

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ تَفَرَّقُوا وَأَخْتَلُفُوا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ وَأُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ
عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ : مَنْ فَرَقَ فَلَيْسَ مِنَّا

Honorable Muslims!

Our religion commands unity and togetherness, and has declared division (separation and fragmentation) to be forbidden. Disagreement and conflict pave the way for separation, disaster, and collapse. Unity is the path and guiding principle of people of sound reason. For believers whose God is one, Prophet is one, religion is one, Book is one, and qiblah is one, quarrelling and infighting are contrary to the spirit of the Noble Qur'an and of faith.

Dear Believers!

Societies and nations that have lost their freedom, values, and honor while pursuing division are a lesson for others. Those who do not take heed from their dispersion and disappearance from the stage of history will themselves become a lesson for future generations. Allah the Exalted says in the Noble Qur'an: **"Do not be like those who became divided and differed after clear proofs had come to them. For them there is a great punishment."** (Al 'Imrān, 105)

My Brothers!

If the individuals who keep a family, a community, and a nation standing bind together like the fibers of a rope, understand one another, and unite in the spirit of unity commanded by Islam, that family and society will continue their existence with honor and strength for many years. But if the bonds loosen and hearts drift apart, humiliation, weakness, and captivity eventually come knocking at the door. For this reason, our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa ﷺ said in a noble hadith: **"Whoever causes division is not from us."** (Tabarānī, al-Mu'jam al-Kabīr)

Dear Believers!

Our religion attaches great importance to communal consciousness. For wherever there is a community, there is abundance, blessing, mercy, and reward. The reward for prayer performed in congregation is twenty-seven degrees greater than prayer performed alone. This is a result of the mercy and blessing found within the community. Allah the Exalted commands us in His Book: **"Hold fast, all of you together, to the rope of Allah, and do not be divided."** (Al 'Imrān, 103)

Respected Congregation!

Division is a great trial and disaster that devastates families, communities, and nations; extinguishes homes; and places free people under the yoke of captivity. What keeps a

society standing is not merely its numbers, but its unity around the same faith, purpose, and goal; its standing shoulder to shoulder; and its sharing in one another's troubles. Just as a strong rope is not made of a single fiber but of fibers tightly intertwined, the strength of the ummah arises from individuals trusting one another and safeguarding one another's rights and dignity. If the bonds break and the ropes loosen, even the structure that appears strongest will collapse.

My Dear Brothers!

The work most beloved to Satan and the inner-self is to set believers against one another. When unity is broken, the strength of believers diminishes, acts of worship and service weaken, and peace in society is lost. Yet a believer is one who takes his brother by the hand, who sees his trouble rather than his fault.

Esteemed Believers!

Today, what falls upon us is to abandon the language of "you and I" and adopt the consciousness of "we." Not to wear each other down through differences of race or temperament, but to compete in piety, unite in mercy, and share the concerns of the ummah. For what is fragmented is not merely a group; what is weakened is not merely a community; it is the ummah itself that is wounded. Therefore, let us avoid words that sow discord among us, behaviors that break hearts, and magnifying small issues that divide hearts. Let us not forget: every moment we harden against one another, we make the work of Satan, the inner-self, and our enemies easier.

I conclude my khutbah with a noble verse: **"Obey Allah and His Messenger, and do not dispute with one another lest you lose courage and your strength departs; and be patient. Indeed, Allah is with the patient."** (al-Anfāl, 46)