

Praise be to Allah, who made in jurisprudence grant for whoever He wants to give virtue of Allah's Servants, and peace and blessings on Who was sent to teach people the wisdom and Book, our Prophet, Mohamed, and his companions and fellows and who followed his guidance to the Day of Judgment.

**Patron of the ceremony, Your Excellency, Your Eminence, Distinguished Guests,  
Peace, Mercy and blessings of Allah be upon you**

The Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs is pleased on this occasion to welcome the delegations of scholars, researchers, intellectuals and media figures. We hope that you will enjoy your stay in Oman among your fellows and people, and pray Allah that you can succeed and attain your noble ends, with Allah willing.

**Patron of the ceremony, our dear guests,**

A nation whose religion is followed by more than one billion people all over the world is not a weak one. A nation whose genius scientists were able discover the secrets of sciences, utilize and develop science to their welfare and for that of others is not a weak one... a nation of one billion and more people is not a weak one. Therefore, you may wonder with me, what is wrong with this nation? A nation whose economy has an international weight is not a weak one. Continuous complaint of the condition of the nation and the melancholic attitude by so many of its people has explicitly led to underestimation of our present condition, power and capabilities, as if we are experiencing an intractable and full-blown crisis with no slight hope of survival. But, if we profoundly scrutinize the issues, we will find it a crisis of awareness rather than it is a crisis of reality.

We imagine that the reason for failure lies in that we didn't unite in one nation, as was the matter in the era of the great ancestors. However, the one political entity has never been a prerequisite for revival neither in the Muslim world nor in any other old or contemporary experience in the world. Islam is a call for and a source of ethical life. On these foundations, the Holy Quran raised this nation.

Accordingly, the way of our noblest Prophet, Peace Be Upon Him, was like this. Didn't the situation of the nation at his time lead him, PBUH, to pray to Allah: "O Allah! If you destroy this gang, you will not be worshiped upon the earth at all?". Therefore, the nation shall begin its cultural leap to restore the previous glory and pride. History takes us over many stages, where we experience pushing and pulling, ebb and flow to make sure that these are laws of continuity and survival, and requirement of coexistence in life. Therefore, we shall remove the illusion of weakness, delay and failure from the hearts of the people of this nation, and instill, instead, the values of self-confidence and pride of religion. By doing that, we can bring this nation out of the circle of defense and waste of time in following false accusations, talent drain, resentment of the present and denial of contribution to the desired civilization building. The analysis of present should be transcended into an appropriate response to the future potentials. Hence, we can reach the space of knowledge and science and to the balanced cultural revival in accordance with the desire of Allah, the Almighty.

The teaching of the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) began with little individuals, then with houses, villages, cities and countries, before complete empires, with their full powers and capabilities, responded to preaching, as Islam was proven to be a religion of right path and mercy, to which selves respond and interact. The movement of time was in favor of expansion of Islam. The eternal fact was that Islam will spread and expand. Its virtues will prevail and its follower will feel their fraternity and solidarity regardless of different backgrounds and countries. This will guide us to conclude two facts:

First: the purpose in the message of the nation is the propagation of a pure and valid Islam that regulates the life of all people rather than a mere geographic expansion. However, the latter was a result of the former.

The second fact is that what we need in practice and reality is to share the utilities and interests of the nation, not to unite under one state. This sharing means positivity, interaction and openness, because isolation and seclusion contradict dynamism and enthusiasm which Allah made a norm of life. No doubt that interaction

inspires competition and generates intellectual richness and scientific depth, and indeed no problem with that according to the Holy Quran.

You, scholars and intellectuals of this nation- are the most competent people who can best clarify to people what is their message in life? You are the best to instill in people the hope and spirit. In addition, it is your responsibility to achieve coherence and guidance and to encourage people to sharing and adoption of the reasons for unity of hearts and fraternity of religion.

In the previously mentioned capabilities and abilities of this nation we have the live example of our ability to succeed if we could create sharing. In addition, we have the live examples in the other nations and peoples on the possibility of this.

Even though some of those who influence the international decision making process has described Muslims as being frequently cling to their history while the new civilizations analyze their present and look to their future. This confirms that they are dealing with us in a peer-to-peer approach; that is, they know that this nation is still alive and has a weight. Thanks to Allah, we are confident that bless and bounties are always there when there is a building with mainstays of justice and fairness, based on the morals, piety and human mind and thinking. These three elements- the trilogy of justice, morals and mind- shall be the basis of our dealing with ourselves and others, and the focus of our comprehensive scientific and humanitarian attitude. This trilogy shall highlight our theorization and behaviors, systems and organizations. Prophets- May Peace and Blessings be upon them- weren't sent to discover technology; they were sent to establish moral pillars that protect the nations from ideological, ethical and scientific deviations. Therefore, the nation's cling to its history and learning from examples and lessons, and utilization of its rich heritage to solve the problems of reality is a valid and healthy phenomenon and another significant and token of the safe direction of this nation on the right path.

Yes, the public of your nation don't wait from you to find for them solutions for existing problems only, or to arouse in them the motivation and spirit only, nor to enhance in them your confidence in their cultural identity. They need you to contemplate and meditate with them all, and to foresee the future by your close and scrutinizing reading of reality, and to guide them to where and how to put their next steps, to approximate for them the horizons of ends of theses and competing systems in the world of the day, to be ready in their educational curricula, economic plans and social relations so as not to be surprised with the matters or disorders that confuse them. To avoid the reactions and use, instead, informed studies and objectives guidance, we wish that we can build our juristic societies and intellectual organizations according to the guidance of Allah by vision, knowledge and wisdom. Adopting this forward-looking analytical and realistic approach will serve the interests of this nation and Muslims in all areas of earth. His is the determination that we learnt from our holy religion, and from the readiness of this nation, and in the biography of our Prophet, PBUH, and from other examples of which you know better than I do.

It has become a critical need to have think tanks independent from any influence. These communities shall serve as the sources of many scientific researches and studies and will benefit from the experiences of the different Islamic schools as ideological schools. This can reduce the doctrinal prejudices, because treatment of the issues that may develop in them would be achieved by depending on the renowned principles of our religion and by reference to the rich heritage of these ideological schools and depending on the concerned people in the fields of specialization.

We pray Allah, the Almighty that you succeed in your endeavors. I conclude by extending heartfelt thanks and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Saeed, for his care and support to Islam and Muslims, for the pride, glory and prosperity this nation has achieved under his leadership, and for delegating me to represent him in the patronage of the opening ceremony of the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the Islamic Jurisprudence Community, and thank H.H. Mr. Shehab bin Tarek Al Saeed for his patronage of this

ceremony, and we wish that our dear guests can enjoy their stay in their second country, Oman.

**May Peace and Blessings be upon you**