

## AQSA IN MY HEART

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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ  
سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.  
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا  
عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأُوصِيكُمْ 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 forgiven in this world and in the Hereafter.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

“*Al-Aqsa*” is an Arabic word meaning “the farthest holy place” or “the farthest mosque”. It is located in the Old City of Jerusalem, Palestine. The Quran names Palestine as *Al-Ardhal Al-Muqaddasah* which means the holy land as Allah the Almighty mentions in the Quran in Chapter 5 (*Surah Al-Maidah*) verse (*ayat*) 21:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَقَوْمِ ادْخُلُوا الْأَرْضَ الْمُقَدَّسَةَ الَّتِي كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَلَا تَرْتَدُّوا عَلَىٰ أَدْبَارِكُمْ فَتَنْقَلِبُوا خَاسِرِينَ

**Which means:** “*My people, go into the holy land which Allah has ordained for you—do not turn back or you will be the losers.*”

This verse explains that Palestinians are forbidden to leave their country because Allah the Almighty has commanded them to defend and protect the sanctity of Al-Aqsa.

Muslims must have love and affection for Palestine and Al-Aqsa in their hearts because *Masjidil Aqsa* was the first *Qibla* (the direction for daily prayers) of Muslims. It is also the third noblest mosque after *Masjidil Haram* in Mecca and *Masjid Nabawi* in Madinah.

*Masjidil Aqsa* is mentioned in the Quran as the resting place for the Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) during the events of *Isra’ and Mi’raj* (the ascension to Heaven). He also miraculously led the prophets in prayers there. *Masjidil Aqsa* is also the second building built by Prophet Ibrahim (PBUH) after the *Kaaba* (the building marking the current direction for Muslim’s daily prayers). Based on a *hadith* narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari, Abu Zar (may Allah be pleased with him) once asked the Prophet (PBUH):

**Which means:** “*O Allah's Messenger. Which mosque was first built on the surface of the earth?*” He said, “*Al- Masjid-ul-Haram (in Mecca).*” I

said, “Which was built next?” He replied “The mosque of Al-Aqsa (in Jerusalem).” I said, “What was the period of construction between the two?” He said, “Forty years.” He added, “Wherever (you may be, and) the prayer time becomes due, perform the prayer there, for the best thing is to do so (i.e. to offer the prayers on time).”

*Masjidil Aqsa* is one of the mosques that we are encouraged to visit and we should strive to visit it as often as we do *Masjidil Haram* in Mecca and *Masjid Nabawi* in Madinah. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari:

وَلَا تُشَدُّ الرَّحَالُ إِلَّا إِلَى ثَلَاثَةِ مَسَاجِدَ مَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ، وَمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَى وَمَسْجِدِي هَذَا

**Which means:** “Do not undertake a journey to visit any Mosque, but three: this Mosque of mine, the Mosque of al-Haram and the Mosque of Aqsa (Bait al-Maqdis).”

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Based on *dalil* (proofs) that have been stated, the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Muslims and the glory of *Masjidil Aqsa* is not only a humanitarian issue, but also involves the issues of the Muslim faith, homeland, dignity and civilization. The land of Palestine and *Masjidil Aqsa* must be defended by Muslims around the world. Threats toward Palestine and *Masjidil Aqsa* are increasing each day due to what the Zionists have done.

One cruelty after another have been committed by the Zionist regime since 1948 after the establishment of the illegal state of Israel, due to the Israeli Zionist claims that the area of *Masjidil Aqsa* is the Temple Mount, which was a holy temple for the Jews. For years the Israeli Jews have tried to demolish *Masjidil Aqsa* starting with a series of bombings on this mosque in 1980 after they tried to burn it in 1969. The Zionists will not stop invading area of *Al-Aqsa* until they have full authority over the entire Palestinian land.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Islam teaches us that Muslims are brothers and we must defend each other. It is wrong for us to leave our brothers in Palestine suffering.

Muslims cannot depend on the sympathy and help of the *kuffar* (disbelievers) to help Islam. Allah the Almighty warns us that the *kuffar* will never protect Islam and its people unless we become their followers. Allah the Almighty mentions in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) verse (*ayat*) 120:

وَلَنْ تَرْضَىٰ عَنْكَ الْيَهُودُ وَلَا النَّصَارَىٰ حَتَّىٰ تَتَّبِعَ مِلَّتَهُمْ

**Which means:** “*The Jews and the Christians will never be pleased with you unless you follow their ways...*”

Therefore, Muslims must defend and save *Masjidil Aqsa* and the Muslims in Palestine must remain in Palestine. Moving them out of Palestine is against the command of Allah the Almighty.

Therefore, let us strive to help them even if it's just by praying for the liberation of Palestine and *Masjidil Aqsa* because it is the responsibility of all Muslims in the world.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

أَنْفِرُوا خِفَافًا وَثِقَالًا وَجَاهِدُوا بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ذَلِكُمْ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

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 وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.