



مَنْ قَتَلَ نَفْسًا بِغَيْرِ نَفْسٍ أَوْ فَسَادٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَكَانَمَا قَاتَلَ النَّاسَ جَمِيعًا

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَزَوَالُ الدُّنْيَا أَهْوَانُ عَلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ قَتْلِ رَجُلٍ مُسْلِمٍ

## TODAY, WE UNITE AGAINST TERRORISM

### A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

We have been grieving in these days as a nation. Because we suffered disgusting terror attacks last week in Istanbul and yesterday in Izmir. The innocent lives we have lost once again tore our heart out. I wish Allah's mercy to the ones we lost, a quick recovery to the wounded. I offer my condolences to their families. And condolences to our nation and the human family.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

As always expressed from this minbar, every human being is honorable in our faith. The right to life is sacred for everyone. Their life, property, dignity, and honor are untouchable.<sup>1</sup> The Holy Quran says "**Whoever kills a soul is as if he had slain the entire humankind.**"<sup>2</sup> The primary goal of our great religion Islam is to bring life to people. To make it better. To make it improve.

It should be known that all types of terrorism that target our existence have the same purpose even though their names, methods, mentality, and appearance are different. They hurt our unity, togetherness, and brotherhood. They destroy our culture of peaceful co-existence with our differences which offer richness. The purpose of terror is to make our hearts to be held hostage by the darkness of mischief and sedition, hatred and animosity, violence and hostility. Its aim is to drag us into a swirl of conflict and unrest. To weaken us. To kill our hopes for the future.

### Brothers and Sisters!

In this difficult period we are going through, we desperately need the moral principles the Almighty taught us in the Surat al-Hujurat<sup>3</sup>. Let us lend an ear to these vital principles in today's khutbah.

The first principle is **فَتَبَيَّنُوا** which means "investigate." Our Lord enjoins, "**O you who have believed, if there comes to you an untrustworthy one with information, investigate.**" Considering a piece of information true without investigating it and verifying its accuracy may lead us to wrong conclusions. It may cause undesired circumstances, sedition, and mischief. And as a result, we may regret what we have done.

### Brothers and Sisters!

The second moral principle is to reconcile as per the command **فَاصْلُحُوا**. It is to resolve issues between people. It is to be constructive and corrective, not

destructive and vindictive; to be unifying and inclusive, not divisive and disruptive. It is to join forces and make the power of love, fondness, and brotherhood prevail against the darkness of hostility, hatred, and violence. It is to band together and drain the swamp of division and conflict.

The third moral principle is to glorify justice by **وَاقْسِطُوا** that is "**acting justly.**" It is to never let go of justice, loyalty, and righteousness under any circumstances.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The fourth moral principle taught to us by Surat al-Hujurat is which means **لَا يَسْخُرُ** "**do not mock others.**" It is to never scorn and despise anyone. It is to never forget that, as the children of Adam and Eve, we have been created from the same origin.

The fifth moral principle is to avoid defamation as per the command **وَلَا تَلْمِزُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ**. It is to avoid offending a person even with a little gesture or implication. It is to keep away from any word or behavior that may hurt a person's honor and dignity.

The sixth moral principle is, **وَلَا تَنَابِرُوا بِالْأَلْقَابِ** which means "**Do not call each other by offensive nicknames.**" Because a person's name, honor, and reputation are esteemed and worthy of respect like the person himself.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

The seventh moral principle that the Surat al-Hujurat taught us is **إِجْتِنَبُوا كَثِيرًا مِنِ الظُّنُونِ** that is to avoid making wrong assumptions about one another. Because assumption about others often misleads and causes one to sin. It leads to misunderstandings and disturbances.

The eighth moral principle is the command **وَلَا تَجَسَّسُوا**. That is, do not spy and pry into the flaws and imperfections of others. It is to avoid attempting to expose others' privacy. It is to remember that our real duty is to correct our own mistakes and flaws.

The ninth moral principle is **وَلَا يَغْتَبُ بَعْضًا** that is "**Do not backbite each other. Do not talk behind one another's back.**" Because our duty is to protect the rights of our brothers and sisters even when they are not present. It is to consider their existence as ours. To consider their honor as ours.

### Brothers and Sisters!

May the Almighty Lord grant us to be among those who abide by these principles. May He grant us to be among those who get their morals from the morals of the Quran and of the Prophet. May the Lord never allow those who target our nation's unity and togetherness. May He never allow harm upon our country and nation, the hope of the downtrodden.

<sup>1</sup> Bukhari, İlim, 9.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Ma'idah, 5/32.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Hujurat, 49/1-18.

لِلّٰهِ الْحَمْدُ

فَلَمَّا كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللّٰهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُخْبِئُكُمُ اللّٰهُ وَيَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ ذُوَبَكُمْ

وَاللّٰهُ عَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللّٰهِ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ :

اللّٰهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ حُجَّكَ وَحْبَ مَنْ يُحِبُّكَ وَالْعَمَلَ الَّذِي يَلْفَغُنِي حُبَّكَ

## TO BE ABLE TO BE A SERVANT ALLAH LOVES

### A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty shows us the way to be honored with His love and favor: "Say, [O Muhammad], 'If you should love Allah, then follow me, so Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.'"<sup>1</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

The Almighty stated the deeds that will move us away from His grace in His Book like He showed us in it the ones that will bring us to His favor. He stated the ones honored with His love as well as those left without His love and mercy. Come, let's hear in today's khutbah who the servants our Lord loves are.

وَاللّٰهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُطْهَرِينَ Allah loves those pure in the

spiritual and material sense. Then come, let's protect our disposition against all evil. Let's make our mind and our heart the center of goodness and nice things, not of evil and ugliness.

إِنَّ اللّٰهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ Allah loves those who repent. Then, honorable brothers and sisters! Come, let's be the servants we are and repent. Let's voice our submission to our Lord and the remorse for our sins. Let's take refuge in His vast mercy. Let's not forget that repentance is like a new start to life.

إِنَّ اللّٰهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَّقِينَ Allah loves those who avoid disobey

Him. Then come, let's always be aware of our duties and obligations towards Him. Let's live our lives in accordance with the purpose and reason of our creation.

إِنَّ اللّٰهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ Allah loves those who trust Him.

Then come, after doing our duty, حَسَبَنَا اللّٰهُ وَنَعْمَمُ الرَّوْكِيلُ let's say "Allah suffices, what a great trustee He is!" Let's never lose hope in our Lord's grace, help, and blessing.

وَاللّٰهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ Allah loves the doers of good and

those who seek His favor in everything they say and do. Then come, brothers and sisters! Let's act with the awareness that our Lord sees us at every moment.

وَاللّٰهُ يُحِبُّ الصَّابِرِينَ Allah loves the patient. He is with

the patient. Then come, let's adopt patience and quiet as a maxim with the awareness that life is a test.

إِنَّ اللّٰهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ Allah loves who are just. Then come, let's elevate justice at all times. Let's not forget that justice is the key to trust and peace. It is indispensable for a humane life.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Come, now look at those the Almighty does not love.

إِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْنَدِينَ Allah does not love aggressors,

those who cross the line. Then, we must be constructive and unifying, not destructive and divisive.

وَاللّٰهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الظَّالِمِينَ Allah does not love the oppressors.

Because oppression is one of the biggest sins. It means disregarding what's right and just. Then, we must always stand against the oppressors and with the oppressed.

إِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ Allah does not love the prodigals.

Then, we must avoid squandering what we have earned and lavishly using the blessings Allah has bestowed upon us.

وَاللّٰهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ Allah does not love those who

spoil and make trouble. Then, we must altogether protect our peace, our unity and togetherness, our brotherhood and relationship.

إِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْتَكِبِينَ Allah does not love the arrogant,

those who boast. Then, we must elevate with humility and solemnity.

إِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْعَانِيِينَ Allah never loves those who betray

Himself, His Holy Book, His Prophet, their own values, and their own brothers. Then, we must stay away from all sorts of betrayal, hypocrisy, and deception.

وَاللّٰهُ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ كَفَّارٍ أَبِيمٍ Allah does not love anybody who

persists in impiety and sin. Then, we must avoid being blind and oblivious to the countless blessings bestowed upon us by the Almighty and the goodness we have been blessed with.

### Brothers and Sisters!

May the Almighty Lord grant us to be among those happy servants of His who have been honored with His love. As I conclude my khutbah, I would like to share with you this piece of information: As they always do, our great nation has shown great favor to the aid campaign launched by the Presidency of Religious Affairs a short while ago with the slogan "**Don't Let Humanity Die in Aleppo.**" Under the campaign, an aid of 133,745,000 TL has been raised so far from abroad and within the country. The raised fund is sent to our oppressed brothers and sisters in Aleppo to tend to their wounds. May the Almighty accept your help. May He always protect our country and our great nation that are the hope of the oppressed, the downtrodden, and the destitute.

<sup>1</sup> Ali 'Imran, 3/31.

**LOCATION : NATIONWIDE**  
**DATE : 20.01.2017**

لِلّٰهِ الْحَمْدُ

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَاتَلُوا رَبِّنَا اللَّهَ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا تَنَزَّلَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ أَلَا تَخَافُوْا  
وَلَا تَخْرُجُوْا وَلَا يَشْرُوْا بِالْجَنَّةِ الَّتِي كُنْتُمْ تُوعَدُوْنَ  
فَالَّرَّسُولُ اللَّهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
إِنَّ مَثَلَ الْمُؤْمِنِ لَكَمَلِ النَّخْلَةِ أَكَلَتْ طَيْبًا وَوَضَعَتْ طَيْبًا وَوَقَعَتْ فَلَمْ  
تَكُسِرْ وَلَمْ تُفْسِدْ

## FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF THE COMPASSIONATE

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty enjoins: “Indeed, those who have said, ‘Our Lord is Allah’ and then remained on a right course; the angels will descend upon them saying, ‘Do not fear and do not grieve but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised.’”<sup>1</sup>

In the verse I have recited, the Prophet (pbuh) says: “A believer is like a honeybee. He always eats good, clean, lawful things like the bee. He always produces good things, always purses goodness. He never breaks or ruin anything.”<sup>2</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

The Almighty sent down a Holy Book for us. He sent down an exemplary Prophet for us. He taught us how to lead a humane life, how to have a believer’s attitude with examples from His Book and His Messenger. Let us remember once again in today’s khutbah the qualities of a believer as described by the Holy Quran and demonstrated by the Prophet’s exemplary life.

### Brothers and Sisters!

The believer is one who sincerely believes in the existence and oneness of Allah. They unwaveringly acknowledge Allah’s angels, books, prophets; the afterlife, destiny, and what Muhammad Mustafa (pbuh) brought from the ranks of Allah. The believer is the person who turns the Prophet’s exemplary morality into a life.

### Brothers and Sisters!

The believers presented to us in the Quran are those cognizant of the purpose and wisdom in their creation. They think, remember, and reflect upon what they see, hear, and experience. They live with the awareness of being servants and worshipping. They perform their prayers with conscious and in submission and consider them ascension. They give charity merely for Allah’s sake from the heart. They make their fast a shield against evil.

Believers are true servants of the Compassionate. Their hearts are satisfied with the remembrance of and gratitude to Allah. They feel a heartfelt, deep respect

when His name is mentioned. They are not deaf or blind to the verses, commandments, and bans of Allah. They strive to understand them all accurately and implement them in the best way.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Believers are humble. They do not get arrogant. They do not brag. They do not act superior. They are dignified. They stand clear of empty words, acts, and attitude that are of no use to their world and afterlife. When the ignorant pick on them, they merely respond by saying, “peace!”

Believers have trust. They only rely on Allah. They only seek His help. They repent for their faults and sins. They recognize their mistakes and do not persist on them. They always act with patience. They do not give up in the face of hardship and calamity, they do not lose hope. They know life is a test and say **إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ** “To Allah

**we belong and to Him we shall return,**” thereby uttering their submission and fortitude. They overcome anger. They forgive the bad things done to them.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Believers adopt righteousness and loyalty as motto. They avoid lies, false testimony, and deception. They never break their word. They never misappropriate. They do not veer away from what is true and just. They preserve their dignity and honor. They do not shy away for one second from fighting for a humane life. They do not hang back from sacrificing in Allah’s cause in poverty and in wealth.

Believers are friends and brothers to one another. They do not abandon each other to loneliness. They do not wish bad things for others. They compete in goodness, not evil. They help one another in goodness, not in sin. They value mercy and compassion. They do not allow oppression, violence, and savagery. They do not cast a shadow upon each other’s prestige, they do not cross lines. They never abandon moderation. They do not break the heart that Allah looks at. They especially do not take a life deemed venerable and forbidden by Allah.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

All of these are the qualities of our Lord’s faithful servants that He described in His Book. Those who possess these good qualities have neither fear nor sorrow. They will attain Allah’s infinite grace and eternal paradise. There, they will be greeted with respect and peace. They will be entertained with the nicest of treats.

Fortunate are the true servants of the Compassionate! Fortunate are those who have earned Allah’s favor by living in compliance with the purpose and wisdom of their creation! Fortunate are those who have taken the path of peace! Fortunate are those who have turned the mortal world into an immortal gain!

May the Almighty grant us to be among the servants He likes and favors.

<sup>1</sup> Fussilat, 41/30.

<sup>2</sup> Ibn Hanbal, II, 199; Hâkim, Müstedrek, I, 110.



فَخَلَفَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِمْ خَلْفٌ أَضَاعُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَاتَّبَعُوا الشَّهَوَاتِ فَسَوْفَ يَلْقَوْنَ غِيَّباً

فَالَّرَّسُولُ أَكَلَ اللَّهَ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

...مَنْ حَفِظَ عَلَيْهَا كَانَ لَهُ نُورًا، وَبِرْهَانًا، وَنَجَاهَةً يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

## NEGLECTING PRAYER IS A GREAT LOSS

### A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

In the Surah al-Maryam, the Almighty Lord mentions the tawhid struggle of Prophets Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Aaron, Zechariah, John, and Jesus one by one. Then He mentions the calamity that befell upon the community that lived after these prophets in the verse I have recited at the beginning of my khutbah. **“There came after them successors who neglected prayer and pursued desires; so they are going to meet evil.”<sup>1</sup>**

### Honorable Believers!

According to this verse, one of the greatest losses for a believer on the earth is to lose prayer, to neglect it. Because prayer is submission to the Lord and also one of the most special and beautiful manifestations of our servitude. Prayer means reaching a peaceful place. It means reaching peace. It means finding peace. It is a union longingly awaited by the believer. It is meeting our Lord five times a day. At the start of this meeting is “Allahu Akbar” which is the acknowledgment of Allah’s greatness. Raising hands to the ear level means throwing behind all worldly things that prevent Allah’s favor. Qiyam is the symbol of turning only to Allah and remaining on His path. Qiraat is our heartfelt supplication to the Lord in His own verses. Ruku and sajdah are the peak of being Allah’s servants. Salam is wishing well-being and peace for both ourselves and for brothers and sisters with whom we live together.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

As believers who pray are deemed worthy of praise in our Holy Book, those who neglect prayer are criticized just as much. As those who perform their due prayer and elevate themselves are given the good news of grace, those who deprive themselves of this great blessing are warned just as much. Those who attain praise, good news, and mercy with their prayers are **الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِالْغَيْبِ وَيَقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ** that is believers who regularly perform prayers. **الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي**

**صَلَاتِهِمْ حَاضِرُونَ** They are the ones who adhere to the spirit, essence, and messages of prayer. They consider prayer as elevation. They are the ones who understand the hadith, **“Prayer becomes a warrant for light, proof, and salvation on the Day for those who regularly perform it.”<sup>2</sup>**

### Brothers and Sisters!

There are also those who are criticized despite performing prayer in the Holy Quran. They are **الَّذِينَ هُمْ مِنْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ الَّذِينَ هُمْ مِنْ بُرَاوِينَ وَأَنَّهَا** that is those who are loose about their prayer. They are those whose prayers can’t protect them against evil. They are those who don’t perform their prayers with believer’s mentality and sincerity. They are those who add hypocrisy and vanity to their prayers.

**لَكَبِيرَةٌ أَلَا عَلَى النَّاَصِيْعِينَ** They are those who have a hard time in prayer since they don’t perform it devotedly. They are those who don’t know that prayer is not a burden, it is a blessing.

### Brothers and Sisters!

As our Holy Book mentions those who deprive themselves of the upsides of prayer, it also deals with the hypocrites and the deniers. They are, **فَلَا صَلَقَ وَلَا صَلَى** or

**وَإِذَا قَامُوا إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ قَامُوا كُسَالٍ** Those who turn away from prayer. They are those who are lazy about prayer. They even do not hesitate from exploiting prayer.

**وَإِذَا نَادَيْتُمُوهُمْ إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ اتَّخَذُوهُمْ مُهْرَبًا وَلَعْبًا** They are those who mock it when they are invited to prayer. Those who make light of the religion’s symbols.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Prayer protects us as long as we protect it. It preserves us so long as we preserve it. It never spares us its generosity. All we need to do is to not spare ourselves prayer. Prayer never shies away from elevating us. All we need to do is to elevate our prayer with our sincerity. Prayer never draws away from us, it does not deprive us of closeness to our Lord. All we need to do is to not draw away from prayer. Despite all that, we immerse ourselves so much in the flow of life that we either can’t perform our prayers on time or leave it. However, our Prophet (pbuh) said the best prayer was the one performed on time. He said to his distinguished muezzin, **“Get up, o Bilal! Refresh us with prayer!”<sup>3</sup>** and eased the intensity of life with prayer. He took away his exhaustion with prayer. He found peace with prayer.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Then come, let us ask ourselves these questions: Do we protect our prayers, and do they protect us? Do we pain for the remorse of the prayers we delayed or neglected? Are our prayers the bridge of union and fondness that connect us to our Lord? Is our goal an indispensable oath of our morality that elevates us before our Lord and people? Are our prayers a shield that protect us against evil?

### Brothers and Sisters!

May the Almighty grant us to be among those who elevate with prayer. May He grant us to be among those who are purified with prayer, who earn His favor with prayer, and who attain His eternal blessings.

<sup>1</sup> Maryam 19/59.

<sup>2</sup> Ibn Hanbal, II, 169.

<sup>3</sup> Abu Dawud, Edeb, 78.

## أَلْهَانُ الْمُنْتَهِيُّ

بِإِنَّمَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبِّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا  
وَبَئَثَ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَسَاءَ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهُ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ يَوْمًا وَالْأَزْحَامُ  
إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
أَكْمَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِيمَانًا أَخْسَطُهُمْ خُلُقًا وَخَيْرُكُمْ خِيَارُكُمْ لِيَسَانُهُمْ

### MARRIAGE AS A PACT, AGREEMENT, AND OATH

#### Honorable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty Lord enjoins: “O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah, through whom you ask one another, and the wombs that bore you. Indeed Allah is ever, over you, an Observer.”<sup>1</sup>

In the hadith I have read, our Prophet (pbuh) says: “The most mature of believers are those best in character. And the best of you are those who treat their wives in the best way.”<sup>2</sup>

#### Brothers and Sisters!

The Almighty enjoins **وَأَخْذُنَّ مِنْكُمْ مِيقَاتًا عَلَيْهَا** in Surah an-Nisa. He called the pledge that couples take when starting a family in marriage an “oath.” The oath is such a significant, major thing that our Lord also called our vow of servitude to Him an “oath.” He also called the commitment prophets gave him in calling people to the right path and guiding them an “oath.”

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Marriage is not just a formal ritual that brings two bodies together. It is the promise couples make to one another to share a lifetime with Allah Almighty as their witness. It is a pact, it is an agreement, and it is an oath. For it is a pact and a treaty, i.e. a contract, it brings us a moral responsibility. For it is an agreement, it brings us a legal responsibility. For it is an oath, it reminds couples that they have promised not only each other but also Allah, and they are under liability.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

The basis of family, which is founded upon the oath in marriage, is loyalty. Being a family necessitates couples to remain loyal to one another, in good times, in bad times, in wealth, and in poverty. It requires them to look after one another’s rights.

In the basis of family lies the awareness of having been entrusted your significant other by Allah. When they take the oath in marriage, they actually make a commitment to Allah that they will protect what they are entrusted with. They declare that they will not hurt their couples who are just as precious as them, they will not degrade them, and they will not breach Allah’s trust.

وَجَعَلَ بَيْتَكُمْ مَوْعِدَةً وَرَخْمَةً love and

grace lie at the core of family. Because a family adorned with such characteristics will be surrounded by Allah’s favor. It turns into paradise for its members.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

It must be regrettfully stated that many families that should be turned into paradise with loyalty and love can be senselessly transformed into a realm of torment. Some spouses may over time lose the virtue of abiding by their oath which is a grave thing to do. Some may over time get deprived of the awareness to protect what they have been entrusted with. Families that have been founded with oaths and pacts may be swirled into the whirlpool of infidelity, lovelessness, and mercilessness. However, the believer is the one who adopts love, compassion, and mercy into their character. The believer is the one who, in the words of our Holy Book **وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمَانَتِهِمْ وَمَهْلِكَهُمْ رَاغُونَ**, they never break their vows or breach the trust of Allah.<sup>3</sup>

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

It is a fact that the family institution faces multiple dangers today. Especially the violation of family privacy and the practical encouragement of partners living together without being married in some media have major damage in our understanding and life of family. Also, the exploitation and disregard of family values in certain programs airing under the name of matchmaking disgraces the family institution. Moreover, there is a considerable amount of murders committed, lives falling apart, homes breaking, hopes fading because of betrayal, infidelity, and violence.

The most saddening thing is that innocent children and women are affected the most as victims from these incidents. For example, 602,982 couples married in 2015 in our country while 131,830 divorced. As a result of the divorces, 109,978 children have been deprived of their mothers’ compassion and their fathers’ mercy.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

These are scary numbers for the followers of a religion that considers loyalty and love as the fundamental principles of a family. Then come! Let us protect our families, the great blessing of our Lord, which are our source of peace and love. Let us protect what’s been entrusted to us. Let us make our spouses and children the light of our eyes. And let us supplicate to our Lord on this holy time of Friday with the prayer we said when we started our families:

O Allah! Give our families love, respect, loyalty, well-being, and abundance! Unite our families with ties of familiarity, fondness, and faithfulness. Protect our homes from hatred, discord, infidelity, and division. Grant us the peace and happiness of Prophet Adam and Eve, our Prophet (pbuh) and our mother Khadija, Caliph Ali and mother Fatima!

<sup>1</sup> An-Nisa, 4/1.

<sup>2</sup> Tirmidhi, Radâ', 11.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Mu'minun, 23/8.

**LOCATION : NATIONWIDE**  
**DATE : 10.02.2017**



وَإِذَا سَأَلْتَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي قَاتِلُ أَجِيبُ أَجِيبُ دُعَوةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ  
فَلَيَسْتَجِيبُوا إِلَيْ وَلَيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

أَذْعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَئْتُمُ مُؤْمِنَوْنَ بِالإِحْيَا وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَسْتَجِيبُ دُعَاءَ مِنْ قَلْبٍ غَافِلٍ لَأِهَامِ

### A BELIEVER'S INVOCATION: PRAYER

#### A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

There is a great blessing in this mortal world which gives us peace, makes us stronger in the face of adversity, and keeps our ideals for the future alive. This blessing is "prayer." Prayer is a source of grace and abundance bestowed upon us by the Almighty Lord. Prayer is an expression of our faith and submission to Allah, and our believer's mentality. It is the manifestation of the awareness that we have a Lord who never abandons us even for a moment and does not leave us alone. Prayer is the admission of our helplessness with gratitude and praise in the face of Allah's sublimity.

#### Honorable Believers!

Prayer is the discovery of existence. When we pray, we realize our needs, our limits, our physical and spiritual resources. We express that we are aware of our boundaries and power, the reason for our creation, and our responsibilities. We know ourselves, we know our Lord. We earn our Lord's favor as He enjoins in the Quran:

قُلْ مَا يَعْلَمُ بِكُمْ رَبِّنَا لَوْلَا دُعَاكُمْ which means "Say, 'What would my Lord care for you if not for your prayer?'"<sup>1</sup>

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Prayer is the demonstration of us being servants to Allah. We express with our prayers that we acknowledge Allah's will and decree. All our worship is essentially supplicating to Him expecting His favor. We know that prayer is what instills spirit and meaning to all worship. Worship, or the believer's mentality, becomes complete with prayer. That's why our Prophet (s.a.w.) said

الدُّعَاءُ مُثْقَلُ الْعِبَادَةِ or "Prayer is the essence of worship."<sup>2</sup>

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Prayer is both an invitation and accepting the invitation. Our Lord calls us to pray by enjoining, ... أَهْدِنُونَا أَسْتَجِيبْ لَكُمْ ... "Call upon Me; I will respond to you."<sup>3</sup> And He blesses us with good news of answering our prayers saying,

أَجِيبُ دُعَوةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ "I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls on Me."<sup>4</sup> All we have to do is to prayer to our Lord with this mindset. And ask for His favor, assistance, abundance, and forgiveness.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Prayer is not the humble begging of a lazy, irresponsible, senseless, coward person. On the contrary, it

is the epitome of determination, effort, and good intention. Prayer is not just uttering the same sentences. Reflection is the mind's prayer. Love and mercy are the heart's prayer. Asking for forgiveness, on the other hand, is only the tongue's prayer. But the tongue's prayer will be futile if the mind and heart don't pray. As a matter of fact, our Prophet (s.a.w.) says: "**Pray to Allah sincerely believing it will be answered. Allah does not respond to prayers from a frivolous and indifferent heart.**"<sup>5</sup>

#### Honorable Believers!

Prayer means meeting our brothers and sisters. It means solidifying our brotherhood and love for the Ummah. We cannot act selfish when we pray. We cannot only think for ourselves. We pray also for brothers and sisters around the world knowing praying on their behalf will be accepted. Because the Prophet (s.a.w.) told Caliph Umar who asked for permission to go to the Hajj: "**O brother! Make us partners in your prayer, remember us.**"<sup>6</sup>

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Prayer means aspiring noble values. The prayers that our Prophet taught us do not only include asking for material needs. On the contrary, his prayers ask for morals and virtue, merits that elevate a human being. His prayers are about ensuring love, respect, fondness, mercy, justice, and peace in society. His prayers are a desire to be guarded against dishonor, living in abomination and in constant need of others, and against immorality.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

May the Almighty never spare us the abundance and power of prayer. May He grant us to be among the happy ones whose prayers are answered. Come! Let us supplicate to our Lord on this blessed time of Friday with the prayers our Beloved Prophet taught us:

**"O Allah! We ask of You the right path, piety, dignity, and generosity of the heart."**<sup>7</sup>

**"O Allah, we seek Your shelter against mischief, sedition, and bad character."**<sup>8</sup>

**"O Allah, we seek refuge in You from knowledge that is of no use, from heart that does not tremble, from soul that is not satisfied, and from prayer that is not answered."**<sup>9</sup>

**"O Lord! Grant us goodness in the world. Grant us goodness in the Hereafter. Protect us from the torment of the Fire."**<sup>10</sup>

O Lord! Make the Ummah of Islam glorious again! Grant Your mercy upon our martyrs who have sacrificed their lives for the survival and peace of our nation and country! Grant patience to their relatives and our nation! Grant us to be among those who embrace and preserve the noble values the martyrs have died for!

<sup>1</sup> Al-Furqan, 25/77.

<sup>2</sup> Tirmidhi, Deavât, 1.

<sup>3</sup> Ghafir, 40/60.

<sup>4</sup> Al-Baqarah, 2/186.

<sup>5</sup> Tirmidhi, Deavât, 65.

<sup>6</sup> Ibn Majah, Menâsik, 5.

<sup>7</sup> Muslim, Zikir, 72.

<sup>8</sup> An-Nasa'i, Istiaze, 21.

<sup>9</sup> Muslim, Zikir, 73.

<sup>10</sup> Al-Baqarah, 2/201; Bukhari, Deavât, 55.

**LOCATION : NATIONWIDE**

**DATE : 17.02.2017**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters!**

The third fact that Surah al-Asr teaches us is the importance of good deeds. Our Lord enjoins, **وَعَمِلُوا**

**الصَّالِحَاتِ** and says that our faith and good deeds will save us from eternal loss. Good deeds are the reflection of faith on acts. It is faith brought to life.

Every word and act that will earn us our Lord's favor is a good deed. Putting all means to service for humanity is good deed just as our prayer, fast, alms, and hajj which we do with sincerity. Extending a hand to the oppressed to the victims, to the orphans is good deed. Becoming the eyes of the blind, the ears of the deaf, the hands and feet of the disabled is good deed. Protecting our peace, brotherhood, and values is good deed. The effort to prevent evil and make goodness prevail is good deed. As narrated in a hadith, removing an obstacle from the road is good deed.<sup>2</sup> In short, good deed is suitable deed which means it suits Allah's favor, human disposition, and society's affairs.

**Honorable Brothers and Sisters!**

The fourth fact taught to us by Surah al-Asr which will save us from eternal loss is, **وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ** which means siding with the truth at all times. It means guiding each other to truth. It means protecting ourselves and our brothers and sisters from falsehood, lies, tricks, sedition, and discord. It means never veering away from the truth and the path in our relationship with our Lord, with our neighborhood, with the universe under any circumstances.

**Brothers and Sisters!**

The fifth fact that Surah al-Asr teaches us is, **وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ** which means being patient on the true path. It means recommending patience to one another. But it should be remembered that patience does not mean enduring falsehood. On the contrary, it means keeping on the path of truth.

**Brothers and Sisters!**

I would like to conclude the khutbah by the following verses of our Independence Poet, the ate Akif:

The Companions would make sure  
To recite Surah al-Asr as they parted, why?  
Because hidden in that surah is  
The secret of salvation.  
First comes the true faith, then peace.  
Then truth, then fortitude.  
There you go, humankind.  
When those four comes together,  
No more will you suffer.

**لِلْهٗ الْحَمْدُ لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ**  
**وَالْعَضْرٌ (١) إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ (٢) إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ**  
**وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ (٣)**  
**قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:**  
**الْإِيمَانُ يُطْعَنُ وَسَبْعُونَ شَعْبَةً فَأَفْضَلُهَا قَوْلٌ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَذْنَاهَا إِمَاطَةُ الْأَذْنَى**  
**عَنِ الطَّرِيقِ، وَالْحَيَاةُ شُعْبَةٌ مِّنَ الْإِيمَانِ**

## **FACTS TAUGHT BY SURAH AL-ASR**

### **Honorable Believers!**

There is a surah in our Book, the Holy Quran, which is short but quite deep in meaning. It concisely puts forward the paths that will save mankind from eternal frustration and bring them to endless blessings. It is the Surah al-Asr.<sup>1</sup> Surah al-Asr teaches us the five facts that give us life. Let us hear about them in today's khutbah.

### **Honorable Brothers and Sisters!**

The first fact that Surah al-Asr teaches us is the awareness of time. Man is a creature limited by time. Lord Almighty enjoins just at the beginning of the surah, **وَالْعَضْرٌ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ** “**By time, indeed**

**mankind is in loss.**” He makes time the witness for mankind. Because it is one of the greatest blessings given to mankind. It is the most precious treasure entrusted to us so we may decorate our world with goodness and earn the afterlife. Wasting it and spending an irresponsible life is completely unbecoming for a believer. It is the greatest frustration for a person.

