

The Occasional Khutba “Remembering Srebrenica Genocide”

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إن الحمد لله ، نحمده ونستعينه ونستغفره ، ونعوذ بالله من شرور أنفسنا وسيئات أعمالنا ، من يهده الله فلا مضلَّ له ، ومن يضلله فلا هادي له ، وأشهد أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له ، وأشهد أن محمداً عبده ورسوله قال الله سبحانه وتعالى في كتابه الكريم : *وَاسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ إِنَّهَا لَكَبِيرَةٌ إِلَّا عَلَى الْخَاشِعِينَ . نَمَّا يُؤْتِي الصَّابِرُونَ أَجْرَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ . وَلَنْ صَبْرٌ وَغَفْرٌ إِنْ ذَلِكَ لِنَ عَزْمِ الْأُمُورِ .*

Praise be to God!

We only seek God's help!

We only seek His forgiveness and refuge from the evils of ourselves and the bad deeds of our actions! He whom God guides right path is not misled, but he who is not ready to be led by God is being led astray! Indeed, those who are persevering will receive their reward without reckoning! God Almighty said: - Seek the guidance of God by patience and prayer. That is hard but for those who are sincerely pious! Those who are patient will be rewarded without a limit. This reward belongs to those who are persevering and forgiving because that is a great thing to do.

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Today is Friday, July 11, 2020 by *Milād*, Dhu-l-qa'dah 20, 1441 by *Hijrah*.

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We are in Bosnia where twenty five years ago about ten thousand males of the cities of Srebrenica, Bratunac, Vlasenica and other places in the Bosnian region of Podrinje were killed in Genocide just because they were of a different faith (Muslims) from their executors. Thus, the eleventh of July 1995 has been recorded in the recent history as a big shame of humanity, which did not prevent the killing of innocent people in Srebrenica. The difference between the shame of humanity and the pain of the Srebrenica victims is like the difference between those fugitives who are still laughing in the face of the world and those thousands of mothers who are still crying to hear where their sons are. Thus, neither the shame of humanity is disappearing nor the pain of the mothers of Srebrenica is diminishing. Everything is the same as twenty five years ago in the memorial of Srebrenica-Potočari, except for our trust in God, which is increasing every day that the Srebrenica sacrifice is not in vain and that the truth of the bones of our brothers-*shahīds* is a everlasting promise that justice is closer and stronger every day.

When it comes to the state of man's spirit, it is not hard to imagine that it is more difficult for war criminals to live with their conscience, than it is to victims who live with their suffering and pain. The war criminal is a slave of his own genocidal evil because he denies the truth, since the lie keeps him in chains. Victim is the master of his own truth. The truth gives him strength to live in freedom of his/her clean conscience. The War criminal does not deserve freedom, but he does deserve to be told that only the truth can liberate him, not from his sin, but from the lie that keeps him in chains. That is why the idea that the awareness of the admission of truth liberates man: - Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free! (John 8, 32). Because this is the best way out of the vicious circle of evil that is affirmed by the denial of Srebrenica Genocide. Because the war criminal is, consciously or unconsciously, caught in the chains of his denial of the Srebrenica Genocide, it is the victims' obligation to remove those chains from the war criminal's neck by constantly reminding him of his own evil and never to give up the truth. The victims of Genocide needs to persevere as long as the war criminals want to stay in the chains of their lies and refuse to liberate their nation from a collective guilt for the Srebrenica Genocide. Unfortunately, the Serb intelligentsia and politicians have neither the will nor the morale to acknowledge the truth and accept the justice so that their nation be liberated from their collective guilt for Srebrenica Genocide. But the victims of Srebrenica Genocide have the will and the morale to communicate the world on this occasion of the twentieth anniversary with these twenty five messages of the Srebrenica genocidal experience:

- (1) **Truth** remains forever while everything else is passing!
- (2) **Trust** in God is that you can stake your life on it all the time!
- (3) **Justice** is made for the sake of peace!
- (4) **Peace** is more important than some justice!
- (5) **Reconciliation** is a sign of strength!
- (6) **Renegé** is a sign of weakness!
- (7) **Tolerance** is a sign of moral superiority!
- (8) **Character** is your identity of humanity!
- (9) **Mercy** is a good sign of God's grace!
- (10) **Compassion** is a solidarity with innocent and deprived people!
- (11) **Hope** is a good sign of courage!
- (12) **Patience** is a good sign of maturity!
- (13) **Forgiveness** is an atonement (*kāfarah*) for the Hereafter!
- (14) **Love** is the highest degree of God's grace and mercy!
- (15) **Hate** is the lowest degree of human wickedness!
- (16) **Morality** is a code for a success in this world and a salvation in the Hereafter!
- (17) **Duty** is a feeling of responsibility before God and humanity!
- (18) **Honour** is the highest degree of self-esteem and respect for others!
- (19) **Defeat** is not the end but a beginning of success!
- (20) **Lie** is the worst kind of human character!
- (21) **Killing** an innocent man is as if killing the whole humanity!
- (22) **Denial** of the truth of Genocide is the most vicious act of treason of humanity!
- (23) **Man** is human being by his heart not by his physical appearance!

(24) **Victims** of Genocide will never stop knocking on the conscience of humanity!

(25) **War criminals** have the right to be punished by truth and justice for the sake of peace and reconciliation!

This is what we read in the Holy Qur'an:

O Believers! Be upholders of justice, and bearers of witness to truth for the sake of Allah, even though it may either be against yourselves or against your parents and kinsmen, or the rich or the poor: for Allah is more concerned with their well-being than you are. Do not, then, follow your own desires lest you keep away from justice. If you twist or turn away from.' (The Qur'an, 4:135)

This Qur'anic verse is inscribed at the entrance of the Law School of American Harvard University as one of the best quotes on justice in history. We are quoting it here to point out three important things: firstly, we must tell the truth regardless of who it is related to; secondly, we must testify the truth; and thirdly, we should not testify falsely. These Qur'anic rules are not valid only for the perpetrators of crimes, but also for their victims who are obligated to testify the truth of genocide. Since the denial of genocide is present now in different ways, the victims of genocide are obligated before God and before humanity to testify about the crime of genocide so that it would never happen to anyone and anywhere again so that this evil will not be forgotten and, consequently, so that it will not be encouraged. Now let us pray:

In the Name of God the Most Merciful, the Most Compassionate!

Almighty God!

If we err, grant us the power of Adam's (a.s.) repentance!

If heresy overshadows us, illuminates our path with Ibrahim's (a.s.) orthodoxy!

If misfortune befalls us, teach us how to build Noah's (a.s.) ship of salvation!

If we are seized by the fear of the oppressor, enables us with the justice of Musa (a.s.)!

If we are offered hatred, save us with the love of Isa (a.s.)!

If we are expelled from our homes, empower us with Muhammad's (a.s.) desire to return to our homes!

God Almighty!

Unite our hearts in faith and love!

Strengthen our steps in truth and justice!

Strengthen our will in brotherhood and harmony!

Unite our thoughts in home and homeland!

Our Lord, take the sword from the tyrants!

Give the weak the power of faith in truth and justice!

Our Lord

Let sorrow be hope!

Let revenge be justice!

Let the mother's tears be a prayer,

So that Srebrenica may never happen again!

To no one and nowhere!

Amin!