

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الْم. أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

قُلْ آمَنْتُ بِاللَّهِ ثُمَّ اسْتَقِم.

FAITH AND STEADFASTNESS (ISTIQAMAH)

Honorable Muslims!

One of the Companions came to our Prophet (saw) and said, “O Messenger of Allah! Tell me something of Islam which I will not ask anyone else.” The Messenger of Allah (saw) said, **“Say, ‘I believe in Allah’ and then be steadfast.”**¹

Dear Believers!

Allah the Almighty (swt) has regarded us (human beings), the most honorable of all creation, as His addressees by making us His successive authority on earth. He (swt) has adorned us with the two great blessings of reason and will for a peaceful life, and showed us the straight path by sending prophets and divine books. This is the path that is guided by the guidance of faith, and the beauty of worship and morality. This is the path whose borders are drawn by Allah the Almighty Himself (swt) and on which one should be steadfast.

Dear Muslims!

Steadfastness (istiqamah) is a concept that encompasses faith, worship, morality, social and commercial relations. In other words, it covers every moment and area of life. Steadfastness in faith means not attributing any partners to Allah (swt). It means believing wholeheartedly in the existence and oneness of Allah, in the Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw) as the last prophet, in angels, prophets, divine books, the Hereafter, and in qadar and qada.

Steadfastness in worship means worshipping only Allah (swt) as required by the verse **إِلَّاكَ تَعْبُدُ وَإِلَّاكَ تَسْتَعِينُ** **“O our Lord! You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help.”**² It means staying away from the evils that will keep us away from the consent of our Lord (swt). It is to purify our worship from all kinds of hypocrisy and ostentation, and to seek only the consent of Allah (swt).

Dear Believers!

Allah the Almighty (swt) states in the Holy Qur’an: **“Alif-Lam-Mim. Do people think once they say, ‘We believe,’ that they will be left without being put to the test? We certainly tested those before them. And ‘in this way’ Allah will clearly distinguish**

These verses teach us that faith is not something that can be taken at face value. Faith is the effort to live steadfast on the straight path with our essence, our words and our whole existence.

Steadfastness (istiqamah) is being faithful to the promise we make through faith. It means organizing our lives according to the commands and prohibitions of Allah the Almighty (swt). It is to love our beloved Prophet (saw) with all our heart, and to be as straightforward, reliable, and complete with superior morality as he was.

Steadfastness means being aware of the responsibilities that faith imposes on us. It is to not neglect worship, and to fulfill our duties as a parent, a spouse, a child, a neighbor and a relative.

Steadfastness is to live a life in accordance with our Lord’s (swt) commandment **فَاسْتَقِمْ كَمَا أَمَرْتُ** **“So be steadfast as you are commanded.”**⁴ It means never resorting to lies and deceit, deception and injustice.

Steadfastness (istiqamah) is the strict observance of the halal and haram rules established by Allah (swt). It means preserving decency and chastity as well as honor and dignity. Steadfastness is to always live within the halal circle. It is to not gamble or consume alcohol, not be engaged in usury, and not violate human rights and public rights. In short, steadfastness is to live an accountable life. It is to neither harm anyone nor be harmed by anyone. It is to be a Muslim from whose hands and tongue people are safe.

How happy are those who adorn their lives with faith, worship and morality! How happy are those who bless their lives with good deeds! How happy are those who live in line with the pleasure of Allah (swt) and do not deviate from being steadfast on the straight path.

Dear Muslims!

Last week, as a nation, we once again witnessed the dark side of terrorism. It should not be forgotten that those who attack our homeland, our nation and our values will never achieve their dirty ambitions today or in the future, as they could not in the past. Terrorist organizations and the foci of evil behind them will never be able to harm our unity, solidarity and brotherhood. I would like to take this opportunity to pray for our Lord’s (swt) mercy on our brothers and sisters who lost their lives in this heinous attack in Istanbul, a speedy recovery to the wounded, and patience and condolences to their grieving relatives and our beloved nation. May Allah the Almighty (swt) protect our state and nation from all kinds of ills, betrayals and evils.

¹ Ibn Hanbal, III, 413.

² Fatihah, 1/5.

³ Ankabut, 29/1-3.

⁴ Hud, 11/112.