### **Brothers and Sisters!**

The second fact taught to us by Surah al-Asr is the significance of the blessing of faith. As the Lord enjoins, **إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا** He informed people that the first condition of being saved from loss and frustration is believing. Because a life spent without faith is the greatest of losses. Faith, on the other hand, is setting sail for good deeds and things, for the truth. A believer who sincerely recites the kalima shahada and kalima tawhid promises himself and his Lord that he will walk on the path of faith against evil, truth against falsehood, honor against contempt, and justice against cruelty. He agrees to stand with goodness and not evil.

<sup>1</sup> Al-Asr, 103/1-3.

<sup>2</sup> Muslim, Iman, 58.

## لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَلَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ إِنَّا نُسَبِّحُ

فَلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ الْفَلَقِ<sup>(1)</sup> مَنْ شَرِّيْ مَا خَلَقَ<sup>(2)</sup> وَمَنْ شَرِّيْ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ<sup>(3)</sup>  
وَمَنْ شَرِّ النَّفَاثَاتِ فِي الْعَقْدِ<sup>(4)</sup> وَمَنْ شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ إِذَا حَسَدَ<sup>(5)</sup>  
فَلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ النَّاسِ<sup>(1)</sup> مَلِكِ النَّاسِ<sup>(2)</sup> إِلَهِ النَّاسِ<sup>(3)</sup> مِنْ شَرِّ الْوَسَاسِ  
الْخَنَّاسِ<sup>(4)</sup> الَّذِي يُؤْسِسُ فِي صُلُورِ النَّاسِ<sup>(5)</sup> مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ<sup>(6)</sup>  
فَالَّرَّسُولُ اللَّهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
أَعُوذُ بِكَلِمَاتِ اللَّهِ التَّامَّةِ مِنْ كُلِّ شَيْطَانٍ وَهَامَّةٍ، وَمَنْ كُلِّ عَيْنٍ لَامَّةٌ.

### BEST DESCRIPTION OF REFUGE IN ALLAH: SURAH AL-MU'AWWIDHATAN

#### Honorable Believers!

The Almighty enjoins in the surahs Al-Falaq and An-Nas that I have recited at the beginning of my khutbah: “Say, ‘I seek refuge in the Lord of daybreak from the evil of that which He created and from the evil of darkness when it settles and from the evil of the blowers in knots and from the evil of an envier when he envies.’”<sup>1</sup>

“Say, ‘I seek refuge in the Lord of mankind, the Sovereign of mankind, the God of mankind from the evil of the retreating whisperer who whispers evil into the breasts of mankind from among the jinn and mankind.’”<sup>2</sup>

#### Brothers and Sisters!

The biggest danger for a person in the world is to forget the purpose of their creation. To veer away from the path. The greatest loss for a person is to lose themselves. To be a slave to desires. The biggest deprivation for a person is to deprive themselves of seeking shelter in the vast grace of Allah.

Our Almighty Lord sent us a Noble Book full of life that will protect us from the aforementioned dangers and save us from suffering losses and damages. He showed us the ways to be servants to Him in the best way. He taught us how to live under his shelter particularly in the two powerful surahs called Al-Falaq and An-Nas in our Holy Book. That’s why the Prophet (pbuh) recommended us to frequently recite these two surahs which he considered the best description of refuge in Allah.<sup>3</sup>

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Al-Falaq and An-Nas surahs are a concise description of our belief of oneness and our submission to Allah. They are the indication of our commitment to live by seeking His favor and protection. By reciting Al-Falaq and An-Nas, we seek refuge in Allah from all evil and from losing our path amid darkness. We seek His shelter from hatred, enmity, jealousy, hate,

superstition, and delusion. We ask for His help against the evil of the malevolent, the evil-eyed, the stone-hearted, the unconscionable. We ask for His assistance and mercy against those who sow seeds of discord and sedition and who exploit thoughts and sentiments. We know that our Lord is the only shelter where we will feel safe.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Al-Falaq and An-Nas always advise us a believer’s attitude, a conscious life. Because we must seek Allah’s refuge not only in times of difficulty and hardship but also in wealth, joy, and strength. Contemplating His power is our mind’s refuge. Sincerely seeking His mercy, forgiveness, and grace is our heart’s refuge. Putting His might into words as we like is our tongue’s refuge. And when the mind, the heart, and the tongue seek His shelter, the whole body must join them. Because what really makes us valuable in the eyes of our Lord is our good deeds.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Al-Falaq and An-Nas teach us to be sagacious and heedful against those who want to exploit our faith, our sentiments, our desperation. They teach us to be servants to Allah alone and not to any mortal being. Because who else do we have other than our Lord who never abandons us even when everyone else does? Isn’t He the One who sees us even when nobody does, hearts us even when nobody does, and on whom we can always rely? Does He ever turn down the prayers, the heartfelt supplications? Does He ever deprive and aggrieve those who seek His shelter and knock on His door of grace? All we need to do is turn our hearts towards Him sincerely. Let our tongues dearly glorify Him and supplicate to Him. Let our hands turn to Him heartily and ask from Him alone.

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to conclude my khutbah with the prayers of refuge our Prophet (pbuh) taught us:

“We seek refuge in Allah’s exact words, His eternal will and judgement from all evil and malice and doers of evil.”<sup>4</sup>

“O Allah! We seek refuge in You from the evil of our ears, the evil of our eyes, the evil of our tongues, the evil of our hearts, the evil of our desires.”<sup>5</sup>

“O Allah! We seek refuge in You from incapability, from laziness, from stinginess, from cowardice, and from the trials and tribulations of the grave.”<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Al-Falaq, 113/1-5

<sup>2</sup> An-Nas, 114/1-6.

<sup>3</sup> An-Nasa’i, İstiâze, 1; Al-Darimi, Fezâilü'l-Kur’ân, 25.

<sup>4</sup> Bukhari, Ehâdisü'l-enbiyâ, 10.

<sup>5</sup> Tirmidhi, Deavât, 74.

<sup>6</sup> Muslim, Zikir, 73.

zekâtını verenlerdir. İnfakta bulunanlardır. Zekât vermek için adeta birbirleriyle yarışanlardır. Zekât ki; yoksulun, ihtiyaç sahibinin, zenginin malındaki hakkıdır. Zekât ki; kişiyi mal ve mülkün, servet ve gücün esiri olmaktan korur. Zekât ki; bir taraftan kişiyi maddi yüklerden kurtarır. Diğer taraftan da günah ve kirlerden arındırır.

### Kardeşlerim!

Kendilerine cennetin vadedildiği müminler,

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِفَرْوَجِهِمْ حَافِظُونَ iffetlerini koruyanlardır.

Başkalarının iffetini kendi iffeti sayanlardır. Zira insan, tertemiz fitratını, haysiyetini koruduğu müddetçe özünü korur. Başkalarının saygınlığına halel getirmediği müddetçe saygı görür.

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمَانَاتِهِمْ وَعَهْدِهِمْ رَاغُونَ ebedi nimetlere

ulaşacak müminler, emanet bilincine sahip olanlardır. Ahitlerine, verdikleri sözlere sadık kalanlardır. Zira sadakat ehli, güvenilir bir kişi olmak, müminin en önemli özelliklerindendir. Çünkü mümin, Muhammedü'l-Emîn'in, yani özü sözü bir, güvenilir peygamberin kutlu yolunun yolcusudur.

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَى صَلَاتِهِمْ يَحْفَظُونَ Firdevs cennetine

kavuşacak olan müminler, namazlarını aksatmadan devamlı kılanlardır. Namazları, kendilerini çirkinliklerin esiri olmaktan alıkoyduğu kimselerdir. Şu bir gerçektir ki; biz namazlarımızı korursak namazlarımız da bizi korur. Biz namazlarımıza düşkün ve sevdalı olursak namazlarımız da bütün varlığıyla kötülüklerle karşı bize kalkan olur.

### Kardeşlerim!

İşte Rabbimizin büyük mükâfatı bu müminler içindir. Onlar, Firdevs cennetinin ebedi varisleridirler. Firdevs cenneti ki, cennetin en özel yerlerindendir. En yüksek mertebelerindendir. Firdevs cenneti ki Peygamberimiz (s.a.s)'in vefatından sonra ciğerparesi Fâtima validemizin, "Makamı Firdevs cenneti olan babacığım!"<sup>3</sup> sözleriyle hüsnü ve tesellisine konu olan cennettir.

### Kardeşlerim!

Yüce Rabbimiz, bizleri felâha eren ve Firdevs cennetinde Peygamberimiz (s.a.s)'e komşu olan bahtiyar müminlerden eylesin.

<sup>1</sup> Mümînûn, 23/1-10.

<sup>2</sup> İbn Hanbel, I, 351; Tirmîzî, Tefsîr, 24.

<sup>3</sup> Buhâri, Megazi, 78.

## فِي الْأَنْتَاجِ الْمُكَبَّلِ

قَدْ أَفْلَحَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ (1) الَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ حَاضِرُونَ (2)

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنِ اللَّغُو مُغْرِضُونَ (3) وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِلرَّحْمَةِ فَاعْلُونَ (4)

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِفَرْوَجِهِمْ حَافِظُونَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

اللَّهُمَّ رِزْقًا وَلَا تَنْقُضْنَا، وَأَكْرِمْنَا وَلَا تَنْهَا، وَأَعْطِنَا وَلَا تَخْرِمْنَا، وَأَنْرِنَا وَلَا تُنْزِنْ

عَلَيْنَا، وَارْضُ عَنَّا وَأَرْضِنَا

## FİRDEVS CENNETİNE MİRASÇI OLMAK Aziz Müminler!

Hz. Ömer'in rivayet ettiğine göre Allah Resûlü (s.a.s), bir gün ashabıyla sohbet ettiği esnada kendisinde vahiy alameti belirdi. Bir müddet bekledikten sonra kibleye yöneldi. Ellerini semaya açtı ve Rabbine şöyle niyazda bulundu: "Allah'ım! Bize nimetini artır, eksiltme! Bizi onurlandır, zelil eyleme! Bizi istedigimizle ullaştir, mahrum etme! Bizi üstün kıl; zayıf duruma düşürme! Bizi razi olduklarından ve senden hoşnut olanlardan eyle!"

### Kardeşlerim!

Efendimiz, bu duanın ardından, "Az önce bana on âyet indirildi. Kim bu âyetlerde belirtilenleri hayatına yansıtrsa cennete girer." buyurdu ve Mümînûn Suresi'nin ilk on âyetini<sup>1</sup> okudu.<sup>2</sup>

İşte bugünkü hutbemizde bizleri Firdevs cennetine mirasçı kılacak bu on âyeti sizlerle paylaşmak istiyorum. Geliniz, bu on âayette haber verilen ve felâha eren gerçek müminlerin kimler olduğuna hep birlikte bakalım.

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ فِي صَلَاتِهِمْ حَاضِرُونَ o müminler ki,

namazlarını huşu içerisinde kılanlardır. Namazı, Rabbiyle bir vuslat anı, özlemlle beklenen bir buluşma olarak görenlerdir. Bu muazzam ibadeti, şeke indirmeyenlerdir. Onun ruhunu asla zayı etmeyenlerdir.

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنِ اللَّغُو مُغْرِضُونَ<sup>3</sup> o müminler ki, dünya ve

ahiretlerine bir faydası dokunmayan, boş söz ve işlerden uzak duranlardır. Zira hayat, bir saniyesi bile heba edilemeyecek kadar kısa ve kıymetli bir nimettir. Vakit, bizlere emanet edilen eşsiz bir hazinedir. Ve bir gün her bir emanetin, her bir nimetin hesabı Rabbimiz tarafından eksiksiz sorulacaktır.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE  
DATE : 10.03.2017

لِتَعْلَمُوا مِنْ أَنْبَاءِ رَبِّكُمْ

وَالَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا إِنْتِقَاعَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنْفَقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَنَا هُمْ سِرًا

وَعَلَيْهِنَّ بِإِيمَانٍ بِالْحَسَنَةِ أُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ عُقَبَى الدَّارِ ﴿٢٢﴾

فَالَّذِي أَنْهَا كُلُّ نَعْصَيَةٍ إِلَّا مَا يَشَاءُ

الْبِرُّ مَا اطْمَأَنَّ إِلَيْهِ الْقَلْبُ وَاطْمَأَنَّ إِلَيْهِ النَّفْسُ وَالْإِيمَانُ مَا حَاكَ فِي الْقَلْبِ

وَتَرَدَّدَ فِي الصَّدْرِ وَإِنْ أَفْتَاكَ النَّاسُ

## ONLY THROUGH GOODNESS WE CAN PREVENT EVIL

### Honorable Believers!

Vabis, a companion of our Prophet (pbuh), was a new Muslim. Vabis, unable to grasp the merciful and graceful messages of Islam, wanted to ask some questions to our Prophet (pbuh). One of these questions was about what is good and what is evil. He went to the Messenger of Allah to ask him questions. He reached Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), about whom he said "no other company would give me greater joy". The Messenger of Mercy noticed him approaching and said "**Come closer Vabis!**" After listening to his question, he gave this answer: "**Vabis! Consult your heart and your conscience about good and evil! Because goodness is what gives your heart peace and your conscience comfort. Evil is what gives your heart unrest and your conscience worry and doubt, even if other people approve of it.**"<sup>1</sup>

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Goodness is existence, evil is emptiness. Goodness is peace. Evil is darkness. Goodness is to seek our Lord's countenance. Evil is to walk step by step towards His anger. Goodness is the behavior befitting to the traits of having a sound mind, a sound heart and a sound nature, that is the trait of being the most honorable of all creation. Evil is the behavior that lowers a person, the atrocity that reduces his worth both in the sight of Allah and other people. Goodness is a noble trait our Great Lord has put within the fitrah (natural disposition) of man. Evil is a black spot that stains the heart. Goodness is the loyalty towards Allah Almighty, owner of the purest nature of man. Evil is to lose this loyalty. Goodness is the greatest power that will wipe evil and malice off the earth. Evil is destined to become vanquished and defeated against goodness.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Our Holy Book first tells us about what goodness is not, before telling us what it is.

لَيْسَ الْبِرُّ أَنْ تُوَلُوا وُجُومُكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ meaning

"Goodness is not that you turn your faces toward the

east or the west." It does not consider it goodness to reduce prayers to mere formalism and be pious just to be seen by people.

The Holy Qur'an defines the real goodness as follows: True goodness is, **مَنْ أَمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالنَّبِيِّ وَالْأُخْرَ وَالْمَلِكَةَ وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّنَ** in other words it is to believe in Our Lord, who delivers us from all evil. It is to believe in the Last Day, the angels, the Book and the prophets.

وَأَنِي الْمَالَ عَلَى حِجَّةِ ذِي القُرْبَى وَالْيَتَامَى وَالْمَسَاكِينَ وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ  
وَالسَّائِلِينَ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ

True goodness is to give wealth, in spite of love for it, to the needy, orphans and the poor. It is to free man from all kinds of slavery. True goodness is, **وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنِي الرَّجُوْنَ** to establish prayer. It is to give zakat willingly. True goodness is, **وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ بِعَهْدِهِنَّ** to fulfill ones promise when one promise, to be attentive to one's trust.<sup>2</sup> True goodness is,

**إِنْتِقَاعَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِمْ** to be patient during ease and hardship, only to seek the countenance of Allah.

True goodness is, **وَيَنْهَرُونَ بِإِلْحَسَنَةِ السَّيِّةِ** to be able to avert evil through good, destroy it through good.<sup>3</sup> Because a believer is the one who devotes his life to the good and gives his life meaning through good. A Muslim is the one who stands against all kinds of evil with his hand, mouth, heart and body and soul.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

I regret to tell you that goodness today remains in the background compared with evil. Evil keeps surrounding our world day by day. At an alarming rate, mankind loses his conscience, justice, rightness and compassion for the sake of following his desire, passion and lust. He becomes an entity who does not help anyone but himself. He forgets that true help, true goodness is the one that you give to others.

### Brothers and Sisters!

As believers with a cause to spread goodness and prevent evil, we have a very important responsibility. Regardless of the circumstances, we have to keep the belief that there are still good people in this world alive. We must never let evil defeat goodness. We must not forget that serving the goodness and preventing the evil lead to happiness in this life and hereafter.

### Brothers and Sisters!

As pilgrims on the path of goodness we pray to our Lord in this sacred hour with open hands: O Lord! Grant us the ability and power to remove all evil surrounding our region and all mankind! Grant us help to build a world together where goodness prevails! Enable us to leave a better, more livable earth to future generations!

<sup>1</sup> Ibn Hanbal, IV, 227; Dârimî, Büyu', 2.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Baqarah, 2/177.

<sup>3</sup> See Hud, 11/114; Ar-Ra'd, 13/22.



يُلَّا كُمْ فَذَخَلْتُ لَهَا مَا كَسَبْتُ وَلَكُمْ مَا كَسَبْتُمْ وَلَا تُشْغِلُونَ عَمَّا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

فَالَّرَّسُولُ اللَّهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ :

مَنْ قَاتَلَ لِتَعْكُونَ كَلْمَةَ اللَّهِ هِيَ الْعِلْمُ فَهُوَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ

## ÇANAKKALE: WHERE MARTYRS MADE HISTORY

### Honorable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty enjoins: **“Those are a people who have passed away. Theirs is that which they earned, and yours is that which you earn. And you will not be asked of what they used to do.”<sup>1</sup>**

### Brothers and Sisters!

In this verse, the Almighty Lord calls on us to learn from the past in building our future. Because what happened in history is not mere memory. History is our present and future as much as it is our past. History is our values that shed light on our future. There are major incidents and victories in history which must be passed on from generation to generation and never be forgotten. One of the greatest ones in our nation's history is the one at Çanakkale.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Çanakkale is the place where financial might fell to its knees against faith. Çanakkale is the place where our Lord's good tidings were manifested once again in which he says: **“وَلَا تَقْنُوا وَلَا تَخْرُجُوا وَأَئْتُمُ الْأَغْلُونَ إِنْ كُنْתُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ** Do not weaken and do not grieve. You will be superior if you are believers.”<sup>2</sup> Çanakkale is where faith clinched its victory over disbelieving, truth over falsity, the right over the wrong. Çanakkale is where so many sons of this homeland from north to south, from east to west ran to martyrdom shoulder to shoulder for the holy cause. Çanakkale is where martyrdom became epic and a nation arose with Allah's love as described by our late Independence Poet Akif:

How mighty you are that your blood saves oneness,

Only the lions of Badr were as glorious as you.

### Honorable Believers!

Çanakkale is an exceptional school that taught the contemporary world the ethics and law of war. Our nation taught an unforgettable lesson of humanity against shameless attacks at its very existence. Our little Mehmets who ran to the front with “Allah Allah” cries demonstrated a great spirit by carrying wounded enemy soldiers on their backs and giving them water from their own waterskins.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Çanakkale is one of the best instances of uniting on common ideals and embracing the national and ummah awareness. It is a precious example of the fact that no value should be put over spiritual values. Because many sons of the homeland who spoke different languages, had different skin colors, and came from different regions sacrificed their live for the nation, for the homeland, for the truth, for the right path, for justice, and for virtue. They poured into Çanakkale from every house in Anatolia, from every region in Rumelia, from Damascus, from Baghdad, from Cairo, from Tripoli, from Skopje, from Kosovo, from Sarajevo, from Caucasia to crush the latest attack of the Crusaders. And in the end, they did not let the dignity and honor of the nation be trampled. They did not let the hope of the ummah go away. They did not let our present and future be captured by darkness.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

We will surely celebrate Çanakkale Victory as a nation today which is a turning point for us. We will surely continue to talk from the minbars, from the stands about this tremendous accomplishment so uncommonly found in history. However, we cannot make do with merely commemorating Çanakkale and other victories. We cannot reduce them to just specific ceremonies. We cannot boast about the accomplishment of our forefathers and do nothing else. Because the more important thing is to draw big lessons from these accomplishments. To build our present and future in their light.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Our real duty today is to properly comprehend the magnificent spirit of Çanakkale. To pass that spirit on to future generations which has not died despite numerous treacherous attempts from past to present. To embrace the memories of our glorious martyrs who are buried underground but still alive. To tightly embrace the supreme values for which they sacrificed their lives. Because even though we cannot see their bodies or hear their voice, this is what our martyrs want from us.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to finish the khutbah with the following prayer to which we will sincerely say “Amin”: O Allah! Give holy ranks to all our martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Your cause and devoted their existence to our existence, dignity, and honor! Grant us to be in company with them!

O Allah! Grant us to be among those who keep alive the high spirit of our martyrs! Grant us to protect their glorious legacy! Grant us to preserve and embrace the values they died for! Save us from betraying those values, o Allah!

<sup>1</sup> Al-Baqarah, 2/134, 141.

<sup>2</sup> Ali 'Imran, 3/139.

  
وَلَقَدْ أَتَيْنَا لِفْلَمَ الْحِكْمَةَ إِنْ افْتَخِرْ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَخْتَرْ قَائِمًا يَشْتَرِ تَفْسِيْهَ  
وَمَنْ كَفَرَ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ حَمِيدٍ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
أَلَا تَسْمَعُ إِلَىٰ قَوْلِ لِفْلَمَ لَاتِيهَ إِنَّ الشَّرِكَ لَظَلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ

## WISE PIECES OF ADVICE

### Honorable Believers!

One of the people who the Almighty elevated by mentioning their name specifically in the Holy Quran is Luqman (as). In the verse in Surat Luqman that I have recited at the beginning of the khutbah, the Almighty enjoins, “We had certainly given Luqman wisdom saying, ‘Be grateful to Allah.’” This surah informs us about the pieces of advice he gave to his son in his wise style.<sup>1</sup> It’s shown as an exemplary relationship between a father and his son based on love and respect, knowledge and wisdom, mercy and compassion. Let us lend an ear in today’s khutbah to the wise pieces of advice that Luqman (as) gave to his son.

### Brothers and Sisters!

The first piece of advice given by Luqman (as) to his son was about oneness. He said to his precious son:

يَا بْنَيْ لَا “O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah.” “Indeed, association with him is great injustice.” Because when one becomes a servant to anyone other than Allah, it’s the biggest injustice to his Lord and himself.<sup>2</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

The piece of second advice in surat Luqman is, وَصَيَّبَنَا إِلِيْسَانٌ

بِوَالدِّينِ which is caring for parents. “His mother carried him, [increasing her] in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years.” That’s why the Almighty enjoins us: “Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the [final] destination. But if they endeavor to make you associate with Me that of which you have no knowledge, do not obey them but accompany them in [this] world with appropriate kindness and follow the way of those who turn back to Me [in repentance]. Then to Me will be your return, and I will inform you about what you used to do.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Luqman’s (as) third piece of advice to his son is that not a single good deed will be wasted in the ranks of Allah.

Even the smallest one will not go unanswered. Because Allah is aware of even the most well-kept things. He knows everything.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Luqman’s (as) fourth piece of advice to his son:

يَا بْنَيْ أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ “O my son, be steadfast in prayer.” Because prayer is our most important worship. It’s the time when our hearts exhilarate after all the constant troubles of the world. It’s the peace to our mind and spirit which get distressed by so many different things. It’s a glorious meeting where we present our desire to our Lord.

Luqman’s (as) fifth piece of advice to his son,

وَأْمِنْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَأَنْهِ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ “Son! Enjoin what is right! Forbid what is wrong!” Because our duty is to always side with the good. To never bow to evil. To never serve evil people.

Luqman’s (as) sixth piece of advice,

“O son! Be patient over what befalls you!” means enduring in the path of truth and righteousness.

وَاضْرِبْ عَلَىٰ مَا أَصَابَكَ “Surely these acts require determination.”

### Brothers and Sisters!

Luqman’s (as) seventh piece of advice is being humble and not arrogant. لَوْلَا تُصْبِغُ خَلَدَ لِلثَّالِسِ “Dear son, do not turn your cheek [in contempt] toward people!” وَلَا تَنْمِشِ فِي إِلَزْمِ مَرَحَا “Do not walk through the earth exultantly!” إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ فَخُورٍ “Indeed, Allah does not like everyone self-deluded and boastful.”

Luqman’s (as) eighth piece of advice to his son is about knowing his place. Never forgetting that he is a venerable person. وَاقْصِدْ فِي مَشِيكَ “Son! Be moderate in your pace.” إنَّ أَنْكَرَ الْأَصْوَاتِ “Lower your voice.” وَاغْضُضْ مِنْ صَوْنِكَ “Indeed, the most unpleasant sound is the voice of donkeys!”

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Praise be to the Almighty Lord that we have once again reached the three holy months, the season of mercy, abundance, and grace. We will have the first day of Rajab month next Wednesday. And we will observe Raghayib night all together on Thursday. A happy Raghayib night to you all in advance. I pray to the Almighty that the three holy months may bring good to all of us.

**LOCATION : NATIONWIDE**  
**DATE : 31.03.2017**

**بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ**

الَّمْ أَشْرَخْ لَكَ صَدْرَكُ ۝ وَوَضَعَنَا عَنْكَ وِزْرَكُ ۝ الَّتِي أَنْقَعْ طَهْرَكُ ۝  
وَرَعَنَا لَكَ دَكْرَكُ ۝ فَانْ مَعَ الْعَسْرِ يُسْرًا ۝ إِذَا مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ۝  
فَلَمَّا فَرَغْتَ فَانْصَبْ ۝ وَإِلَى رَبِّكَ فَازْغَبْ ۝  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
اللَّهُمَّ تَابُوكَ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَصَعْبَانَ وَبِلَغَنَا رَمَضَانَ

## **TURN TO YOUR LORD ALONE WITH HOPE! A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!**

Infinite praise be to the Almighty. He has let us get to the three holy months, the season of grace. We all felt the jubilation of Raghayib night, the harbinger of Ramadan, in our hearts last night. Today, on one hand we are experiencing the abundance of Rajab and the joy of Friday, our weekly feast, on the other. When the season was upon him, Allah's Messenger (pbuh) used to pray, "**O Allah, Bless for us the months of Rajab and Sha'ban! Get us to Ramadan with faith and in health and well-being!**"<sup>1</sup> May the Almighty Lord bless Rajab and Sha'ban for our nation and for the world of Islam. May He grant all of us to make it to Ramadan having been protected from all evil.

### **Honorable Brothers and Sisters!**

There is a great surah called "Al-Inshirah" in our Great Book the Holy Quran. Inshirah is the opening of the heart, the expanding of the chest. It is the exhilaration and becoming quiet of the heart. It was revealed during a time when Allah's Messenger and his companions were suffering great hardship. The surah gave the news that the hearts of all believers, in the person of Allah's Messenger (pbuh), would be exhilarated until the Day of Judgement and find peace. It showed us how to unload the burden on our backs, how to elevate our honor, and how to make difficulties easy to deal with.

The Almighty enjoins in Surat al-Inshirah: "**Have We not uplifted your heart for you, O Muhammad, and We removed from you your burden, which weighed so heavily on your back, and elevated your reputation for you? So surely along the hardship there is ease. Surely with that hardship comes more ease. So once you have fulfilled your duty, strive in devotion! And turn to your Lord alone with hope!**"<sup>2</sup>

### **Brothers and Sisters!**

We understand from the last two verses that there are two conditions for our hearts to be uplifted, our burden to be removed, our reputation to be elevated, and

our hardship to be eased. The first one is abiding by the Lord's command to **فَلَادَا فَرَغْتَ فَانْصَبْ** "work, strive, endeavor, produce!" In other words, not wasting this short life. Not leading a vain life which is most precious for us. Striving for goodness, for truth, for helpful things. Making an effort to make the earth a more livable place.

### **Honorable Believers!**

The second condition for being honored with the things revealed in the surat al-Inshirah is turning to Allah as per the verse **وَإِلَى رَبِّكَ فَازْغَبْ** "Turn to your Lord alone

**with hope!**" This must be the most important point we must emphasize on Raghayib night. It means working for Allah. Laboring for Allah. Endeavoring for Allah. Sending our wishes and desires to Allah. Striving for our Lord's favor instead of fame, rank or wealth.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters!**

We are also going through difficult periods today as Muslims. We are at a period when every believer's heart feels tight. We are at a time when we need exhilaration the most. We are in need of finding peace and getting rid of the burden on our back. Then come, brothers and sisters! Let us strive in determination to that end. Let us live for the Lord's favor, not for desire and fancy. Let us make an effort to work and endeavor more for truth, for the right path, for justice, for goodness, and for the humankind.

Only then will the Almighty Lord exhilarate our hearts. He will relieve the burden from our chests. He will clear our sins. He will make our struggles easier to deal with. Only then will the Almighty deliver us from all evil that takes away our freedom. He will turn our labor into mercy. He will elevate our reputation. He will make us a glorious ummah again.

### **Brothers and Sisters!**

When the Almighty Lord sent Moses (as) to the Pharaoh to invite him to the true path, Prophet Moses prayed, **رَبِّ اشْرَخْ لِي صَدْرِي وَبَسِرْتَيْ أَنْرِي** "My Lord! Expand for me my breast with assurance! And ease for me my task."<sup>3</sup> Today, we supplicate like Moses (as) to our Lord and say:

O Lord! Uplift our hearts! Ease our hardship. Grant us to be among those who spend every breath in Your cause!

O Allah! Do not let us yield to our desires even for a moment! Make our desire, wish, demand, and passion to be only seeking Your favor!

O Lord! Elevate our honor! Make the Ummah of Islam a glorious one once again!

<sup>1</sup> Ahmad b. Hanbal; Müsned, 1/259.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Inshirah, 94/1-8.

<sup>3</sup> Taha, 20/25-26.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَلَا رَبَّ إِلَّا هُوَ

وَأَنْقُوا فِتْنَةً لَا تُصِيبَنَّ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْكُمْ خَاصَّةً  
 وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ  
 قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
 إِنَّ النَّاسَ إِذَا رَأَوْا طَالِمًا فَلَمْ يَأْخُذُوا عَلَى يَدِهِ أَوْ شَكَّ  
 أَنْ يَعْمَمُهُمُ اللَّهُ بِعِقَابٍ مِّنْهُ

## PERSECUTION DOESN'T LAST FOREVER A Blessed Friday to You, Dear Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty Lord enjoins: **“And fear a trial which will not strike those who have wronged among you exclusively, and know that Allah is severe in penalty.”**<sup>1</sup>

Our Beloved Prophet (pbuh) makes the following warning to all of us in the hadith I have read: **“If people see an oppressor and do not stop his oppression, Allah will surely bring a wrath overall to them.”**<sup>2</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

The region of Islam has been surrounded by dark clouds for a long time. While tens of thousands of children die as a result of the famine and drought going on in Africa on one side, unfortunately tens of thousands more approach death. On the other side, hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives in the war that has been going on nearby us. Women, children, and innocents continue to die under bombs and chemical weapons.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Just a few days ago, we witnessed in Syria's city of Idlib a devastating massacre for everyone who has not lost their mercy and conscience. We sadly heard the heartbreaking cries of children targeted by chemical weapons. But this savagery is just as terrible as people keeping silent about it. Making no effort to stop it is a much heavier sin. It is a fact that what is worse than innocents losing their lives is that humankind losing their conscience, becoming senseless every passing day against the troubles experience, the pain suffered, the oppression endured.

