

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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Religion, Homeland and Humanity United Together Construction, not Destruction

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“We have honoured the children of Adam and carried them by land and sea; We have provided good sustenance for them and favoured them specially above many of those We have created.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

Religions were revealed to achieve the interests of people and lands. Wherever the public interest and welfare is achieved, there is Allah’s sacred Law. Religion is not isolated from the movement and development of the universe. Rather, it is the art of making life, not making death; the culture of construction, not destruction; reform, not corruption. The Almighty Allah said, **“It was He who brought you into being from the earth and assigned you to develop it.”** Allah (Glory be to Him) also said, **“Do not corrupt the earth after it has been set right- call on Him fearing and hoping. The mercy of Allah is close to those who do good.”**

Religion and homeland integrates and do not contradict each other. Together, they establish the foundations of work, perfection, construction and building. The Almighty Allah said, "Do good, for Allah loves those who do good." Allah also said, **"We witness you when you are engaged in an action. Not even the weight of a speck of dust in the earth or sky escapes your Lord, nor anything lesser or greater: it is all written in a clear record."** The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Allah loves that whenever any of you do something, you should perfect it."

Religion, homelands and humanity all call for societal solidarity and achieving harmony and compassion among people. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, "The Compassionate One [i.e. Allah] has mercy on those who are merciful. If you show mercy to those who are on the earth, He Who is in the heaven will show mercy to you." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "The similitude of believers in regard to mutual love, affection, fellow-feeling is that of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole body aches, because of sleeplessness and fever." All religions show mercy, justice, tolerance, easiness, and these meanings are fostered by normal humanness and true patriotism.

When reflecting on the life of our Prophet (PBUH) one can notice harmony between religion, homeland and humanness, which is evident in the events of the Prophet's migration. When The Prophet (PBUH) was forced to leave his land, Mecca, he turned to it and said, "How good you

are as a land and how dear you are to my heart! Had your people not forced me out of you, I would have never come out and would have never resided in any other city but you.” When the Prophet (PBUH) migrated to Medina and settled there, he prayed to Allah saying, “O Allah! Make us love Medina as You made us love Mecca, or more.” On the night of Migration, the Prophet (PBUH) asked Ali Ibn Abu Talib to sleep in his place and to return deposits to its owners from among the disbelievers and polytheists.

We can also notice this integration in the Prophet’s faithfulness to his companion in his migration, Abu Bakr al-Siddiq (may Allah be pleased with him). He (PBUH) was the most faithful one to his companions, family and nation. He (PBUH) said, “There is no one who had done more favor to me with life and property than Abu Bakr Ibn Abu Quhafa. If I were to take a bosom friend, I would certainly have taken Abu- Bakr but the Islamic brotherhood is superior.”

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

There is no doubt that religion, patriotism and humanity require coexistence and tolerance among all people. These concepts agree on the necessity of preserving human life, status, and dignity in absolute terms, whatever man's color, race or religion is. The Almighty Allah said, **"We have honored the children of Adam."** Also, Allah (Most High) said, **"If anyone kills a person- unless in retribution for murder or spreading corruption in the land- it is as if he kills all mankind, while if any saves a life it is as if he saves the lives of all mankind."** Allah also said, **"People, We created you all from a single man and a single woman, and made you into races and tribes so that you should recognize one another. In Allah's eyes, the most honoured of you are the ones most mindful of Him: Allah is all knowing, all aware."** The Prophet (PBUH) said, "An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; a white has no superiority over a black, nor does a black have any superiority over a white; [none have superiority over another] except by piety and good action."

Our Prophet (PBUH) has applied this coexistence practically through his dealings in Medina. He established a system of peaceful coexistence within a framework of pure humanness and sincere patriotism. He set Medina constitution, which is the best model of peaceful coexistence. In this constitution, the Prophet (PBUH) established for the non-Muslims the same rights and duties as those of Muslims. It is sufficient to reflect on the contents of this document that reads: "Jews shall be considered as one

community (Ummah) along with the believers – for the Jews their religion, and for the Muslims theirs.”

All this requires cooperation to achieve public interests at the national and international levels and to prevent public corruption at the national and international levels, especially the cooperating to confront terrorist groups and advocates of corruption and chaos, as well as cooperation in addressing climate challenges and the negative effects of climate change. We all need to work together for all that is good for humans, regardless of their religion, color or sex.

How much do we need to be aware of this integration between religion, homeland and humanity in order to achieve security, stability and progress for our beloved country.

We ask Allah to protect our country Egypt, and all other countries of the world!