

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَاطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ

وَاصْبِرُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبَيْتِ بِنِجَانٍ، يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا.

OUR GREATEST STRENGTH IS OUR UNITY AND SOLIDARITY

Honorable Muslims!

In the verse I have recited, our Almighty Lord (swt) states, **“Obey Allah and His Messenger and do not dispute with one another, or you would be discouraged and weakened. Persevere! Surely Allah is with those who persevere.”**¹

In the hadith I have read, our Prophet (saw) says, **“The relationship of the believer with another believer is like the bricks of a building, each strengthening the other.”**²

Dear Believers!

All Muslims are brothers and sisters, even if they come from different geographical areas, have different skin colors and speak different languages. All believers collectively form the ‘ummah of the Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw). In one of his hadiths, the Messenger of Allah (saw) teaches us the requirements of being an ‘ummah and brothers and sisters as follows:

لَا تَبَاغَضُوا، وَلَا تَحَاسَدُوا، وَلَا تَدَابَرُوا، وَكُونُوا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ إِخْوَانًا

“Do not envy one another, do not hate one another, and do not turn away from one another. O servants of Allah! Be brothers.”³

Dear Muslims!

Throughout history, we have heeded this call of our beloved Prophet (saw). We have always cherished our unity and solidarity, peace and love for each other. With this consciousness, we have had numerous epics of brotherhood. Hand in hand, heart to heart, we have weathered all kinds of difficulties and hardships together. We have never forgotten that we live on the same land and share the same ideals. Under the same sky, one and the same are both our joys and sorrows. One and the same are our supplications and amens. One is our homeland, in the cause of which we had many martyrs, despite the differences in our thoughts, sects and dispositions.

Dear Believers!

Just as in the past, today there are those who covet our paradise homeland and aim to undermine our brotherhood with treacherous ambitions. There are those who try to set us against each other and disturb our peace. There are those who want to weaken us by sowing seeds of sedition and discord among us. In the face of all these, our duty is to never compromise our unity, solidarity and brotherhood. What falls upon us is to stand united around our sacred values, such as the religion, the Qur’an, the homeland, and the adhan. It is our duty to live up to and keep alive the high ideals for which our martyrs sacrificed their lives. We should raise our children, the light of our eyes and the guarantee of our future, as good people who will protect our faith, history and civilization. With a smiling face and kind words, we should bring them together with the spiritual climate of our mosques that inspires awe and peace.

Dear Muslims!

Last week, our sons were martyred as a result of a treacherous terrorist attack. We believe that the mercy of Allah is upon our martyrs. They rejoice in the blessings of heaven that are heralded to them. The parents who raised our martyrs and veterans are the crown of our heads. Their spouses and children are our most valuable trust. We know that Allah’s help is with the believers, and victory is for the faithful. As for the occupying oppressors who covet our homeland, who are hostile to our nation and the ‘ummah of Muhammad (saw), who are massacring innocents in Palestine, without discriminating against babies, women and the elderly, they will surely lose. Our Lord’s (swt) promise is very clear:

“وَقُلْ جَاءَ الْحَقُّ وَزَهَقَ الْبَاطِلُ إِنَّ الْبَاطِلَ كَانَ زَهُوقًا
“Declare, “The truth has come and falsehood has vanished. Indeed, falsehood is bound to vanish.”⁴

I would like to take this opportunity to wish Allah the Almighty’s mercy upon all our martyrs, a speedy recovery to our injured, and patience to their grieving families. I offer my deepest condolences to our beloved nation. May Allah the Almighty make our valiant army and security forces successful in their struggle for our peace and security. May Allah make our unity, our brotherhood and our love for each other last forever.

¹ Anfal, 8/46.

² Bukhari, Salah, 88.

³ Bukhari, Adab, 62.

⁴ Isra, 17/81.