Holding on to Islam

First Khutbah

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَهِ , نَحْمَدُهُ , وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ , وَنَعُوذُ بِاللهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا , مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ , وَمَنْ يُضْلِلْ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ , وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَهَ إِلَه اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ

Verily, all praise is for Allah. We praise Him, we seek His assistance and we ask for His forgiveness. And we seek refuge in Him from the evils of our selves. Whoever Allah guides, none can misguide. Whoever He misguides, none can guide. And I bear witness that there is no deity other than Allah and I bear witness that Mohammad is His servant and messenger.

(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴾ [آل عمران:102]

Al Imran(3) 102 : O you who believe! Fear Allah as He should be feared, and die not except in a state of Islam.

Oh Believers:

Islam is liberating. It liberates people from the worship of other people to the worship of the Lord of all. And dignity depends on Islam. For humiliation and inferiority are the result of distancing from Islam. This starts from the conscience of the individual and ends with the conscience of society as a whole.

Whatever the case may be, Islam cannot fill a heart with its sweetness and then leave it submissive and subservient to any authority on earth other than the authority of the One, the All-Powerful.

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Allah Almighty said:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي فِي السَّماء إِلَهُ وَفِي الأَرْضِ إِلَهُ-الزخرف 84

Az-Zukhruf (43) 84: And it is He [i.e., Allāh] who is [the only] deity in the heaven, and on the earth [the only] deity. And He is the Wise, the Knowing.

And Allah Almighty said:

إِنَّ الدّينَ عِندَ اللَّهِ الإِسْلَامُ-آل عمران 19

Al-Imran (3) 19: Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam.

And Allah Almighty said:

وَمَن يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَن يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَـاسِرِينَ-آل عمران 85

Al-Imran (3) 85: And whoever desires other than Islam as religion - never will it be accepted from him, and he, in the Hereafter, will be among the losers.

Indeed, nonbelievers will not be pleased with Muslims unless they abandon their religion, distance themselves from its Shariah, or at least regress or make concessions that may leave nothing of Islam but its name. This is a matter on which two people should not differ, nor should two rational individuals debate.

Allah Almighty said:

وَلَن تَرْضَىٰ عَنكَ الْيَهُودُ وَلَا النَّصَارَىٰ حَتَىٰ تَتَّبِعَ مِلَّتَهُمْ ۖ قُلْ إِنَّ هُدَى اللَّهِ هُوَ الْهُدَى ۗ وَلَبِنِ اتَّبَعْتَ أَهْوَاءَهُم بَعْدَ الَّذِى جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ ْ مَا لَكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِن وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ

Al Baqarah (2) 120: And never will the Jews and the Christians approve of you until you follow their religion. Say, "Indeed, the guidance of Allāh

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is the [only] guidance." If you were to follow their desires after what has come to you of knowledge, you would have against Allāh no protector or helper.

Therefore, compromising on belonging to religion in appearance and in principle, or compromising on the undebatable timeless fundamentals of religion, is a great betrayal. It is a madness without sanity and a slumber without awakening. For the honor of a person and the honor of society lies in belonging to Islam, acting upon it, calling to it, and remaining steadfast upon it until death.

Whoever has been changed by the circumstances of life, or shaken by misfortunes and storms, or by desire or fear, and then slips in their faith after having been steadfast, they are indeed negligent and at loss. They have unraveled after fastening, and drifted after anchoring. They have fallen prey to disgrace after honor, and humiliation after dignity.

