

APPRECIATING THE TRUE MEANING OF INDEPENDENCE

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ
سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا
عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ
وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيَكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our obedience towards Allah the Almighty by doing everything that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. Hopefully, we will achieve success in this world and in the hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Independence Day is an important day in the history of a country. Independence allows a nation to be developed effectively and peacefully.

For a Muslim, independence indicates that he is free from serving other than Allah the Almighty as mentioned in the Qur'an in Chapter 51 (Surah Az-Zaariyat), verse (ayat) 56:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ﴿٥٦﴾

Which means: *“And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the Book of *Bidayah Wannihayah*, Rab’i bin Amir explained to the Persian commander, Rustum, the real meaning of independence in Islam. When he was asked by Rustum the reason why the Muslims came to Persia, Rab’i bin Amir replied:

“Allah has sent us to deliver you from worshipping the creation to worshipping the Creator of the creation and to deliver you from the constriction of this world to the vastness of this world and the after life and from the oppression of the religions to the justice of Islam.”

Therefore, it is obligatory upon us to celebrate our independence in a way that is pleasing to Allah the Almighty. Also, it is obligatory upon us to preserve our independence.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Islam is a religion of liberation and independence. Real freedom is when we as individuals, or as a country, are able to successfully practice the teachings of Islam completely, and to fully implement Islamic Law. Islam is a religion that liberates people from slavery to man-made rules to a way of life that pleases Allah the Almighty; liberates people from associating partners to Allah (*shirk*) to worshipping Allah the Almighty alone; and liberates people from being captive to their lust to fully devoting themselves to Allah the Almighty.

Allah the Almighty says in the Qur’an in Chapter 6 (Surah al-An’am), verse (*ayat*) 153:

وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا السُّبُلَ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَن سَبِيلِهِ ذَٰلِكُمْ وَصَّيْنَاكُمْ بِهِ

لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٥٣﴾

Which means: “And, [moreover], this is My path, which is straight, so follow it; and do not follow [other] ways, for you will be separated from His way. This has He instructed you that you may become righteous.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us be reminded that although Islam is the religion of the Federation, other religions can be practiced peacefully in this country.

As Muslims, it is our duty to defend this provision which has been enacted since our independence 60 years ago. We should also strengthen and uphold Islam in our Legislation, such as through the reinforcement of Act 355.

Questioning the position of Islam in this country is contrary to the Constitution and can affect one's faith. Those who refuse to defend the Act and choose to weaken it are choosing to bring back a new form of colonization. We do not want foreign powers to interfere with the administration of our country in ways that can damage our religion and our nation. This will result in tarnishing the image of our country at an international level. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

لَا يُلْدَغُ الْمُؤْمِنُ مِنْ جُحْرٍ وَاحِدٍ مَرَّتَيْنِ

Which means: “A believer should not allow himself to be stung twice (by something) from the same hole.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us be reminded that we are now facing colonialism in new forms such as colonization through entertainment that encourages various sins and misleading ways of thinking such as liberalism which allows women to lead men in congregational prayers and allows sex before marriage.

Let us all agree to celebrate Independence Day by placing Islam above all other interests. We should make our country truly independent by implementing Allah's commands in all aspects of our lives.

Allah the Almighty says in the Qur'an in Chapter 3 (Surah Ali-Imran), verse (*ayat*) 19:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ ^ط وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا

جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ ^ط وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ ﴿١٩﴾

Which means: “Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam. And those who were given the Scripture did not differ except after knowledge had come to them - out of jealous animosity between themselves. And whoever disbelieves in the verses of Allah, then indeed, Allah is swift in [taking] account.”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ
قَوْلِي هَذَا وَاسْتَغْفِرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ
وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ
إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.