

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

Jumada Al-Awwal 3, 1445 A.H./ November 17, 2023 C.E

Adhering to Hope and Perfecting Work at times of Crises

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book to His Prophet, “**After hardship, Allah will bring ease.**” 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

Hope is the ray of light that defeats the darkness of despair in hearts; it is the driving force for humans that revives their determination, strength and will. Despite its difficulty and challenges, life is full of hope, as there is no despair with life, and no life with despair. Without hope, no student would study hard; without hope, no farmer would plant; and without hope for victory and paradise no soldier would sacrifice their lives for their homelands.

Hope and faith are inevitably linked. Believers are the most people to have hope in Allah, the Almighty, and they are the most people to have optimism, and they are the most remote people from despair and pessimism. Allah, the Almighty, says in a *Qudsi* Hadith, “I am to my slave as he thinks of Me, and I am with him when he remembers me.” So, whoever is with Allah, Allah will be with him. When a true believer is afflicted with anguish or distress, he will not lose hope in Allah, the Almighty, that He will relieve him and remove his troubles. The almighty Allah says, “**So truly where there is hardship there is also ease. Truly where there is hardship there is also ease.**”

We must not despair, nor lose hope and confidence in the Almighty Allah. The Almighty Allah is the Most Powerful, as He (Glory be to Him) says, **“When He wills something to be, His way is to say, “Be” - and it is.”** Allah also said, “No one can withhold the blessing Allah opens up for people, nor can anyone but Him release whatever He withholds.”

When one contemplates the life of our Prophet (PBUH), one realizes that he used to spread the spirit of hope and optimism in the hearts of his companions (may Allah be pleased with them) that future will be bright, and promising, despite the distress and crises that afflicted them. Therefore, he (PBUH) used to like good omens, and hate pessimism, as he (PBUH) said, “I like good omen. It was said: What is good omen? He said: good words.” The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Make things easy and do not make them difficult, cheer the people up by conveying glad tidings to them and do not repulse (them).” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “By Allah, this religion (i.e. Islam) will prevail... but you (people) are hasty. The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “know that victory comes with patience, relief with affliction, and hardship with ease.”

Therefore, scholars have considered frustration, despair, and spreading hopelessness of the mercy of Allah as major sins, as the Almighty Allah says reporting the statement of Prophet Ibrahim, “Who but the misguided despair of the mercy of their Lord?” Allah also said, “Only disbelievers despair of Allah’s mercy.” Life without hope is hope is very hard. We ask Allah, the Almighty, to grant us good life, tranquility, and peace of mind.

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 sincere hope is that sort of hope that is coupled with work and taking the means of strength, progress and development, as our Prophet (PBUH) said: "If you all depend on Allah with due reliance, He would certainly give you provision as He gives it to birds who go forth hungry in the morning and return with full belly at dusk." Hope without work is lame hope that is not based on adequate pillars. Umar Ibn Al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "Let not one of you refrain from working for his provision, supplicating to Allah to provide while he knows that the sky does not rain gold and silver."

However, we affirm that people will not respect us and respect our religion unless we excel in the affairs of our world. If we excel in the affairs of our world, people will respect us and respect our religion. This drives us to the necessity of mastering our work and excelling in it, each in his field, as our Prophet (PBUH) said, "Allah loves someone who when works, he performs it in perfect manner." It is through hope, work and mastery, homelands are built and achieve progress and development.

We also emphasize the importance of perfecting work and doubling the effort in all aspects of our lives at this difficult stage. Each of us has his role in the advancement of our homelands, knowing that perfecting work is a duty imposed by our religious teachings and national spirit, and that work is a manifestation of life, pride and honor. Our true religion has shown us the honor and importance of work, as our Prophet (PBUH) said, "If the Final Hour comes while you have a shoot of a plant in your hands and it is possible to plant it before the Hour comes, you should plant it." The command to plant a shoot of plant at this time is an emphasis on the honor of planting, reviving and the development of the universe. If you want to

serve your religion and your country, be sincere in your work and double your efforts in all fields.

We ask Allah to protect Egypt and raise its flag high among all countries of the world!