The Leader in a Session with Hajj Officials and Pilgrims - 6 /May/ 2024

In a meeting on the 6th of May 2024, with officials, Hajj organisers and a group of pilgrims to the Holy Kaaba, the esteemed Leader of the Islamic Revolution said that the remembrance of God, Islamic unity and good Muslim interrelations are two crucial spiritual and social elements among the duties of Hajj. Referring to the great tragedy in Gaza and the atrocities of the bloodthirsty Zionist regime, he said, "**More than any other year, this year's Hajj should be a pilgrimage of repudiating these criminal enemies and their supporters against Muslims**."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution described the Hajj as having multi-dimensional obligations that include material and spiritual aspects. He said, "**In its inner and spiritual dimension, the remembrance of God as the Real Source of life, determination, will and individual and social and national decision-making, stands out in all stages and mawaqif of the Hajj**."

Addressing the pilgrims, he said, "**Be mindful of the unique aspects of Hajj that are found nowhere else, such as the Ka'ba, the Masjid al-Haram, the tawaaf, and visiting the resting place of the Noble Prophet (PBUH). Other than these, you can find markets and merchandise anywhere**."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution stressed that the prominent aspect of the social dimension of Hajj is unity and good relations between Muslims. He said, "**The philosophy behind the divine invitation for all people to be present at a specified place and during specified days is for Muslims to become acquainted with each other, share their thoughts, and make joint decisions so that the blessed and tangible results of Hajj can become a part of the Islamic world and all humanity. This is because the Islamic world is experiencing a significant void in joint decision-making**."

He considered it necessary as a prerequisite that national, denominational, and ethnic differences to unity be disregarded. He said, "**The great, unified, and homogenous gathering of the adherents of all Islamic Schools of Thought and Islamic sects from all nationalities is a prominent aspect of the politico-social dimension of the Hajj**."

Ayatollah Khamenei added, "**Of course, the necessity of transcending differences and divisive issues is not exclusive to Hajj because numerous Quranic verses emphasise the unity and solidarity of Muslims**."

Referring to the fact that the obligation of Hajj should be imbued with the blessed name of Hazrat Abraham (AS) and his teachings, the Leader of the Revolution regarded repudiation of the enemies of God's religion as a valuable lesson we learned from him. He said, "**Since the beginning of the Revolution, repudiation has been a constant principle of the Hajj. However, this year, given the significant and extraordinary events in Gaza that have more than ever revealed the collective bloodthirsty face of Western civilisation, this year's Hajj is specifically a pilgrimage of repudiation**."

His Eminence Ayatollah Imam Khamenei considered the current events in Gaza as a lasting benchmark in history. He said, "**The savage attacks by the Zionist regime's war dogs on one side, and the resistance and oppression of the people of Gaza on the other, will remain in history and show the way to finding our humanity. The astonishing and unprecedented reactions in non-Muslim societies, American universities, and other countries are indications of this landmark historical event**."

He elaborated on the duty of the Islamic ummah when it comes face to face with the tragedies of Gaza while the Abrahamic Hajj is taking place. Referring to numerous Quranic examples from the life of Hazrat Abraham (AS), he said, "**Abraham (AS) is a prophet who has a compassionate and very kind heart, but this divine prophet**

vehemently repudiates and openly declares his enmity in confrontation with oppressive and antagonistic enemies."

Referring to Quranic verses that unequivocally forbid friendship with oppressive enemies, the Leader of the Revolution deemed the Zionist regime a perfect example of hostility towards Muslims and labelled America as its accomplice. He said, "**If it weren't for America's support, would the Zionist regime have had the power and audacity to carry out these barbaric actions against Muslim people, women, and children**?"

Ayatollah Imam Khamenei added, "**The perpetrator that kills Muslims and displaces them, and those that support them are both oppressors, and according to the explicit Quranic injunction, if anyone befriends them, he too is an oppressor and subject to the curse of God**."

He deemed Abraham's approach to Hajj, which means clear repudiation in the face of the enemy, as more necessary than ever, given the current conditions of the Islamic world. He said, "**On this basis, Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims should be able to communicate this Quranic logic to the entire Islamic world to support the Palestinian nation**."

Ayatollah Imam Khamenei added, "**Of course, the Islamic Republic is not waiting for others, but if the strong hands of nations and Islamic governments come to their aid and support, the agonising condition of the Palestinian nation will not continue**."

He thanked the mission, the Hajj organisation, and other service providers for their services and activities in organising the Hajj. He told them, "**Plan in such a way as to ensure the comfort of Iranian pilgrims and their performance of a righteous and accepted Hajj so that the gap between the current and desired conditions is eliminated**."

At the beginning of this meeting, Hujjat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen Seyyed Abdulfattah Navab, the Representative of the Supreme Leader in Hajj and Pilgrimage affairs and the Supervisor of Iranian Pilgrims, gave a speech. In it, he declared the slogan of this year's Hajj to be 'Hajj: Quran-Centred, Solidarity, the Authority of the Islamic Ummah, and the Defence of Oppressed Palestine.' He said, "**The Abrahamic Hajj provides a platform for self-improvement as well as combating external tyranny and defending the oppressed**."

Mr. Seyyed Abbas Hosseini, the head of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, also reported on the programs and activities of the organisation, which are to improve the quality of health services, accommodation, nutrition, transportation, as well as the resumption of individual umrahs after a 9-year hiatus, providing eager pilgrims the opportunity to visit the House of God.