### Brothers and Sisters!

We are ashamed of our humanity in the face of this horror as believers who have believed in Islam. We are shaken in the face of the Merciful Prophet's (pbuh) warning, **لَا حَقَّتِي تَأْخُذُوا عَلَى يَدِي الطَّالِمِ فَتَأْطِرُوهُ عَلَى الْحَقِّ أَطْرِ**

meaning “There's no salvation for you before you stop the oppression of the oppressor.”<sup>3</sup> We deeply feel the shame of failing to duly do our duty of humanity, our responsibility of brotherhood towards the persecuted. But in any way we know that we must be with the persecuted in unison without losing faith, hope, and courage and stand against the persecutors.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Let us not forget that when evil becomes ordinary and violence is not minded, oppression does not only hurt the persecuted but also surrounds the entire humankind. Every person gets its share from the sin of global persecution. That's why everyone who witnesses injustice must stand against it. They must work to wipe away oppression and not be content with only being sad and grieving about it.

### Brothers and Sisters!

We believe that these massacres, this lawless and dark war shall, too, end one day. We know that no rule built upon the blood of innocents can stand. It shall not. Justice and righteousness shall find life once again Allah willing, in this region where there is no stop to the shedding of tears and blood. The persecutors shall get the punishment they deserve in this world and the next. Because in the words of Allah's Messenger (pbuh);

**وَأَنِّي دَعَةُ الْمُظْلَمِ، فَإِنَّمَا تَيْسَرْ بَيْنَهُ وَبَيْنَ اللَّهِ حِجَابُ**

there is no curtain between Allah and the curse of the oppressed.<sup>4</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

Let us raise our hands to our Almighty Lord in this holy time, in this sacred shrine, and sincerely supplicate to Him: O Allah! Stop this disgraceful assault at once that crushes innocent people, mothers, and children! Grant foresight, sagacity, conscience, and mercy to humankind! Do not let us forget our brotherhood! Do not let us be among those who remain silent against oppression and injustice!

O Allah, grant mercy upon brothers and sisters who have lost their lives in massacres in Syria and in various parts of the world! Grant a speedy recovery to the injured! Grant help to Muslim brothers and sisters so they may overcome their troubles as soon as possible! Do not spare your assistance and favor from our glorious nation that has shouldered the conscience of the humankind!

<sup>1</sup> Al-Anfal, 8/25.

<sup>2</sup> Tirmidhi, Tefsiru'l-Kur'an, 5.

<sup>3</sup> Ibn Majah, Fitn, 20.

<sup>4</sup> Bukhari, Zekât, 63.

**LOCATION : GENEL**  
**DATE : 14.04.2017**

*أَنَا عَرَضْتُ الْآمَانَةَ عَلَى السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَالْجِبَالِ فَأَيْنَ أَنْ يَخْمِلُهَا  
وَأَشْفَقْنَ مِنْهَا وَحْمَلَهَا الْإِنْسَانُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ طَلُومًا جَهُولًا  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
الْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلَّمَ النَّاسُ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَبِدِينِهِ*

## THE PROPHET AND SAFE SOCIETY

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Our Prophet (pbuh) one day addressed the people of Makkah from Safa hill near the Kaaba: **“Would you believe me if I said there is an army waiting to attack you behind that valley?”** In unison, the people said, “Yes, we would. For you are trustworthy. You are reliable. You are the example of righteousness and loyalty. We have never heard you lie.” Then, the Messenger of Grace told them, **“I am warning you about a painful torment.”**<sup>1</sup> Then, before the people of Makkah, he called the entire humankind to believe Allah. He called them to find safety in faith, that is being safe from all sorts of fear and worry.

### Brothers and Sisters!

We have entered another Holy Birth Week which is the anniversary in the Gregorian calendar of our Prophet’s honorable arrival to the world. Holy Birth Week is a week that the President of Religious Affairs started completely with its own initiative and has been celebrating since 1989 to both commemorate and understand the Messenger of Allah (pbuh). It is an event of culture and knowledge embraced by our nation and our friends in the region that increases the fondness for our beloved Prophet in faithful hearts and leads to a better understanding of the beautiful things he brought to the humankind. It is not an alternative to Mawlid which we observe based on the Islamic calendar.

### Honorable Believers!

The Almighty enjoins in the Holy Quran: **“Indeed, we offered the Trust to the heavens and the earth and the mountains, and they declined to bear it and feared it; but man undertook to bear it.”**<sup>2</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

Safety is the greatest blessing Allah granted us after faith. It is the blessing of trust. The Lord entrusted the universe with the humankind and ordered us to build a safe world. He wanted us to build a world where people would trust other people, neighbors would trust one another, and workers would trust each other. It is sad that we are going through a crisis of trust on a global scale today because the humankind cannot duly honor all that is entrusted to them. There are incidents constantly that shake the relations between individuals and societies. People’s relationship with one another and with nature gets worse every day. And every passing day our world becomes more unsafe.

### Brothers and Sisters!

When we look around, we see a massive atmosphere of turmoil and chaos, we see that we are facing great insecurity and fear. Extraordinary safety measures are being taken to meet the need for safety. All means of technology are being utilized.

The crisis of safety that has surrounded our world today has reached such a high level that the future of our world, the shared homeland of the entire humankind, is also under grave danger. With ceaseless greed and ambition of human beings, the balance of nature has begun to deteriorate.

I regret to say that the community of believers could not save itself from those grim incidents. Islamic cities known in history as “the places of peace and safety” are pillaged today in the grip of dark and lawless wars which know no ethics and fairness.

### Brothers and Sisters!

For all the aforementioned reasons, the Presidency of Religious Affairs determined **“The Prophet and Safe Society”** as the theme for Holy Birth Week in 2017. The events to be held during the week will attempt to create awareness in believing hearts to once again become the trustworthy ummah of the Trustworthy Prophet and be considered a safe society. In addition, it will make a contribution to building a safe, peaceful, livable world at a time when the humankind altogether is dragged into a swirl of insecurity.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The common goal of all prophets was to preach the belief of oneness to people. It was to bring the faith to the hearts. It was to bring safety to hearts, minds, bodies, cities, and countries with faith. It was to offer people a society where their lives, their faith, their families, their property, and their honor were safe. The Prophet (pbuh), who had been sent as grace to the worlds, spent his life fighting for this. He established a tight bond between faith and safety and being a believer and trustworthy. He defined the believer as **“Someone of whose hand and tongue others are sure.”**<sup>3</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

As the ummah of the trustworthy prophet, our duty today is to be trustworthy believers. If we do that, then the safety and protection of the Almighty will be with us. He protects us from any fear, worry, concern, and grief. If we become trustworthy believers, then our houses, workplaces, neighborhoods, cities, countries, and world will be safe. Because a safe world can only be built by the hands of reliable people and trustworthy believers. Let us remember that religion is safety. The believer is the one who is trusted. The people are entrusted with humanity.

### Brothers and Sisters!

On that note, I wish you a happy Holy Birth Week. I wish from the Almighty that this week may be the harbinger of good tidings for our country, our nation, our friends in the region, and all humankind.

<sup>1</sup> Bukhari, Tefsîr, Şu’arâ, 2; Muslim, İmân, 355.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Ahzab, 33/72.

<sup>3</sup> Ahmad b. Hanbal, XI, 658.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

الَّذِينَ آتُوا وَلَمْ يُنْسِوْا إِيمَانَهُمْ بِطْلُمُ اُولَئِكَ أَئُمُّ الْأَمْمَ وَهُمْ مُهَتَّدُونَ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
لَا إِيمَانَ لِمَنْ لَا أَمَانَةَ لَهُ، وَلَا دِينَ لِمَنْ لَا عَهْدَةَ

## THE BELIEVER TRUSTS OTHERS AND IS TRUSTED

### A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited at the beginning of my khutbah, the Almighty enjoins: “They who believe and do not mix their belief with injustice - those will have security, and they are [rightly] guided.”<sup>1</sup>

In the hadith I have recited, the Prophet (pbuh) says: “He who breaches one’s trust will never have his faith reach perfection. He who does not honor his word can never be pious in a perfect sense.”<sup>2</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord created the universe from nothing and trusted the human beings with the realm of existence for them to build a safe and peaceful life. The verse I have recited declares two conditions for building a safe world. The first one is faith. One cannot reach the right path without believing their Allah and His Messenger and without being a believer. And one cannot attain the truth in faith without protecting what’s been entrusted to them and being a reliable person. There is no faith without security, practicing Islam would not be possible.

The second condition for building a secure world is to never foul our faith with injustice and shirk in any way. Embracing justice means not condoning injustice. It means always keeping in mind that the Earth, life, Allah’s blessings, and every person around us are entrusted to us.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Safety is fed by faith, belief, and sincerity and it gets engraved in the heart. We cannot secure our houses, bazaars, and schools without creating safety in our hearts no matter how much external security measure we take. We cannot protect the safety of our neighborhood, city, and country without ensuring the security of our home in the heart.

The believer firstly trusts his Lord and whenever he looks for a source of unwavering security seeks shelter with his Creator who “gives well-being and grants security.” Then, thanks to that faith his own confidence improves and he becomes an honest and merciful person who instills confidence in those around him. Faith is trust. The believer is the one who trusts others and is trusted. How can a person who does not trust his Lord, book, and Prophet trust himself? If one does not trust himself, who trusts him?

### Brothers and Sisters!

All the prophets called the humankind to faith. They endured many hardships and tough tests to make the world a safe home. Every prophet experienced safety first in his own heart then in life.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ مُسْبَحَاتُكَ إِنِّي نُكَفِّرُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ  
“There is no deity except You; exalted are You. Indeed, I have been of the wrongdoers,”<sup>3</sup> cried Prophet Jonah (as) as he was safe in the stomach of a fish in dark seas.

Abraham the Friend of Allah attained peace and safety under Allah’s protection when he was thrown into the fire for tawhid. As he raised the foundations of Kaaba with his son Ishmael, he first prayed for security from his Lord saying, رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا بَلَدًا أَمِنًا “O Lord! Make this a secure city!”<sup>4</sup>

When Prophet Joseph (as) was thrown into a well by his brothers and his dignity was defamed, he always had trust in his Lord. When his father Jacob (as) and his mother came to visit him, he embraced them saying, أَخْلُقُوا مِضْرَارَ إِنَّ حَمَاءَ اللَّهِ أَمِينٌ “Allah willing, enter Egypt safe and secure!”<sup>5</sup> And Prophet Moses grew up in safety next to the Pharaoh with Allah’s assistance and protection.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Our Beloved Prophet, who spent his life facing hardships in the cause of tawhid and spreading the word, sought Allah’s security in the Cave of the Bull during Hijrah. In the desolation of the cave, he instilled confidence in his loyal friend Abu Baqr saying, لَا تَخْرُقْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا “Do not grieve! Indeed Allah is with us.”<sup>6</sup>

He was Muhammad the Trustworthy trusted by friend and foe, near and far. He was an honest, pure, modest person from whose hand, tongue, and heart nobody was hurt.

As believers, our duty is to take examples from the chain of prophets, equip ourselves with the morality of our Beloved Prophet, and become the trustworthy ummah of the trustworthy prophet. Remember that the key to being reliable is protecting faith and what the Almighty has given us. But when one breaches that trust, both peace and security go away. If you are trustworthy, homes become safe. If you are trustworthy, cities become safe. If you are trustworthy, countries become safe. The faith and trust in our hearts are a warrant for the universe, nature, and world to be safe and secure.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Upon seeing the crescent which is an evidence of Allah’s existence and might, Allah’s Messenger (pbuh) prayed, “O Allah! May this crescent bring abundance, faith, well-being, safety, and security upon us.”<sup>7</sup>

As we enjoy the gracious atmosphere of holy birth these days, our Lord has granted us to reach another blessed night. We will observe Mi’raj next Sunday night. It is a blessed night that witnessed the journey of our Prophet that went from Masjid al-Haram to Masjid al-Aqsa and from there to the heavens.

On that note, I wish you a blessed Mi’raj Night. I wish that values associated with Mi’raj may bring good to the entire humankind and our ascent and rise may gradually surround every segment of society starting from our souls. I pray to the Almighty that Masjid al-Aqsa, Jerusalem and the surrounding region may once again be a place of safety and security and peace and well-being may take the place of terror, violence, war, and animosity which threaten the common peace of the humankind.

<sup>1</sup> Al-An’am, 6/82.

<sup>2</sup> Ibn Hanbal, III, 134.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Anbiya, 21/87.

<sup>4</sup> Al-Baqarah, 2/126.

<sup>5</sup> Yusuf, 12/99.

<sup>6</sup> At-Tawbah, 9/40.

<sup>7</sup> Tirmidhi, Deavat, 50.

**LOCATION : NATIONWIDE**  
**DATE : 28.04.2017**



وَإِذَا حِشْتُم بِسَجَّيَةٍ فَحَمِّلُوا بِأَخْسَنِ مِنْهَا أَوْ رُدُّوهَا إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَسِيبًا

فَالَّذِي قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

لَا تَدْخُلُونَ الْجَنَّةَ حَتَّى تَقْرُبُوا وَلَا تَقْرُبُوا حَتَّى تَحَابُوا. أَوْ لَا أَدْلُكُمْ عَلَى

شَيْءٍ إِذَا فَعَلْتُمُوهُ تَحَابِيتُمْ أَفْشُوا السَّلَامَ يَتَكَبَّرُ

### **THE BRIDGE OF TRUST AND LOVE: GREETING**

Salutations to souls that believe Allah and His Messenger!

A blessed Friday to you, honorable Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty enjoins: **“And when you are greeted with a greeting, greet in return with one better than it or at least return it. Indeed, Allah takes careful account of all things.”<sup>1</sup>**

In the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (pbuh) says: **“You shall not enter Paradise so long as you do not affirm belief! And you will not believe as long as you do not love one another! Should I not direct you to a thing which, if you do, will foster love amongst you: Give currency to greeting one another!”<sup>2</sup>**

#### **Brothers and Sisters!**

One of the names of the Almighty Lord is “As-Salam.” He is the source of peace and prosperity. That’s why we utter His name “Salam” after every prayer. We say: **“Allahumma antas salam wa minkas salam tabrakta Ya dhal Jalali wal ikram!”** It means: “O Allah, You are peace; peace, safety, and security comes from You. Blessed are You O Possessor of Glory and Honor!” We pray to our Lord that he may guide us to salvation and the true path, and let us live in peace and safety.

#### **Honorable Brothers and Sisters!**

Greeting is a symbol of the believer. It is the name of quiet and safety, being far away from fear, concern, worry, and danger. For that reason, we greet all believers we know or not, and we form bonds of trust and love. We say “salam alaykum” or “may Allah’s peace be upon you” when we begin talking, and show our goodwill in prayer

Greeting is the assurance we give to others that we are their friends and no harm will come from us. It is the oath of remaining brothers and forgetting about grievances and hatred. Because a greeting accompanied with a smile wipes away concerns and grievances. It unites the hearts, leads to compassion and kindness.

#### **Brothers and Sisters!**

Greeting is not an ordinary gesture, it’s not a daily habit. It is a precious key that opens locked doors and mends hearts. That’s why when the Prophet (pbuh) reached Medina after his Hijrah journey, he said this to the crowd that welcomed him with jubilation: **“O**

**you people! أَفْشُوا السَّلَامَ”** **“Spread the greeting!”**

**وَأَطْعِمُوا الطَّعَامَ** **“Feed the needy!”**

**وَصَلُّوا الْأَزْحَامَ** **“Keep in touch with relatives!”**

**وَصَلُّوا بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّاسُ نِيَامٌ** **“Perform prayer while people**

**تَذَلَّلُوا الْجَنَّةَ بِسَلَامٍ”** **“And you will enter paradise in peace!”<sup>3</sup>**

#### **Brothers and Sisters!**

Our Graceful Prophet always greeted people during his lifetime. He greeted everyone – women, men, elderlies, and children alike. He said, **“The person favored most by Allah is the one who initiates the greeting.”**<sup>4</sup> He even greeted the residents of the cemetery, and wished them well-being.

Well, brothers and sisters, if we have such a prophet, how can we pretend to not know our next door neighbors and pass by them? How can we spare the greeting from our relatives and close ones? How can we ignore the poor, the orphans, and the homeless who are entrusted to us? Remember that sparing Allah’s greeting is the worst type of stinginess. Those who worry that “If I greet him I will end up owing him something” must know that the believer ends up owing when he does not greet. Because our Prophet mentioned greeting among the rights of Muslims on other Muslims.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Honorable Believers!**

The language of greeting is universal. Because our Lord’s name Salam has surrounded the whole realm. A person needs greeting regardless of their color, race, denomination, disposition. Time and distance cannot stop the wind of well-being. Greetings and prayers we send to fellow Muslims, the oppressed and victims find their destination just like every greeting we send from distant places to Medina and to our Prophet reaches him.

#### **Honorable Brothers and Sisters!**

May the Exalted make peace and safety prevail over our country, Islam’s cities, and the whole world. May He make it easy for us to turn our faith into peace and peace into safety. May Allah’s peace, grace, abundance, and prosperity be upon all of us.

<sup>1</sup> An-Nisa, 4/86.

<sup>2</sup> Muslim, İman, 93.

<sup>3</sup> Tirmidhi, Sıfatü'l-Kiyâme, 42.

<sup>4</sup> Abu Dawud, Edeb, 132-133.

<sup>5</sup> Muslim, Selâm, 5.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا تُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَصْوَحًا عَسِيَ رَبُّكُمْ أَن يَكْفِرَ عَنْكُمْ  
سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيُدْخِلُكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ يَوْمٌ لَا يُخْرِي اللَّهُ التَّبَّاعُ  
وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ ...  
فَالَّرَّسُولُ اللَّهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
إِذَا كَانَتْ لَيْلَةُ النِّصِيفِ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ قَوْمُوا إِلَيْهَا، وَصُومُوا إِلَيْهَا ...

### THE NAME OF PENITENCE AND HOPE: REPENTANCE

#### A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty enjoins: **“O you who have believed! Repent to Allah with sincere repentance. Perhaps your Lord will remove from you your misdeeds and admit you into gardens beneath which rivers flow [on] the Day when Allah will not disgrace the Prophet and those who believed with him...”**<sup>1</sup>

#### Brothers and Sisters!

One of the beautiful names of Allah the Exalted is at-Tawwab; He accepts repentance. He forgives those who seek refuge in His vast grace. He is al-Gaffar; He forgives whomever He wishes and whoever wishes it.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ وَيَحْبِبُ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ

As stated in the verse , our Lord favors those who repent. He does not turn back hands raised in prayer. He does not let down the hearts dearly invoking. He does not leave destitute those who shed tears with repentance.

#### Honorable Believers!

We are all humans. We live in a world of tests. And in this test, both the sin and the good deed are for us. We sometimes resist against sins. And sometimes act carelessly and make mistakes. But we know that our Lord's gate of mercy is wide open against our sins. The thing we need to do is to avoid persisting in mistakes and sins. To demonstrate the virtue of correcting them. To take refuge in our Lord's grace. To seek His forgiveness with sincere repentance and heartfelt invocation.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Repentance is the admission of our helplessness. It is a clear statement of the fact that we sometimes become weak in our pact to Allah. The Almighty taught us the blessing of repentance in the Holy Quran with the story of the first human. Adam (as) and his wife, mother Eve, repented to Allah as such:

رَبَّنَا طَلَّقْنَا أَنْفَسَنَا وَإِذْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَكَوْنَنَا مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ

“Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers.”<sup>2</sup>

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Repentance is one's commitment to renew and refresh themselves. It is the cleansing of minds and lips that get dirty in time amid the tumult of the world. It is the softening of darkened and hardened hearts. It is the calming and quieting of damaged spirits.

Repentance is a source of solace and hope for us. It is a safe harbor in which we can take refuge in times of crisis. Because even if everyone else abandons us when we make mistakes, our Lord never leaves us. He does not turn His back on us even if everyone else does.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَغْفِرُ أَن يُغْرِيَهُ وَيَغْفِرُ مَا دُونَ ذَلِكَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ

“Indeed, Allah does not forgive association with Him, but He forgives what is less than that for whom He wills.”<sup>3</sup> All we need to do is to remain loyal to our faith in His existence and oneness. To never give up on His vast grace. To never deprive ourselves of His forgiveness. All we need to do is to sincerely seek His forgiveness when our weaknesses and sin overwhelm us.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

We are about to welcome another Bara'at Night which is the harbinger of Ramadan, the season of grace, mercy, and purification. Next Wednesday night we will observe Bara'at Night which is the 15<sup>th</sup> night of the month of Sha'ban. We will get another unique opportunity to attain our Lord's salvation and get rid of all troubles, all mistakes that hurt the believers, and all the bad things that do not look good on anyone. Infinite praise be to Allah the Exalted for granting such wonderful opportunity to us in a lifetime that goes by so fast. I wish you a blessed Bara'at Night in advance.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Our Prophet (pbuh) informed us that repentance on Bara'at Night will not be turned down.<sup>4</sup> Then let us take this opportunity and repent never to go back to sin again. Let us repent for forgetting about the afterlife from time to time in the tumult of the world. Let us repent for sparing love, attention, and mercy from even our closest ones from time to time. Let us repent for the days we have neglected our spouses, our children, our relatives, orphans, homeless people, and the needy. Let us repent for failing to abide by the rights of one another, who are entrusted to us by the Lord; for failing to be the organs of one body and the bricks in one building as commanded by our Prophet (pbuh). Let us never forget that there is no sinner who will be denied repentance when he feels remorse because his sin is big.

<sup>1</sup> At-Tahrim, 66/8.

<sup>2</sup> Al-A'raf, 7/23.

<sup>3</sup> An-Nisa, 4/48, 116.

<sup>4</sup> Ibn Majah, İkâmetü's-salavât, 191.

## لِلْأَنْوَارِ الْمُبَشِّرِ

فَوَيْنِيلِ الْمُصَنِّبِينَ ۝ الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ ۝ الَّذِينَ هُمْ يَرَوْنُ ۝

۝ وَيَمْتَعُونَ الْمَاعُونَ ۝

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ :

اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّنَا وَرَبَّ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ اجْعَلْنِي مُخْلِصًا لَكَ وَأَهْلًا فِي كُلِّ سَاعَةٍ فِي الدِّينِ

وَالْآخِرَةِ يَا ذَا الْجَلَلِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ ...

### EPIOME OF INSINCERITY: HYPOCRISY

#### A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

In today's khutbah, I would like to talk about a misdeed that wipes out and sweeps away all the good deeds we have done. It is hypocrisy, which is the epitome of insincerity that destroys all things beautiful and cancels all good deeds. Hypocrisy is a disease that damages human relations and mutual trusts as well as bringing down the reputation the individual.

In a conversation with his companions, our Beloved Prophet (pbuh) pointed out to hypocrisy as follows: **"The thing I fear the most about you is small shirk,"** says Allah's Messenger. They ask, **"What's a small shirk, o Allah's Messenger?"** Our Prophet answers: **"Hypocrisy is the small shirk. As Allah repays everyone for their deed on the Day of Reckoning, He will tell this to hypocrites: 'Go to those to whom you were hypocrites in earthly life! Behold! Will you see a reward or good deed near them?'"**<sup>1</sup>

#### Honorable Believers!

The essence of the Sure Religion of Islam is sincerity and genuineness. It's to make faith, worship, and obedience exclusive only and solely to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. It's to seek Allah's favor alone in what we say and do. It's to be what we seem and seem what we are.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Deeds lose meaning when they are stained with hypocrisy and desire for vanity. Deeds that lack sincerity and genuineness are fancy on the outside but empty on the inside. Without sincerity, values decrease in value. Sincerity is extremely important in human relations, not only in faith and worship. It is one of the best moral virtues for a believer to be sincere and genuine when among family and relatives, in relations with neighbors and friends, in business life, and in short in every area of life. The only way to attain that virtue is to aspire Allah's favor in everything we do.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

If we commit hypocrisy, our prayer, which is our ascension, can't protect us against evil. Such prayer is the type of prayer mentioned in the verse, **“فَوَيْنِيلِ الْمُصَنِّبِينَ”** “**Woe to those who pray!**”. Such prayer is the type of prayer mentioned in the verse, **“الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ”** “**Who are heedless of prayer.**” Such prayer is the type of prayer expressly described in the verse, **“الَّذِينَ هُمْ يَرَوْنُ”** “**They make show of their deeds.**”<sup>2</sup>

#### Honorable Believers!

Our fasting cannot shield us against evil if we waste it for hypocrisy. If we sacrifice animals with hypocrisy, it will not get us closer to Allah. If our sadaqa, alms, and good deeds are stained with hypocrisy, they will not be able to demonstrate our obedience to Allah.

Our Prophet (pbuh) said that deeds stained with hypocrisy will lead one to great disappointment on the Day of Reckoning. If one gives alms thinking, “They will think I am generous”, his own wealth will be his fire. If one obtains knowledge thinking “They will think I am wise,” his wisdom will be his torment. In fact, if one becomes a martyr thinking, “They will think I am a hero,” his martyrdom will not be accepted. Because deeds of those who reduce their wish to pure vanity and leave Allah's favor aside have no value by Allah.<sup>3</sup>

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Image and vanity are dominating the world every passing day. Humanity is rapidly walking away from sincerity. Today, pretentiousness and hypocrisy are among the greatest dangers that damage our minds and spirits, threaten our faith and deeds, and hurt our human relations and friendships. As we go through a test of sincerity and genuineness in this world as believers, our duty is to veer away from two-facedness, vanity, and selfishness. Our duty is to aim for Allah's favor, His content in everything we say and do. It's to be wary against the hypocrites who seek to exploit our high values and sincere feelings. To never give an opportunity to those who try to sow seeds of discord, sedition, division among us by deluding us.

#### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to finish my khutbah with a prayer from our Beloved Prophet: **“...O Allah, Possessor of glory and honor, the Lord of everything! Make us sincere to You at every moment in this world and in the world hereafter!”**<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Al-Bayhaqi, *Şubabü'l-îmân*, V, 333.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Ma'un, 107/4-6.

<sup>3</sup> Muslim, *İmare*, 152.

<sup>4</sup> Abu Dawud, *Vitr*, 25.

**لِذِكْرِ الْمُرْتَبَاتِ**

ذَلِكُمُ اللَّهُ وَبِكُمْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ خَالِقٌ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ فَاعْبُدُوهُ وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَكَبِيلٌ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
ثَلَاثَ مَنْ كُنَّ فِيهِ وَجَدَ يَهُنَ حَلَّوَةَ الْإِيمَانِ مَنْ كَانَ اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ  
مِمَّا سِوَاهُمَا وَمَنْ يُحِبَّ الْمَزْءَعَ لَا يُحِبُّ إِلَيْهِ وَمَنْ يَكْرَهَ أَنْ يَعُودَ فِي الْكُفْرِ بَعْدَ أَنْ  
أَنْقَذَهُ اللَّهُ مِنْهُ كَمَا يَكْرَهُ أَنْ يَقْذَفَ فِي النَّارِ

## TRUE FREEDOM: SERVING ALLAH

### Honorable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty enjoins: **“Allah is your Lord, there is no god but He; the Creator of all things, therefore serve Him, and He has charge of all things.”<sup>1</sup>**

In the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (pbuh) says: **“There are three qualities for which anyone who is characterized by them will relish the savor of faith: that he loves man and he does not love him but for Allah's sake alone; he is to whom Allah and His Messenger are dearer than all else; he who prefers to be thrown into fire than to return to unbelief after Allah has rescued him out of it.”<sup>2</sup>**

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The biggest goal of our religion is to elevate us with faith in Allah. To make us free with serving Him and dedicating ourselves to Him. Because in our faith, true freedom is serving Allah. True freedom is avoiding serving other servants. True will is avoiding yielding to the desires and passion of the soul.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Faith is the greatest freedom. The believer is the one whose spirit is free. Because the believer only bows before his Lord. He never serves other servants. He knows that bowing before anyone other than Allah, serving other servants is slavery. The believer devotes himself to everlasting truth rather than mortal humans. He does not act blind, deaf, and silent against the truth. He does not dull his heart and will to the point of not seeing the good and right. He does not hold any love in his heart dearer than the love for Allah and His Messenger. He knows that doing that is the biggest of misdeeds. It means associating partners with Allah. And that is the greatest injustice.<sup>3</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

The believer endeavors to only do things that will be favored by Allah. He knows that making choices that will lead to His wrath means hurting his freedom.

The believer does not fall into the clutches of temporary blessings and deceptive joys of the world.

He knows that being the slave of fancy and desire means losing freedom.

The believer is the one who is aware that he has been created as the most honorable of beings. He knows that his faith will eternalize this honor. The believer's guidance for life is the Sublime Quran which separates right from wrong, truth from falsehood, and sin from good deed. The Prophet of Mercy, the only leader of the humankind, is the one who leads the way for the believer. A mind that contemplates Allah is what makes the believer valuable by Allah. A heart that holds Allah's love and favor over all else. An abundant life spent with good deeds.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Unfortunately, we live in a world today where material things are prioritized over spirituality and minds are tumbled by all sorts of advertisements and remarks. We are going through a period where fancy and desires are stirred up and triggered. In such a world where earning more and consuming more is encouraged, it is without a doubt that our true capital is our freedom that we have from our faith. Our true gain is our austerity stemming from our faith. Our true wealth is our good deeds, the reflection of our faith upon life. Our true superiority is our awareness of our faith and values.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Before I finish my khutbah, I would like to share with you something about our mosques, the places where our servitude and devotion are manifested. Serving with the effort to reach our nation's helping hand across the world, our Diyanet Foundation has built a great number of mosques with your help in our country and region of affection from past to present. Your help will be asked for today at mosques nationwide for the Cyprus Hala Sultan Mosque, Kyrgyzstan Bishkek Mosque, Albania Tirana Central Mosque, Djibouti Sultan Abdulhamit Han II Mosque and Complex. May the Almighty accept all the help you have given and will give. May He grant us to be among those honored by the news in the hadith **“Whoever builds a mosque for Allah, Allah grants him a similar mansion in paradise.”<sup>4</sup>** May He make our mosques build hearts, reinforce our unity and brotherhood, and elevate our dignity and honor.

I would like to finish my khutbah with this verse: **“(O Muhammad!) Say: ‘What would my Lord care for you if not for your supplication?’”<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Al-An'am, 6/102.

<sup>2</sup> Muslim, Îmân, 67.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Baqarah, 2/54, 57; Al-A'raf, 7/177; Hud, 11/101.

<sup>4</sup> Muslim, Zühd, 44.

<sup>5</sup> Al-Furqan, 25/77.



وَاعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئاً وَبِالَّذِينَ أَخْسَانُوكُمْ وَبِذِنِ الْقُرْبَى وَالْيَتَامَى  
وَالْمَسَاكِينِ وَالْجَارِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى وَالْجَارِ الْجُنُبِ وَالصَّاحِبِ بِالْجَنْبِ وَأَنِ  
السَّبِيلِ وَمَا مَلَكَتْ أَيْمَانُكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ مَنْ كَانَ مُخْتَالاً فَعُرَارًا  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
إِنَّ لِنَفْسِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقٌّ وَلِزِنَكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقٌّ وَلِضَبْنِكَ عَلَيْكَ حَقٌّ وَإِنَّ لِأَهْلِكَ  
عَلَيْكَ حَقٌّ فَاغْطِ كُلَّ ذِي حَقٍّ حَقَّةً.

## **EVERY SOUL HAS A RIGHT UPON US**

### **A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters**

In the verse I have recited, the Almighty enjoins: **“Worship Allah. Associate nothing with Him. To parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the neighbor farther away, the companion at your side, the traveler, and those for whom you are responsible. Indeed, Allah does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful.”**<sup>1</sup>

In the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (pbuh) says: **“Indeed your self has a right upon you, your Lord has a right upon you, your guest has a right upon you, and your family has a right upon you. So give each the right they are due!”**<sup>2</sup>

### **Honorable Believers!**

Many thanks to the Almighty that he has brought us to another Ramadan, the month of grace, prosperity, and mercy. We will experience the joy of the first tarawih altogether this evening. We will have the peace of the first sahur altogether tonight. We will experience the enthusiasm of our first fasting tomorrow. We will try to host as well as we can the school of Ramadan which will stay at our house for a month.

### **Brothers and Sisters!**

Students of the Ramadan school are all believers. This schools teaches us dedication, patience, gratitude, and appreciating the blessings. It reminds us of our responsibilities towards Allah, towards one another, and towards people we know. It points out to us that every soul has a right upon us. The greatest lesson we can take from this school is to make our fasting, sahur, iftar, tarawih, and all good deeds instruments in abiding by the right of one another. To renew our promise to look out for the right of our spouses and children, our parents, our neighbors and relatives, our employees or

employers. To solidify our commitment to not ignore the situation of the orphans, the homeless, and every soul in need.

### **Brothers and Sisters!**

Our parents have a right upon us. Because they brought us into the world through so many hardships. They raised and prepared us for life by fighting against many difficulties. Then come! Let us be good daughters and sons to our parents at all times this Ramadan. Let us not spare our respect and mercy from them.

Our spouses and children have a right upon us. Because they have been entrusted to us by Allah. They are our values with whom we undertake the burden of life. Then come! Let us treat our spouses and children with love, compassion, affection, and fondness. Let us raise our children as generations that contribute to Islam and to humankind who know their Lord, their religion, their prophet, and their book well.

### **Brothers and Sisters!**

Our relatives and neighbors have a right upon us. Because they are an opportunity for prosperity for us. Then come! Let us keep in touch with them. Let us share their joy and sorrow. Let us not abandon them into loneliness among the crowd.

The orphans have a right upon us. Because they are a test for us. Then come! Let us look after the orphans. Let us hold their hands and prepare them for life. Let us not forget that the tiniest spark we will cause in their eyes will be the biggest happiness for them and the most lasting gain for us.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters!**

Every person, every being has a right upon us.<sup>3</sup> Because this world belongs to others as well as us. Then come! Let us take heed of rights. Remember that we can protect our own rights to the extent that we protect the right of others. We can expect our right to be respected to the extent that we respect the right of others.

### **Brothers and Sisters!**

Our presidency will point out to the concept of right this Ramadan with the theme **“Every Being Has a Right upon You, This Ramadan and Always.”** It will make an effort to reinforce the awareness of rights which gets weaker every day. With these thoughts and sentiments, I pray to Allah that holy Ramadan may bring good things to our nation, to the world of Islam, and to humankind. May He grant us to be among those who respect rights and whose rights are respected.

<sup>1</sup> An-Nisa, 4/36.

<sup>2</sup> Tirmidhi, Zuhd, 63.

<sup>3</sup> Abu Dawud, Tatavvû, 27.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE

DATE : 02.06.2017

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ تَعْلَمُ<sup>١</sup> حَتَّى زَرْتَ الْمَقَابِرَ<sup>٢</sup> كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ<sup>٣</sup>

ثُمَّ كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ<sup>٤</sup>

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ :

يَقُولُ ابْنُ آدَمَ مَالِيْ مَالِيْ - قَالَ - وَهُنَّ لَكَ يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ مِنْ مَالِكِ إِلَّا مَا أَكَنْتَ

فَأَفَنِيتَ أَوْ لَبِسْتَ فَأَبْلَيْتَ أَوْ تَصَدَّقْتَ فَأَمْضَيْتَ

## HUNGER OF FASTING CURES GREED

### A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

Infinite gratitude to Allah Almighty as He has granted us once again to reach Holy Ramadan, the season of grace and mercy. Salutations and peace to our Prophet and Allah's Messenger who taught us that fasting is a school and a friend that mends our spirit.

### Brothers and Sisters!

To the humankind who falls into the hands of desire and fancy and gets dragged into the swirl of ambition and cupidity, Allah the Exalted asks this crucial question: **فَإِنَّمَا تَنْهَيُونَ "Where are you going?"<sup>1</sup>** "Where are you going, oh, humans? Are you aware of your path?"

In this blessed Ramadan, the month of Quran, we must once again ask ourselves that question. We must shake and pull ourselves together with it. And we must ruminating over the answer.

### Honorable Believers!

Ramadan is one of the best periods of time in which the answers we can give to this question are experienced in person. Because Ramadan reminds us of what we have forgotten. It calls us to contemplate. Ramadan calms down our spirit with Quran, prayer, remembrance, repentance, alms, and supplication. Fasting leaves us hungry from imsak to iftar, thus curing greed which is another type of hunger and the source of all evil. Its origin is described in the Quran as "takathur" (boasting with abundance and competing for it). Allah Almighty enjoins us this fact in Surat at-Takathur:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ تَعْلَمُ<sup>١</sup> حَتَّى زَرْتَ الْمَقَابِرَ<sup>٢</sup> "Competition in worldly increase diverts you until you visit the graveyards."<sup>٣</sup> كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ ثُمَّ كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ "No! You are going to know. Then no! You are going to know."

"No! If you only knew with knowledge of certainty."<sup>٤</sup> لَئِرْقَوْنَ الْجَحِيمُ "You will surely see the Hellfire (if you do not stop your greed and competing in boasting with abundance)."

ثُمَّ لَتَسْتَأْنَ بِوَمَيْذِدٍ عَنِ التَّعْيِمِ "Then you will surely see it with the eye of certainty."<sup>٥</sup> "Then you will surely be asked that Day about pleasure."<sup>٦</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

One day when our Prophet (pbuh) recited this surat, he followed up with this question upon which every single one of us must contemplate: **The son of Adam says: 'My wealth, my wealth.'** And do you own anything except what you give in charity, such that you've spent it, or what you eat, such that you've finished it, or you wear, such that you've worn it out?"<sup>٧</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

Avarice and greed are the source of all evil from which the humankind suffers. Isn't the greed of global powers the reason for the bloodshed and suffering in our region? Isn't it greed and nothing else that causes the balance of the universe to be disturbed, the nature to be ruined and the environment to be polluted, and the future of human species to be risked by modifying plants and seeds?

### Brothers and Sisters!

As they come upon us to enlighten our hearts and cities every year in such an atmosphere, Ramadan and fasting offer us a great opportunity to get rid of greed, desire, and avarice. Ramadan and fasting remind us that our belongings do not actually belong to us, material and spiritual blessings are all but a test. They make us realize that the world is temporary, what's permanent and everlasting is the afterlife. Ramadan teaches us to share and fasting teaches us to thank and be grateful. Ramadan inculcates us that real wealth is not the abundance of our fortune but the contentment of our hearts. It declares that the way to have bliss on the earth and salvation in the afterlife is not piling up wealth but winning hearts and accumulating prayers.

Then come, Dear Brothers and Sisters, Let us allow fasting and other worships we perform to let us deliver from greed and make us grateful and thankful believers. Let us surrender our hearts to Ramadan.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

In these days as we experience the joy of Ramadan, we have been devastated as a nation upon hearing the news of martyrs fallen. Our children became martyrs for us to have a peaceful Ramadan and for the sake of our unity and togetherness, our peace and well-being, and our values. I wish Allah's mercy upon our honorable martyrs, and a swift recovery to our veterans. May Allah grant patience and fortitude to our nation and to the families of our martyrs. Condolences to our nation.

<sup>1</sup> At-Takwir, 81/26.

<sup>2</sup> At-Takathur, 102/1-8.

<sup>3</sup> Muslim, Zühd, 3.

لِشَّرِيكِ الْجَنَاحِ

إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلّٰتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ وَيَبْشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ

يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا

فَالَّرَسُولُ اللَّهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَا نَحْنُ وَاللُّهُ وَلَدُنَا مِنْ أَفْضَلِ مِنْ أَدَبِ حَسَنٍ

## LET'S LEARN QURAN IN THE MONTH OF QURAN

### A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

Our Beloved Prophet (pbuh) came to al-Mashid an-Nabawi with his grandson to lead the isha prayer for his companions. He unusually extended one of the prostrations during prayer, so much so that the companions thought something had happened to Allah's Messenger or a revelation had arrived. When the prayer was finally over, the distinguished companions asked him why he extended the prostration. The Messenger of Mercy answered: "**It is not what you think. My grandson climbed my back during prostration. I waited for him to climb down so he would be happy and not fall and hurt himself.**"<sup>1</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

In the words of the Holy Book, our children are the light of our eyes. They are the joy of our heart. They are the adornment for earthly life. They are one of the most important things Allah entrusted to us. That's why we as believers call our dear kids to Islam with the first azan we recite into their ear. Every child who accepts this call by nature learns from us how to love, believe, and trust. It is our duty to nurture their soul without hurting their creation. It is our duty to introduce them to Allah and the Prophet, give them the habit of worshipping, and instill good morals in them.

### Dear People in the Mosque!

It must be the primary goal in life for all of us to read, accurately understand, and duly experience the Holy Quran. Because Quran will guide us to salvation. This Great Book brings bliss in both worlds to people who believe in it and abide by it. "**Indeed, this Qur'an guides to that which is most suitable and gives good tidings to the believers who do righteous deeds that they will have a great reward.**"<sup>2</sup>

### Dear Muslims!

We must introduce our children to the basic values of Quran at an early age so they may grow up under Quran's guidance. Because their souls are closer than everyone to Quran's spiritual table. Their young minds, innocent hearts are more open to our Book's message than everyone. If we want to enlighten and make their life fruitful with Quran, Ramadan is the perfect time.

### Brothers and Sisters!

A great opportunity is coming up for our children to learn about our Great Book, the exemplary life of our Prophet, and meet the mosque, the minbar, and the mihrap. Our summer Quran courses begin on June 12. Our mosques and courses will be populated once again by our children, the light of our eyes, with the call "**Let's Learn Quran in the Month of Quran.**" Let us remember that teaching our Great Book to our children is both a duty as parents and also the greatest inheritance we can pass on to them. Our Prophet (pbuh) stated this fact as such: "**No parent has passed down on to their kid something more valuable than good morals.**"<sup>3</sup>

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let us introduce our children, a great blessing from Allah to us, to the graceful messages of the Quran. Come! Let us equip our kids with wisdom, knowledge, and manners. Let us not leave them without Quran. Let us make their hearts, minds, and future thrive with Quran. Let us use Ramadan as an opportunity to raise sincere Muslims who lead their life with Quran in their hands and faith in their hearts. Let us work to raise generations that know Allah's Book, pattern themselves after Allah's Messenger, and are committed to their religion and nation with loyalty. Let us reveal the Quran, which was revealed in this blessed month, first to our hearts then to the hearts of our children.

I would like to finish my khutbah with the following prayers Allah taught us in the Holy Quran:

**"Our Lord! Grant unto us wives and offspring who will be the comfort of our eyes, and give us the grace to lead the righteous."**<sup>4</sup>

**"My Lord, make me an establisher of prayer, and many from my descendants. Our Lord, and accept my supplication."**<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An-Nasai, Tatbik, 82.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Isra, 17/9.

<sup>3</sup> Tirmidhi, Birr, 33.

<sup>4</sup> Al-Furqan, 25/74.

<sup>5</sup> Ibrahim, 14/40.

لِلّٰهِ الْحُمْرُ الْجَنِينُ

يَمْحُقُ اللّٰهُ الرِّبُوَا وَيُنْزِي الصَّدَقَاتِ وَاللّٰهُ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ كَفَّارٍ أَئِمَّٰمٌ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللّٰهِ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ :

مَا أَحَدٌ أَكْثَرٌ مِّن الرِّبَا إِلَّا كَانَ عَاقِبَةً أَمْرِهِ إِلَى قَلْلٍ.

## ZAKAT INCREASES GAINS; USURY CONSUMES IT

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Our Beloved Prophet (pbuh) one day said: “**Avoid the seven great destructive sins!**” The companions asked “O Messenger of Allah! What are those seven sins?” The Messenger of Allah gave this answer: “**These seven destructive sins are to join others in worship along with Allah, to practice magic, to kill the life which Allah has forbidden, to devour usury, to eat up an orphan's wealth, to flee from the battlefield when faced with the enemy, and to accuse honorable women of adultery.**”<sup>1</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

There is a gratitude for each blessing that Our Almighty Lord bestowed upon us. The gratitude for us being created as human is faith. The gratitude for our body is prayer. The gratitude for our health and sustenance is fasting. The gratitude for our property, our wealth is zakat, alms, zakat al-fitr. These are all different ways of spending in Allah's way.

Zakat is a claim on the property of the rich that Allah gives to the needy. It is the hand that a wealthy Muslim extends to his needy and destitute brother. Alms are the manifestation of sincerity and fidelity towards our Lord and also our brothers and sisters. To put it shortly, spending in the way of Allah is to be aware of the fact that the blessings, the wealth is entrusted to us by Allah. It is the means of making perishable earthly possessions eternal. It is also to deeply embrace the fellowship between believers and to experience and maintain it in a most beautiful way.

### Dear Muslims in the Mosque!

Zakat and alms are obligatory in our holy religion Islam while usury is forbidden. Usury is to gain unjustly without any work or any effort. Our Lord announces in the Holy Quran the exemplary fate of those who are enslaved by usury:

الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ الرِّبُوَا لَا يَقُومُونَ إِلَّا كَمَا يَقُومُ الَّذِي يَتَخَبَّطُهُ الشَّيْطَانُ مِنَ الْمَسِّ

“Those who eat usury will not stand (on the Day of Resurrection) except like the standing of a person beaten by Satan leading him to insanity.”

ذٰلِكَ يٰأَيُّهُمْ قَالُوا إِنَّمَا النَّبِيُّ مِثْلُ الرِّبِّيُّا     “That is because they say: ‘Trade is just like usury.’”  
وَأَحَلَّ اللّٰهُ النَّبِيُّ وَحْرَمَ الرِّبُوَا     “Whereas Allah has permitted trading and forbidden usury.”<sup>2</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

Spending in Allah's way will bring one the key to heaven. Usury leads one towards Allah's wrath and brings great loss. Because giving is to share the wealth for the sake of Allah. It is to sacrifice on this path. Usury is to lose the belief that honest effort is sacred.

### Dear Believers!

Our Almighty Lord said in the Holy Quran:  
يَمْحُقُ اللّٰهُ الرِّبُوَا وَيُنْزِي الصَّدَقَاتِ وَاللّٰهُ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ كَفَّارٍ أَئِمَّٰمٌ     “God deprives interest of any blessing, and blights it, but makes alms-giving productive. God does not love any obstinate unbeliever, any obstinate sinner.”<sup>3</sup>

This verse of our Lord shows us that even though giving seems like it decrease from the wealth, it actually increases it many times more and makes it fruitful. Usury might seem to cause an increase in wealth but it actually reduces and consumes it.<sup>4</sup> Aren't the numerous defaults happening today, the families being dragged into crisis, the efforts that get lost a result of the usury that is unjust profit?

### Esteemed Muslims!

Then come! Let us seek the ways of becoming one of the righteous by giving the things we love in the way of Allah. Let us strengthen our loyalty to Allah with our zakat, alms and zakat al-fitr. Let us make our Ramadan, our life fruitful with the material and nonmaterial things we share. Let us avoid any kind of unjust and forbidden gain, especially usury.

### Brothers and Sisters!

The sorrow of separation has covered our hearts in these days as we get close to the end of Ramadan; its beginning is mercy, its middle is forgiveness and its ending is salvation from hell. The sacred month of Ramadan gives us the night of Al-Qadr, the night that is better than a thousand months, as a present before it leaves. We are going to observe the night of Al-Qadr on the end of Wednesday next week, which comes every year to elevate us. Come! Let us turn this night, in which our book of Life, the Quran was first revealed, into an opportunity to reflect upon ourselves, to ask forgiveness and mercy for our sins.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate your night of Al-Qadr and I ask Allah to make this blessed night an occasion for goodness.

<sup>1</sup> Buhârî, Vesâyâ, 23.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Bakara, 2/275.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Bakara, 2/276.

<sup>4</sup> İbn Mâce, Trade, 58.

**لَنْ تَأْتِلُوا إِلَيْهِ حَتَّىٰ تَنْفَعُوا مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ**

وَاعْبُدُ رَبَّكَ حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا، وَارْضَ عَنَّا، وَتَقْبَلْ مِنَّا، وَأَذْخِلْنَا الْجَنَّةَ.  
وَنَجِّنَا مِنَ النَّارِ، وَأَضْلِنْ لَنَا شَأْنَنَا كُلَّهُ.

## MAKING OUR WHOLE LIFE RAMADAN

Fellow believers who have packed this beautiful mosque with faith in your hearts! A blessed Friday to you all.

### Honorable Believers!

We are both happy and sad today. We are happy. Because we have experienced to our hearts' content the civilization of Ramadan. We have approached Eid as pupils of Ramadan school. We are sad. Because we bid farewell to the Holy Ramadan which every year brings us the Quran again as well as the piety of fasting, the joy of iftar, the abundance of sahur, and reminds us what we have forgotten. Here goes the month of mercy that surrounds our cities, tables, and souls with its richness and generosity for a month. May Allah Almighty make us among His servants that have done the best in Ramadan. May He let us reach the Eid and many more Ramadans with faith, knowledge, and wisdom.

### Dear Believers!

We fasted in this unique period of time that, with its mercy and grace, brought our souls closer to Allah and elated our spirits with virtue and abundance. We were tested with hunger and thirst in long summer days. We said "I am fasting" against any desire and appetite. Our patience was tested. We guarded our mind, hands, tongue, and all in all ourselves against evil. We surrounded ourselves with compassion and mercy as we fasted. We once again sympathized with the poor and needy. We better understood the value of making do with less. We read our guide for the true path, the Quran, which heals souls and brings peace to believers in both worlds. We tried to understand and practice it.

### Dear Congregation!

We performed prayer day and night in Ramadan by virtue of the verse **قَدْ أَفْلَحَ مَنْ تَرَكَىٰ وَدَكَرَ اسْمَ رَبِّهِ فَصَلَّى** "He has certainly succeeded who purifies himself and mentions the name of his Lord and prays."<sup>1</sup> We came closer to Allah with prayer in confession of our helplessness. We performed tarawih prayers, gathering around the same goal and standing side by side. We made an effort to get off the burden of sin with gratitude and prayer during iftar, with repentance and asking for forgiveness during sahur.

In awareness of the verse

**لَنْ تَأْتِلُوا إِلَيْهِ حَتَّىٰ تَنْفَعُوا مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ**

"Never will you attain the good until you spend in the way of Allah from that which you love,"<sup>2</sup> we extended a helping hand to the poor and needy with zakat, alms, fitr, and iftar tables. We opened our souls to our neighbors, orphans, and homeless. We had the joy of sharing, solidarity, and giving without taking back for the sake of Allah.

Ramadan has been a fruitful school for us for a month. It gave us spiritual education. It taught us discipline in life. It reinforced feelings of fraternity, unity, and togetherness. It allowed us to contemplate on the years we lived and to revise our future.

### Honorable Believers!

As Ramadan bids us farewell soon, the month of mercy asks us to always keep all the beautiful things it has taught us. Then come! Let us fulfill our duties and responsibilities until the final moment of the test by virtue of the verse in which Allah enjoins, "**Worship your Lord until there comes to you the certainty.**"<sup>3</sup> Let us make an effort every moment to earn Allah's favor by virtue of the hadith of our Prophet (pbuh) in which he says, "**The most beloved deed to Allah is the regular consistent one.**"<sup>4</sup> Let us be always sincere to Allah, to ourselves, and to one another. Let us practice and make others practice the things we taught in Ramadan. Let us make our whole life Ramadan in return for the generosity Ramadan offers to us.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Before I finish my khutbah, I would like to remind you something. The traffic accidents that happen every year turn the peace and joy of Eid into grief and pain. A lot of brothers and sisters are killed in these accidents. A lot of families perish. A lot of parents, children, and relatives are left teary-eyed and destitute. Hopes and futures die away. At this point, I urge all brothers and sisters to adhere to the traffic rules, be patient and careful, and look after the rights of one another. May Allah let all brothers and sisters who will make an Eid trip come back home safe and sound. May He protect us from any accident, trouble, and tribulation.

I would like to finish my khutbah with the following prayer from our Prophet (pbuh): "**O Allah! Forgive us! Have mercy on us! Accept our worship, good deeds, and prayers! Admit us to your Paradise, save us from Hell! Rectify all our affairs.**"<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Al-A'la, 87/14-15.

<sup>2</sup> Ali 'Imran, 3/92.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Hijr, 15/99.

<sup>4</sup> Bukhari, Rikâk, 18.

<sup>5</sup> Ibn Majah, Dua, 2.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE  
DATE : 25.06.2017



وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللّٰهِ جَمِيعاً وَلَا تَفَرُّوا وَادْكُرُوا نِعْمَةَ اللّٰهِ عَلَيْنَاكُمْ  
إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءَ فَالَّذِي بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَاصْبِحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْرَاجًاً  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللّٰهِ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ كَالْبَنِيَانَ، يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًاً.

## EID AL-FITR

Honorable Brothers and Sisters Who Packed This Mosque with Eid Joy!

Eid Mubarak to you all.

### Honorable Believers!

We have reached the Eid after many days, many iftars, and many sahurs. We are at the doorstep of joy, jubilation, and peace after having fasted for a month.

We waited for the same thing altogether around the same table. We rejoiced, made others rejoice, and others made us rejoice. We collectively shared the same joy in our hearts. As Muslims, we shared the same despair, the same grief. We forgot about our differences. We became one and banded together. As we deserved iftar every night, we now have deserved the celebration.

### Venerable Muslims!

This is the celebration of peace and prosperity. This is the celebration of believers who have sincerely devoted themselves to Allah.

This is the celebration of leading a life in compliance with the purpose and wisdom of creation. This is the celebration of renewing ourselves with Quran. This is the celebration of iftar where blessings turn into treats as a reward for restraining our souls with imsak.

This is the celebration of sharing our blessings and experiences with others after experiencing poverty, hunger, and thirst. This is the celebration of solidarity, helping others, purifying ourselves, and giving without asking anything in return.

This is the celebration of those who improve and salvage the Earth, not of those who corrupt it. This is the celebration of those who stand against any sedition, mischief, and division by adhering to Allah's command, "**And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided.**"<sup>1</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let us be brothers and sisters today just like we rejoice at the same table, meet at the same qibla, unite with the same Prophet, and believe in the same Book. Let us humiliate those who want to pit us against one another, and beat all the traps tangled around our feet.

Let us strengthen one another as per our Beloved Prophet's hadith (pbuh), "**Believers are like the building blocks of a structure. They make each other stronger.**"<sup>2</sup> Let us reinforce our fraternity. Let us look after one another. Let us make our cities the cities of peace and brotherhood. Let us tolerate our differences.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let us strive to be worthy children to our ancestors. Let us remember that we are the hope for celebration for the humankind under the firmament. Let us make all the effort to avoid any blood being shed in the world. Let us pray for the salvation of others.

Come! Let us end the resentment which is the heaviest burden on the heart. Let us feel the joy of Eid inside. Let us spread Eid jubilation from soul to soul, home to home, city to city.

Come! Let us make our Eid better with the smile of orphans, the poor, the downtrodden. Let us bring the celebration to those who cannot celebrate the Eid. Let us please those awaiting a cure in hospitals. Let us pray for brothers and sisters going through tough times in cities of Islam.

Come! Let us remember with compassion the glorious martyrs who readily sacrificed their lives for our paradise of a homeland. Let us hold our love for Allah, who made this morning a celebration for us and showered our day with His mercy, above love for anyone else.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Let our celebration breed new celebrations. Let our joy be the soil of new joyful occasions. Let our happiness offer consolation to the suffering all around the world. Let the hungry eat from our table. Let the thirsty drink water out of our hand. Let our unity, peace, and harmony be everlasting. Eid Mubarak.

<sup>1</sup> Ali 'Imran, 3/103.

<sup>2</sup> Bukhari, Salât, 88.



يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُم مِّنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ  
مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَتَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي  
تَسَاءَلُونَ يَوْمَ الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَءُوفًا.  
فَالَّرَّسُولُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
... وَمَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَلَيَصِلَ رَحْمَةً ...

## THE BOND ALLAH WANTS US TO MAINTAIN: FAMILY TIES

### A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty enjoins: "...Be careful of (your duty to) Allah, by Whom you demand one of another (your rights), and (to) the ties of relationship; surely Allah ever watches over you."<sup>1</sup>

In the hadith I have recited, our Prophet (pbuh) says: "...Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should keep good relation with their kin..."<sup>2</sup>

### Venerable Muslims!

A companions one day told the Prophet: "O Allah's Messenger! I try to keep in touch with my relatives, but they do not. I do them favors, they do me wrong. I treat them with kindness, they treat me rudely." Then, the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) told the companion that Allah's assistance was going to be with him as long as he kept treating his relatives nice no matter what.<sup>3</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

Maintaining the bond of kinship is a crucial occasion to keep our ties with our family, our relatives, and our neighbors. It means taking care of relatives. Sharing their joy and grief. Being a safe harbor for one another. Coming to the rescue of our close ones when they are in difficulty. Taking their hand and lifting them up when they fall. Refreshing our mind and spirit, exhausted in the various ruckus of the world, with the compassion, mercy, and fondness of one another.

### Brothers and Sisters!

It is a path to attain Allah's grace to look after all our relatives, especially our parents. Allah enjoins in a hadith through His Messenger:

"I am the Merciful. I have created ties of kinship and derived a name for it from My Name. If anyone maintains ties of kinship, I maintain connection with him, and I shall cut off anyone who cuts them off."<sup>4</sup>

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

In this world, we are all away from home. And the feeling of homesickness gets easier with a helping hand we extend to each other. The joy of reunion reduces the hardship of being away from home. If we treat each other with kindness and affection in this world where we are homesick, Allah will treat us with His mercy on the Day of Reckoning. If we offer compassion, mercy, and sincerity to one another here, Allah will grant us with unending blessings of paradise in the hereafter which is our eternal home.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Then come! Let us care about maintaining the ties of kinship which is one of the conditions of earning Allah's favor. Let us please our parents, spouses, and children at all times. Let us keep in touch with our close/distant relatives and neighbors. Let us not abandon our close ones to the coldness of homesickness as they are all precious to us. Let us avoid building walls between our hearts without realizing amidst the hustle of life. Let us take these days we spend in the shadow of Ramadan and Eid as an opportunity to make distances closer to us.

Let us always remember that the real way of maintaining ties of kinship is being able to get in contact with someone who does not keep in touch with you. It is being able to call those who do not call you. Visiting those who do not visit you. Because real dignity is not doing favors to those who have done favors to us, it is doing favors to those who have not.<sup>5</sup>

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

May Allah Almighty grant us to be among those who recognize the importance of maintaining the ties of kinship and who abide by family ties.

<sup>1</sup> An-Nisa, 4/1.

<sup>2</sup> Bukhari, Edeb, 85.

<sup>3</sup> Muslim, Birr, 22.

<sup>4</sup> Abu Dawud, Zekât, 45.

<sup>5</sup> Bukhari, Edeb, 15.



وَالَّذِينَ تَبَوَّءُ الدَّارَ وَالْأَيَمَانَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ يُحِبُّونَ مَنْ هَاجَرَ إِلَيْهِمْ وَلَا يَجِدُونَ  
فِي صُدُورِهِمْ حَاجَةً مِمَّا أُوتُوا وَيُؤْتَوْنَ عَلَى أَنفُسِهِمْ وَلَوْ كَانَ بِهِمْ خَصَاصَةٌ  
وَمَنْ يُوقَ شَحَّ نَفْسِهِ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
مَثْلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادِهِمْ وَتَرَاحِمِهِمْ وَتَعَاطُفِهِمْ، مَثْلُ الْجَسَدِ، إِذَا اشْتَكَى  
مِنْهُ عُضُوٌّ تَدَاعَى لَهُ سَائِرُ الْجَسَدِ بِالسَّهْرِ وَالْحُمْيِ.

## THE TEST OF OUR FAITH AND HUMANITY: THE REFUGEES

### Honorable Believers!

Helpers in Medina (the Ansar) embraced their emigrant brothers and sisters from Mecca (the Muhajirin) with love and sincerity, who left their estates and homeland behind and came to them for refuge. The helpers did not refrain from any sacrifice. Such an case happened when one of the helpers took a poor emigrant that our Prophet (pbuh) asked if any of the helpers could entertain as a guest. But he had nothing at home except the meal of his children. So he and his wife let their children sleep and then offered all the meal they had to their guest. They even found an excuse to put out the lamp and pretended to eat. They slept hungry that night, just like their children. After that, our Almighty Lord revealed this verse that praises the generosity of the helpers through them: **“But those who before them, had homes (in Medina) and had adopted the Faith, show their affection to such as came to them for refuge, and entertain no desire in their hearts for things given to the (latter), but give them preference over themselves, even though poverty was their (own lot). And those saved from the covetousness of their own souls, they are the ones that achieve prosperity.”<sup>1</sup>**

### Esteemed Muslims!

All thanks be to our Almighty Lord, our honorable nation, who followed the guidance of the Messenger of Allah and took this first generation of Muslims as role models, have become the Ansar to the Muhajirin for centuries. They opened their hearts without an ounce of doubt to those who came to them for refuge, regardless of their race, language or religion. They took the downtrodden and oppressed under their wings, no matter where they are. They looked after the orphans and the weak. They lent a hand to the poor and the needy. They have always been on the side of what is right and true, and stood by the righteous. They took a firm stand against oppression and the oppressors. And therefore, the poor and the lowly pray to Allah for our people with tears in their eyes and these prayers have become the never-ending power, the invincible shield of our nation. Our Lord have never let us become dishonorable, but made us honorable for the sake of these prayers that rise from

these suffering hearts, for the sake of the hopes that find their way into the hearts of these deprived souls.

He never left us powerless, helpless and alone. He never denied us His help and grace.

### Brothers and Sisters!

This land we live in have always been a home for the emigrants. This noble nation famous for their generosity and altruism have always been a safe haven. In recent years, millions of our brothers and sisters who escaped from the civil war, violence and massacres that take place in the region had to take refuge in our country. With a generosity that the whole world could only envy, our nation have extended a helping hand to these people and welcomed them in the best possible way.

