

وَلَا تَحْسَبَنَّ الَّذِينَ قُتِلُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَمْوَاتًا بَلْ أَحْيَاءٌ إِنَّهُمْ
 يُرَزَّقُونَ
 وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
 عَيْنَانِ لَا تَمْسُهُمَا النَّارُ عَيْنُ بَكْتُ مِنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ وَعَيْنُ بَاتَتْ
 تَخْرُسُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ

Our Homeland and Nation Spirit

Honorable Muslims!

For us, our homeland is not merely a piece of land; it is the symbol of our independence and the sacred trust our glorious ancestors have entrusted to us. It is our blessed land where our heroic nation has stood as a shield against every shameless attack—sacrificing their lives, their loved ones, even all that they possessed—to keep the lofty values of faith alive. It is the land where they became veterans and drank the sherbet of martyrdom, departing to their Lord in honor. Our homeland is the land of scholars, saints, and wise men; where we live in peace and safety, taste the pride of freedom, and carry the hope of our future.

Dear Believers!

When we speak of the homeland, it is our duty to remember with gratitude our heroic army and our beloved Mehmetçik, who rush forward, forgetting everything else when duty calls. He is the hero whose name we utter with reverence, calling him Mehmetçik in honor of the Prophet (peace be upon him)—for the army he belongs to is known as the "Prophet's Hearth." A strong, bold, intelligent, skillful, and fearless young men... One who would always want to be in the front line, fighting restlessly until his last breath. As he rushes from one front to another, he endures every hardship with patience. He always places his love for his homeland at the forefront and declares, "May the homeland live on! As long as the homeland survives, that is enough!" As the poet puts it:

The Martyrs' Hill stands not empty—

Its soil is guarded by heroes!

And a flag, yearning to flutter high,

Awaits the wind!

The orphaned epic, the deep silence of the unknown soldier—

His shrine befits this sacred hill.

The soil where he lies is known,

The flag he held is known—

Who dares call him an unknown soldier?

Esteemed Muslims!

The Holy Qur'an describes those who have sacrificed their lives for faith and devotion — the heroes who leave not the Martyrs' Hill empty — as follows: "**Never think of those martyred in the cause of Allah as dead. In fact, they are alive with their Lord, well provided for—.**"

Inspired by this divine promise, our valiant army strives tirelessly, forgetting both time and place, turning night into day and day into night in their sacred endeavor. Today, our valiant Mehmetçik stands in the midst of a great struggle, giving his blood, his life, his all. Not only within the borders of our homeland, but wherever he sets foot—beyond our frontiers, across the vast expanse of our spiritual realm—wherever the cry of the oppressed and the wail of the forsaken resound, human dignity, honor, and virtue are saved from being trampled underfoot. This is a struggle for humanity so profound that our Holy Book offers hope to these noble and heroic soldiers—this final blessed army of Islam, as follows: "**Do not falter or grieve, for you will have the upper hand, if you are 'true' believers!**"² It makes them the recipients of the supplications of the oppressed across the earth. The poet expresses this truth so beautifully:

That storm that strikes, O Lord, is Türkiye's steadfast band!

O Lord, this is the army that for Your cause gives heart and hand!

May Your name ascend, with the adhans proclaimed on high;

Make them victorious—for this is Islam's final band that's nigh!

Dear Believers!

It is our solemn duty to fulfil our responsibilities for the integrity of our state, the survival of our homeland, and the well-being of our nation; to safeguard the national and spiritual values that have enabled us to build civilizations and achieve victory after victory, and to pass them on to future generations; to preserve our unity and solidarity, remain vigilant against those who seek to sow discord and corruption among us, and never compromise the bonds of our brotherhood.

On this occasion, I commemorate with mercy, gratitude, and reverence our beloved martyrs—who from Badr to Malazgirt, from the Conquest of Istanbul to Çanakkale, from the War of Independence to July 15, have sacrificed their lives for a homeland where we can live freely, inspired by the love of spreading the Word of Allah—and especially those who, just last Tuesday, attained martyrdom in the tragic plane crash; I also honor our heroic veterans and esteemed state leaders who have passed into the Hereafter. May our nation endure, and may our state remain everlasting.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the glad tidings of our Prophet (saw): "**There are two eyes that the fire of Hell will not touch: one is the eye that weeps out of fear of Allah, and the other is the eye that stays awake at night, keeping vigil in the path of Allah.**"³

¹ Ali 'Imran, 3/169.

² Ali 'Imran, 3/139.

³ Tirmidhi, Fadha'il al-Jihad, 12.