Allah Almighty said:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ارْتَدُّواْ عَلَى أَدْبَارِهِمْ مّن بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الْهُدَى الشَّيْطَانُ سَوَّلَ لَهُمْ وَأَمْلَى لَهُمْ * ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمْ قَالُواْ لِلَّذِينَ كَرِهُواْ مَا نَزَّلَ اللَّهُ سَنُطِيعُكُمْ فِي بَعْضِ الأَمْرِ وَللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ إِسْرَارَهُمْ * فَكَيْفَ إِذَا تَوَفَّتْهُمُ الْمَلَابِكَةُ يَضْرِبُونَ وُجُوهَهُمْ وَأَدْبَارَهُمْ * ذَلِكَ بِأَنَّهُمُ اتَّبَعُواْ مَا أَسْخَطَ اللَّهَ وَكَرِهُواْ رِضْوَانَهُ فَأَحْبَطَ أَعْمَالَهُمْ-محمد 25-28

Muhammad (47) 25-28: (25) Indeed, those who reverted back [to disbelief] after guidance had become clear to them - Satan enticed them and prolonged hope for them (26) That is because they said to those who disliked what Allah revealed, "We will obey you in part of the matter." And Allah knows what they conceal. (27) Then how [will it be] when the angels take them in death, striking their faces and their backs

(28) That is because they followed what angered Allah and disliked [what earns] His pleasure, so He rendered their deeds void.

Therefore, the Shariah of Islam came, exhorting one to remain steadfast upon the religion, and to cling on to it firmly until death.

Allah Almighty said:

وَاعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ-الحجر 99

Al-Hijr (15) 99: **And worship your Lord until certainty (death) comes to you.**

And among the supplications of the Prophet عليه وسلم was:

وَإِذَا أَرَدْتَ بِعِبَادِكَ فِتْنَةً فَاقْبِضْنِي إِلَيْكَ غَيْرَ مَفْتُونٍ

O Allah, if You decree a Fitnah (tribulation) for your servants, then take me to You without experiencing the Fitnah (tribulation). [Jami` at-Tirmidhi 3233, Grade: Hassan]

The Prophet صلى الله informed about the believers before us, saying:

كَانَ الرَّجُلُ فِيمَنْ قَبْلَكُمْ يُحْفَرُ لَهُ فِي الأَرْضِ فَيُجْعَلُ فِيهِ، فَيُجَاءُ بِالْمِنْشَارِ، فَيُوضَعُ عَلَى رَأْسِهِ فَيُشَقُّ بِاثْنَتَيْنِ، وَمَا يَصُدُّهُ ذَلِكَ عَنْ دِينِهِ، وَيُمْشَطُ بِأَمْشَاطِ الْحَدِيدِ، مَا دُونَ لَخمِهِ مِنْ عَظْمٍ أَوْ عَصَبِ، وَمَا يَصُدُّهُ ذَلِكَ عَنْ دِينِهِ

A (believing) man from those before you would be put in a ditch that was dug for him, then a saw was brought, placed on his head, and cut into two, yet that would not deter him from his religion. And he would be combed with combs of iron separating the flesh from the bones and nerves, and that would not deter him from his religion. [Bukhari 3612]

It is indeed astonishing to see someone, who is aware of the dangers, incline towards anything other than Islam, or to turn their heart or emotions towards those not on the path of guidance regardless of the circumstances. And regardless of the motives of desire or fear that prompts such a thing. For there is no a justification for inclining towards them, submitting to them, distorting understandings for them, following their desires and whims, responding to their repeated calls to criticize and belittle Islam, or to compromise some of its constants and pillars. To be swayed, is a blatant transgression, and to speak well of it, is scandalous and slanderous.

Abu Sufyan, may Allah be pleased with him, came to Medina before his conversion to Islam and entered upon his daughter Umm Habibah, the wife of the Prophet عيدوسلم may Allah be pleased with her. When he went to sit on the Prophet's mattress, she folded it away from him. He asked, my daughter, do you find me unworthy of this mattress, or this mattress unworthy of me? She replied, it is the mattress of the Messenger of Allah, and you are a polytheistic, impure man.

This is what the Mother of the Believers, may Allah be pleased with her, did with her father, through a word of truth that defied a well-known Arab saying: Every girl is proud of her father! Her action was only because faith had not entered her father's heart and the word of Tawhid had not been uttered by his tongue. For her, the kinship of fatherhood had no right even to touch the mere mattress!