But lately, we have sadly witnessed some unpleasant events that could cast a shadow upon the generosity of our nation. Especially, a perception management operation targeting our fellowship and hospitality is being carried out by certain groups. They are trying to incite grudge and hatred and harm the solidarity, unity, fondness and tranquility of our nation by spreading unfounded claims and messages on social media. All Muslim sisters and brothers must be alert and have foresight on this matter.

### Dear Muslims in the Mosque!

As our Prophet (pbuh) said: **“The parable of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When any limb aches, the whole body reacts with fever.”<sup>2</sup>** So come! Let us see our guests not as a burden but as a means of Allah’s grace. Let us not blame others for the mistakes of a few. Let us pray “Our Almighty Lord, please test no person and no nation with such a heavy trial!”

Let us not forget that insight, foresight and common sense are the values we need the most and that could support us in this hard time we are going through as a nation. We should acknowledge that our fellowship, solidarity, peace and tranquility are entrusted to us. Each soul that asks for our compassion and expects our help is a test of our faith, our Islam, and humanity.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

We are going to reach the first anniversary of the heinous coup that targeted the values and very existence of our nation on 15 July. Therefore, the Quran is being read in its entirety throughout the country, dedicated first to the souls of the martyrs of 15 July and then to the souls of all our martyrs. Also, there will be commemorations for our martyrs in every mosque and prayers will be made. We ask you to say “amin” to the prayers as an indication of our fidelity towards our martyrs. We once again ask mercy and grace for the martyrs that turned these lands into our homeland with their lives and ask swift recovery for the veterans from our Almighty Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Al-Hashr, 59/9; Bukhari, Merits of the Helpers in Madinah, 10.

<sup>2</sup> Bukhari, Al-Adab, 27.



يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اذْكُرُوا إِنْفَثَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ أَنْ يَسْطُوا إِلَيْكُمْ أَنِيدِيهِمْ  
فَكَفَ أَنِيدِيهِمْ عَنْكُمْ وَأَتَقْوَا اللَّهَ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ قَلِيلُهُ كُلُّ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبَنِيَانِ، يَشَدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا.

## THE GLORIOUS RESISTANCE THAT SALAS BORE WITNESS: 15 TEMMUZ

### Honorable Believers!

In the verse I have recited, Allah Almighty enjoins: **“O you who believe! Remember Allah's favor on you when a people had determined to stretch forth their hands towards you, but He withheld their hands from you, and be careful of (your duty to) Allah; and on Allah let the believers rely.”<sup>1</sup>**

### Brothers and Sisters!

This verse was actually revealed to inform how Allah the Exalted assisted and supported the army of Islam with His angles in the Battle of the Trench. But Allah's assurance always was realized in many turning points throughout history. It came true in Manzikert, in Çanakkale, in Sakarya, in Dumlupınar. And as a nation, we witnessed a year ago on July 15 that Allah's assurance was realized. That night, we faced a big attempt of treason and invasion as a country and nation. On that dark night, we witnessed once again that Allah did not spare His favor, grace, assistance, and blessing from us. For that reason, our most important duty on the anniversary of July 15 is to never forget Allah's favor and grace, His mercy and assistance. As believers who overcame this great calamity shoulder to shoulder, we must always thank Allah, show gratitude to Him, and prostrate ourselves before Him.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Another fact we must never forget is the prayers and supplications said in tears that night by oppressed, aggrieved, and deprived brothers and sisters around the world who have pinned their hopes on us. We all witnessed that night that from Gaza to Sarajevo, Kirkuk to Somalia, Sudan to Pakistan, the steppes of Asia to the other end of Africa all the oppressed, the downtrodden, the deprived, the immigrants, and the refugees of the world prayed for our nation. They shed tears in prostration praying “Do not let the last bastion of Islam's Ummah fall.” That night, we all experienced the meaning of our Beloved Prophet's (pbuh) hadith, **“Believers are like building blocks of a structure. They make sure the survival of one another.”<sup>2</sup>**

### Venerable Muslims!

Another fact we must keep alive in our minds at all times is the spirit of unity, togetherness, and solidarity

that our nation and state displayed hand in hand with our youth and elders, women and men. We all witnessed on July 15 that our glorious nation took to the streets upon the call of our statesmen to defend their own homeland, rights, law, free will, independence, and freedom with takbir on their lips, sala in their ears, and the desire for martyrdom in their hearts. That night, our glorious nation showed the entire world once again that magnificent spirit described in our National Anthem: “What madman shall put me in chains? I defy the very idea! I'm like the roaring flood; trampling my banks and overcoming my body!” Particularly the fact that our youth performed ablution saying “bismillah,” left home reciting the Kalima Shahadat, and took to streets with “Allahu Akbar” chants was the biggest hope for the future of our nation.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Another point we must always remember is that the salas sounding from minarets that night kept us well and alive as a nation and aroused our spiritual feelings and collective consciousness and will. Salas witnessed how a nation reared up and banded together around its values. Because our greatest strength that makes us a nation and that delivered us from darkness into light that night is our unwavering faith in Allah. It is our will to never bow to any other power than Him.

### Honorable Believers!

Another point we must never forget is that the treason and invasion we faced that night was committed under the cover of religion. We witnessed on the night of July 15 that a network of treason that exploited this nation's religion, faith, values, sentiments, charity, alms, and zakat for 40 years by pretending to be good-doers targeted the very existence of our nation. A movement of discord that wasted several generations by stealing people's children aimed at the survival of our country for the goals of invaders. This invasion attempt showed us once again that we must learn our great religion from accurate sources. We must experience Islam in the best way under the guidance of Quran and Sunnah. We must not veer away from the path that built civilizations throughout history. We must not build such a grand truth as religion upon individuals. We must not abandon the path of knowledge and wisdom so that we never experience such evil and treachery again and bow to movements of evil that disguise themselves in the color of goodness.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Lastly, another fact we must not forget is to always gratefully and fondly remember our great martyrs who sacrificed their lives for our values, and our veterans who carry their wounds like a medal of independence. May Allah rest the soul of our martyrs! May He let them join the martyrs of Badr, Uhud, Trench, Manzikert, Çanakkale, and Sakarya. May He reward and cure all our veterans! And May He never let us veer away from their path!

<sup>1</sup> Al-Ma'idah, 5/11.

<sup>2</sup> Bukhari, Salât, 88; Muslim, Birr ve Silâ, 65.

## بيان العزاء والتشنيع

وَمِنْ أَطْلَمِ مِنْ مَنْ مَنَعَ مَسَاجِدَ اللَّهِ أَنْ يُذْكَرَ فِيهَا اسْمُهُ وَسَعَى فِي حَرَابِهَا أُولَئِكَ  
مَا كَانَ لَهُمْ أَنْ يَدْخُلُوهَا إِلَّا خَاتِمُنَّا لَهُمْ فِي الدُّنْيَا حَرَزٌ وَلَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ  
عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ

عَنْ مَيْمُونَةَ مَوْلَةِ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: قُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ,  
أَفَتَنَا فِي بَيْتِ الْمَقْدِسِ. قَالَ: أَرْضُ الْمَخْشَرِ وَالْمَنْشَرِ، أُنْثُوَةُ قَصَّلَوَا فِيهِ  
فَإِنَّ صَلَاتَةَ فِيهِ كَالْفَ صَلَاتَةٍ فِي غَيْرِهِ

### OUR UNENDING SORROW: JERUSALEM AND MASJID AL-AQSA

#### Honorable Believers!

Our Prophet's (pbuh) wife Maymunah asked him: "O Messenger of Allah! Would you tell us about Baitul Maqdis?" Allah's Messenger says: **"It is the land of the Resurrection and the Gathering. Go and pray there, for one prayer there is like one thousand prayers elsewhere."** When Maymunah asks, "What if I cannot travel and go there, o Messenger of Allah?" the Messenger of Mercy answers: **"Then send a gift of oil to light its lamps, for whoever does that is like one who goes there."**<sup>1</sup>

#### Venerable Muslims!

Imagine a city that was the home to many prophets' fight for oneness. Imagine a city that was the qibla of three monotheistic religions. Imagine a city that was deemed sacred and blessed with its name and site. That city is Jerusalem, the holy city, also known as Baitul Maqdis. The cradle of civilizations for thousands of years and an attraction center, Jerusalem and its surrounding region witnessed many prophets like Abraham, Ishmael, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Solomon, and Jesus. Masjid al-Aqsa, the first qibla of Islam and the place where our Prophet (pbuh) experience Isra and Mi'raj<sup>2</sup> are also in Jerusalem. Allah's Messenger wanted us to have a spiritual bond with Baitul Maqdis for that reason. He advised us to perform umrah in that city.<sup>3</sup>

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Jerusalem achieved peace with the conquest of Caliph Umar. Especially during the Ottoman period, Muslims ruled justly and mercifully, never intervening in the life, property and religious freedom of people from different religions. In fact, non-Muslims sought the justice of Islam in resolving disputes among themselves. The best example of our religion's vast tolerance and embracing understanding is the inscription on the inner wall of Bab el-Khalil. Our ancestors wrote, "La ilah ilallah, Ibrahim Halilullah," which means "There is no god but Allah, Ibrahim is His friend." Thus, they engraved on the walls of Jerusalem the name of Abraham who is considered a prophet by members of all monotheistic religions.

#### Honorable Believers!

It should be stated regretfully that Jerusalem, which has been the Darussalam or the center of peace and calm in history, has been in grief for a long time. Masjid al-Aqsa, our first qibla, is wounded. Jerusalem is now far away from being the city of peace after experiencing all kinds of transgressions. The ancient city that has in its every corner the collective traces and memories of humankind now longs for peace. The unity, togetherness, and most sacred values of believers are targeted more and more every day in the land of prophets. Innocent people are murdered in cold blood. Muslims are cruelly and barbarically prevented from worshipping in their own mosques. Friday prayer could not be performed at Masjid al-Aqsa last week for the first time since 1967. It should be remembered that there can be no legal grounds, no religious basis, and no humane reason for shutting down a temple. On those who keep people off their temples and destroy those temples, Allah enjoins the following quite clearly: **"Who are more unjust than those who prevent the name of Allah from being mentioned in His mosques and strive toward their destruction? It is not for them to enter them except in fear. For them in this world is disgrace, and they will have in the Hereafter a great punishment."**<sup>4</sup>

#### Honorable Believers!

As our region suffers great pain, the incidents in and around Masjid al-Aqsa have caused tremendous concern for every person with common sense. We believe that the occupation will end at once in this holy land that houses prophets, and reason, moderation, and peace will prevail. It is our greatest wish that common sense comes into action in Jerusalem, the heart of Muslims and the common value of all humankind.

It is a fact that as Muslims there are no embarrassing inhumane practices in our history such as right violations, cruelty, and savagery. However, all the disasters, cruelty, and oppression suffered by our brothers and sisters today teach us a lesson. We must strengthen our brotherhood of faith with the mentality of an Ummah as soon as possible. We must protect the dignity, rights, and gains of one another. Each one of us must work with all our power to make the Ummah of Islam a glorious one again.

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

We as a nation have never broken our spiritual ties with Jerusalem and Masjid al-Aqsa throughout history. We cannot. With that mentality, we open our hands in Friday prayer and supplicate to Allah: O Allah! Make us feel in our hearts the pain of all oppressed brothers and sisters in Jerusalem and around the world! Do not let us side with the short-sighted, the unwise, the heartless, and the cruel! O Allah! Do not allow those who attempt to occupy Masjid al-Aqsa and the cities of Islam! Help our Muslim brothers and sisters so they may overcome the hardships they are going through as soon as possible! Grant us to keep justice alive once again as a glorious Ummah! Answer our prayers on this blessed Friday, o Allah!

<sup>1</sup> Ibn Majah, İkâmetü's-Salât, 196; Abu Dawud, Salât, 14.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Isra, 17/1.

<sup>3</sup> Abu Dawud, Salât, 14; Ibn Majah, Menâsik, 49.

<sup>4</sup> Al-Baqarah, 2/114.

الحمد لله رب العالمين

الَّذِي خَلَقَنِي فَهُوَ يَهْدِنِي (78) وَالَّذِي هُوَ يُطْعِمُنِي وَيَسْقِيْنِي (79)

وَإِذَا مَرِضْتُ فَهُوَ يَشْفِيْنِي (80) وَالَّذِي يُمِيتُنِي ثُمَّ يُحْبِيْنِي (81)

وَالَّذِي أَطْمَعُ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ لِي خَطَّيْتِي يَوْمَ الْدِينِ (82)

فَالَّرَبُّ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي كَفَانِي وَأَوْاَنِي وَأَطْعَمَنِي وَسَقَانِي وَالَّذِي مَنَّ عَلَيَّ فَأَفْصَلَ  
وَالَّذِي أَغْطَانِي فَأَجْزَلَنِي. الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ عَلَى كُلِّ حَالٍ. اللَّهُمَّ ارْبَكْ كُلَّ شَنِيءٍ وَمَلِكَهُ  
وَإِلَهَ كُلِّ شَنِيءٍ أَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ النَّارِ.

## ALLAH IS THE ONE WHO CREATES, GIVES LIFE AND GUIDANCE

### A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

Despite all the efforts of our Prophet (pbuh), the pagans of Mecca did not abandon their false beliefs and their habits that did not fit within the boundaries of honor and dignity. They did not come to accept the belief in Tawheed, the fact that there is no god other than Allah. One day they came to our Prophet and said, "Tell us about your Lord!" After that, Our Almighty Lord has revealed the Surah Al-Ikhlas, which describes the faith of Tawheed in a concise way and introduces Himself to mankind in the most beautiful way:

“Say: ‘He is Allah, the One and Only’ “الله الصمد” “God the Eternal, the Uncaused Cause of All Being.” “He begets not, and neither is He begotten.” وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَّهُ كُفُواً أَحَدٌ” “And there is nothing that could be compared with Him”<sup>1</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

Our Book, Holy Qur'an, is a book that describes our Lord Allah to us from cover to cover. It is a handbook of guidance that teaches us to believe in Him, to surrender to Him, to worship Him; that shows us the ways towards a humane life and peace. Now I want to share with you in today's khutba the verses<sup>2</sup> of the Surah Ash-Shu'ara, which describes our Lord to us in the most beautiful way.

### Venerable Believers!

Our Almighty Lord enjoins: الَّذِي خَلَقَنِي فَهُوَ يَهْدِنِي  
That is to say, Our Lord is the creator and the guide. Through His prophets and books, He shows us the sirat al-mustaqim – the straight path. Our task is to be the followers of this path. It is to stay out of evil and to spread goodness on earth within our power.

وَالَّذِي هُوَ يُطْعِمُنِي وَيَسْقِيْنِي

That is to say, Allah is the One who favors us each drop of the water we drink and each bite of the food we eat. Our task is to seek halal sustenance. It is not to forget that each blessing, each opportunity is entrusted to us by our Lord. It is to be able to see both wealth and poverty as a test. Just as our Prophet (pbuh) said, it is to be grateful by saying: “All praise and thanks be to Allah in all circumstances.”<sup>3</sup>

وَإِذَا مَرِضْتُ فَهُوَ يَشْفِيْنِي

Our Almighty Lord enjoins: That is to say, Allah is the healer of illnesses. He blesses the suffering with remedies. He is the help to the helpless, hope to the hopeless. Our task is to never give the opportunity to those who want to exploit our beliefs, our sincerity, our feelings through our hardships and despair. It is to take refuge only in our Lord's mercy. It is to place our trust in Him only. It is to endure illness and calamity with patience, fortitude and submission; knowing that they are trials for us.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

وَالَّذِي يُمِيتُنِي ثُمَّ يُحْبِيْنِي

That is to say, Allah is the sole owner of life and death. He is the One who gives life, and who is going to take it when the time comes. Our Lord is going to revive us after we die. He is going to question us for our actions. He is going to give everyone what they exactly deserve. Our task is to stay true to our faith to the very last breath. It is to make our life blessed with righteous deeds. It is to be ready for death and the day of judgment at all times.

Allah wants us to hope for his mercy by enjoining: وَالَّذِي أَطْمَعُ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ لِي خَطَّيْتِي يَوْمَ الْدِينِ Because He never lets down those who stay true to their faith, those who surrender to Him with all their heart. Our task is not to insist on sins and mistakes. It is to take refuge in our Lord's name, At-Tawwab, with repentance that is the recognition of our helplessness and manifestation of our penitence. It is to pay no attention to those who promise us eternal salvation. It is to remember that our salvation depends only on the will of our Lord, with the guidance of Qur'an and as a result of a life that is lived under the teachings of our Prophet (pbuh).

### Brothers and Sisters!

I want to conclude this khutba with the prayer taught to us in Surah Ash-Shu'ara through the mouth of Prophet Ibrahim: “O our Lord! Bestow wisdom on us, and join us with the righteous! Grant us an honorable mention in later generations! Place us among the inheritors of the Garden of Delight! Do not put us to shame on the Day when all shall be raised from the dead!”

<sup>1</sup> Al-Ikhlas, 112/1-4.

<sup>2</sup> Ash-Shu'ara, 26/78-82.

<sup>3</sup> Abu Dawud, Good Manners and Form, 97, 98.

## لِقَاءُ الْمُتَّسِعِ

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هُنَّا وَإِذَا خَاطَبُهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ

فَالْأُولُوا سَلَامًا ﴿٦٣﴾

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ :

لَيْسَ الْمُؤْمِنُ بِالْطَّعَانِ وَلَا اللَّعَانِ وَلَا الْفَاحِشِ وَلَا النَّدِيَءِ

### BEING THE DEVOUT SERVANT OF THE MOST MERCIFUL

#### My Dear Brothers!

Once the Prophet ﷺ, when talking to his Sahaba, briefly described the good characteristics a Muslim should possess as follows: **A believer is like a bee which eats that which is pure and wholesome and lays that which is pure and wholesome. When it lands on something it does not break or ruin it.”<sup>1</sup>**

#### Dear Believers!

Our great Lord praises his servants in the Quran al-Karim. He promises them eternal blessing which no eyes have seen, no ears have heard and no mind has imagined. Come, and let us today in this Khutbah all heed to the traits of those servants, who have been blessed with praise of the most Merciful.

#### My Brothers!

The devout servants of the most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth with humility. They never act arrogant, get full of themselves or think they are better than others. For they know that the way to betterment goes through being dutiful and responsible to Allah. Getting proud and arrogant, lording over others will only distance the person from the Mercy and pleasure of Allah.

The devout servants of the most Merciful, وَإِذَا خَاطَبُهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ فَالْأُولُوا سَلَامًا would abstain from vain speech and actions that has no benefit in this world or the next. They do not heed taunts of the ignorant. They say “Peace” and walk away. For they know that stepping over the line, arrogance and being vulgar, are not actions befitting of a believer. What is fitting of a believer is being considerate, act respectful, be far sighted and not to stray from moderation. His example in this is the warning of our Prophet ﷺ: **“A Muslim cannot be a rude, shameless person who slanders, curses and is bad mouthed.”<sup>2</sup>**

#### My Dear Brothers!

The devout servants of the most Merciful are those who have submit themselves to Allah from the bottom of their hearts. The most open manifestation of this submission is their reverent prostration in the silence of the night. The expressions of their loyalty are the prayers and Istighfar which they direct to Allah with sincerity in the providence of the dawn. They are the ones who plead regrettably from their heart دَيْنَا اصْرَفْ عَنَّا عَذَابَ جَهَنَّمْ “Our Lord, avert from us the punishment of Hell!” when they sin.

The devout servants of the most Merciful,

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَنْفَقُوا مَا لَمْ يُسْرِفُوا وَلَمْ يَنْفِرُوا وَكَانَ بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ قَوْماً are neither stingy nor wasteful. They seek to keep the balance between these two in their spendings. They abstain from wasting the wealth, time,

and health which our great Lord has given as a blessing. They believe that one day all blessings that have been given will be brought to account. And when necessary they do not back down from any sacrifice for Allah.

#### My Dear Brothers!

The devout servants of the most Merciful are always honest and straight as the letter Alif. They do not stray from the Sirat al-Mustaqim for a second. They do not bow before any being other than Allah. They reserve their servitude just to him. They do not let their minds or hearts be imprisoned to any mortal. They do not slay a life decreed Haram by Allah. They do not get involved in adultery. They do not commit actions that would harm the honour or Iffah of a human.

The devout servants of the most Merciful, وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَشْهُدُونَ الزُّورَ وَإِذَا مَرُوا بِالْغُنْوِ مَرُوا كَرَاماً abstain from one of the biggest sins, being a false witness. They do not corrupt their minds with bad thoughts. They do not turn their tongues into poisonous arrows by lying and slandering. They do not believe in baseless words or get bothered by bad situations. For they know all of these are the sources of evil, Fitnah and corruption; the reason of all unrest and degeneration. The duty of a believer is to always protect the Truth. To always be at the side of the right. Be the interpreter of the truth.

The devout servants of the most Merciful, وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا دُكِنُوا بِأَيْلَكِ رَبِيعٍ لَمْ يَخِرُوا عَلَيْهَا صَمَدًا وَعَمِيَّا do not turn blind and deaf when they are reminded of the verses of their Lord. They try to understand our book of life, the Quran, correctly and to live in accordance with it in the best possible way. They contemplate the universe we live in and the perfect Ayah of Allah, the human. They see life and events that happen as lessons.

#### My Dear Brothers!

The devout servants of the most Merciful pray “**Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous.**”

وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا مَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا فُرَةٌ أَعْنَى وَاجْتَلَنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا

Those will be awarded the highest places of Paradise for their patience. They will be received therein with greetings and peace and abiding eternally therein. What a good settlement and residence this is!<sup>3</sup>

How happy is he who can be the devout servant of the most Merciful! How happy is he, who lives according to the purpose and wisdom of his creation, and wins the pleasure of Allah! How happy is he, who follows the path of peace! How happy is he, who changes this mortal world into an immortal profit!

<sup>1</sup> Ibn Hanbel, II, 199.

<sup>2</sup> Tirmizi, Birr, 48; Ibn Hanbel, I, 405.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Furkān, 25/63-76.

لِهُمَا تَكْبِرُونَ

اللَّهُ أَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَقُّ لَا تَأْخُذْنَاهُ سِنَةً وَلَا تَنْهَمْ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ  
مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عَنْهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفُهُمْ  
وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَئٍ مِّنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسَعَ كُرْسِيُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ  
وَلَا يَؤْدِهِ حِفْظُهُمْ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ الْعَظِيمِ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
مَنْ قَرَأَ آيَةَ الْكُرْسِيِّ فِي ذِبْرِ الصَّلَاةِ الْمُكْتُوبَةِ كَانَ فِي دُمَّةِ اللَّوْلَى إِلَى الصَّلَاةِ الْأُخْرَى

### THE TRUTHS WE LEARN FROM AYAT-AL KURSI

#### A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

There is a magnificent verse in the Holy Quran that is called Ayat al-Kursi (The Throne Verse). In this verse, our Lord introduces Himself to us in a concise manner. He gives examples from His beautiful names. Our Prophet (pbuh) recommends us to recite this verse by saying: “Those who recite Ayat al-Kursi after a prayer will stay under Allah’s protection until the next one.”<sup>1</sup> Let us listen the truths that our Lord teaches us in Ayat al-Kursi<sup>2</sup> in today’s khutba.

#### Honorable Believers!

The first truth that our Lord teaches us in Ayat al-Kursi is **اللَّهُ أَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ** that there is no god but Allah. We are all servants of Allah. We are helpless against His might. We are all in need of his help, mercy and forgiveness. He is our only sanctuary, only support that we could open our hands and ask for mercy against many troubles of this world. Our task is to be a rightful servant to our Lord. It is to stay on the straight path, As-Sirat Al-Mustaqim, that the Quran and our Prophet (pbuh) guide us towards.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord is **اللَّهُ أَلَّا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ**. He is ever-living, eternal. He is the One who gives and takes life. He is the sustainer of all existence. Our task is to live our lives conscious that the world is mortal and this life is merely entrusted to us.

**لَا تَأْخُذْنَاهُ سِنَةً وَلَا تَنْهَمْ**

Allah is beyond the attributes of His creation. He knows and commands our every moment and every action. Our task is to never forget that our Lord is nearer to us than our jugular vein.

**لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ**

To Him belongs whatever is in the universe. The Dominion, The Sovereignty and The Blessing are His. Wealth and poverty, abundance and scarcity all came from Him. Our task is to have a tongue that recites, a heart that

thanks and a mind that contemplates under any circumstances.

**مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عَنْهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ**

Nobody could help us or harm us except with His permission. What would give us value in the sight of Allah is our good deeds and our faith, submission and loyalty towards Him. Our task is to stay true to our pact of faith with our Lord. It is to submit to His approval only our good deeds, our penitence and prayers.

#### Honorable Believers!

Another truth Ayat al-Kursi teaches us is

**يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفُهُمْ**

, meaning nothing will be hidden from our Lord or be a secret to Him. He knows every word that comes of our mouth, each feeling in our hearts and every thought in our minds. Our task is to refrain from evil with all of our being. It is to make our hands, tongue, mind and heart a center and servant of goodness.

**وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَئٍ مِّنْ عِلْمٍ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ**

Our Lord is the only source of knowledge and truth. We know only what He teaches us. We hear only what He allows us to hear. We speak only what He allows us to speak. We see only what He allows us to see. Our task is always to be on the side of what is right. It is to be the speaker of the truth. It is to remove obstacles on the way of the truth within our power. It is to be aware of those who deceives people by disguising as a good person.

**وَسَعَ كُرْسِيُّ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَا يَؤْدِهِ حِفْظُهُمْ**

Our Lord’s might, supremacy, greatness and knowledge encompasses all. He is the One who rules over everything without any weariness. Our task is to be a servant and pray only and only for the Lord of the Worlds. It is not to worship any other. Because

**وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ الْعَظِيمِ**

Allah is the Most High, the Most Great. We recite this truth in each rakat of our prayers.

We say in our rukus (bowings) **سُبْحَانَ رَبِّي الْعَظِيمِ** and in our sujuds (prostrations) **سُبْحَانَ رَبِّي الْأَعْلَى**, meaning we praise our Lord by saying “How Perfect is my Lord! You are beyond any flaw.”

#### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Come! Let us contemplate the profound meaning within Ayat al-Kursi. Let this verse that we recite every day be a verbal expression of our pact of faith with our Lord. Shielding us against evil, let this verse that we recite after prayers protect us from the malice, calamity and troubles of the wicked. May our Lord never allow us to leave the truths of Ayat al-Kursi, the principles of our Holy Book.

<sup>1</sup> Taberânî, el-Mu’cemü'l-Kebîr, III, 83.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Bakara, 2/255.

وَنَلِلْلٰمَطَفِفِينَ ۝ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَكْتَالُوا عَلَى النَّاسِ يَسْتَوْفُونَ ۝  
وَإِذَا كَالُوهُمْ أَوْ زَرَوْهُمْ يُخْسِرُونَ ۝ لَا يَطْمُنُ أُولُئِكَ أَنَّهُمْ مَبْغُوثُونَ ۝  
لِيَوْمٍ عَظِيمٍ ۝ يَوْمٌ يَقُومُ النَّاسُ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ۝  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللّٰهِ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
... مَنْ غَشَّنَا فَأَنِيسَ مِنَّا

## ETHICS OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Our Prophet (pbuh) occasionally visited the bazaar of Medina. He observed the people who traded and dealt with each other and talked with them. He warned those who behaved wrong or had a wrong attitude. Indeed, our Lord Almighty sent these verses which contains vital warnings regarding trade: “**Woe unto those who give short measure: those who, when they are to receive their due from (other) people, demand that it be given in full –but when they have to measure or weigh whatever they owe to others, give less than what is due! Do they not know that they are bound to be raised from the dead (and called to account) on an awesome Day –the Day when all men shall stand before the Sustainer of all the worlds?**”<sup>1</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

After these verses were revealed, the believers began to be more careful and precise when conducting trade under the guidance of our Prophet.<sup>2</sup> Our Master, Allah’s Messenger (pbuh) was very pleased with this. He encouraged them to conduct trade with this prayer: “**O Lord! Give your blessings to the scales, measurements and trade of these people!**”<sup>3</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

Islam taught us a trade ethic, a commercial ethic. Being and behaving honest while refraining from lying and deceiving is at the heart of this ethic. Because honesty and righteousness are required of a believer. They are a must if we are to live our lives as a virtuous individual. Moreover, a believer should wear the cloak of truthfulness in every aspect of his life, not just in trade.

The verse of our Lord Almighty, **فَاسْتَقِمْ كَمَا أُمِرْتَ** “**Therefore stand firm (in the straight path) as thou art commanded**”<sup>4</sup> is the anchor point of a believer’s words, actions and attitude. Our Prophet’s (pbuh) warning, **مَنْ غَشَّنَا فَأَنِيسَ مِنَّا** “**Whoever cheats us is not one of us**”<sup>5</sup> is an essential principle in a believer’s relationship with other people.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: “**The trustworthy, honest Muslim merchant will be with the Prophets, the honest men, and martyrs on the Day of Resurrection.**”<sup>6</sup> As this hadith states, being honest and open in trade and commerce is an important principle.

This is one of the most beautiful example of it: One of his companions came to our Prophet (pbuh) to ask about certain issues that bothered him regarding trade. The Messenger of Allah listened him carefully and advised him: “**When you want to buy something, state the price you want. And when you want to sell something, state its value in the market, not higher.**”<sup>7</sup>

### Esteemed Brothers and Sisters!

Our Prophet (pbuh) warned us in this hadith: “**It is not permissible for a Muslim to sell his brother goods in which there is a defect, without pointing that out to him.**”<sup>8</sup> Because hiding the defect of a good destroys the divine blessing in trade as well as the trust between people. Even though the seller seems like making a profit, his only profit will be disappointment. Knowing this, a believer couldn’t see all the ways leading to profit and gain as fair. He wouldn’t resort to ways like deceitful advertising, cheating, unfair competition and exorbitant profit. He wouldn’t profit from the loss of others. He’d know deceiving others is actually deceiving himself. Indeed, Lord Almighty informs us about the destruction of communities in the past because they did not conduct trade honestly and spread corruption on earth.<sup>9</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

One of the main principles of trade ethics is to take care that the profit from trade is halal. A believer who believes that he is certainly going to account for his actions would not mix haram in his income. In this context, it is not permissible for a Muslim to trade the things our Lord Almighty forbids. A Muslim must refrain from trading alcohol and drugs, gambling or tax evasion.

### Beloved Believers!

As painful as it is, some lose their sentiment on halal income day by day. Some could act as if everything is fair, driven only by profit and their interests. Some could be a slave to greed, avarice, earning more without rules; in short, a slave to earthly goods. Some even carelessly and immodestly exploit the material and spiritual gains of the greatest sign of Allah, the humans.

Like in every other aspect of our lives, what really matters in trade is the approval of our Lord Almighty. So come! Let us build our income on righteousness and truthfulness. Let us respect the rightful due of others and make our tables and our lives plentiful. Let us be careful to ensure no ill-gotten food comes into our house. Let this hadith of our Prophet (pbuh) be a standard for us in trade and commerce: “**This property is like a sweet fresh fruit; whoever takes it without greediness, he is blessed in it, and whoever takes it with greediness, he is not blessed in it.**”<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Al-Mutaffifin, 83/1-6.

