

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنِ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ
الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهَ فَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ أَن

يَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

أَحَبُّ الْبِلَادِ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَسَاجِدُهَا.

MOSQUES AND RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS: THE KEY TO GOOD, THE LOCK TO EVIL

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have just recited at the beginning of the khutbah, the Almighty Allah (swt) states, **“The mosques of Allah should only be maintained by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, establish prayer, pay zakat, and fear none but Allah. It is right to hope that they will be among the truly guided.”**¹

In the hadith I have read, our beloved Prophet (saw) says, **“The most beloved places on Earth to Allah are mosques.”**²

Dear Believers!

Mosques and masjids are the houses of Allah (swt). They are the symbols of Islamic civilization. They are the heart of cities. They are the sign of our unity and solidarity. They are the places of worship where we stand in prayer five times a day and find peace in the presence of our Lord (swt). They are the places of prostration that bear witness to our words of “Amin” that flow from our tongues and our tears that we shed inwardly.

Dear Muslims!

Our religious officials, who serve in our mosques as servants of benevolence, are the heirs of the prophets who teach us the truths of our sublime religion, Islam. They are our orators who communicate the unique principles of the Qur’an and the good morals of the Messenger of Allah (saw). They are our religious officials who embroider the Qur’an in the hearts of the believers and who are the subjects of the prophetic praise, **خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ** **“The best among you are those who learn the Qur’an and teach it.”**³

Dear Believers!

In one of the verses, our Lord Almighty (swt) states, **وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ** **“Let there be a group among you who call others to goodness, encourage what is good, and forbid what is evil.”**⁴ As the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Türkiye, we have adopted this verse as our guiding principle. Our primary goal is the revival of all humanity with a mosque-centered life. Our muadhdhins invite all people to salvation with the invitation, **حَٰجِيَ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ**, hurry to the

prayer”, **حَٰجِيَ عَلَى الصَّلَاةِ**, hurry to the salvation!”, rising to the skies from the minarets. The lines in our national anthem, “These adhans and their testimonies are the foundations of my religion; and may their noble sound prevail thunderously across my eternal homeland.”, were written for this purpose and in this spirit.

Dear Muslims!

Just as our Lord (swt) embraces all creation with His mercy and compassion with His name al-Jami’, our mosques embrace Muslims by turning all their differences into richness regardless of their race, language, color, and gender. To achieve this goal, we provide services to our people in many areas, such as mosques, Qur’an courses, family and religious guidance offices, and youth centers. We strive to impart the mercy-laden messages of Islam to our brothers and sisters in various settings, ranging from hospitals and government dormitories to people with disabilities and addiction, and from educational institutions to work environments. We publish books and periodicals that people of all ages and genders can read to gain knowledge and understanding of our religion, values, history, and culture. We endeavor to introduce the sublime religion, Islam, to our beloved nation and all humanity through digital media, our Diyanet TV, and Diyanet radio stations. We believe it is our foremost responsibility to teach people of all ages and occupations about the Qur’an. We make every effort to fight through knowledge and wisdom against those who seek to exploit our religion, corrupt our values, and harm our family structure.

Dear Believers!

Every year, the 1-7 October is observed as “the Mosques and Religious Officials Week” in Türkiye. Throughout the Week, events are organized in the country and abroad to explain the place and importance of mosques and religious officials in our civilization. I pray to our Almighty Lord (swt) that the week we observe will be conducive to auspiciousness. I wish mercy to the deceased religious officials who have served for the spiritual reconstruction of humanity and been an example and leader in the path of goodness, to the deceased benefactors who have helped in the construction and reconstruction of our mosques, and to the deceased members of our congregation, from past to present, and I wish health, peace and prosperity to those who are alive.

Honorable Muslims!

As I conclude this Friday’s khutbah, I would like to remind you that the pre-registration period for the Hajj 2024 will come to a close on October 11. Our brothers and sisters who will be applying for the first time will be able to do so via the e-government system (E-Devlet) until October 11. Please contact our provincial and district mufti offices for more information.

¹ Tawbah, 9/18.

² Muslim, Masajid, 288.

³ Tirmidhi, Fadhail al-Qur’an, 15.

⁴ Al-i ‘Imran, 3/104.