The Leader of the Islamic Revolution in a Message to the Great Hajj Congress - 26 /Jun/ 2023

In a message to pilgrims on the occasion of the extraordinary congress of Hajj, His Excellency Ayatollah Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, referred to Hajj as a universal call for the elevation of humanity which paves the ground for the spiritual and ethical development of humankind. He stressed that "The precondition for hajj to be effective for all is that the Islamic Ummah should have a proper understanding of this mysterious life-giving ritual, which rests on the twin pillars of 'unity' and 'spirituality.'"

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution defined unity as dialogue, intellectual and practical links, synergy, the convergence of orientations, cooperation, and economic ties among Islamic countries. He added, "Another dimension of this unity is dialogue among scholars adhering to various schools in Islam based on the favourable perception of one another, as well as tolerance, justice, and close ties among the elites in Muslim countries."

Concerning unity, Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out that the political and cultural vanguards in the Muslim world must prepare themselves in coordination with one another to face the new global order emerging before them so that the Muslim Ummah can retrieve the status it deserves and prevent the political and territorial engineering that happened after the First World War from recurring.

He stated that 'spirituality' was the other pillar for the effectiveness of the global invitation of Hajj. In this context, it refers to elevating religious ethics and confronting the ethics without religion notion prevalent in the West. He said that "Today, given the greater exposure of the unity and spirituality of the Islamic Ummah, understanding among Muslim countries, and the religious inclinations of the young generation, to enmity by the United States and other centres of domination by imperialist powers, it is the duty of all Muslim nations and governments to counter these sinister plans."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution concluded his message to the extraordinary congress of Hajj by advising the Islamic Ummah to strengthen its spirit of hatred of disbelievers and spread and deepen this attitude in their respective environments.

The text of the message of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution is as follows:

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Praise be to God, the lord of the worlds, and peace and blessings be upon the great Messenger of God, Muhammad al-Mustafa, his pure progeny, and his chosen companions.

The Abrahamic call to Hajj and his universal invitation has once again addressed the entire world from the heart of history, instilling eagerness in sympathetic hearts filled with God's memory. The invitation goes out to all human beings: "And proclaim the Hajj to all the people" (The Holy Quran 22:27). The Kaaba is the blessed host and a guide for all people: "Indeed, the first house to be set up for humankind is the one at Bakkah [Kaaba], blessed and a guidance for all nations" (The Holy Quran 3:96).

The Kaaba, as the focal point and the main focus of attention of all Muslims, and the Hajj rituals as a microcosm of the extensive diversity of the Islamic world, can elevate human society and improve the health and security of everyone. Hajj can bless all humanity with spiritual and moral elevation, which is a vital need for humanity in this day and age. Hajj can annul and render ineffectual all the conspiracies hatched by the imperialist powers and Zionism for the moral downfall of humanity today and tomorrow.

The precondition for this universal effectiveness is that as a first step, Muslims themselves should adequately listen to the life-giving message of Hajj and do their utmost to implement it. The two main elements of this message are 'unity' and 'spirituality.' Unity and spirituality guarantee the material and spiritual advancement of the Islamic world and enlighten the whole world.

Unity means intellectual and practical connection. It means the convergence of hearts, minds, and orientations. It implies a synergy between science and experience. It refers to the economic linkage between Islamic countries. It alludes to the existence of trust and cooperation among Muslim governments. It implies working together against

common enemies we know about with certainty.
Unity means that the plots devised by the enemy cannot set denominations, nations, races, languages, and diverse cultures of the Islamic world against each other. Unity means that Muslim nations should know each other, not through the enemy's seditious descriptions, but through communication, dialogue, and interaction. They should be aware of each other's potential and capacities and make plans to benefit from them.
Unity means that the scientists and universities of the Islamic world should work together hand in hand. It implies that scholars adhering to various schools in Islam should maintain a favourable perception of one another. It also requires tolerance, justice, and close ties among Muslim elites in Muslim countries, and they listen to what the other has to say. The intellectual elites in all countries and from all denominations should acquaint their followers with what various Islamic schools have in common and encourage coexistence and brotherhood.
With respect to unity, Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out that the political and cultural vanguards in the Muslim world must prepare themselves in a coordinated manner to face the new global order before them so that the Muslim Ummah can retrieve the status it deserves and not permit the bitter experience of "the political and territorial engineering by Western powers that happened in the Middle East after the First World War to repeat itself."
Spirituality means advancing religious ethics. The enchantment of 'ethics minus religion,' which has long been promoted by Western scholarly sources, has resulted in the unrestrained collapse of ethics in the West witnessed by all. Spirituality and ethics should be learned from the Hajj rituals, from the simplicity that exists in Ihram, from the negation of illusory privileges, from 'feeding the destitute and the needy,' from 'there is to be no sexual contact, vicious talk, or disputing,' from the circumambulation of the entire Ummah around the axis of monotheism, from the ritual of Stoning the Devil, and from the Disavowal of the Polytheists.
Oh, brothers and sisters performing Hajj, take advantage of the opportunity that Hajj provides to contemplate and ponder the secrets and mysteries of this unrivalled religious duty and make it a provision for the rest of your life. At this juncture in time and more than ever, unity and spirituality are exposed to the hostility and sabotage of the imperialist powers and Zionism. The US and other centres of arrogance are vehemently opposed to Muslim unity, understanding among nations, countries, and Islamic governments, and the religiosity and commitment to the religion of the younger generation in these nations. They are intensely opposed to these and will fight them with all means at their disposal. It is binding on all of us, countries, and governments in the Muslim world to stand against this evil scheme of America and the Zionist regime.
Ask the omniscient and omnipotent God for assistance. Strengthen the spirit of 'Disavowal of the Polytheists' in yourselves, and regard it as an obligation to spread and strengthen this spirit in your environment.
May everyone be blessed with success, and your Hajj be accepted and rewarded. I pray to the Almighty God for both Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims, and I wish for everyone to have their prayers answered through the intercession of His Eminence Baqiyatullah (may our souls be sacrificed for him).

God's peace and blessings be upon you.
The 6th of Dhu al-Hijja 1444
The 25th of June 2023