<sup>2</sup> Ibn Majah, The Chapters on Business Transactions, 35.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Bukhari, Sales and Trade, 53.

<sup>4</sup> Al-Hud, 11/112.

<sup>5</sup> Muslim, Faith, 164.

<sup>6</sup> Tirmizi, The Book on Business, 4.

<sup>7</sup> Ibn Majah, The Chapters on Business Transactions, 29.

<sup>8</sup> Ibn Majah, The Chapters on Business Transactions, 45.

<sup>9</sup> Al-Hud, 11/84-95.

<sup>10</sup> Al-Bukhari, Obligatory Charity Tax, 50.

**LOCATION : NATIONWIDE**  
**DATE : 25.08.2017**

لِشَاءَ اللَّهُ الْجَمِيعُ

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

مَا عَمِلَ آدَمٌ مِّنْ عَمَلٍ يَوْمَ التَّخْرِيجِ أَحَبٌ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ إِهْرَاقِ الدَّمِ

## SACRIFICE: THE SEARCH FOR BEING CLOSE TO ALLAH

### Honorable Believers!

Our Lord Almighty commands in the verse I have just recited: “**Say: ‘Indeed, my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, Lord of the worlds.’**”<sup>1</sup>

Our Prophet (pbuh) says in the hadith I have just read: “**A human does no action from the actions on the days of sacrifice feast more beloved to Allah than sacrifice...**”<sup>2</sup>

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Our hearts are once again filled with the excitement of the sacrifice feast which helps us to spiritually get close to Allah Almighty and strengthen our brotherhood. Endless praise and thanks be to our Almighty Lord who let us reach these blessed days. Next Friday, we Muslims are going to observe the feast together. With the delight of good deeds we obtained through our sacrifices and the joy of the feast, we will try to achieve our greatest desire together: the countenance of our Lord.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Sacrifice is the search for being close to Allah Almighty. Sacrifice is the name of submission and loyalty, love and faithfulness, sacrifice and sharing.

Sacrifice is a spiritual journey full of wisdom and lessons. In this journey, we recall Habil and Qabil, the sons of Adam, who were tried for their sincerity and truthfulness. Sincerity and modesty won, while insincerity and greed lost in this trial. Because the condition of acceptance for all prayers sincerity and truthfulness.

### Brothers and Sisters!

The memory of Ibrahim and his son Ismail is embedded in the ritual of sacrifice as an example of loyalty and submission. In this trial, Ibrahim and his beloved Ismail showed that anything that we have could be sacrificed on the path of Allah without hesitation. From that day to this, the believers see the ultimate loyalty in Ibrahim and the ultimate submission in Ismail.

And indeed, there is the faithfulness, sacrifice and generosity of our Master Muhammad Mustapha (pbuh) in the ritual of sacrifice. For his ummah, sacrifice has become the name of the trial for sharing, helping and being brothers and sisters.

### Dear Muslims!

Our sacrifices get us close to our Lord while giving some meaning and profoundness to our humanity. Sacrifice reminds us our responsibilities above all. It helps us to review the values that we forget in the course of our daily lives and to patiently walk on the straight path. Sacrifice actually implies that we should not be the prisoners of our desires and wants but climb the steps of servitude with sincerity. Because our sacrifice is a statement of sincerity and servitude that we offer to our Lord. Our Lord informs us about this truth with this verse: “**Their meat will not reach Allah, nor will their blood, but what reaches Him is piety from you.**”<sup>3</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

Sacrifice is a demonstration of our awareness of helping and sharing on the path of Allah. Sacrifice is putting a smile to the faces of the needy, the poor, the destitute and the desolate. It is to share the joy of the feast with those who can't observe the feast. Sacrifice is getting close to our Lord, while also getting closer to our neighbors, relatives, kith and kin, in short to each other. From this perspective, sacrifice is a touch of brotherhood, a helping hand that we extend towards our brothers whom we don't know and never seen before, in so many countries that we don't even know the name of.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Just as salah, zakat and fasting; sacrifice is a distinctive ritual. Just as helping the poor, desolate, the needy and doing good; sacrifice is a beautiful prayer. This ritual has conditions and elements of its own. The essential condition in sacrifice is that the person who has enough money or possessions must personally sacrifice the animal that meets the necessary conditions for the countenance of Allah. Therefore, the ritual of sacrifice cannot be transformed to financial aid.

### Brothers and Sisters!

The Directorate of Religious Affairs and Turkiye Diyanet Foundation arranged an organization of sacrificing by proxy this year as before. The sacrifices of our generous and benevolent people will be given to the downtrodden and destitute brothers and sisters, both inside our country and abroad. Thus, the bridges of brotherhood will be supported and strengthened. Each sacrifice that our honorable nation give to our brothers and sisters in need will be the proof that humanity and brotherhood are not dead; that the compassion of humans is not exhausted. The sacrifices that show the generosity of our nation will say “We are here” to the helpless, “We are with you” to the needy and “We are together” to the poor.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Sacrificial animal donations will be accepted until October 1, and our offices of mufti will continue to serve you on holidays. With this feelings and thoughts, I ask our Lord to let all of us reach the feast in peace and accept our sacrifices.

<sup>1</sup> Al-An'am, 6/162.

<sup>2</sup> At-Tirmidhi, The Book on Sacrifices, 1.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Haj, 22/37.

**LOCATION : NATIONWIDE**  
**DATE : 25.08.2017**

لِشَاءَ اللَّهُ الْجَمِيعُ

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<sup>1</sup> Al-An'am, 6/162.

<sup>2</sup> At-Tirmidhi, The Book on Sacrifices, 1.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Haj, 22/37.

لِسْتَ بِرَبِّ الْجَاهِلِينَ

وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا الْلَّغُو أَغْرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَقَالُوا إِنَّا أَعْمَلْنَا وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَالُكُمْ  
سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ لَا تَبْغِي الْجَاهِلِينَ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
مِنْ خُسْنِ إِسْلَامِ الْمُرْءَ تَرْكُهُ مَا لَا يَعْتَدُ

## THE MANIFESTATION OF FAITH AND ISLAM: REFRAINING FROM FRIVOLOUS THINGS

Honorable Brothers and Sisters! A Blessed Friday and Eid to you all.

Praise be to our Lord Almighty who granted us Muslims the joy of this Eid and let us reach this holy Eid, this Friday. Salutations and peace be to our Prophet who taught us the faith, Islam, prayers and morals, thanks and praise.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord Almighty says in the verse I have recited: “And when they hear vain talk, they turn away therefrom and say: Unto us shall be accounted our deeds, and unto you, your deeds. Peace be to you - (but) we seek not the ignorant.”<sup>1</sup>

Our Prophet (pbuh) says in the hadith I have recited: “Surely, of the excellence of a person's Islam is that he leaves what does not concern him.”<sup>2</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

Today is a great day where we observe two feasts at once. Today is the day of joy which our Lord gifted us to allow us to unite and socialize, and to let our brothers feel our compassion towards them. Today is a bountiful and blessed day where talbiyahs are mixed with takbeers, prayers and invocations.

### Honorable Believers!

Eids are not just days of joy, merriness and vacation. Eids are also days that give meaning to a believer's life and get him closer to his Lord and his brothers. These are the days where peace and happiness are multiplied among Muslims through sharing and sadness and sorrow are decreased through helping each other. We, as Muslims, are going to observe this Eid with this mindset. We will try to live each moment of our lives and this Eid with words and behaviors that our Lord would approve. Because a believer is a person who refrains from words, attitudes and behaviors that are of no help to himself, his kith and kin or humanity.

### Brothers and Sisters!

To believe is to take responsibility. In this sense, each blessing that is given to us demands a praise. Each opportunity that is granted to us brings a responsibility with it. Utilizing and protecting these opportunities and resources in the way of our Lord's countenance and for the good of humanity is the most important responsibility that we have.

In this context, our tongue should not turn to lies but to truth. Our words should not articulate falsehood but truth. Our eyes should not seek sedition and malice, but amelioration and peace. Our hands should always reach for the good, not the bad. Our minds should give off goodness and beauty around us, not evilness and ugliness. Our hearts should not spread hatred and grudge but love and affection.

### Brothers and Sisters!

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: “The feet of the son of Adam shall not move from before his Lord on the Day of Judgement, until he is asked about five things: about his life and what he did with it, about his youth and what he wore it out in, about his wealth and how he earned it and spent it upon, and what he did with what he knew.”<sup>3</sup>

### Venerable Muslims!

As one can understand from this hadith, we are all heading towards a day of judgement with speed. Our only capital in this journey is our life, so precious that we couldn't afford to waste a second of it. Our biggest strength in this journey is our faith and submission to Allah. Our earnings are our good deeds and actions. To waste all of this, to spend them all in vain would be our biggest loss and defeat.

Our task in this journey of life is to refrain from frivolous words, attitudes and behaviors. Because frivolous words and behaviors keep our minds needlessly busy, damage our reputation and character, and over time, make us their prisoners. Occupations that do not help us in this world and hereafter will not bring us goodness, blessings and kindness. Just the opposite, it will kill our time and consume our life.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Nowadays, some frivolous and time consuming tv shows, web-sites and games have nearly created an industry of uselessness. Such occupations that add no benefit to this world and hereafter drives a person away from himself, his environment and his Lord. They alienate him to his brothers. But a Muslim only feels the blessing of time when he turns towards good deeds that are useful for both realms. A Muslim will become honorable and be respected to the extent that he displays words, attitudes and behaviors worthy of his humanity.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

I want to conclude the khutba with this prayer that our Prophet (pbuh) taught us: “O Allah! I seek refuge in You from the evil of my hearing; the evil of my sight; the evil of my tongue; and from the evil of my heart”<sup>4</sup> O Lord! Protect us from all these!

<sup>1</sup> Al-Qasas, 28/55.

<sup>2</sup> At-Tirmidhi, Chapters on Zuhd, 11.

<sup>3</sup> At-Tirmidhi, Chapters on the description of the Day of Judgement, Ar-Riqaq, and Al-Wara', 1.

<sup>4</sup> Sahih al-Jami No. 1303.

**LOCATION : NATIONWIDE**  
**DATE : 01.09.2017**



لَن يَنْالَ اللَّهُ لُحُومُهَا وَلَا دِمَاؤُهَا وَلَكِنْ يَنْالُهُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْكُمْ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

اللَّهُمَّ تَقْبِلْ مِنْ مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ وَمِنْ أُمَّةِ مُحَمَّدٍ

## EID AL-ADHA

Assalatu wassalamu alaika Ya Rasool Allah!

Assalatu wassalamu alaika Ya Habeeb Allah!

Assalatu wassalamu alaika Ya Sayyid al Awwalin wal Akhirin

## Honorable Brothers and Sisters! Eid Mubarak to You All!

Praise and thanks be to our Lord Almighty who granted us such a joyful Eid.

### Honorable Believers!

Our Lord Almighty says in the verse I have recited:  
**“It is neither their meat nor their blood that reaches Allah, but it is piety from you that reaches Him.”<sup>1</sup>**

Our Prophet sacrificed his animals with the prayer in the hadith I have recited on an Eid like this one: **“O Allah! These sacrificial animals are your blessings and they are for your countenance. Accept my sacrifice and my family’s and ummah’s sacrifices!”<sup>2</sup>**

### Brothers and Sisters!

We are once again having the peace and happiness of reaching Eid al-Adha, the days of joy and excitement, once again. Eid al-Adha brings us each year one of the five fundamental prayers in Islam, namely the ritual of hajj. It offers us the ritual of sacrifice as a means of getting closer to our Lord. The Eid reminds us again the loyalty of Ibrahim and the submission of Ismail. It brings once again the image of our Master Muhammad Mustapha’s (pbuh) faithfulness, generosity and his firm stand as a believer and his exemplary life right before our eyes.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Recently, millions of our brothers and sisters have poured to the House of Allah, to Arafat for the ritual of hajj. They have renewed their agreement of faith with our Lord. We, as Muslims of the world, are going to sacrifice our animals in the name of Allah today. We will strengthen our belief in Tawheed and our sense of servitude.

With their white as snow ihrams, a symbol of purification from faults and sins, our brothers and sisters performing the hajj acknowledge with their most sincere prayers that there is no refuge but Allah. Our brothers and sisters from all corners of the world join in prayer at Kaaba with a common feeling. The sound of “Labbaik” fills the skies with all its sincerity. We too are going to depict today that what really matters is closeness to Allah, while we are sacrificing our animals.

Our brothers and sisters performing the hajj express in all steps of the hajj that one should not be the slave of his wants and desires and only piousness leads to salvation. We will demonstrate today with our sacrifices that we are ready to give up all our possessions on the path of Allah.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Eid al-Adha is the Eid of peace, well-being, brotherhood, unity and solidarity. It is the Eid of those who set aside all differences and reached unity in abundance, those who know themselves and their Lord, those who contemplate and consider and those who submit themselves to their Lord with sincerity. It is the Eid of those who cleared their mind of evil, cleaned their heart from spiritual stains and those who refrain from all sins. It is the Eid of those who discipline their desires, those who hurt no living being and those who strive to be trustworthy. This is the Eid of those who dress in patience and praise, those who live a life in accordance with the reason and purpose of our existence. This is the Eid of those who keep our values alive; those who get close to the poor, lonely, orphan and desolate, and those who are the help to the helpless.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Eids are times when we should get even closer to our Lord and each other. Eids are the days where feelings of unity and solidarity, sharing and helping are at their peak. Eids are the days where we should remember that everything is a trial in this journey of life where there are both happiness and sadness.

So come! Let us put a smile on the faces of our parents, our spouses and children, our brothers and sisters and our neighbors. Let us carry the joy of Eid to the lonely, desolate, poor, destitute and elderly. Let us mend and repair broken hearts with the blessings and beauties of the Eid. Let us end the resentments, hard feelings and conflicts today that put a shadow over our brotherhood and joy of Eid.

Let us not forget that each gift we give in this Eid will get us closer to our Lord’s countenance. The most beautiful gift we could give in this Eid is a sincere salutation from our hearts, our earnest prayers, and our smiles and visits.

### Brothers and Sisters!

As I conclude the khutba, I wish a blessed Eid to our honorable nation, our people abroad, all our brothers and sisters in the region of our hearts and the realm of Islam. I ask our Lord Almighty for the acceptance of your sacrifices, the acceptance of the hajj of all our brothers and sisters, forgiveness of our sins and a happy Eid. I want to end this khutba with these verses that put the true Eids to words:

*The heart finds its beloved, let it be this Eid!*

*The servant finds his sultan, let it be this Eid!*

*Gloom and sorrow be gone, curtain of the heart be lifted!  
All sins be forgiven, let it be this Eid!*

<sup>1</sup> Al-Hajj, 22/37.

<sup>2</sup> Ibn Majah, Chapters on Sacrifices, 1; Abi Dawud, Kitab Al-Dahaya, 3-4.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE  
DATE : 08.09.2017

لِيَوْمٍ تُشَخَّصُ فِيهِ الْأَبْصَارُ

وَلَا تَخْسِنَ اللَّهُ عَافِلًا عَمَّا يَعْمَلُ الظَّالِمُونُ إِنَّمَا يُؤْخِرُهُمْ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَنْ رَأَىٰ مِنْكُمْ مُنْكِرًا فَلْيَعْتِزِّزْ بِمَا يَدِيهِ فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَلِسَانَهُ

فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ قَبْلَهُ وَذَلِكَ أَضْعَافُ الْإِيمَانِ

## TO STAND BY THE OPPRESSED

### Blessed Friday to You All, Honorable Muslims!

Our Lord Almighty says in the verse I have recited: “**Do not think that Allah is unaware of what the evildoers are doing: He but grants them respite until the Day when their eyes will stare in horror.**”<sup>1</sup>

And our Prophet (pbuh) says in the hadith I have recited: “**He who amongst you sees something abominable should modify it with the help of his hand; and if he has not strength enough to do it, then he should do it with his tongue, and if he has not strength enough to do it, (even) then he should (abhor it) from his heart, and that is the least of faith.**”<sup>2</sup>

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Unfortunately, the whole Islamic world observed a sorrowful eid once again. Our hearts were sad, our eyes were tearful. We could not feel the joy of eid deep in our hearts. We couldn't exactly live the spiritual atmosphere of the Hajj. We couldn't fully experience the excitement of the sacrifice. Because as the futile conflicts, violence and fights in the Islamic geography continues to sadden us; the oppression, violence and massacre that our brothers and sisters in Rakhine are facing tear our hearts out. The cries of the oppressed and innocent from these faraway lands hurt us deeply.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

The injustice, false accusations, violence and oppression Muslims are subjected today shocks us all. But what's worse is the indifference of a big portion of humanity against this situation; the silence of those organizations established to prevent oppression, evil and injustice in the world; the fact that the world is blind and deaf against the earth-shattering cries of the oppressed and the innocent; the fact that the tiny corpses of those washed ashore are ignored while a beached whale makes the news; the loss of mercy and conscience as people are starving to death and as children, women and the elderly are being deported from their homes; the fact that different groups turn a blind eye to the massacres that Muslims face.

### Honorable Believers!

Our holy religion considers the murder of a person same as the murder of all humanity. Because our faith teaches us that each human is inherently valuable. A human is worthy because he or she is a sign of Allah. Each person has the right to life, faith, property and dignity. No one could be denied his basic rights and freedoms, or deported from their homeland, or subjected to violence and savagery because of his faith. In our faith, one cannot keep silent against any oppression, let alone perpetrate it. One cannot take the side of the oppressor and turn his back on the oppressed no matter what. Our guiding principle in this matter is this warning of our Prophet (pbuh): “**When the people see a wrongdoer and do not prevent him, Allah will soon punish them all.**”<sup>3</sup>

### Esteemed Brothers and Sisters!

We believers cannot give way to despair. We believe that oppressors will get the punishment they deserve, sooner or later. We know that all these unfortunate events will certainly come to an end. As long as we, as the descendants of a nation which became the hope of humanity throughout history, extend our hands to the oppressed and the innocent with a spirit of unity. Let us stand against the oppressors and stand by the oppressed as we did in the past, regardless of their religion, color and geography. Let us stand against every form of oppression even if we are alone, with the belief that our Lord is our greatest helper. Let us always defend the right and the righteous even when the axis of evil come down on us with all its might, knowing that the prayers of the oppressed is our greatest power. Let us never keep silent against injustice. “**مَنْ لَا يَهْتَمُ بِأَمْرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ فَلَيْسَ مِنْهُمْ**” **“The one who does not care about the Muslims is not one of them”**<sup>4</sup>. Let us take this hadith to heart and protect our brotherhood. Let us share our joy and sadness, our wealth and poverty with our brothers and sisters.

### Honorable Believers!

Let us sincerely pray to our Lord Almighty in this time of Friday: O Allah! Treat our brothers and sisters who struggle for their existence in different parts of the world with your help and mercy! Grant them salvation from hardship! O Allah! Rest the souls of our brothers and sisters who lost their lives in the massacres in Rakhine and other parts of the world! Grant quick recovery for the wounded! O Allah! Help our honorable nation, as they are the conscience of humanity! Grant foresight, insight, peace and tranquility to the realm of Islam and all humanity. O Allah! Let us be those who live humanely, not those who forgot their humanity!

<sup>1</sup> Al-Ibrahim, 14/42.

<sup>2</sup> Sahih Muslim, The Book of Faith, 78.

<sup>3</sup> Abu Dawud, Battles, 17.

<sup>4</sup> by al-Tabarani in al-Mu'jam al-Sagheer, II, 131.

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَرِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُوا الْأَلَبَابِ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

اللَّهُمَّ انْفَغِنِي بِمَا عَلِمْتَنِي وَعَلِمْتِنِي مَا يَنْفَعُنِي وَزِدْنِي عِلْمًا

## ARE THOSE WHO KNOW EQUAL WITH THOSE WHO KNOW NOT?

### Honorable Believers!

One day, some companions of the Prophet in the Al-Masjid an-Nabawi were busy praying, and another group were busy studying. Our Prophet (pbuh) observed this situation and said: **“Both groups are busy with a good endeavor. Some pray to Allah and ask Him for certain things. Allah will give or will not give them if He wishes so. The others study and teach that knowledge to those who do not know. What they are doing is more virtuous.”**

Messenger of Allah (pbuh) did not just gratify his companions who sought knowledge. He said: **“Indeed, I have been sent as a teacher, an educator.”** and sat beside them.<sup>1</sup> Because he was a prophet who showed the superiority of knowledge with the life he led in the light of this verse: **“Are those who know equal with those who know not?”**<sup>2</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

Our Prophet placed great importance to education and knowledge throughout his life. Eradicating ignorance was a very important goal for him. The way to truth and God was to teach knowledge which gives meaning to life and honor to humans. He was a Messenger of Mercy who prayed **“O Allah, teach me that which will benefit me, and increase me in knowledge.”**<sup>3</sup> Because our Prophet was first addressed with the command “Read” in Holy Quran, our guide to the true path. Our Lord Almighty ordered the mankind through His Last Messenger: **“Read! In the Name of your Lord, Who has created (all that exists), has created man from a clot. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous, Who has taught (the writing) by the pen, has taught man that which he knew not.”**<sup>4</sup>

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

We are the members of a civilization where knowledge is merged with reason and kneaded with wisdom, and the scholar is adorned with morals. Knowledge is considered as the prayer of the mind in our civilization. Knowledge means first and foremost to try to understand the truth and essence of objects, the purpose and reason of existence. Knowledge means to know oneself. Because those who know themselves know their Lord. Those who know their Lord sets learning the truth and essence of objects as their goal.

Those who are conscious of their existence will be conscious of their environment, the universe and life.

Knowledge should not move a person away from himself, his Lord and people. It should not estrange him to his environment. Knowledge should lead a person to wisdom. It should address his heart, his soul. Knowledge should manifest itself in life with a sense of morality and responsibility. It should be seen as a means of gaining Allah’s countenance.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Just as we are obligated to read the book of Allah and practice it in our lives, we are also obligated to read and understand the universe and the order in it. We have a responsibility to acquire all kinds of knowledge that benefits humans and humanity. We should never see knowledge as a means of satisfaction and self-interest. We cannot acquire knowledge to harm humanity, destroy the earth and make it uninhabitable.

### Honorable Believers!

Our children, our youth are going to start a new education period. Our teachers will continue to raise generations who have conscience and compassion, who are committed to their values, who work for the benefit of their nation and humanity. I would like to take this opportunity to ask Allah Almighty for this education year to bring goodness to our teachers, our families, our nation and our children, who are the safeguards of our future. May our Lord grant our children knowledge which will allow them to achieve His countenance, and which our children will use for the benefit of the realm of Islam and all mankind.

I also would like to remind something to the parents. Let us not neglect our responsibility for our children to meet with the Quran’s climate of mercy and learn the exemplary life of our Prophet (pbuh). Let us guide our children to select Quran and Prophet’s life, which are taught as elective courses in our schools.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I want to share two things with you before I finish the khutba. Next Thursday we are going to observe the first day of the Islamic new year. I congratulate your new year in advance.

Also our Presidency have started an aid campaign with Turkey Diyanet Foundation for our brothers and sisters in Rakhine. In this campaign, today we are going to appeal to our noble nation in all mosques throughout the country. The collected donations will be delivered to our oppressed and innocent brothers and sisters in Rakhine to provide them some relief. May our Lord Almighty accept your charity and goodness. May He protect our country and noble nation who are the hope of the oppressed and helpless.

<sup>1</sup> Ad-Darimi Muqaddimah, 32.

<sup>2</sup> Az-Zumer, 39/9.

<sup>3</sup> At-Tirmidhi, Chapters on Supplication, 128.

<sup>4</sup> Al-Alak, 96/1-5.

## دِيْنُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَالَّذِينَ هَاجَرُوا وَجَاهُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أُولَئِكَ يَرْجُونَ  
رَحْمَةَ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
الْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلَمَ الْمُسْلِمُونَ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ، وَالْمُهَاجِرُ مَنْ هَجَرَ مَا نَهَى  
اللَّهُ عَنْهُ.

### HİCRET: KUTLU BİR YOLCULUK

#### Cumanız Mübarek Olsun Aziz Kardeşlerim!

Okuduğum âyet-i kerimedede Yüce Rabbimiz şöyle buyuruyor: “**İman edenler, hicret edenler, Allah yolunda cihad edenler, şüphesiz bunlar Allah’ın rahmetini umarlar. Allah çok bağışlayan ve merhamet edendir.**”<sup>1</sup>

Okuduğum hadis-i şerifte ise Peygamberimiz (s.a.s) şöyle buyuruyor: “**Müslüman, elinden ve dilinden diğer müslümanların emin oldukları kimsedir. Muhacir ise Allah’ın yasakladığı şeyleri terk edendir.**”<sup>2</sup>

#### Kardeşlerim!

Müminler olarak dün hep birlikte Muharrem ayının ilk gününü idrak ettik. Hicri 1439 yılına girmenin heyecanını yaşadık. Bizleri yeni bir hicri yıla ulaştıran Yüce Rabbimize sonsuz hamd-ü senalar olsun. Cennetten yeryüzüne adım atışımızla başlayan hicret hikâyemizin, cennette hitama ermesi niyazıyla hicri yeni yılınızı kutluyorum. Yeni yılın, İslam ve insanlık âleminin huzur ve kurtuluşuna vesile olmasını Yüce Mevlâ’dan niyaz ediyorum.

#### Aziz Müminler!

Alemlere rahmet olarak gönderilen Peygamberimiz (s.a.s.)’i, insanî erdemlerden ve kulluk bilincinden uzaklaşmış cahiliye toplumu hazmedemedi. Mekkeli müşrikler, kendilerine bir şahit, müjdeleyici ve uyarıcı olarak gönderilen Merhamet Peygamberine akla hayale gelmediği baskın ve zulmü reva gördüler. Ona kucak açmak, onunla yeniden kendilerine gelmek yerine onu dışladılar, Onun hayatına kastettiler. Bu baskı ve şiddet ortamında İslam’ı yayma ve yaşama imkanı kalmadığını gören Peygamberimiz önce sahabeden bazılarını gönderdi, sonra da kendisi gitti fedakar insanların şehri Medine’ye.

#### Kardeşlerim!

İşte Allah Resûlü ve ashabının bu kutlu yolculuğunun adı hicrettir. Bu hicret, sıradan bir göç değildir. Hz. Ömer döneminde takvim başlangıcı kabul edilen hicret, Müslümanlar için bir milattır. Hicretle beraber İslam’ın yüksek hakikatleri Medine’den bütün yeryüzüne dalga yayılmaya başlamıştır.

Hicret, Müslümanlar için birçok dersler içermektedir. Her şeyden önce bu hicret, bir kaçış değil, yüce değerlerin yeryüzünde neşv-ü nemâ bulması için

girişilen kutlu bir yolculuktur. Hicret; şiddetten merhamete, esaretten özgürlüğe gidişin adıdır. Allah'a itaatin, sadece O'na kul olmanın göstergesidir.

Hicret, İslam davası uğruna anadan, babadan, evlattan hatta candan vazgeçişin, ibretli ve meşakkatli kıssasıdır. Hicret, yârını, diyârını, malını-mülküni Allah için göz kırpmadan terk eden Muhacir ve onları bağırlarına basan<sup>3</sup> Ensârin destanıdır. Bu destanda fedakârlık, kardeşlik, ahde vefa, birlik ve beraberlik, sevgi, saygı, paylaşma ve kucaklaşma vardır. Hâsılı hicret, Allah'a ibadete, insanî erdemlere, rahmet ve medeniyete gönlünü açanların azmi ve kararlılığı, bu değerlere kapılarını kapatılanların ise hüsranıdır.

#### Kiymetli Müminler!

Resûlullah Efendimizin hadisi doğrultusunda asıl hicret, haram ve günahları terk ederek Yüce Allah'a teslimiyettir. Allah Resulüne gönülden bağlılığın, sadakatin, ümmet olabilme gayret ve samimiyyetinin ifadesidir. Hicret, insanlık onurunu zedeleyen her türlü süflî duyguya ve emellere sırt çevirmektir. Ulvi değerler uğruna mücadele etmektir. Hicret; bâtilden, boş şeyleden, ömrü israf eden her türlü arzu ve istekten uzaklaşmaktadır. Hakk, hakikat ve ahlak yolunda ilerlemektir. Yüce Mevlâ’nın yarattığı tertemiz fitratımızı muhafaza edebilmektir. Şirkten, küfürden, nifaktan uzak durup, imana sadık kalabilmektir.

#### Kardeşlerim!

Hicret ahlakına sahip olmanın ölçüsü Allah'a kul, Rasulüne ümmet olma bilinciyle, yeryüzünde iyiliğin hâkim olması için gayret göstermektir. Sevgi, saygı, paylaşma, yardımlaşma duygusuyla, samimiyyetle kardeşine, milletine, değerlerine gönülden bağlı olmaktadır. Dolayısıyla İslam’ın bütün değerlerini istismar ederek, vatanına ve milletine her türlü hainliği yapanların, hicret kelimesinin arkasına sıyrılmaları beyhude bir çabadır. Böylelerinin, içine düştükleri acılığın, hicret kelimesini kirleterek müntesiplerine izah etmeye çalışmaları, hicret gibi ulvi bir kavramı istismardan başka bir şey değildir.

#### Kardeşlerim!

Geliniz! Bu mübarek saatte iyilik ve hayırlara hicrete, hakiki bir muhacir olmaya söz verelim. Salih ve sadık kul olmak, Muhacir ve Ensar kardeşliğini aramızda yeniden kurmak ve ilahi rahmeti tecelli ettirecek hicretlere koyulmak adına bu günümüzü milat bileyim. Peygamberimiz (s.a.s)’in öğrettiği şekilde, Allah’ın emrettiklerini yapıp yasaklarından uzak kalalım ve böylece bizler de hicret sevabına nâil olalım. Gönül yesribimiz, İslam’ın nuruyla erdemli, ahlaklı, insaniyeti temsil eden tenvir edilmiş Medine olsun.

Ne mutlu hayat yolculوغunu kutlu bir hicrete dönüştürebilenlere!

Ne mutlu bu hicretin sonunda Allah’ın rızasına ulaşabilenlere!

<sup>1</sup> Bakara, 2/218.

<sup>2</sup> Buhârî, İmân, 4.

<sup>3</sup> Haşr, 59/9.

**LOCATION : NATIONWIDE**  
**DATE : 29.09.2017**



إِنَّمَا يَعْمَرُ مَسَاجِدُ اللَّهِ مَنْ أَمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَأَتَى الزَّكُورَةَ  
وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ فَعَسَى أُولَئِكَ أَنْ يَكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
أَحَبُّ الْبِلَادِ إِلَيَّ اللَّهُ مَسَاجِدُهَا...