Indeed, the message of the Chosen One عيدولله is like his mattress. Whoever seats someone unworthy on it, or extends it out of shyness or appeasement, does not respect the right of Allah, nor the right of His Prophet عيدولله, nor the right of His religion nor right of His ummah. For this reason, it is absolutely self-evident that we cannot imagine human

attainment with a severed connection with Allah and harboring hatred for His law!

If someone said, that the earth is square, or claimed that the waters of the seas and oceans are extremely fresh and sweet, we would doubt their sanity and consider them mad and foolish. So, if an error in some worldly facts is so strongly denounced, how much more grave is an error in the higher truths related to He who rose over the Throne and knows the secret and what is more hidden?

Allah Almighty said:

Fussilat (41) 40: Indeed, those who deviate concerning Our verses are not concealed from Us. So is one who is cast into the Fire better or one who comes secure on the Day of Resurrection? Do whatever you will; indeed, He is Seeing of what you do.

أَقُولُ مَا تَسْمَعُونَ وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الغَفُورُ الرّحِيمُ

I say what you have heard and I seek forgiveness from Allah for me and you from every sin. So seek forgives from Him, Verily He is Oft-Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

Second Khutbah

الحَمْدُ لِلَهِ, وَالصَلَاةُ وَالسَلَامُ عَلَى رَسُولِ اللهِ , وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَا اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنّ مُحَمّداً عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُوْلُهُ

All praise is to Allah, and peace and blessings upon the Messenger of Allah, and I bear witness that there is no deity other than Allah and I bear witness that Mohammad is His slave and messenger.

Oh people:

O Muslims, the joy and pride in Islam and belonging to its civilization, is not because we were born into it, nor because our parents and ancestors were of its people. Rather, it is because the religion of Islam is the religion of truth, and its civilization is one of mercy and justice. Thus, taking pride in it, is pride in Islam, and pride in Islam is pride in true servitude to the Owner of Majesty, Might, Grandeur, and Greatness:

Allah Almighty said:

إِنَّ الْعِزَةَ لِلَّهِ جَمِيعًا-يُونِسُ 65

Yunus (10) 65: Indeed, honor belongs to Allah entirely.

And Allah Almighty said:

وَلِلَّهِ الْعِزَّةُ وَلِرَسُولِهِ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ-الْمُنَافِقُونَ 8

Al-Munafiqun (63) 8: And to Allah belongs [all] honor, and to His Messenger, and to the believers.

Our creed is based on Tawhid of Allah, submission to Him in obedience, and purity from polytheism. Far-fetched indeed is any ideology that is more convincing or more deserving of acceptance!

Allah Almighty said:

لَقَدْ كَفَرَ الَّذِينَ قَالُواْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ هُوَ الْمَسِيحُ ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ وَقَالَ الْمَسِيحُ يَابَنِي إِسْرائيلَ اعْبُدُواْ اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ مَن يُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدْ حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيهِ الْجَنَّةَ وَمَأْوَاهُ النَّارُ وَمَا لِلظَّ الِمِينَ مِنْ أَنصَارِ-المائدة 72

Al-Ma'idah (5) 72: They have certainly disbelieved who say, "Allah is the Messiah, the son of Mary" while the Messiah has said, "O Children of Israel, worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord." Indeed, he who associates others with Allah - Allah has forbidden him Paradise, and his refuge is the Fire. And there are not for the wrongdoers any helpers.

So let our belonging to Islam alone be the basis for our revival and progress. Let us unite and not drift apart. Let us build and not dismantle. Let us improve and not decline. Let us support Islamic values and refute doubts cast upon the Islamic Ummah. Let us be uncompromising in our faith. For it is the basis for triumphing now and later.

Allah Almighty said:

Sad (38) 28: Or should We treat those who believe and do righteous deeds like corrupters in the land? Or should We treat those who fear Allāh like the wicked?

And Allah Almighty said:

Al-Qalam (68) 35-38: (35) Then will We treat the Muslims like the criminals? (36) What is [the matter] with you? How do you judge? (37) Or do you have a scripture in which you learn (38) That indeed for you is whatever you choose?

