

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
وَأَنَّ هَذَا صِرَاطِي مُسْتَقِيمًا فَاتَّبِعُوهُ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُوا السُّبُلُ فَتَفَرَّقَ بِكُمْ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ  
ذَلِكُمْ وَصِيَّبْكُمْ بِهِ لَعْلَكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ  
وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ : مَنْ تَشَبَّهَ بِقَوْمٍ فَهُوَ مِنْهُمْ

*by handspan and arm's length by arm's length. Even if they were to enter a lizard's hole, you would certainly follow them." When the noble Companions asked, "O Messenger of Allah, do you mean the Jews and Christians?", he replied: "Who else?" (Bukhari, Muslim)*

### Honorable Muslims,

Imitation weakens our identity and leads to the corruption of our beliefs. Adopting the religious festivals, customs, and lifestyles of other nations gradually distances us from our Islamic identity. The Muslim is responsible for protecting his faith and character. Therefore, in our worship, morals, clothing, and overall way of life, we must display a distinct Islamic stance. We should especially avoid imitating celebrations that belong to non-Muslim cultures, such as New Year festivities, and instead shape our lives according to our own values. A Muslim must preserve his identity with the color and spirit granted by Allah.

I conclude this khutbah with the following noble verse: *"Indeed, this is My straight path, so follow it; and do not follow other ways, for they will separate you from His way. This is what He has instructed you, that you may become righteous." (Al-An'am, 153)*

### Honorable Muslims!

The topic of today's khutbah is "The importance of preserving the Muslim identity and avoiding imitation of non-Muslims." Holding firmly to the commands of our Lord, Exalted is He, and to the Sunnah of our Noble Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) is a requirement of our faith. A Muslim is the one who submits to his Lord; as long as he obeys his Lord, he is honored on earth. However, admiring and imitating the customs of other cultures and nations harms the Muslim personality and weakens one's faith.

Our Almighty Lord says: *"Never will the Jews or the Christians be pleased with you until you follow their religion. Say, 'Indeed, the guidance of Allah is the only guidance.'"* (Al-Baqarah, 120)

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: *"Whoever imitates a people is one of them."* (Abu Dawud, Libas, 4)

This noble hadith teaches us that living with a strong sense of identity is a requirement of faith. To admire and imitate a people's religion, their celebrations, clothing style or special symbols means inclining towards their worldview and belief system.

In another hadith, it is stated: *"Whoever loves a people, Allah will resurrect him together with them."* (Tabarani)

### Dear Believers,

Recently, the religious feast of non-Muslims known as Christmas, and its extension, New Year celebrations, have unfortunately become widespread in our society through various decorations, entertainments, and habits. A Muslim must protect his faith and should not be eager to take part in such celebrations that have no basis in our religion. For these kinds of activities often contain elements contrary to Islamic values, such as wastefulness, alcohol, moral looseness, and wasting time. For us, the changing of the year is not a time of amusement but a time of self-accountability. A Muslim welcomes the passage of time not with entertainment but with reflection. What truly matters for us is not the turning of calendar pages, but the beautification of our deeds.

Our Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: *"You will surely follow the ways of those before you, handspan*