## THE MOSQUE, THE CITY AND THE CIVILIZATION

### Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

Please come! Let us remember the day of Asurah, which we are going to observe tomorrow, and Karbala, which has drowned us in sorrow for centuries. Let us remember Husain, one of the two distinguished grandchildren of Allah's Messenger, the dearest to the believers, the master of the martyrs and the young in heaven. Let us send prayers and salutations to the Greatest Messenger and his people of the house.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Please come! Let us also remember in today's khutba the mosque and the Mosques and Religious Officials Week, which we have been celebrating for nearly a quarter century. Let's seek the ways of placing the mosques at the center of the city and our lives, and turn them into cradles of civilization again. Let us consider once again how important the mosques are in our lives.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord Almighty says in the verse I have recited at the beginning of this khutba: "**The Mosques of Allah shall be maintained only by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day; perform As-Salat (Iqamat-as-Salat), and give Zakat and fear none but Allah. It is they who are expected to be on true guidance.**"<sup>1</sup>

Our Prophet (pbuh) says in the hadith I have recited at the beginning of this khutba: "**The parts of land dearest to Allah are its mosques.**"<sup>2</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

Mosques are the heart of the Islamic civilization. In our civilization, not having a mosque or a place of worship in a city is unthinkable. When our Prophet (pbuh) arrived in Medina, he immediately built the Al-Masjid an-Nabawi (Prophet's Mosque) in the heart of Medina with the help of his companions. Al-Masjid an-Nabawi became the center of Madina and the cradle of civilization. Values such as science, knowledge, morality, justice, love, respect, compassion and mercy spread from this blessed place like waves across the world. From that day until today, the Islamic cities have been built and shaped around the mosques. In short, the mosque has been the soul of the city.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The mosque is life for us believers. For in the mosques, we feel very deeply the pleasure of bowing before Allah and being a servant only to Him. The mosques pull us away from the endless bustle of life, their spiritual climate gives us a new awareness and put us back. They educate us by patiently working on our emotions and thoughts. For this reason, the mosques are the places of knowledge, wisdom, and morality for us always. They are the schools where we learn Our Lord, Our Religion, Our Book, Our Prophet, brotherhood, and life.

Mosques are the places that unite our hearts in the presence of the Most Beneficent. The mosques are built so that we'd carry the sense of unity we feel in the mosques when we stand together in rows and when we bow together in ruku and sajdah to our society. Mosques are built so that we'd carry the conscience of "the trustworthy believers" to whom people trust that no harm will come from them, and the conscience of "role model" that people admire to our homes, neighborhoods, our country and all humanity.

### Venerable Brothers and Sisters!

The mosques are symbols of independence for Islamic cities. They are the symbols of tawhid (oneness) with their minarets. They are the expression of martyrdom with their adhans. They are the centers that could revive and raise a nation with their salas. They are the places of knowledge, wisdom and attainment with their minbars. They are the voices of the right and the truth with their pulpits. Their mihrabs are the places of battle against all kinds of evil such as anger, grudge, hatred, and sins that try to conquer our hearts.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The Presidency of Religious Affairs has set the theme of the Mosques and Religious Officials Week this year as "**The Mosque, The City and The Civilization**". During the week, the importance of the mosque in the revival of a believer, the soul of a city and the birth of a civilization will be emphasized through various programs. We will be reminded that restoring the mosques to their state in the Age of Bliss is a task for all believers.

I wish that the Mosques and Religious Officials Week will bring blessings. I wish for health and peace for the brothers and sisters who served the mosques, and I ask mercy from our Lord for those who passed away. May our Lord let our hearts, minds and bodies embrace the mosques. May our Lord never deprive us of the adhans, as their witnessing is the foundation of religion.

<sup>1</sup> At-Tawbah, 9/18.

<sup>2</sup> Sahih Muslim, The Book of Mosques and Places of Prayer, 288.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE  
DATE : 06.10.2017

لِذِكْرِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَأَنْسَاهُمْ أَنفُسُهُمْ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِحْفَظِ اللَّهَ يَخْفَظُكَ، إِحْفَظِ اللَّهَ تَجْهَدْ تُجَاهَكَ...

## THOSE WHO FORGET ALLAH WILL BE FORGOTTEN

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Our Prophet (pbuh) took on a journey with his cousin Abdullah. On this journey, he said “**My dear child! I’ll give you some advice. Do not forget them!**” Then he gave this advice to this young companion about how he shouldn’t break his connection with the Lord: “**Be mindful of Allah and He will protect you. Be mindful of Allah and you will find Him before you. When you ask, ask Allah, and when you seek aid, seek Allah's aid. Know that if the entire creation were to gather together to do something to benefit you- you would never get any benefit except that Allah had written for you. And if they were to gather to do something to harm you- you would never be harmed except that Allah had written for you.**”<sup>1</sup>

Honorable Believers!

We are all human. Sometimes we forget our neighbors, our family and our friends in this busy life. Sometimes we forget our relatives, our brothers, the orphans and the needy. Sometimes we forget about ourselves, our society, and our responsibilities. But besides all this, the worst thing for a person is to forget the purpose and reason of his creation. The real defeat is leading a life where you forget your Lord; it is to disregard your oath of servitude, your agreement with Allah; it is to ignore the scale, the judgement and the afterlife, forgetting the fact that this world is mortal. Therefore our Lord warns us not to be among those

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَأَنْسَاهُمْ أَنفُسُهُمْ  
“And be not like those who forgot Allah, and He caused them to forget their own selves.”

أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ Those are the Fasiqun (rebellious, disobedient to Allah).”<sup>2</sup>

Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord sent us the Quran to teach us our duties and responsibilities. Another name of our Holy Book is Dhikr Al-Hakim (reminder of wisdom). It is a book that reminds us the things we should not forget. It is a lamp, a guide that illuminates our path. Let us hold fast to it and open our hearts, our minds and our lives to it.

Our Lord enjoined: “**You are only a one who reminds**”<sup>3</sup> and sent a Prophet with the most beautiful

character to the believers to show the true path and to remind Him to them. He blessed us with Muhammad Mustafa (pbuh.). He taught us what is right and true, wrong and false, good and bad. Let us live by his sunnah; do not stray from his exemplary life and bless our life with his messages of mercy.

Our prayers, sacrifice, pilgrimage, zakat, fasting, in short all of the rituals of worship are prescribed for us so that we could always remember our Lord. Let us not forget that our worship brings us closer to our Lord and makes us more honorable on the sight of Him.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Those who lead a life where they forget Allah will be forgotten by Him in this world and in the afterlife. Allah will deprive those who are ungrateful to Him in this world from His mercy in the great day. On the Day of Resurrection, where there is no sanctuary other than the mercy of Allah, those who became a slave to this world will hear this: “**This Day We will forget you as you forgot the Meeting of this Day of yours. And your abode is the fire, and there is none to help you.**”<sup>4</sup>

Brothers and Sisters!

Please come! Let us not forget our responsibilities to our Lord, our family and our society in this short life. Let us not forget that it is our duty to live in accordance with Allah’s will. Let's keep in our minds that the goal of our existence is to prepare for that great day. Let us not neglect our prayers as they are our expression of thanks to our Lord’s blessings. Let us live with the consciousness that in every moment He could see us, know about every one of our actions and hear every word coming out of our mouths. Let us not forget that eternal peace comes through a life that is lived on the path of Allah's will.

Brothers and Sisters!

I conclude this khutba with these prayers that our Lord taught us in the Quran:

“**Our Lord! Condemn us not if we forget or fall into error!**”<sup>5</sup>

“**Our Lord! Let not our hearts deviate (from the truth) after You have guided us, and grant us mercy from You. Truly, You are the Bestower.**”<sup>6</sup>

“**Our Lord! Forgive us our sins, and remit from us our evil deeds, and make us die the death of the righteous! Our Lord! Grant us what You promised unto us through Your Messengers and disgrace us not on the Day of Resurrection, for You never break (Your) Promise.**”<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tirmizi, Chapters on the description of the Day of Judgement, Ar-Riqaq, and Al-Wara', 59.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Hashr, 59/19.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Ghashiyah, 88/21.

<sup>4</sup> Al-Jathiyah, 45/34.

<sup>5</sup> Al-Baqarah, 2/286.

<sup>6</sup> Ali 'Imran, 3/8.

<sup>7</sup> Ali 'Imran, 3/193-194.

دینِ اسلام کا جنگل

وَسَارُوا إِلَى مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَزْضُهَا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ

أَعْدَتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ :

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَا قَرَبَ إِلَيْهَا مِنْ قَوْلٍ أَوْ عَمَلٍ وَأَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ

النَّارِ وَمَا قَرَبَ إِلَيْهَا مِنْ قَوْلٍ أَوْ عَمَلٍ

## BEING A PARADISE WAYFARER

Jummah Mubarak Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Our Almighty Lord said in the following Verse: "And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and a garden as wide as the heavens and earth, prepared for the righteous."<sup>1</sup>

And our Prophet (pbuh) was asked by a companion, "What most admits people to Paradise?" He (pbuh) said: "Piety, meaning the awareness of responsibility towards Allah, and good manners."<sup>2</sup>

### Dear Believers!

Our Almighty Lord gave us two consecutive lives. The first one is the transient and ephemeral worldly life that needs to be transformed into gainings. The second one is the eternal and immortal life in the Hereafter. The worldly life is a challenging and finite path to the Hereafter. And the Hereafter is a life where we reap the harvest of our deeds, and receive a recompense for our work, without any reserve. There is sadness or joy for us in this life.

Those who strive to succeed in the exam of this world will attain Allah's approval and the place of eternal blessings, the Jannah. Those who fail in this exam will face regret and disappointment in the Hereafter.

### My Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord taught us the path that leads to His Jannah and saves from hell in the Qur'an al-Kareem, which is our guidance for life. And our Prophet (pbuh) showed us this path by exemplifying it. The end of this path is eternal salvation. The end of this path is endless peace. So let us have a look at the features of a Paradise Wayfarer today.

### Dear Believers!

The way to Paradise is entered through faith. For eternal salvation is reached through faith. The first condition of being a believer is sincere faith in the existence and unity of Allah, His messengers, angels, books, the Last Day, and that divine fate and

destiny are ordained by Allah. The believer (Mu'min) is the one who sincerely submits to Allah. The Mu'min is the one who holds on to his faith until his last breath. He does not lose devotion and submission despite various calamities.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Worship and good deeds are the conditions to proceed on the path to Jannah. A devout prayer, sincere fast, hajj (pilgrimage), the Zakah, the sacrifice are part of worship, so is any good deed with the intention to gain Allah's approval also a worship. Doing good to the parents, to our partners and children, to our neighbours and relatives, to any living creature, is worship. Making life easier to each other, sharing our blessings and opportunities with our brothers, helping each other, are all of worship. Being the hand of the one who cannot hold, being the eye of the one who cannot see, the foot of the one who cannot walk, and the tongue of the one who cannot talk, is all about worship. In short, abstaining from evil and striving on the path of goodness is worship.

### Dear Believers!

A condition for emerging on the path to Jannah is good manners - girding ourselves with sincerity towards our Lord, ourselves and our environment; never losing truthfulness and direction; never breaking a promise, never betraying. For the Believer, who is described by the Messenger of Mercy (pbuh) as the "one from whose tongue and hand Muslims are safe", must not harm anyone. He must not waste and squander away his short life by harming the honor and dignity of a human, whom Allah created as a dignified creature, through his words, attitudes or behaviour. The believer's maxim is good manners according to the hadith "**If you do not feel ashamed, then do whatever you like.**"<sup>3</sup>

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to end our Khutbah with the following invocation: "**O Allah! Grant us Your paradise, and words and deeds that lead us to paradise. We seek refuge from the fires of hell, and deeds and behaviour that leads us to hell.**"<sup>4</sup>

Oh Allah! Do not give chance to those who aim at our homeland, our nation, unity, and livelihood!

Oh Our Lord! Shower your mercy and grace upon our martyrs who sacrificed their lives for our values! Grant quick recovery to our veterans! Let us be among those who live and keep alive those supreme values for which they sacrificed their lives and blood!

<sup>1</sup> Ali 'Imran 3/133

<sup>2</sup> Ibn Majah, Zuhd, 29.

<sup>3</sup> Buhâri, Ahadith-ul Anbiya, 54

<sup>4</sup> Ibn Majah, Dua, 4

لِشَّرِيكِ الْجُنُوبِ

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ الَّذِينَ إِذَا ذُكِرَ اللَّهُ وَجِلَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَإِذَا نُذِكِّرُهُمْ أَيَّا هُنَّ زَادُهُمْ

إِيمَانًا وَعَلَى رَبِّهِمْ يَتَوَكَّلُونَ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّمَا تَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ أَنْ تَرُدَّ أَوْ تَصْلِي أَوْ تَنْظِلِ

أَوْ تُنْظِلِ أَوْ تَجْهِلَ أَوْ يُخْجِلَ عَلَيْنَا

## A FAITHFUL STANCE: TRUST IN ALLAH

### Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

Our Prophet (pbuh) and Abu Bakr set out for the journey towards Madinah. The polytheists learned about this and began to look for them all over. Messenger of Allah and his companion took refuge in a cave in Mount Thawr to lose their trackers and confuse the polytheists. At some point, the polytheists came and stood in front of the cave. Abu Bakr expressed his concern by saying "O Messenger of Allah! If any of them should look under his feet, he would see us." Always in complete trust and submission to Allah, our Prophet Muhammad said this to his friend to calm him as it is told in the verse<sup>1</sup>, and in a way taught us to trust in Allah: "**Do not grieve, for Allah is with us. What do you think of two (persons) the third of whom is Allah?**"<sup>2</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

One of the most important qualities a believer should have is the trust in Allah. Putting our trust in Allah is to do our best first and leave the rest to Allah Almighty. Trust in Allah is to admit our inability and helplessness and submit ourselves to Allah without a question. It is to take refuge in Allah in joy & sorrow, in abundance & poverty; in short in every moment of our lives. It is to open our hands and ask the help of our Lord Almighty without losing hope, even if we cannot find anyone with us in our hardest times.

### Honorable Believers!

If we want to know what trusting in Allah is really like, we need to look at the lives of prophets. Because each one of them showed us the most beautiful examples of trust.

Prophet Adam displayed the first example of trusting in Allah for humanity. In his example, trust in Allah is the repentance for sins and mistakes, and not to give up hope from Allah's mercy. When Prophet Adam and his wife Havva realized their mistake, they asked: "**Our Lord, we have wronged ourselves, and if You do not forgive us and have mercy upon us, we will surely be among the losers.**"<sup>3</sup>

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Trust in Allah is to be undeterred and determined like Prophet Ibrahim, who took the risk of being thrown into fire for the cause of tawhid. It is to show the courage to give up everything for Allah's way like Prophet Ismail. It is to dress in patience and strength like Prophet Ayub, even when his wounds ate his flesh to the bone. It is to be self-sacrificing like Prophet Ya'qub, whose longing for his darling Yusuf had cost him his two eyes. It is to take refuge in Allah in the face of all kinds of tests like Yusuf, the finest example of trust, decency and modesty.

And finally, trust in Allah is to be hopeful in spite of all the troubles, like the Messenger of Mercy, Muhammad Mustafa (pbuh). It is to have a rock solid faith, grand ideals and an exhilarant effort like him. It is to patiently walk on the path of compassion and mercy, right and truth, morals and virtues.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Trust in Allah cannot be an excuse for laziness and sluggishness. On the contrary, it is a reviving element of hard work and productivity. It is incompatible with the spirit of Islam to trust in Allah while abandoning precaution, not fulfilling one's responsibilities and not holding on to the reasons. Such an understanding of trust in Allah is laziness, imprudence and taking the easy way out. The result of having a shallow understanding of trust in Allah without any hard work is disappointment.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

So let each of us make an effort for our duties. Let us know that we should ask from our Lord Almighty after we fulfill our responsibilities. Let us take refuge and trust only in Allah, The Everlasting and Who has the power to will anything; not the perishable earth and its goods. Let us strive to possess the qualities of the true believers as told in this verse of our Holy Book: "**The believers are only those who, when Allah is mentioned, feel a fear in their hearts and when His Verses are recited unto them, they increase their Faith; and they put their trust in their Lord.**"<sup>4</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

Let me conclude this khutba with this prayer our Prophet (pbuh) taught us: "**In the Name of Allah, I place my trust in Allah. O Allah! We seek refuge in You from slipping unintentionally or becoming misguided, or committing oppression or being oppressed, or acting ignorantly or being treated ignorantly.**"<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> At-Tawbah, 9/40.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Bukhari, Book of Companions of the Prophet, 2.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Araf, 7/23.

<sup>4</sup> Al-Anfal, 8/2.

<sup>5</sup> At-Tirmidhi, Chapters on Supplication, 35.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE  
DATE : 27.10.2017



وَإِذْ تَأْذَنَ رَبُّكُمْ لَئِنْ شَكَرْتُمْ لَا زِيَادَةَ كُمْ وَلَئِنْ كَفَرْتُمْ

إِنَّ عَذَابِي لَشَدِيدٌ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

اللَّهُمَّ أَعِنِّي عَلَى ذِكْرِكَ وَشُكْرِكَ وَحُسْنِ عِبَادَتِكَ

## TO BE A GRATEFUL SERVANT

### Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

Our Prophet (pbuh) occasionally woke up at night and prayed. He stood humbly in qiyam (standing) position for a long time. He prostrated in tears. He prayed to Allah most sincerely. Our mother Aisha witnessed his dedication in awe and asked him: "O Messenger of Allah! Why do you pray this much even though your God has forgiven your sins in the past and the future?" Allah's Messenger (pbuh) gave this meaningful and wise answer to his dear wife: "Should I not be a thankful servant, O Aisha?"<sup>1</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

We are mere guests in this mortal world. We see the blessings of Allah everywhere we look. We taste His blessings with every bite. We live the life He granted us with each breath. We know that these are all bestowed on us.

Let us stop for a moment and remember the blessings we had in just the last few hours. Let us think about how we reached with each one of those blessings. If that blessing was the fruit of a tree that came from deep inside the earth, that means Allah had prepared it through several phases for us. If it was a drop of water, that means Allah had raised it from the oceans to the clouds, then made it come down to earth just for us. If it was the light, then Allah had sent it from deep down the space through the Sun.

### Brothers and Sisters!

After we saw all these blessing of our Lord Almighty, let's see where that feeling of gratitude that encircles us would take us! Then we will see that being grateful has a special place among all these blessings that our Lord granted us. For this reason, our Lord Almighty enjoins: "Whoever gives thanks, he gives thanks for (the good of) his ownself. And whoever is unthankful, then verily, Allah is All-Rich (Free of all wants), Worthy of all praise."<sup>2</sup>

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Gratitude is appreciating the blessings that Allah bestowed on us. Gratitude is protecting ourselves

from being a slave to our desires and wants, ambition and greed. Gratitude is a sign of living on the path of purpose and wisdom of creation. Gratitude is not to become deaf and blind to the good deeds of people towards us. Gratitude also requires patiently enduring the poverty, aside from appreciating the wealth. Gratitude is seeking refuge in Allah's mercy from his wrath, keeping this verse in mind: "And (remember) when your Lord proclaimed: 'If you give thanks, I will give you more, but if you are thankless, verily! My Punishment is indeed severe.'"<sup>3</sup>

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Being grateful does not equal saying "Praise to Allah, thanks be to our Lord". The real gratitude is using each blessing in a way that would win Allah's countenance. Every breath we take, our life, mind, health and all other blessings have a specific gratitude.

The gratitude for being created as an honorable human is faith. The gratitude of our hearth is to drive away hate, grudge and other bad feelings from it. The gratitude of our mind is to contemplate and consider the holiness of Allah. The gratitude of our tongue is mentioning Allah. The gratitude of our body is always living in accordance with Allah's countenance and doing our prayers. The gratitude of our wealth and possessions is to give alms and zakat to the needy. The gratitude of our knowledge is to be helpful to mankind by educating students and producing lasting works.

### Honorable Believers!

Every one of us feel the need to thank a person for his kindness, even if it's a small one. Therefore, do you think it would be appropriate to keep ourselves from being grateful to our Lord, Who granted us all these blessings? Would ignoring these blessings be in accordance with the sense of servitude and the moral of a believer? Of course not.

My brothers and sisters! Let's not deprive our minds, hearts, tongues and bodies from the blessing that is gratitude. May our life be blessed with our gratitude. May our gratitude be the reason for more blessings. May our praise get us closer to our Lord and elevate us.

Let me conclude this khutba with a prayer of our Prophet (pbuh): "O Allah, help me in remembering You, in giving You thanks, and worshipping You well."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Muslim, Characteristics of The Hypocrites And Rulings Concerning Them, 81; Ibn Hibban, Sahih, II, 36.

<sup>2</sup> Al Luqman, 31/12.

<sup>3</sup> Ibrahim, 14/7.

<sup>4</sup> Abi Dawud, Prayer (Kitab Al-Salat): Detailed Injunctions about Witr 26.

## لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَلَا رَبَّ إِلَّا هُوَ

فَلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُخْبِئُكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ

وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

تَرَكْتُ فِيْكُمْ أَمْرَيْنِ لَنْ تَصِلُوا مَا تَمَسَّكْتُمْ بِهِمَا كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَسُنْنَةَ نَبِيِّهِ.

### SUNNAH: THE PROPHETIC GUIDANCE

#### Honorable Believers!

Our Lord Almighty enjoins in the verse I have recited: “**Say (O Prophet): ‘If you love Allah, follow me, (and) Allah will love you and forgive you your sins; for Allah is much-forgiving, a dispenser of grace.’**”<sup>1</sup>

Our Prophet (pbuh) says in the hadith I have recited: “**I have left behind over you that which if you hold fast to it, you will never go astray: the book of Allah and the sunnah of His prophet.**”<sup>2</sup>

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

One of the fundamentals of belief is the belief in the prophets. As believers, we accept all commissioned prophets from Adam to our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (pbuh). We believe in our Prophet and all that he proclaimed. We sincerely express this belief in the kalima shahada (confession of faith) and kalima tawhid (confession of Allah’s oneness), which are oral testimonies of our faith. We know and believe that without the belief in our Prophet, there could be no belief in tawhid (oneness). One cannot be a true believer without loving the Prophet more than everyone and everything. We know and believe that one cannot live Islam truly without following his authentic sunnah.

#### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

We learn our holy religion Islam from two main sources. The first one is our guide to salvation: the Quran. The second one is the noble sunnah of our Prophet which enlightens the ages. Just like there is no faith in Allah without faith in prophets; it is not possible to truly understand Quran and practice it in our lives without the exemplary life, character, authentic sunnah and hadiths of our Prophet. Because Quran was revealed to our Prophet; it was understood with him and reflected to the real life through his example.

#### Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord Almighty says in the Quran, **يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَمْتَنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ** “**O you who believe! Believe in Allah, and His Messenger...**”<sup>3</sup> and enjoins us to believe in Him and His Messenger together. He also says, **يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِبِّعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِبِّعُوا الرَّسُولَ** “**O you who believe! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger...**”<sup>4</sup> and enjoins us to submit to Him while following His Messenger. As stated in our Holy Book Quran,

following our Prophet is directly related and connected with the love for Allah. Thus, a faith without respect for the Prophet would make one neither a believer, nor a Muslim.

#### Honorable Believers!

Our Prophet is a source of mercy and guidance sent to all mankind. He told us about the reason of our existence. He taught us to properly worship Allah in the right way and the way to earn His countenance. He invited us to virtue and goodness with his words and his character.

It is a fact that, if a believer seeks happiness in this world and hereafter, then he must follow the authentic sunnah of our Prophet (pbuh). Truly following the sunnah begins with understanding Quran correctly as our Prophet proclaimed it and practicing it in our lives. Following the sunnah leads to a profound heart, an open mind, an exalted soul and a virtuous character. Following the sunnah is to stand firm against ignorance and indolence, spite and hatred, violence and discord. It is to pursue supreme ideals always in order to leave a more livable world to the future generations. To follow the sunnah is to dress ourselves in sagacity and perception, loyalty and reliability, patience and strength, mercy and compassion, respect and love, and more importantly, in morality.

#### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Telling the exemplary life of our Prophet to us, the sunnah and hadiths are the common heritage of all believers. Every believer who loves our Prophet, who embraces His example and walks in His path, belongs in the fellowship of the sunnah. No individual or group has the right to regard themselves as the sole protectors of the sunnah. Likewise, the understandings and attempts on discrediting and excluding the sunnah are just futile efforts. It should not be forgotten that marginalizing and separatist discourses based on the holy sunnah of Allah’s Messenger (pbuh) would harm our brotherhood, our fondness, our unity and solidarity.

How happy is the one who walks on the path of Allah and His Messenger Muhammad Mustafa (pbuh)! How happy is the one who follows Allah’s Book and the sunnah of His Messenger!

Salutations and peace be upon you O Messenger of Allah! Salutations and peace be upon you O the Beloved of Allah!

#### Brothers and Sisters!

I ask compassion from our Lord Almighty for the honorable martyrs who sacrificed their lives yesterday for the continuity and peace of our nation; and I offer my condolences to our nation and their next of kin; and wish them patience. May our Lord Almighty never separate us from the values that our martyrs gave their lives for.

<sup>1</sup> Ali ‘Imran, 3/31.

<sup>2</sup> Muwatta, Fate, 3.

<sup>3</sup> An-Nisa, 4/136.

<sup>4</sup> An-Nisa, 4/59.

لِلّٰهِ الْحُكْمُ وَإِنَّا نَعْبُدُهُ

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أُمَّيَّاءَ بَعْضُهُمْ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَا عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ

وَقَبِيلُهُمُ الصَّلَاةُ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكٰةَ وَيُطْبِعُونَ اللّٰهَ وَرَسُولَهُ أُولَئِكَ سَيِّدُهُمُ اللّٰهُ

إِنَّ اللّٰهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ

فَالَّذِي أَنْذَلَ اللّٰهُ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ يُرْجِي خَيْرًا وَيَنْمِي شَرَّهُ وَشَرَّكُمْ مَنْ لَا يُرْجِي خَيْرًا وَلَا يَنْمِي شَرًا

## BELIEVER, THE ROLE MODEL

Blessed Friday to You All, Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord Almighty enjoins in the verse I have recited: “**The Believers, men and women, are protectors, one of another: they enjoin what is just, and forbid what is evil: they observe regular prayers, practice regular charity, and obey Allah and His Messenger. On them will Allah pour His Mercy: for Allah is Exalted in power, Wise.**”<sup>1</sup>

One day, our Prophet (pbuh) asked his companions: “Shall I not inform you of the best of you from your worst?” and continued: “The best of you is the one whose goodness is hoped for, and people are safe from his evil. And the worst of you is he whose goodness is not hoped for, and people are not safe from his evil.”<sup>2</sup>

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Our Prophet (pbuh) showed us how to be a good believer, a role model through his words and his life. Let us pay heed to the characteristics of an exemplary believer in this khutba, as told and lived by our Prophet, Muhammad the Trustworthy. Let us remember again the good things that will bring us peace and happiness in this world and eternal salvation in the Hereafter.

In the words of Allah’s Messenger (pbuh), a believer is submissive and loyal above all. He is precious, just like gold.<sup>3</sup> Throughout his life, he displays an Abrahamic stance and keeps his dignity. He would stand on his values

and faith in every situation and says: إِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ, meaning: ‘To Allah we belong, and to Him is our return’. He would not abandon the guidance of the Quran and the noble Sunnah, and would not turn away from the straight path.

In the words of the Great Messenger (pbuh), a believer is like a honey bee. Just like a honey bee, he would only eat nice, clean, halal things and produce good things. He would not hurt or harm anybody.<sup>4</sup> His heart only has place for the good, the useful and the positive; but not for the bad, the harmful and the negative.

### Dear Believers!

A believer is like a date tree, as in our Prophet’s expression.<sup>5</sup> He would keep his strength, his vitality through the power from his faith. He would be beneficial to humanity without forgetting his purpose of creation.

A believer would not fall down but stand firm, even if he was tested with all kinds of misfortunes.<sup>6</sup> He knows that a believer’s task is to accept the tests and misfortunes with patience, steadiness and solemnity just like Ayyub did. It is to be able to say “Your grace is welcome, Your wrath is too” to whatever’s coming from Allah Almighty.

### Honorable Believers!

There is no place for sadness and despair in the life of a believer. He believes in this verse with all his heart:

لَا تَخَرُّفْ إِنَّ اللّٰهَ مَعَنَا “Have no fear, for Allah is with us”.<sup>7</sup> He knows that he has a protector who stands by his side when there are none, and who provides hope and relief.

A believer is a person whose tongue and hands people are safe from.<sup>8</sup> He would take refuge in Allah from deceiving and being deceived, in accordance with this hadith: مَنْ غَشَنَا فَلَيْسَ مِنَ meaning: “**Those who deceive is not one of us.**”<sup>9</sup> Bad and false words, insulting and heartbreaking expressions would not come out of a believers mouth. He would not marginalize, but he would unite; he would not hate, but he would be the bringer of glad tidings. He knows that one day he will account for all his actions and all his words.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

A believer has sagacity, discernment and moderation in the words of our Prophet (pbuh). He considers life and events as lessons and wisdom. “**A believer is not stung twice (by something) out of one and the same hole**”<sup>10</sup> He would not knowingly fall into error. He would not allow his faith, feelings and thoughts to be exploited. He would not give his heart and mind to others.

A believer is humble, as he knows this hadith: “**He who has in his heart the weight of a mustard seed of pride shall not enter Paradise.**”<sup>11</sup> He loves the Created for the Creator’s sake. He would know that a person is no good if he does not befriend others and others could not befriend him.<sup>12</sup> His actions are dressed in mercy, compassion, sincerity, friendliness and fondness.

And finally, a believer is like herbalist who sells nice perfumes.<sup>13</sup> He would offer people ethics, morals and virtue. He would take a good place in the minds of the people. He would always leave a nice voice in the hearts.

### Brothers and Sisters!

How happy are those who is honored by these praises of our Prophet (pbuh)! How happy are those who obtained the countenance of Almighty Allah by embracing the reason of creation! How happy are those who transformed the mortal world into eternal treasure!

<sup>1</sup> At-Tawbah, 9/71.

<sup>2</sup> At Tirmidhi, Al Fitān, 76; Ahmed b. Hanbel, II, 268.

<sup>3</sup> Ahmed b. Hanbel, II, 199.

<sup>4</sup> Ahmed b. Hanbel, II, 199.

<sup>5</sup> Al Bukhari, Good Manners and Form (Al-Adab), 89.

<sup>6</sup> Al Bukhari, Oneness, Uniqueness of Allah (Tawheed), 31.

<sup>7</sup> At-Tawbah, 9/40.

<sup>8</sup> Al Bukhari, Faith, 4.

<sup>9</sup> Sahih Muslim, Faith, 164.

<sup>10</sup> Al Bukhari, Good Manners and Form (Al-Adab), 83.

<sup>11</sup> Sahih Muslim, Faith, 147.

<sup>12</sup> Ahmed b. Hanbel, II, 400.

<sup>13</sup> Taberānī, el-Mu’cīmū’l-Kebīr, XII, 319.

لِهُدَىٰ الْمُرْسَلِينَ

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْأَسْلَامُ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ تَعْدِيْمٍ  
جَاءُهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
مَا مِنْ أَحَدٍ يَشْهُدُ أَنَّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صِدِيقًا مِنْ قَبْلِهِ  
إِلَّا حَرَمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى النَّارِ...  
إِلَّا حَرَمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى النَّارِ...

