

## **Our Lord, make this homeland a place of security**

### **First Sermon**

All praise is due to Allah, the Most Generous, the Bestower of bounties. He endows upon us the favour of belonging to our homeland. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master and Prophet Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

### **As to what follows,**

I urge you and myself, **O Servants of Allah**, to be aware that you are asked to obey Him the Most Exalted in line with His orders: **“O you who have believed, fear Allah and be with those who are true.”** (At-Tawba: ١١٩).

### **Dear Muslims,**

In His holy Book, Allah the Almighty has showed us the ethics of the Prophets pbuh for us to draw lessons from them. One such lesson is their love of their homeland and their supplication to Allah the Almighty to keep it secure. A good example on this can be seen in the story of Prophet Ibrahim pbuh whom the Almighty mentioned as saying, **“my Lord, make this a secure city.”** (Al-Baqara: ١٢٦). The city here is Mecca. This happened when Allah, the Most Exalted, ordered him to settle his family in it, at a time when it was an uncultivated valley. Yet, Ibrahim pbuh adhered to the divine order of his Lord and took his wife Hajar and infant son Ismail there, although there were no people nor were there any water or vegetation in the place.

Ibrahim settled them there and left while invoking his Lord saying, **“our Lord, I have settled some of my descendants in an uncultivated valley near Your sacred House, our Lord, that they may establish prayer. So make hearts among the people incline toward them.”** (Ibrahim: ٣٧). That is to say: make it a place to which the hearts and minds of people are attached. Allah, the Almighty, has responded to the prayers of His close friend, Ibrahim pbuh, and placed the love of Mecca in people’s hearts so that they

would come to it from every distant pass to witness the exalted rites and the honoured sites. On this account, Allah the Most Exalted says, **“and [mention] when We made the House a place of return for the people and [a place of] security.”** (Al-Baqara: ١٢٥).

Furthermore, Ibrahim pbuh has also invoked his Lord to bless his homeland, Mecca, with expanded provisions and welfare. So, he said, **“and provide for them from the fruits.”** (Ibrahim: ٣٧). This means, provide for them provisions to help them worship You. Allah the Almighty has also given Ibrahim what he has asked for and provided for the people of Mecca from all the kinds of fruits that were being brought to them from all the different countries. Seeing his city prosperous and wealthy, Ibrahim pbuh knew that such bounties should be protected and taken care of. So, he once again invoked his Lord for his city, saying, **“my Lord, make this city a place of security.”** (Ibrahim: ٣٥). And, indeed, that prayer was one of the greatest and most concise, yet most comprehensive and beneficial prayers.

The holy Quran has recorded this supplication for the generations to draw lessons from the Prophets on love of the homeland and wishing all the good and security for it. Yet, wishing is definitely not enough; one should strive in the way of making the wishes come true. Once more, this was the character of Prophet Ibrahim pbuh who has not only prayed for Mecca, but he has also worked on building its prosperity. So, in it, he constructed the Old House where his standing place is still a witness on his contributions. On this account, Allah the Almighty says, **“indeed, the first House [of worship] established for mankind was that at Mecca - blessed and a guidance for the worlds. In it are clear signs [such as] the standing place of Abraham. And whoever enters it shall be safe.”** (Al Imran: ٩٦-٩٧).

So, by praying to Allah for his city and exerting efforts in the way of achieving its prosperity, Ibrahim pbuh was a cause of placing it high and bringing wellbeing to himself as well as stability to his people. As a result, Mecca became an oasis of tranquillity by which Allah the Almighty has sworn saying, **“and [by] this secure city [Mecca].”** (At-Teen: ٣). Moreover, the people of Mecca gained other people’s

respect and honouring as well as trust so that whoever travelled with them used to feel secure because they were from the residents of the house of Allah.

In fact, the people of Mecca used to travel in caravans for trade for long distances and return to their home safely. Allah the Most High has mentioned them in the holy Quran for He says, **“for the accustomed security of the Quraish - their accustomed security [in] the caravan of winter and summer - let them worship the Lord of this House, Who has fed them, [saving them] from hunger and made them safe, [saving them] from fear.”** (Surat Quraish).

**O Believers,**

In like manner, our Master Muhammad pbuh used to bear so great a love to his homeland, Mecca, in his heart that he once stood addressing it saying, “How sweet of a land you are and how dear you are to me.” When he pbuh moved to Medina, he supplicated to Allah the Most Giving to place the affection and attachment to Medina in his heart. So he said, “O Allah! Make us love Medina as we love Mecca or even more than that.” Allah the Almighty answered his prayers and he pbuh loved the new home so much so whenever he returned back to it from a journey and saw its houses, a great joy would fill his heart.

On this matter, it was narrated that Anas Ibn Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, said, “Whenever Allah’s Messenger pbuh returned from a journey, he, on seeing the high places of Medina, would make his she-camel proceed faster.” That is to say: he used to make it proceed faster out of his love for Medina.

More to the point, the Prophet pbuh, out of his love to Medina, he used to ask his Lord to bless it with welfare and prosperity. So, he would say, “O Allah, Ibrahim declared Mecca as the sacred territory and it became sacred, and I declare Medina as the sacred territory... O Allah, bless us in our city; O Allah, bless us in our Saa; O Allah, bless us in our mudd. O Allah, bless with this blessing two more blessings.” Similarly, Allah the Most Gracious answered the supplications and bestowed upon the people of Medina the favour of welfare; their trade prospered and their wealth increased.