We ask Allah Almighty to make us among those who are proud of their Islamic Identity and values and among those who uphold the principles of Islam and adhere to Islam in the face of challenges and criticisms. Indeed Allah is All Hearing, Answering.

هَذَا وَصَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى نَبِيِّكُم كَمَا أَمَرَكُمْ بِذلِكَ رَبُّكُمْ ، فَقَالَ

I conclude with this and send prayers of blessings and peace upon your Prophet as your Lord commanded:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَابٍكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيَّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا

Al Ahzaab (33) 56: Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.

اللَّهُمَّ اهْدِنا فِيمَنْ هَدَيْتَ وَعَافِنا فِيمَنْ عَافَيْتَ وَتَوَلَّنا فِيمَنْ تَوَلَّيْتَ وَبَارِكْ لنا فِيمَا أَعْطَيْتَ وَقِنا شَرَّ مَا قَضَيْتَ إِنَّكَ تَقْضِى وَلاَ يُقْضَى عَلَيْكَ وَإِنَّهُ لاَ يَذِلُّ مَنْ وَالَيْتَ تَبَارَكْتَ رَبَّنَا وَتَعَالَيْتَ

O Allah, guide us with those whom You have guided, grant us well-being among those You have granted well-being, be an ally to us along with those whom You are an ally to, and bless what You have bestowed upon us, and save us from the evil of what You have decreed. For verily You

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decree and none can decree over You. He whom You support can never be humiliated. Glory is to You, our Lord, You are Blessed and Exalted.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ مِنَ الْخَيْرِ كُلِّهِ عَاجِلِهِ وَآجِلِهِ مَا عَلِمْنا مِنْهُ وَمَا لَمْ نَعْلَمْ وَنَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنَ الشَّرِ كُلِّهِ عَاجِلِهِ وَآجِلِهِ مَا عَلِمْنا مِنْهُ وَمَا لَمْ نَعْلَمْ اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ خَيْرِ مَا سَأَلَكَ عَبْدُكَ وَنَبِيُّكَ وَنَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ شَرِّ مَا عَاذَ بِهِ عَبْدُكَ وَنَبِيُّكَ اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ الجُنَّةَ وَمَا قَرَّبَ إِلَيْهَا مِنْ قَوْلٍ أَوْ عَمَلٍ وَنَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ اللَّهُ مَا عَاذَ بِهِ عَبْدُكَ وَنَبِيُّكَ اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ عَمَلٍ وَنَعْوَذُ بِكَ عَبْدُكَ وَنَبِيُّكَ اللَّهُمَ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ عَمْلُو عَنْهُ مَا قَرَّبَ إِلَيْهَا مِنْ قَوْلٍ أَوْ عَمَلٍ وَنَعُوذُ بِكَ مِنْ اللَّهِ مَا عَاذَ مَعْ مَا عَا عَمَلٍ وَنَسْأَلُكَ أَنْ تَجْعَلَ كُلَّ قَضَاءٍ قَضَيْتَهُ لَنا خَيْرًا

O Allah, We ask You for all that is good, in this world and in the Hereafter, what we know and what we do not know. O Allah, we seek refuge with You from all evil, in this world and in the Hereafter, what we know and what we do not know. O Allah, we ask You for the good that Your servant and Prophet has asked You for, and we seek refuge with You from the evil from which Your servant and Prophet sought refuge. O Allah, we ask You for Paradise and for that which brings one closer to it, in word and deed, and we seek refuge in You from Hell and from that which brings one closer to it, in word and deed. And we ask You to make every decree that You decree concerning us good.

Servants of Allah. Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded.

أَذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ واشْكُرُوهُ يَزِدْكُمْ واسْتَغْفِرُوهُ يَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ واتَقُوهُ يَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَمْرِكُمْ مَخْرَجًا ، وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاة

Remember Allah, the Great - He will remember you. Thank Him for His favors - He will increase you therein. And seek forgiveness from Him - He will forgive you. And be conscious of Him - He will provide you a way out of difficult matters. And, establish the prayer.