## THE RELIGION BEFORE ALLAH IS ISLAM Blessed Friday to You All, Brothers and Sisters!

A Jewish young man working in the service of the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) contracted a grave illness. Our Prophet, the example of fidelity, visited this young man in his deathbed. The Messenger of Mercy could not find it in his heart to let this young man leave the world like this and he invited him once again to become a Muslim, with a tone full of mercy. The young man hesitantly looked at his father. It was obvious that he was afraid of his family's reaction if he became a Muslim. But the result was not as he feared and his father asked him to accept this kind invitation of Allah's Messenger. Then the young man recited the Testimony of Faith and was honored with Islam. Extremely happy about this situation, our Prophet stated his gratefulness like this: **"Praises be to Allah, Who saved the boy from the fire through me."**<sup>1</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

Our Lord Almighty enjoins in the verse I have recited at the beginning of this khutba: **إِنَّ الَّذِينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْأَسْلَامُ**  
**"Truly, The religion before Allah is Islam."**<sup>2</sup>

Our Prophet (pbuh) says in the holy hadith I have recited: **"There is none who testifies sincerely that none has the right to be worshipped but Allah and Muhammad is his Apostle, except that Allah, will save him from the Hell-fire."**<sup>3</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

Starting with Prophet Adam, all prophets invited the humanity to only submit to and worship Allah the One and Only. In times when people strayed away from the faith of Tawhid and nearly forgot the reason and wisdom of their creation, our Lord Almighty repeated His invitation through the prophets. The last Messenger of this holy cause was our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa, sent as a mercy to the worlds. Just like the prophets before him, he invited people to only believe in and worship Allah, to the right and the truth, to knowledge and wisdom, to morality and virtue.

**الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِيْنَكُمْ وَأَتَمَّتْ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيَتْ لَكُمُ الْأَسْلَامَ دِيْنًا**  
**"This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed my favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion."**<sup>4</sup> Just as it is stated in this verse, Islam was perfected with the Greatest Messenger. He taught humanity the ways of reaching happiness in this world and hereafter.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

We believe that all prophets are the servants and messengers of Allah and also believe in the original books

that were sent through them. Again, we know and believe that the only religion valid before Allah until the Day of Judgement is Islam. The eternal salvation of all mankind is only possible by submitting to Allah's last religion, namely Islam. The happiness in this world and hereafter depends upon the belief in the rejuvenating messages of the Quran and the unique example of our Prophet.

Each believer who recites the Testimony of Faith with all his heart, who comes into the presence of Allah with obedience, good deeds, charity and goodness will be honored with our Lord's mercy. Whoever does not accept Allah the Almighty as his Lord, Islam as his religion, Muhammad Mustafa (pbuh) as his Prophet and Quran as his book is wronged themselves.<sup>5</sup> Our Almighty Lord, in the Qur'an, enjoins:

**وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ عَيْنَرِ الْأَسْلَامِ دِيْنًا فَإِنَّ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ**  
**"And whoever seeks a religion other than Islam, it will never be accepted of him, and in the Hereafter he will be one of the losers"**<sup>6</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

Those who can not tolerate the spread of Islam throughout the world and settle into the hearts of people have always engaged in various attempts against our religion. Islam is the hope of salvation for all mankind and a religion of mercy and compassion, peace and trust. But certain people try to defame Islam through unjust accusations like terror and violence. In many parts of the world, Muslims are exposed to practices that are incompatible with conscience and justice such as marginalization, discrimination, oppression, violence and persecution. Islamophobia spreads rapidly each passing day.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Throughout history, the attempts on harming and destroying our religion, our values and our beliefs have done no harm, and with Allah's will, are going to do no harm to the truth of Islam. As long as we know the value of our religion despite all these unfortunate events; offer our thanks to our Lord Who granted us this religion and learn our holy religion through authentic knowledge based on Quran and sunnah and teach it to future generations. As long as we properly practice the Islamic principles of faith, prayer and morality and be a good example for humanity. Let us protect our faith and prayers, brotherhood and fondness, in short, all our values together.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I want to conclude with these prayers Quran taught us:

**"Our Lord! Let not our hearts deviate (from the truth) after You have guided us, and grant us mercy from You. Truly, You are the Bestower"**<sup>7</sup>

**"Our Lord! Forgive us our sins and our transgressions, establish our feet firmly, and give us victory over the disbelieving folk."**<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Buhârî, Cenâiz, 79.

<sup>2</sup> Âl-i İmrân, 3/19.

<sup>3</sup> Buhârî, İlim, 49.

<sup>4</sup> Al-Mâ'idah, 5/3.

<sup>5</sup> Sahih Muslim, The Book on Government, 31.

<sup>6</sup> Ali 'Imran, 3/85.

<sup>7</sup> Ali 'Imran, 3/8.

<sup>8</sup> Ali 'Imran, 3/147.

## لِقَاءُ الْمُرْتَبَّةِ

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أَنْوَهٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ

الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

فَالَّذِي أَنْوَهَ اللَّهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

أَنَا مُحَمَّدٌ وَأَخْمَدُ وَالْمُقْبِي وَالْحَاسِرُ وَتَبِي التَّوْبَةُ وَتَبِي الرَّحْمَةُ.

### MAWLID AN-NABI

الصَّلَوةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، الصَّلَوةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا حَبِيبَ اللَّهِ،

الصَّلَوةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَحْمَةً لِلْعَالَمِينَ...

Peace and Blessings Be Upon You O Messenger of Allah! Peace and Blessings Be Upon You O Beloved of Allah! Peace and Blessings Be upon You O the Prophet Who is The Mercy to the Worlds!

### Brothers and Sisters!

We are going to observe Mawlid An-Nabi together on the night that connects Wednesday to Thursday next week. We will once again joyfully celebrate the birth of our Master Muhammad Mustafa (pbuh), who was sent to this world as a mercy to the worlds. May your night be blessed in advance. May Our Almighty Lord never devoid us of the fondness and reverence we have towards The Greatest Messenger. May He never let us stray from his path and from his valuable sunnah for one moment.

### Honorable Believers!

The Messenger of Allah is the last prophet who reminds the humanity of their responsibilities and duties. We are honored to be his ummah. He taught us to have an outlook on life and death, on the past and the future that is worthy of a believer. He showed us submission and loyalty, the right and the truth, mercy and conscience, justice and virtue, patience and tolerance with his exemplary life.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Our first task as the ummah of our Prophet (pbuh) is to know and understand him correctly. To know and understand him correctly, one must first understand the reason and purpose of creation, humanitarian and moral values, his understanding of life and his merciful and compassionate view. Knowing our Prophet correctly will lead the way for us to understand our book of life, the Quran, better. Because our Holy Book was transformed into a living example by our Prophet.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord Almighty enjoins: “**T**here has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often.”<sup>1</sup> Our Prophet (pbuh) stated that he is the prophet of mercy and repentance.<sup>2</sup>

This verse and hadith shows us that the actual task for us is to understand our Prophet correctly and practice Quran into our lives correctly, just as he taught us by his life. It is to adopt the example and great moral character of our Prophet as a principle for ourselves. It is to endeavor to be an exemplary believer and a good person like him. It is to try our best to be a faithful spouse, a dutiful child, a compassionate grandfather and a merciful father like him. It is to be known as a trusted neighbor, a sincere brother or sister, a faithful relative like him.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Today, mankind is in need of our Prophet’s (pbuh) great moral character and unique example more than ever. Because humanity is swaying in the whirlpool of disturbance and in the darkness of cruelty and injustice. Terror, violence, war and savagery are widespread especially in the Islamic geography because the ideals of our Prophet and his views on existence and humanity are not understood and embraced correctly. People are ruthlessly murdered in Islamic regions every day because the Prophet’s view that is based on not killing, but rejuvenating has been put aside.

### Brothers and Sisters!

The greatest betrayal against the Prophet (pbuh) today would be the abuse of his holy name to support some dark ideas and the gathering of power and interests by abusing the noble values he presented to humanity. It also would be the shameless exploitation of the pure love and fondness that people have in their hearts for their prophet. It should not be forgotten that the sunnah and the character of our Prophet, his exemplary life and the noble values he passed down on us are trusted on each one of us as believers. May our Lord make us His trustworthy servants who protect what is entrusted to us.

### Honorable Believers!

Today is the teachers’ day, to whom we entrust our children and who make great efforts to educate our generations. While I congratulate the day of our esteemed teachers, I also want to remind you that tomorrow is “International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women”. With the opportunity these two days give us, we should never forget how our Prophet valued education, scholars and women. We should not neglect our tasks and responsibilities.

I want to conclude this khutba with these lines of our poet of independence for our Prophet:

What this world has, all is from him,  
People are beholden to him, each and every one,  
All humanity is beholden to that innocent man,  
O Lord! Gather us on Judgment Day with this belief!

<sup>1</sup> Al-Ahzab, 33/21.

<sup>2</sup> Sahih Muslim, The Book of Virtues, 126.

**LOCATION : NATIONWIDE**  
**DATE : 01.12.2017**



يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا نُودِي لِلصَّلَاةِ مِنْ يَوْمِ الْجُمُعَةِ فَاسْتَعِوا إِلَى ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ  
وَذَرُوا ال�َيْعَ دِلْكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
خَيْرُ يَوْمٍ طَلَعَتِ الشَّمْسُ يَوْمُ الْجُمُعَةِ ...

### **FRIDAY: THE BEST DAY ON WHICH THE SUN HAS RISEN**

Honorable brothers and sisters who gathered together in this holy mosque to perform the Friday prayer which is among the principles of Islam. May your Friday be blessed, and your day be beneficial!

It was a Friday, just like this. Our Prophet (pbuh) finally got close to Medina after the arduous journey of hegira that lasted for days. When he reached the place called "Ranuna" near Medina, the time for Friday prayer had come. The Messenger of Mercy delivered the khutba to the crowd who came to welcome him with excitement. He became the imam for the first Friday prayer. Our Prophet (pbuh) said this to us all in that khutba through his companions: **"Now then, O people, advance good works for yourselves before you die. You know, by Allah, each one of you will leave this world behind. Then Allah will ask you: 'Did my Messenger not come to you and inform you of My Message? Did I not bestow on you property and graces? So, what have you advanced for yourself?'... Whoever can protect himself from the Hell-Fire, let him do so in his power. Let him do it with half a date, or even just with a good word."**<sup>1</sup>

### **Brothers and Sisters!**

Today is Friday. Today is the Eid of our week. We live each Friday with a great joy. We experience a joy and excitement that is impossible to describe. Because Friday is an exceptional day that allows us to rejuvenate weekly and hold on to life again. Friday is the day when our souls find peace after getting suffocated by all kinds of complexities of life. It is the period when our hearts become clear and find themselves after getting exhausted by all kinds of difficulties.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters!**

Our Lord Almighty enjoins in the Quran: **"O you who believe! When the call is proclaimed for the prayer on the day of Friday, come to the remembrance of Allah and leave off business (and every other thing), that is better for you if you did but know!"**<sup>2</sup> In this respect, Friday is the name of us standing before Allah Almighty, free from everyday occupations, from all kinds of worldly concerns. Just as we show our submission and loyalty to our Lord in our prayers five times a day, we strengthen this determination of ours in the Friday prayer. We renew

our oath of servitude every Friday. We offer our prayers and good deeds that we made during the week once again to our Lord in this meeting.

### **Honorable Brothers and Sisters!**

Friday is the time of accounting for us. It is the moment of reviewing our course and clearing ourselves from the sins that we knowingly or unknowingly committed. Friday is just the right time for us to take refuge in Allah's limitless mercy and compassion knowing that the prayers would not be turned down.

Friday is the day when we shout out loud our unity and solidarity, brotherhood and friendship. We, young and old, man and women, gather together in mosques in the Friday prayer with the same faith, same intention and the same ideals. We listen to the khutbas delivered from these minbars that are the seats of our Prophet. We socialize once again, in our joy and sadness. We all together experience the joy of being a servant of Allah, being brothers and sisters, sharing and cooperation, with our hearts and souls.

### **Honorable Believers!**

To quote our Prophet, Friday is the best day on which the sun has risen.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, Friday is one of the symbols of our Holy Religion of Islam. Friday is mercy. Friday is blessing. Friday is peace. The fact is, every day, every second that we have is precious in our faith. Because Allah Almighty created the time and granted it as a blessing to us. And what's important before Allah is not how we refer to time or what we call the days; it is how we put our time to good use. It is whether we spent every breath in accordance with our Lord's countenance. It is whether we transformed our short life into an eternal reward or not.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters!**

The expression of "Black Friday" we have heard often recently disturbed us all as believers. Because in our faith, all days belong to Allah. The morning of each day is the awakening for a bright future. Such disrespectful expressions and approaches that target the symbol of a faith and disregard its members have no place in our tradition and customs. The fact that a sacred concept of a religion is abused as a means of limitless consumption is just unacceptable.

### **Brothers and Sisters!**

As believers, our task against the face of such efforts that could create a negative perception in the minds is to hold fast to our faith and values. The most important duty we have for the humanity is to represent and convey correctly the Quran that is our guide to salvation, and Our Prophet who is the Mercy to the Worlds, to the best of our abilities. Let us not forget that the help of Allah will be with us as long as we strive for this cause.

<sup>1</sup> Ibn Hisham, Seerah, III, 30.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Jumu'ah, 62/9.

<sup>3</sup> Sahih Muslim, The Book of Prayer - Friday, 18.

**LOCATION : NATIONWIDE**  
**DATE : 08.12.2017**



سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ عَبْنَيْهِ نَيْلًا مِنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ  
الْأَقْصَى الَّذِي بَارَكَنَا حَوْلَهُ لِتُرْبَةِ مِنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:  
لَا تَشَدُ الرِّحَالُ إِلَّا إِلَى ثَلَاثَةِ مَسَاجِدِ الْحَرَامِ وَمَسَجِدِي هَذَا  
وَالْمَسَجِدِ الْأَقْصَى

## Our Bleeding Wound: Al-Quds

### Blessed Friday to You, Honorable Believers!

Our Lord Almighty enjoins in the verse I have recited: “Limitless in His glory is He who transported His servant by night from the Inviolable House of Worship (at Mecca) to the Remote House of Worship (at Al-Quds) - the environs of which We had blessed - so that We might show him some of Our symbols: for, verily, He alone is all-hearing, all-seeing.”<sup>1</sup>

Our Prophet (pbuh) says in the hadith I have read: “Do not undertake a journey (for religious devotion) to visit any Mosque, but three: this Mosque of mine, the Mosque of al-Haram and the Mosque of Aqsa.”<sup>2</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

Al-Quds is the apple of our eyes. Al-Quds is our unceasing longing. Al-Quds is a city where many prophets strived for the cause of tawhid. It is a sacred and blessed city with its name and environs. Al-Quds is Al-Quds Ash-Sharif. It is also known as Bayt-al-Maqdis. Many prophets such as Ibrahim, Yaqub, Musa, Sulayman and Isa lived in Al-Quds and its surrounding region, which has been the cradle to many civilizations for thousands of years. The last sacred guest of Al-Quds became our Master Muhammad Mustafa (pbuh) with the event of Isra and Miraj. Moreover, the first kiblah of Islam, Al-Aqsa Mosque, is in Al-Quds.

Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque are the glad tidings of our Prophet that he entrusted to us. Al-Quds is an honorable city which every believer is attached dearly. Al-Quds is not just a mere piece of land. Al-Quds is not just the cause of those who live around Palestine and Al-Aqsa Mosque, it is a common cause of all Muslims and humanity.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Al-Quds found peace with the conquest of Umar. Muslims governed Al-Quds with a fair and just rule for many years. They respected everyone's life, property and beliefs. In fact, even non-Muslims sought the justice of Islam for the disputes they had amongst themselves. But Al-Quds, Darussalam, the center of peace and tranquility, has been crestfallen for a long time and bleeding for years. Al-Quds is our bleeding wound and unceasing pain today. Al-Quds has suffered from all kinds of attacks and ceased to be the city of peace. Guns keep firing in the city of prophets. Innocent people are being murdered.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Those living in and around Al-Quds are exposed to inhuman practices such as oppression, violence and isolation. People's freedom of life, belief and thought are attempted against without mercy and their identity and character, dignity and honor are targeted. While it was not long ago that believers were kept away from Mosque of Aqsa, today they are trying to invade Al-Quds. A reckless understanding that totally disregards humanity, ancient traditions and international law is now in an effort to make Al-Quds the capital of Israel.

Let it be known that such reckless efforts would turn Al-Quds and its region into a land of conflict and disturbance. Such unacceptable attempts are a great blow dealt to the common sense and conscience of humanity. It is a dangerous step towards destroying peace, order and security.

### Dear Believers!

Mankind suffers great pains due to negative developments like violence, oppression, war and migration. In addition to all these, such efforts against Al-Quds, far from foresight and discernment, devoid of mercy and conscience, have disturbed everyone with a common sense. Our task against all these is to never consent to these negative developments. It is to never tolerate what is wrong and unjust, wherever in the world and regardless of their victims.

It is a fact that there are many lessons to be taken from all the disasters, oppression and suffering that our brothers and sisters, the Islamic geography and the humanity are subjected to. Come, let us strengthen our brotherhood of faith with the consciousness of umma as quickly as possible. Let us protect each other's dignity and rights. Let each of us work with all our strength to free ourselves from the difficulties, pains and deprivations that we are in. Let us live our beliefs, our values and teach them to future generations.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Our holy nation has never severed and will not sever the ties of affection with Al-Quds, Al-Aqsa Mosque and our oppressed Palestinian brothers and sisters throughout history. With this in our minds, we open our hands to our Lord in this time of Friday and ask: O Allah! Let us be among those Muslims who feel the pain of all their oppressed brothers and sisters in the world and use everything they have to help them, materially and spiritually! Let us not side with those who lack foresight, discernment, conscience and those who oppress!

O Allah! Do not allow those who try to invade Al-Quds and Islamic cities, those who bring disorder and sabotage peace under the guise of improvement! Accept our prayers for the sake of this holy Friday, o Allah!

<sup>1</sup> Al-Isra, 17/1.

<sup>2</sup> Sahih Muslim, The Book of Pilgrimage, 511.

لِلْهَٰجِرَةِ الْمُرْجَيَّةِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اجْتَنِبُوا كَثِيرًا مِّنَ الطَّنَّ إِنَّ بَعْضَ الطَّنَّ إِثْمٌ وَلَا تَجْسَسُوا  
وَلَا يَغْتَبْ بَعْضُكُمْ بَعْضًا إِيَّاهُ أَحَدُكُمْ أَن يَأْكُلَ لَحْمَ أَخِيهِ مِنْتَافِكِرِ هَمْمَوْهُ  
وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَوَابُ رَحِيمٌ  
فَالَّرَّسُولُ اللَّهُ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
مَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَلْيَقْرُلْ خَيْرًا أَوْ لِيَضْنُمْ ...

## A DAGGER IN THE BACK OF BROTHERHOOD: BACKBITING

### Blessed Friday to You, Honorable Believers!

One day, the Prophet's (pbuh) wife Aishah implied that Safiyyah was short-statured. Thereupon, the Messenger of Allah pointed out how bad backbiting is with this warning: "**O Aisha! You have said a statement which, if it were mixed in with the water of the sea, it would pollute it.**"<sup>1</sup>

### Honorable Believers!

Backbiting is mentioning a brother or sister with unpleasant words. It is harming his honor and dignity in his absence. Backbiting is a dagger stabbed on trust and sincerity, peace and fondness, unity and solidarity; or in short, on brotherhood. It is an ugly attitude and behavior incompatible with humanity and unfitting for a believer, which harm the individual and society. Therefore, Lord Almighty has forbidden backbiting with this verse of the Quran: "**O you who believe! Avoid much suspicions, indeed some suspicions are sins. And spy not, neither backbite one another. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his dead brother? You would hate it. And fear Allah. Verily, Allah is the One Who accepts repentance, Most Merciful.**"<sup>2</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

We are believers who are bound together with the brotherhood of faith. This is an unshakable brotherhood just like the building blocks of a structure that are fused to one another. In this brotherhood, the brothers are entrusted to each other. The life of our brother is our life. His honor and dignity is our honor and dignity. This brotherhood requires that we should not harm one another even with a seemingly small implication. This fact was articulated by one openhearted, gentle believer with this remark: "Never hurt a soul, or you'll destroy the heavens of the Most Gracious."

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

During our daily lives, our minds get tired with all kinds of news. Our ears hear many words whether we want them or not. Especially in the mass media and social media, most of the time ugly words like gossip, lies and slander are presented in a way that arouses interest. Sometimes people's honor and dignity are targeted by false news and comments that are senselessly and irresponsibly published. Yet our Prophet (pbuh) defined a Muslim as "the one who avoids harming others with his tongue and hands."<sup>3</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) enjoined us to stay away from behaviors that does not fit a believer like backbiting, suspicion and looking into others faults: "**Do not back-bite Muslims, and do not search for their faults, for if anyone searches for their faults, Allah will search for his fault, and if Allah searches for the fault of anyone, He disgraces him even in his house.**"<sup>4</sup>

Our Master, The Greatest Prophet said: "**Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should talk what is good or keep quiet.**"<sup>5</sup> He also informed us that it is enough falsehood for us to relate everything we hear.<sup>6</sup>

Alas! Today, however, perception operations are put into place by people who turned lies, slander, backbiting and gossip into an industry. The peace and tranquility of the individual and the society are being greatly harmed with such negative behavior.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Let our tongue always move for trust confidence, peace and tranquility; not for sedition and malice. Let our words be uttered for loyalty and righteousness; not for gossip and backbiting or slander and lies. Let our speech lead to fondness and brotherhood; not hatred, grudge and enmity. Let us not forget that those who have a believer-like outlook on life and who protect their minds, hearts, tongues, hands and in short their bodies are the ones who would reach eternal blessings in that grand day.

I want to conclude the khutba with this prayer of our Prophet (pbuh):

**"O Allah, indeed I seek refuge in You from the evil of my hearing, my sight, my tongue and the evil of my heart."**<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> At-Tirmidhi, Descr. of the Last Day, 51; Abi Dawud, General Behavior, 35.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Hucurat, 49/12.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Bukhari, Belief, 4.

<sup>4</sup> Abi Dawud, General Behavior, 35.

<sup>5</sup> Al-Bukhari, To make the Heart Tender, 23.

<sup>6</sup> Abi Dawud, General Behavior, 80.

<sup>7</sup> At-Tirmidhi, Chapters on Supplication, 74; Abi Dawud, Book of Prayer, 32.

**LOCATION : NATIONWIDE**  
**DATE : 22.12.2017**

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَلَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ إِنَّا نَعْبُدُهُ وَنَسْأَلُهُ مُغْفِرَةً لِّذَنبِنَا

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلٍ  
الشَّيْطَانُ فَاجْتَبَيْهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ  
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ  
إِنَّ الْحَلَالَ بَيْنَ وَإِنَّ الْحَرَامَ بَيْنَ وَبَيْنَهُمَا مُشْتَهَيْهَا لَا يَعْلَمُهُنَّ كَثِيرٌ  
مِّنَ النَّاسِ فَمَنْ أَنْقَى الشُّبُهَاتِ اسْتَنْتَرَ أَدِينَهُ وَعَزَّضَهُ وَمَنْ وَقَعَ  
فِي الشُّبُهَاتِ وَقَعَ فِي الْحَرَامِ

## SENSITIVITY TO HALAL AND HARAM

### Blessed Friday to You, Honorable Believers!

Our Lord Almighty enjoins in the verse I have recited: “O you who believe! Intoxicants (all kinds of alcoholic drinks), gambling, Al-Ansab, and Al-Azlam (arrows for seeking luck or decision) are an abomination of Shaitan's (Satan) handiwork. So avoid (strictly all) that (abomination) in order that you may be successful.”<sup>1</sup>

Our Prophet (pbuh) said in the holy hadith I have read: “What is lawful is evident and what is unlawful is evident, and in between them are the things doubtful which many people do not know. So he who guards against doubtful things keeps his religion and honor blameless, and he who indulges in doubtful things indulges in fact in unlawful things...”<sup>2</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

Our Lord Almighty created mankind as the most honorable of all creation. He set some boundaries for mankind to protect his pure nature and ensure his eternal salvation. We call these boundaries that we should obey throughout our lives halal and haram.

Halal are the beautiful things that are in accordance with the reason and purpose of creation. Haram are the ugly things that harm and hurt the honor and dignity of the mankind, the respected creation of our Lord. Halal are the words, behaviors and attitudes in accordance with Allah countenance. Haram are the evil things that would bring upon our Lord's wrath and people's condemnation.

### Dear Believers!

To pay regard to halal indicates our faith towards Allah, in other words our loyalty towards the oath of servitude we gave to Him. To get involved in haram is to ignore that oath. Seeking halal is an effort towards living a decent, upright, and honorable life. Indulging in haram is a state where the mind and heart is clouded, where a person is a slave to the vain desires and wants.

The closer a person is to halal, the closer he is to peace. Walking towards haram ends in regret and misery.

The result of a life wasted by losing the sensitivity to halal-haram is disappointment.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

In our religion, nobody has the authority to define halal and haram according to their wishes. Every believer who believes in the merciful messages of the Holy Quran and walks on the noble path of our Prophet (pbuh) must be sensitive to halal-haram. A believer, by requirement of faith, is a person who loves his Lord, knows his boundaries and knows himself. He cannot lose his conscience and mercy and hurt any creature. He cannot hurt the dignity of himself and others by acting insensitive, disrespectful and unvirtuous.

A believer cannot waste his limited breaths in this transitory world on unfair gains such as fortune-telling, gambling, luck games, interest, bribe, usury, and theft. He cannot poison the body Allah entrusted to him with alcohol and drugs. He cannot harm his health with non-halal foods and drinks.

A believer is such a person that he cannot touch the property of an orphan. He cannot be unjust towards the rights of another person or the public. He cannot treat his wife and children, his parents, neighbors and relatives badly. He cannot stain his tongue with bad words, slander, lies and perjury. He can never betray someone's trust and break his promise. He cannot pursue sedition and malice and spread corruption on earth.

### Esteemed Brothers and Sisters!

As believers, let us look at our attitude towards the boundaries of halal and haram. Let each of us ask ourselves these questions: Do we live a life within the scope of halal-haram sensitivity? Or are we in a situation where our perception is paralyzed? Do we put our happiness in this world and hereafter in danger by not caring about sins and not avoiding haram? Or are we able to leave our faults back never to return with a sincere repentance?

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Let us not forget, what is fitting for a believer is to be aware against halal and haram. People could make mistakes. But the most sagacious of those who make mistakes are the ones who turn back from these faults and repent.

I want to conclude this khutba with this prayer of our Prophet (pbuh): “O Allah! Set me apart from my sins as the East and West are set apart from each other and clean me from sins as a white garment is cleaned of dirt!”<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Al-Maidah, 5/90.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Bukhari, Book of Faith, 39; Sahih Muslim, The Book of Musaqa, 107.

<sup>3</sup> Al-Bukhari, Book of Call to Prayers, 89.

LOCATION : NATIONWIDE  
DATE : 29.12.2017



اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا تَعْلَمُ مَا فِي أَنفُسِنَا وَأَنْتَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا فِي أَنفُسِ النَّاسِ فَاغْفِرْ لَنَا مَا لَمْ نَعْلَمْ

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

نِعْمَتَانِ مَغْبُونٌ فِيهِمَا كَثِيرٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ، الصِّحَّةُ وَالْفَرَاغُ

## OUR IRREPLACEABLE WEALTH: LIFE

Blessed Friday to You, Honorable Believers!

Our Lord Almighty enjoins in the verse I have recited: “[He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed - and He is the Exalted in Might, the Forgiving.”<sup>1</sup>

Our Prophet (pbuh) says in the hadith I have read: “There are two blessings which many people lose: (They are) Health and free time for doing good.”<sup>2</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

We are on the verge of a new year of the Gregorian calendar. We are about to leave behind a year from our irreplaceable wealth: our lives. May our Lord Almighty bless us with a bountiful life. May He make the days ahead of us better than the days we have left behind.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Whether we name the years or calculate the days according to Islamic or Gregorian calendars; the one and only master of time is our Lord Almighty. He is the One Who entrusted each moment we have to us as a blessing. And what really matters before our Lord is how we spend our time; for what purpose we spend our limited breaths; whether we use the blessing of life in accordance with the purpose of our creation.

### Brothers and Sisters!

We call the short period of time that our Lord deemed fit for us life. Life describes a period that should be made prosperous and transformed into eternal gains. The mortal life on this earth is made prosperous if it is dressed with faith in Allah and righteous deeds. This very short life is made bountiful if it is lived in accordance with Allah’s countenance with a sense of responsibility and trust.

### Honorable Brothers and Sisters!

Our Almighty Lord provides opportunities for each one of us for us to make our life more meaningful and bountiful. The beginning of a new year which informs us about how swiftly the time passes is one of those opportunities. This is an opportunity for us to make a fresh start to life, so to speak, and open yet another clean page; to define new resolutions and high ideals, to make good plans for the year ahead. This is an opportunity for us to take account of ourselves, review and correct our mistakes and repent for our sins.

### Brothers and Sisters!

Then let us ask ourselves these questions as we leave behind a year from our lives:

How close were we to Allah Almighty, when whole creation in the earth and the sky praised Him? How faithful were we for our oath to Allah we gave after the question **اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَنَا عَبْدُكَ** “Am I not your Lord?”? To what extent we were able to heed His orders, or refrain from what He forbidden?

Which righteous deeds, goodness or beautiful things we recorded on our book of good deeds? To what extent we were able to protect our hands, tongue, eyes, ears, mind and heart from unlawful things and sins?

How many of our days did we make more fruitful than the other, in this life where those who live two equal days are losers? How many of our days we were able to turn into eternal gains?

To what extent we were able to fulfill our responsibilities towards our mother and father, wife and children, relatives and neighbors? To what extent we were able to make the suffering of those in need our suffering? What did we do to relieve the suffering of our oppressed brothers and sisters, wherever in the world?

### Brothers and Sisters!

It is not fitting for us to waste the hours we should answer these questions on some wrong behaviors that have no place in our belief, culture and tradition. To pin our hope upon lottery and games of chance and try to earn money without labor or any effort is incompatible with the sensitivity of our religion on lawful earnings. Wasting our health away with alcoholic drinks, killing our time with unlimited and improper pleasures is absolutely incompatible with the sense of trust that a believer should have.

Because, as the Prophet (pbuh) stated, a believer should appreciate the value of his health before he gets ill. He should spend his free time doing good before he gets busy. He should use his youth on good deeds before old age catches up with him. He should use his wealth and resources as means for his happiness in the hereafter before he loses them.<sup>3</sup>

### Brothers and Sisters!

What we ask from our Lord Almighty in this last Friday of the year is that may He grant us the ability to carry this blessing of faith until our last breath. May He make our days, months and years bountiful with good deeds. May He makes us His servants who are good and who make good deeds, who refrain from evil and forbid evil things. May He help us in doing the deeds that would earn us heaven and avoid the actions that would lead us to hell.

<sup>1</sup> Al-Mulk, 67/2.

<sup>2</sup> Al-Bukhari, To Make the Heart Tender (Ar-Riqaq), 1.

<sup>3</sup> Hakim, al-Mustadrak, IV, 341.