

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، نَحْمَدُهُ سُبْحَانَهُ كَمَا يَنْبَغِي لِجَلَالِ وَجْهِهِ وَعَظِيمِ  
سُلْطَانِهِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ  
وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ،

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ، صَلَّى اللَّهُ وَسَلَّمَ وَبَارَكَ عَلَيْهِ  
وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ

All praise is for Allah, as is befitting His great Sovereignty and Glorious Status. I bear witness that there is no deity but Him, having no associates. To Him belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth and whatever is within them. And He is over all things competent.

I also testify that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger, may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his family, his companions, and all those who will follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

“In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Entirely Merciful.”

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

“And We have not sent you, O Muhammad, except as a mercy to the worlds.” (21:107)

### The Merciful God, The Merciful Messenger, The Merciful Religion

Religion has been hijacked by fanatics, extremists, literalist – who are destroying our legacy, heritage and identity.

### The Constitution of Madinah:

- Whosoever among the Jews follows us shall have help and equality; they shall not be injured nor shall any enemy be aided against them”
- The Jews shall maintain their own religion and the Muslims theirs. Loyalty is a protection against treachery.
- The Jews shall be responsible for their expenses and the Believers for theirs. Each, if attacked, shall come to the assistance of the other.

The Historian Mark Graham states: “Muhammad’s brilliance lay in politics as well as spirituality...This amazingly foresighted document was a revolutionary step forward in civil government.”

## Prophetic Interaction, Love and Appreciation

- A young Jewish boy fell ill, Prophet visited him
- Funeral of a Jew passed, Prophet stood up in respect
- Jewish woman was enslaved, Prophet freed and married her, Safiyyah bint Huyay.

## Caliphates, Concern, Equality and Care

- Umar al-Khattab, once passed by an old, blind man begging in front of a house; ordered the head of the treasury to look after his needs, relieving him and others of paying the Jizya.
- Handed keys to Jerusalem, he guaranteed the rights of all faiths, including the Jews. Some Muslims usurped a piece of land belonging to a Jew and then constructed on it a mosque. Umar ordered the demolition of the mosque and the restoration of the land to its Jewish owner.

وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

“And let there be rise from you a nation inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong, and those will be the successful. (3:104)

- Ron Landau wrote: “In contrast to the Christian Empire, which attempted to impose Christianity on its subjects, the Arabs extended recognition to religious minorities, and accepted their presence.
- After the demolition of Syria at the hands of the Tatars, Ibn Taymiyya approached their leader to release the captives. The Tartar leader agreed to release the Muslim prisoners, but Ibn Taymiyya protested: “We will only be satisfied if all the Jewish and Christian prisoners are released as well. They are people of the covenant. We do not abandon a prisoner whether from our own people or from those under a covenant.”
- Salah al-Din and the Crusaders: Under the Crusader Christian rule of Jerusalem, there was a ban on Jewish settlement in the Holy Land. When Salah al-Din liberated Jerusalem, he overturned the ban and allowed the Jews to return and live in peace.

## ISIS/ISIL/IS – DO NOT REPRESENT Islam, Muslims or Humanity.

فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ حَرَّمَ عَلَيْكُمْ دِمَاءَكُمْ وَأَمْوَالَكُمْ وَأَعْرَاضَكُمْ، كَحُرْمَةِ يَوْمِكُمْ هَذَا فِي شَهْرِكُمْ هَذَا فِي بَلَدِكُمْ هَذَا "

"Allah has made your blood, your properties and your honour Sacred like the sanctity of this day of yours in this month of yours, in this town of yours." (Bukhari)

وَلَا تَسْتَوِي الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ

"Not equal is the good response and the bad response. You shall resort to the nicest possible response. Thus, the one who used to be your enemy, may become your best friend"

"يا أيها الناس أفسحوا السلام، وأطعموا الطعام، وصلوا الأرحام وصلوا والناس نيام، تدخلوا الجنة بسلام"

"O' people, spread peace among yourselves, feed the poor, keep the kinship ties, and pray at night while people are sleeping, so that you may enter paradise serenely" (Ibn Majah)

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted." (49:13)