

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَلَا تَغُرَّنَّكُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا يَغُرَّنَّكُم بِاللَّهِ الْغُرُورُ

*O people! Surely Allah's promise is true. So do not let this-worldly life deceive you, nor let the deceiver (Satan) deceive you about Allah. (Fatir 35:5)*

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

من أحدث في أمرنا هذا ما ليس منه فهو رد

**“Whoever innovates in our (religious) matter something new which does not belong to it (the religion), should be rejected.” (SB, al-Muqaddimat, chap. 18)**

#### THE ANTIDOTE FOR MANIPULATION: TRUE KNOWLEDGE

##### **Dear Muslims!**

We, as human beings living in the world of science and technology, certainly know that KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. It is not possible for the human beings and the nations who lack this power of knowledge to sustain their existence and lead their life in a dignified manner. However, today there is a very crucial issue with regard to knowledge, that is the TRUE KNOWLEDGE. For we witness almost every day that false knowledge is being used as a tool of manipulation and exploitation, causing disorder and chaos in society. False knowledge, therefore, is the greatest enemy and the most serious threat for the peace and morality of our society.

##### **Respected Believers!**

Our Glorious Qur'an urges us to investigate the source of knowledge in all circumstances and at all times. It regards the violation of human rights and the abuse of human dignity through false knowledge as a grave sin. Correct knowledge, true knowledge is an unfailing compass for human's guidance in this world. For this reason, our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: **“Don't ever deviate from what is right and true. For, what is right and true surely leads to the goodness, and the goodness to the Paradise. Keep away from lies! For lies lead to the evil, and the evil to the Hell.”**

We should never forget that right conduct and appropriate behavior can only be possible through true knowledge. Our religious and moral life must be based on true knowledge. It is because religion was sent down to humanity in order that they could secure their happiness in this world and the hereafter. Therefore, it is a vital responsibility for human being to learn religion from the reliable and authentic sources.

## **Sisters and Brothers!**

The history of thought is full of ideas and ideologies, contradictory with one another. And human being can get out of this muddle of contradictions and confusions and attain clarity in his mind only by obtaining true and accurate knowledge. Any knowledge about religion, if not supported and verified by the authentic sources, will lead human being to superstitions. And superstitions are the greatest enemy of the true religious knowledge. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), who was fully aware of the danger and the risk that religion could one day be badly affected by superstitions and even used as a tool for manipulation, issued this stern warning:

**“Whosoever innovates in our religion something new -something that has no basis in the fundamentals of our religion- should be rejected.”**

The Messenger of Allah also drew the attention of his Umma to this important point and warned them not to fall into error and deviation, when he delivered his Farewell Sermon just a few months before his death:

**“O my Companions! I am leaving behind two things for you: The Book of Allah, the Glorious Qur’an, and the Sunna of His Messenger. So long as you cling to them and hold onto them closely and faithfully, you will never go astray.”**

## **Dear Muslims!**

Manipulation results most of the time from ignorance. It is already a well-proven fact that people who are not guided by true and sufficient knowledge can easily be exploited and manipulated. The worst type of manipulation is caused by the exploitation of religious sentiments and by the abuse of the trust that has been established through religion. As a matter of fact, in the background of the coup d’etat attempt on July 15, 2016, directed against our democracy and solidarity in our home country Turkiye, there was this typical form exploitation and manipulation of religious sentiments and trust.

In order not to face such a tragic scene and not to have such a bitter experience in the future, it is imperative for us to guide our life according to the true and accurate knowledge about the teachings of our religion which we can learn from the reliable and authentic sources. Through the guidance of the Glorious Qur’an and the exemplary Sunnah of our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), we should govern our life and conduct our affairs in a straightforward manner, without giving any occasion or room for those who wish to exploit our moral and spiritual values and manipulate our religious sentiments.

In conclusion, on the anniversary of this heinous and violent coup d’etat attempt, we pray that Allah SWT grant abundant mercy to all the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the defence and protection of the freedom and democracy of our nation. May Allah also grant all the veterans a long healthy blessed life! Ameen!