards our Lord Almighty. Worship is the strongest bond between the servant and Allah. It is the most excellent path leading a person to the pleasure, mercy, and love of Allah the Almighty. It is a divine discipline that shapes a person's character, matures the soul, refines morality, illuminates the heart, and grants tranquility to the soul. As stated in the verse, **“I did not create jinn and humans except to worship Me.”**³ worship is the purpose of our creation and the requirement of our servitude.

Esteemed Muslims!

Worship is not a burden imposed by Allah upon His servants, but a blessing. For worship teaches us to cultivate patience and to use our time wisely. It shields us from the stinginess of the nafs and instills in us a sense of helping and sharing. It fosters our sense of belonging to the ummah and strengthens the bonds of brotherhood among us. In summary, acts of worship transform us into individuals who are beneficial to our families, our surroundings, and society.

Dear Believers!

Our religion advises us to live every moment of our lives with the consciousness of worship. Indeed, the Qur'an draws our attention to this matter, stating, **“Say, ‘Surely my prayer, my sacrifice, my life, and my death are all for Allah—Lord of all worlds.’”**⁴ Working diligently to earn a halal livelihood for ourselves and our families, without neglecting the acts of worship prescribed by Allah, is itself an act of worship. To work honestly, without deceiving others, engaging in sins such as usury,

falsehood, or hoarding, and without infringing upon the rights of individuals or the public, is also an act of worship.

Dear Muslims!

It is inconceivable for a Muslim to seek guidance or support from the beliefs and practices, customs, or rituals of another religion while disregarding the tenets of faith and acts of worship prescribed in Islam. True peace and happiness can only be attained through sincere and devoted worship of Allah. Our Almighty Lord states, **“Surely in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find comfort.”**⁵ If we fail to instill the love of Allah and a passion for worship in the hearts of our youth and children, and fail to fill their hearts with knowledge and wisdom, they will, regrettably, seek comfort and solace in false beliefs and cultures outside Islam.

Dear Believers!

On Fridays, our mosques are filled to capacity, alhamdulillah. Let us show the same importance to our daily prayers, which restrain us from evil and lead us to good. Let us stand shoulder to shoulder in prayer in our mosques, which are symbols of societal peace, harmony, and brotherhood. Let us attend the mosque together with our family. Let us accustom our children to the mosque with kind words and gentle encouragement. Let us not forget that we have not come into this world merely to amass wealth, seek status and position, or spend a lifetime in play and amusement. Our faith will not reach perfection without acts of worship. Our earnings will not be blessed. There will be no peace in our homes. It is our acts of worship, adorned with good character, that give meaning to our lives. It is precisely this that renders us valuable in the sight of Allah. The warning of Allah the Almighty is perfectly clear: **“قُلْ مَا يَعْبُدُكُمْ رَبِّي لَوْلَا دُعَاؤُكُمْ”**⁶ **“Say, ‘O Prophet,’ ‘You ‘all’ would not ‘even’ matter to my Lord were it not for your faith ‘in Him’.”**⁶

Esteemed Believers!

The final days of this month of August are among the cherished days when our glorious ancestors, burning with the passion of i'la-yi kalimatullah, achieved many victories and conquests for the sake of the homeland and sacred values. On the path of our sublime religion, Islam, our noble ancestors made Anatolia our homeland through the Victory of Manzikert. With the Great Offensive, they declared to the entire world that Anatolia would remain a Muslim land forever. On this occasion, I pray to Allah the Almighty for mercy upon our noble martyrs who sacrificed their lives for sacred values, and upon our heroic veterans who have passed on to the presence of Allah the Almighty.

¹ Hijr, 15/99.

² Muslim, Iman, 48; Bukhari, Jihad, 46.

³ Dhariyat, 51/56.

⁴ An'am, 6/162.

⁵ Ra'd, 13/28.

⁶ Furqan, 25/77.

