

Date: 05.02.2021

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّهُمْ فِتْيَةٌ آمَنُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ وَزِدْنَاهُمْ هُدًى.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

سَبْعَةٌ يُظِلُّهُمْ اللَّهُ فِي ظِلِّهِ يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلُّهُ:

...وَشَابُّ نَشَأَ فِي عِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ...

OUR YOUTH: OUR GREATEST ASSET AND RICHNESS

Honorable Muslims!

Youth is the spring of life. It is the age of dreams and ideas thriving, strength and excitement peaking out. If youth is spent in the most beneficial way, it will enable one to attain happiness in this world and in the Hereafter, but, otherwise, it will turn to a period of time to be remembered with regret. In this regard, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) makes the following warning, “**Take advantage of youth before old age!**”¹ According to his good news, a young person who grows up with the consciousness of servitude to Allah (swt) will be protected in the shade of the ‘arsh (throne) on the calamitous Day of Judgment.²

Dear Young Brother and Sister!

You are in the most precious moment of your life now. You are the hope of our great nation and humanity. In fact, you are in the age of the Prophet Ibrahim assuming the challenge of putting up a great struggle in the cause of tawhid, the Prophet Ismail of submission to Allah (swt), the Prophet Yusuf of dignity, the Ashab al-Kahf of sincerity, and the Prophet Muhammad of the true cause in

the way of Allah (swt). You are in the age of engraving in your heart Asiyah’s faith, Maryam’s morality, Khadijah’s courage, and Aisha’s love for knowledge.

Dear Young Brother and Sister!

When you walked with the strength you had from your faith and your love for the homeland, you opened the gates of Anatolia to Islam in Malazgirt. You became the addressee of the Prophet Muhammad’s (saw) glad tidings when you conquered Istanbul. You made Çanakkale unpassable and fought against the great powers of the world in the War of Independence. You sacrificed your life and your loved ones for the future of our state and the prosperity of our nation on July 15, but did not give up on your homeland against traitors.

Dear Believers!

Our youth are our future and our hope. Our youth are our greatest asset and richness. Every member of our youth is each valuable for us and deserves care, kindness, support and love. Let us all strive to ensure they are raised as individuals who are beneficial for humanity, attached to their national and spiritual values, have awareness and ideals.

I would like to conclude this Friday’s khutbah with the following verse on the Ashab al-Kahf, which are set as an example in the Holy Qur’an with their faith and virtuous stance: “**Indeed, they were youths who believed in their Lord, and We increased them in guidance.**”³

¹ Hakim, Mustadrak, IV, 341.

² Bukhari, Adhan, 36.

³ Kahf, 18/13.