

THE PROPHET'S LEADERSHIP IN UNITING THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY (UMMAH)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا.
مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّهِ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ
صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّاي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Allah the Almighty, through His Messenger Prophet Muhammad (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him), has clearly expressed His love for unity and His hate for all forms of division among His servants as mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 3 (Surah Ali-Imran), verse (ayat) 103:

وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۗ وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ
أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَى شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِنَ
النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ

Which means: “And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves; and remember with gratitude Allah's favour on you; for ye were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His Grace, ye became brethren; and ye were on the brink of the pit of Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus doth Allah make His Signs clear to you: That ye may be guided.”

This verse calls upon mankind to take responsibility for uniting the *ummah* (the Muslim community). We are forbidden from being divided. In other words Islam prohibits any action that can lead to disunity.

Remember that those who are united will achieve excellence and success. Allah the Almighty reminds us in the Quran in Chapter 9 (Surah al-Taubah), verse (*ayat*) 71 to help each other:

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ
عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَيُطِيعُونَ اللَّهَ
وَرَسُولَهُ أُولَئِكَ سَيَرْحَمُهُمُ اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ

Which means: “The Believers, men and women, are protectors one of another: they enjoin what is just, and forbid what is evil: they observe regular prayers, practise regular charity, and obey Allah and His Messenger. On them will Allah pour His mercy: for Allah is Exalted in power, Wise.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Prophet (may Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him), the core of the unity for the *ummah*, has shown us the best example. He successfully united the two tribes – Aus and Khazraj – who were in a long-running dispute, through the bonds of Islam. Prophet Muhammad (may Allah’s blessings and peace be upon him) strengthened the bond of maintaining a brotherly relationship which led to the unity of the *ummah*.

He was also able to change the lifestyle of the ignorant (*jahilliyyah*) people from non-believers to believers, hostility to brotherhood, cruelty to affection, and laziness to the diligence.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us revive the spirit of unity and avoid enmity among Muslims at all times. For example, avoid partaking in provocative protests that do not benefit Muslims. The Prophet (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) promoted unity by setting up a mosque and inviting the entire population of Madinah for congregational prayers - a method that is perceived as trivial by Muslims - as it is the first step to form unity among Muslims. Therefore, let us invite our family members to perform congregational prayers every day, especially for the Dawn prayer (*Subh*). The Prophet (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Muslim:

Which means: *“He who prayed the morning prayer (in congregation) is in fact under the protection of Allah. And it can never happen that Allah should demand anything from you in connection with the protection (that He guarantees) and one should not get it. He would then throw him in the fire of Hell.”*

Allah the Almighty also reminds us to unite as He mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 8 (Surah Al-Anfal), verse (*ayat*) 46:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ، وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ، وَأَصْبِرُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ
الصَّابِرِينَ

Which means: *“And obey Allah and His Messenger; and fall into no disputes, lest ye lose heart and your power depart; and be patient and persevering: For Allah is with those who patiently persevere:”*

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ،
وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي
وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ.