

Date: 19.05.2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ نَبَأَهُم بِالْحَقِّ إِنَّهُمْ فِتْنَةٌ آمَنُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ
وَزِدْنَاَهُم هُدًى.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
سَبْعَةٌ يُظِلُّهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي ظِلِّهِ يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلُّهُ: ... وَشَابٌ
نَشَأَ فِي عِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ...

OUR YOUTH: TRUSTEES OF NATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL VALUES

Dear Muslims!

Youth is one of the greatest blessings bestowed upon us by our Almighty Lord (swt). Youth is a time when we experience physical, spiritual and emotional changes, and when our character and personality develop. Our future is shaped to a great extent during our youth. Virtues such as decency and morality, love and respect, patience and benevolence become more apparent during this period.

My Dear Young Brothers and Sisters!

You are a treasured servant of Islam. You are the hope of our state and nation. You are the trustee of our national and spiritual values. The trust of our forefathers who changed the course of history rests on your shoulders. Your destination is clear as directed by the Qur'an and the Sunnah. You are bound to be like the Prophet Ibrahim in the search for truth and the fight for tawhid. In the face of carnal desires and cravings, you should be like the Prophet Yusuf who said, "Allah is my refuge!"¹ The resolve to be like Maryam (ra), the symbol of chastity and honor, lies in you. "They were youths who truly believed in their Lord, and We increased them in guidance."² Like the Ashab al-Kahf praised in the above verse, you have an unwavering stance within your very essence. You are on the path of our Prophet (saw), the sole guide of youth, the epitome of good morals, and the mercy to the worlds. What befits you is to be in the search for knowledge and wisdom, reason and justice, like the young people who were raised up through his blessed teachings.

Dear Parents!

Our youth need us to hear their ideas sincerely. They expect us to trust them, respect them and support them in reaching their goals. So let us devote time to our youth. Let us listen to them sincerely. Let us not withhold our love and affection from them. Let us be a safe haven for them. Let us raise them

according to the conditions of the age in which they will be living, as Ali (ra) said. Let us unite their excitement and energy with Islam's messages of compassion and mercy.

Dear Parents!

One of the supplications that our Lord (swt) accepts is the supplication of parents for their children. The Prophet Ibrahim, with his supplication, "رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِي مُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةِ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي" "My Lord! Make me and those believers of my descendants keep up prayer."³ asked his Lord (swt) for a generation of purity. Let us, like the Prophet Ibrahim, pray to Allah the Almighty (swt) that our young people will have a prostrate forehead, a praying tongue, and good morals.

Dear Believers!

Our youth need our guidance in understanding the world, comprehending the purpose of human existence and embracing the values that hold us together as a nation. It is our collective responsibility to teach our youth, who are the assurance of our future and our hope for tomorrows, about our religion, our history, our civilization, in short, the values that make us who we are. It is our collective duty to raise a youth who is mindful of faith in Allah, loyalty to family, service to our nation, and being beneficial to humanity. Let us not forget that the improvement of the earth and the building of a secure future will be done by young people who know the value of knowledge, who read, research and contemplate. Our youth, who do not deviate from the truth and fairness, who do not consent to oppression, who protect the rights of the oppressed and victimized, will turn the world into a land of peace.

I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate with gratitude, mercy and appreciation our glorious forefathers who led the way in passing our national and spiritual values down onto our youth from the past to the present, our great martyrs and heroic veterans who sacrificed their lives for the sake of our religion, our state, our nation and our sacred values.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following glad tidings of our Prophet (saw): "One of the seven people Allah will give them His Shade on the Day when there would be no shade but the Shade of His Throne is a youth who grew up with the worship of Allah."⁴

¹ Yusuf, 12/23.

² Kahf, 18/13.

³ Ibrahim, 14/40.

⁴ Bukhari, Adhan, 36.