

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

﴿لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْ
أَنْفُسِهِمْ يَتْلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ
وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُبِينٍ﴾

سورة آل عمران، ١٦٤/٣

عَنْ عُثْمَانَ بْنِ عَفَّانَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ قَالَ

«خَيْرُكُمْ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ وَعَلَّمَهُ»

الترمذي، كتاب فضائل القرآن، ١٥

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

We are about to begin another new academic year in our schools and universities. May Allah (swt) grant our children, our youth and everyone striving in the pursuit of knowledge success, clarity of mind and beneficial outcomes in the new term.

However, let us not forget that the true purpose of education is not only to give a person knowledge, it is to develop good character, guide them towards righteous deeds and raise them to become a beneficial member of society. The most important path to achieving this goal is to correctly learn the Qur'an, the greatest of all knowledge and our exalted religion, Islam. Indeed, our Prophet (saw) said, *"The best among you are those who learn the Qur'an and teach it."*¹ In this way, he informed us of this truth. Therefore, whatever field of knowledge we pursue, we must keep Qur'anic and religious education at the centre of our lives. For learning our religion correctly and putting what we learn into practice are among the most important means to peace in this world and eternal salvation in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

In the Quran, Allah (swt) says: **"Indeed, Allah bestowed a great favour upon the believers when He raised among them a Messenger from among themselves, reciting to them His verses, purifying them, and teaching them the Book and wisdom, although before that they had clearly been astray."**²

This noble verse clearly states that our Prophet (saw) was sent as a blessing to teach us the Qur'an and wisdom. Undoubtedly, by learning these, a person stays away from evil, purifies the soul and most importantly, learns to live in accordance with the pleasure of Allah (swt). Through the Qur'an, one understands the purpose of creation and adorns oneself with good character, virtue, goodness and piety.

Through wisdom, a person distinguishes right from wrong, truth from falsehood and good from evil. Wisdom is to know Allah's rulings and the beauties of the religion, to understand the mercy and benefit in His commands and to possess a deep understanding that protects a person from misguided paths. A person of wisdom is not only someone who knows, but someone who acts upon what they know, speaks the truth, is measured in conduct and seeks Allah's pleasure in every matter. Therefore, wisdom is not dry knowledge, it is a light that brings knowledge to life, matures a person and beautifies their character.

Dear Jama'ah!

The Qur'an asks, **"Are those who know equal to those who do not know?"**³ In this way, the Muslim who knows the religion and acts upon that knowledge is praised and we are encouraged to seek knowledge. Indeed, performing our daily prayers properly depends on our ability to recite the Qur'an correctly, while having sound faith depends on authentic religious knowledge.

For this reason, let us not neglect to enrol our children in the classes offered at our mosques and education centres and let us encourage them to attend. Likewise, regardless of our age, let us strive to address the gaps in our religious knowledge and improve ourselves in this field. For our religion regards seeking knowledge as a fundamental duty for every Muslim, male and female.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

I would like to conclude my khutba with this beautiful dua of our Prophet (saw): *"O Allah, I seek refuge in You from knowledge that does not benefit, a heart that is not humble, a soul that is never satisfied, and a supplication that is not answered."*⁴ Ameen.



¹ Tirmizî, Fedâilü'l-Kur'ân, 15.

² Surah Âl-i Imrân, 3:164.

³ Az-Zumar, 39:9.

⁴ Müslim, Zikir, 73; Nesâî, İstiâze, 65.