The Prophet pbuh has also been keenly interested in developing his city and protect its stability and growth. So, he pbuh worked hard towards that goal and together with his companions, may Allah be pleased with them, constructed the Medina mosque and next to it his houses were built. Indeed, he pbuh has set a pattern to follow in love of the nation and striving towards achieving its advancement and raising its position high.

With this in mind, we implore to Allah the Almighty to further bless the UAE with happiness and tranquillity, love and harmony.

May Allah guide us all to obey Him and obey His Messenger Muhammad pbuh and obey those He have commanded us to obey in line with His orders: **“O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.”** (An-Nisaa: ٥٩).

May Allah direct us all to the blessings of the Glorious Quran and the Sunna of His Messenger pbuh.

I say this and ask Allah for forgiveness for me and you, so invoke Him for forgiveness, for He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful.

### **Second Sermon**

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. He endowed upon us plenty of good favours and great bounties. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon our Master Muhammad, his pure family, companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

I urge you, **O Servants of Allah**, and myself to be aware that you are asked to obey Him, the Most High and Exalted.

### **O Worshipers,**

Please know that Allah the Almighty has made an association between stability and prosperity and growth. The Most Exalted says, **“have we not established for them a safe sanctuary to which are brought the fruits of all things as provision from Us? But most of them do not know.”** (Al-Qasas: ٥٧). Undoubtedly, with the stability

of the nation comes happiness and wellbeing. People will cherish justice, welfare and prosperity and, thus devotedly seek that which may benefit them.

Therefore, it is a duty incumbent upon every one of us to nurture the love of the nation in the hearts of our children. We should also raise our generations to be proud of their homeland, following in this in footprints of Allah's closest friend, Ibrahim pbuh, and our Master Muhammad pbuh. Truly, love of the nation reflects in devoting oneself to serving it, protecting its status, working hard to raise its standing and keep its flag fluttering high.

That is said, please bear in mind that you are instructed to invoke peace and blessings on the Prophet pbuh. Allah, the Most Sublime, says, **“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.”** (Al-Ahzab: ٥٦).

On the same matter, the Prophet pbuh said, “For everyone who invokes a blessing on me will receive ten blessings from Allah.”

O Allah, please confer Your blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.

May Allah be pleased with the Rightly Guided Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali, and all of the noble Companions.

We pray to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, to increase the UAE in giving and kindness. May Allah continue blessing the UAE with provisions and make us truly devoted to further building its prosperity, advancement and glory. O Allah, please make us sincerely dedicated to serving our beloved UAE and raising its flag high in the sky. Indeed, You are the Owner of Majesty and Honour.

May Allah grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good. O Allah, we also seek Your favour to grant him continued health and care. May Allah also ensure success to his Vice-President, trustworthy Crown Prince and his brothers, Their Highnesses the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, may we ask You to forgive us and have mercy upon us. O Allah, we supplicate to You to grant us good health and provisions. O Lord, please make us rich in knowledge, adorn us with patience, and honour us with righteousness. O Allah, we seek Your grace to beautify us with good health and impart happiness to our homes. Indeed, You are over all things Competent and to the supplications You are ever responding.

O Allah, please forgive all of the Muslims, men and women, living and dead. We pray to Allah to show mercy on late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the late UAE Sheikhs. O Lord, grant them abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whoever has done a favour to us.

Our Lord, please continue blessing the UAE with stability and welfare and increase it in bounties, knowledge, civilisation, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, please continue blessing it with happiness and security.

O Allah, we implore You at this instance not to let a sin un-forgiven, a distress unrelieved, a debt unpaid, an illness unhealed, a dead without mercy or a need unsatisfied.

May Allah have mercy on the honourable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the prophets. May Allah make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You answer to the Most Generous of those who are generous.

O Allah, please grant the best reward for the families of the martyrs and offer them patience and solace. May Allah grant victory to the soldiers of the Arab Coalition who gathered to restore the rights to their owners. O Lord, please be by their side and guide the Yemeni people to everything that is good. O Allah, make them rally for the word of truth and legitimacy, and bless them with welfare and stability, O the Most Generous.

O Lord, we beseech You to bless all of the Muslim countries and the whole world with stability and peace.

Our Lord, give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the

Fire. O Allah, admit us to Your Paradise with the righteous. Indeed, You are Exalted in Might and Forgiving.

O Allah, we seek Your favour to send us wealthy rain and make us not amongst those who are despondent. O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, relieve us! O Allah, give us from the blessings of the sky and grow for us from the blessings of the earth.

Remember Allah and He will remember you. Be grateful of His benevolence and He will increase His blessings to you.

Please stand up for prayer.

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### **Official announcement from Awqaf**

**To be delivered after Friday prayer • ٢/١١/٢٠١٨**

### **O Worshipers,**

Please know that the Dubai International Holy Quran Award has launched its third edition for girls, which will run from ٤ to ١٦ November ٢٠١٨. The events of the contest will be conducted at the Dubai Cultural and Scientific Association on two periods, morning and evening. All the public are invited to attend the events of the contest.

That is said, we beseech Allah to confer His blessings and grant peace upon our Prophet Muhammad pbuh, his family and all of the companions.