

HAJJ AND SOLIDARITY

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

Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam that is obligatory on every able-bodied Muslim. Hajj is a symbol of sacrifice for the religion. The need to sacrifice energy, time, and property in performing Hajj is a lesson for us as servants of Allah the Almighty. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 22 (*Surah Al-Hajj*) verse (ayat)27:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَأَذِّنْ فِي النَّاسِ بِالْحَجِّ يَأْتُوكَ رِجَالًا وَعَلَى كُلِّ ضَامِرٍ يَأْتِينَ مِنْ كُلِّ فَجٍّ عَمِيقٍ ﴿٢٧﴾

Which means: *“Proclaim the Pilgrimage to all people. They will come to you on foot and on every kind of swift mount, emerging from every deep mountain pass.”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hajj is a symbol of unity. The gathering of Muslims from all over the world in the cities of Mecca and Medina teaches us that Muslims are obliged to love, respect and cooperate with each other regardless of race, position or rank. A culture of love and mutual cooperation needs to be bound by faith and piety to Allah the Almighty as He says in the Quran in Chapter 49 (*Surah Al-Hujurat*) verse (*ayat*) 10:

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

Which means: *“The believers are brothers, so make peace between your two brothers and be mindful of Allah, so that you may be given mercy.”*

Relationships among Muslims today are weak; the culture of greeting each other is fading; neighbors do not even know one another. There are also those who do not know their relatives. Muslims are ruined by the maladies of enmity and envy. There are a few who are willing to oppress, betray, jeopardize or even kill each other. This is the result of a unity that is not based on faith and piety. The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam Bukhari:

لَا تَقَاطِعُوا ، وَلَا تَدَابِرُوا ، وَلَا تَبَاغَضُوا ، وَلَا تَحَاسَدُوا ، وَكُونُوا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ إِخْوَانًا ، وَلَا يَحِلُّ

لِمُسْلِمٍ أَنْ يَهْجُرَ أَخَاهُ فَوْقَ ثَلَاثِ

Which means: “Do not hate one another, nor be jealous of one another; and do not desert one another, but O Allah's worshippers! Be Brothers! And it is unlawful for a Muslim to desert his brother Muslim (and not to talk to him) for more than three nights.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hajj is a symbol of equality among human beings. The obligation to wear *ihram* that is uniform among pilgrims regardless of position and rank, teaches us that all humans are equal in the sight of Allah the Almighty. This principle was an important factor in the success of the Prophet (PBUH) in establishing the Islamic religion and state. History records that the Prophet (PBUH) served the community of his time equally, without differentiation even with his own children.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us together understand the important lessons in Hajj to be practiced in our family, community and nation. Hopefully we will be contented in this world and in the hereafter. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) verse (*ayat*) 197:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

الْحَجُّ أَشْهُرٌ مَّعْلُومَةٌ فَمَنْ فَرَضَ فِيهِنَّ الْحَجَّ فَلَا رَفَثَ وَلَا فُسُوقَ وَلَا جِدَالَ فِي الْحَجِّ وَمَا تَفَعَّلُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ يَعْلَمُهُ اللَّهُ وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُونِ يَا أُولِيَ الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿١٧٧﴾

Which means: “The pilgrimage takes place during the prescribed months. There should be no indecent speech, misbehavior, or quarreling for anyone undertaking the pilgrimage- whatever good you do, Allah is well aware of it. Provide well for yourselves: the best provision is piety - always be mindful of Me, you who have understanding-”

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