

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَمَا أَمُرُوا إِلَّا لِیَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّینَ حُنَفَاءَ وَیُقِیْمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَیُؤْتُوا
الرَّكَاةَ وَذَلِکَ دِینُ الْقَیْمَةِ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ : الدِّینُ النَّصِیْحَةُ قُلْنَا: لِمَنْ؟ قَالَ: لِلَّهِ، وَلِکِتَابِهِ، وَلِرَسُولِهِ، وَلِأَئِمَّةِ
الْمُسْلِمِیْنَ، وَعَامَّتِهِمْ

Respected Muslims!

The topic of today's khutbah is sincerity and sincere advice, which are among the most fundamental principles of our religion.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said in a noble hadith: **"Religion is sincere advice."** The noble companions asked: **"To whom, O Messenger of Allah?"** He replied: **"To Allah, to His Book, to His Messenger, to the leaders of the Muslims, and to all Muslims."** (Muslim, Iman, 95)

Our scholars have accepted this noble hadith as one of the fundamental principles of Islam. The word **"nasihat"** in the hadith does not only mean giving advice. Nasihat in Arabic means sincerity, genuineness, purity of intention (ikhlas), and wishing well for everyone. That is, this noble hadith teaches us: **"Islam is to be sincere towards Allah the Exalted, towards His Book, towards His Messenger, towards the legitimate leaders of the Muslims, and towards all Muslims."** Sincerity here means a love, respect, and devotion that is genuine, selfless, authentic, and heartfelt.

Respected Muslims! Sincerity towards Allah the Exalted means believing in Him wholeheartedly, performing acts of worship solely for His pleasure, and submitting to His commands without hesitation. The sincere servant seeks only the pleasure of Allah the Exalted in all his acts of worship and in every aspect of his life.

Sincerity towards the Noble Qur'an means reading it, submitting to its rulings, and making it a guide for our lives. The Noble Qur'an is not merely a book to be recited, but a system of life to be lived.

Sincerity towards the Messenger of Allah ﷺ means adhering to his Sunnah, adopting his character, and not straying from the path he showed.

Dear Believers!

The noble hadith also commands us to be sincere towards the leaders of the Muslims and towards all Muslims. Sincerity towards the leaders of the Muslims means obeying them as long as they are upon truth and justice, and supporting and helping them for the order and unity of society. If a mistake is seen in them or their actions, it is

also a requirement of this sincerity to warn them with good intention and a beautiful manner, without resorting to discord or gossip, and to "enjoin what is good and forbid what is evil".

Sincerity towards all Muslims means desiring good for them, observing the rights of brotherhood, loving and protecting believers sincerely by staying away from egotistical traits such as discord, deceit, envy, hatred, and deception. A sincere believer helps the needy, shares in the concerns of his brother, avoids hurting his heart, does not pry into his faults, and strives to cover his shortcomings. Because the believer knows that a believer is the brother of a believer.

Respected Muslims! True faith requires sincerity. A sincere believer does not lie, does not deceive people, and does not use religion and sacred values for his own ego or benefit. Unfortunately, sometimes as Muslims, we may experience weakness in sincerity towards one another. Sometimes our words do not match our hearts. Sometimes we may stray from truthfulness for the sake of benefit. Yet the believer should be known for his courage, honesty, trustworthiness, and genuineness. One of the most important qualities of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ even from his youth was that he was known among the people as "Al-Amin" – the trustworthy one.

Dear Believers! Let us not forget: Where sincerity is absent, trust disappears, brotherhood weakens, and the peace of society is disturbed. Sincerity, on the other hand, unites hearts, strengthens brotherhood, and creates an environment of trust in society.

So come, let us purify our hearts from hatred, hypocrisy, and ostentation. Let us strengthen our faith with sincerity. Let us be sincere and honest towards Allah the Exalted, towards His Book, towards His Prophet, towards our leaders, and towards all believers.

I conclude my khutbah with the following blessed hadith of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ: **"Indeed, Allah does not look at your forms or your wealth, but He looks at your hearts and your deeds."** (Muslim)