

Hamdala wa salwala

Assalamu Alaykum wr. wb.

Brothers and sisters

Before starting my speech, as a professor of Islamic studies, I would like to thank you all and especially my dear friend Dr. Abdulssalam Ahmed for the kind invitation and hospitality.

I found a great institute with a promising future. Congratulations to all those contributed to Jamia al Islamiya.

Congratulations and thanks to the sponsor from all over the world, as they do not expect anything but only the sake of Allah's.

Among all these, thanks and congratulations to Jamaati Islami, its leaders and volunteers to organize such a unique and rare university project.

Especially congratulations to the teaching staff, ulema, Professors, tutors and students who are here for knowledge, to spread the knowledge as the ignorance is the enemy of muslims as well as the humanity.

I am here in Kerala Insha'allah this week to share my experience with you all and if you allow to take your experience to share with your brothers and sisters in Turkey.

India

In Turkey we love India, and Indian people and Indian Muslims. As muslim ummah we love India, and Indian people's sincerity in Islam and in general muslim ummah is grateful to your contribution to Islamic knowledge in past and present.

Grateful for a great scholar scientist and historian al- Biruni,

Grateful for a great scholar as well as a great sufi Imam al-Sirhindi as we know as Imam Rabbani in Turkey

Grateful for a great scholar Shah waliyyaullah al-Dihlawi,

Grateful for Abu'l-Ala al-Mawdudi, leader of Jamaati Islami

All these scholars are well known in Turkey, their works are translated and read in Turkish

Muslim scholars, students and even the public in Turkey read and study the works of these Indian scholars.

Politically also India and Turkey relations have always been good and friendly.

My politicians and people will never forget the support came from India for the Ottoman khilafah and Turkish people. Early 20th century.

Even present time we are grateful for your prayers and moral support for our leader Recep Tayyip Erdoğan when the July 15th incident happened.

Indian Muslims have always made us feel that we are ummah.

Indian people has always taught the world that the humanity comes first from anything else.

I would like list my suggestions and advice to the students of Islamic studies here in in tis University as myself a student of this field.

First, I believe that this university is lucky as it is located in a tolerant Indian society and generous soil and community.

Therefore I believe that the students of this university will also be tolerant themselves towards the different beliefs, religious groups and ideas; colors of skins and ethnicities. We should not forget we all are children of Adam and Eve and we all are servant of Allah. There is no God but Allah. We are ummah as Muslims but we are also ummah as all humanity.

Second, I believe that this university is lucky as it is located in a generous soil and community.

Therefore I believe that the students of this university will show same generosity to his brothers and sisters in religion, his countrymen and the world by spreading the peace and Islamic knowledge.

Do not forget you are a candidate of an Islamic scholar so take your people seriously, whatever tendency they have, sufi or salafi, help them but never laugh at them; with the Qur'an and Sunnah, correct them, but do not underestimate them; by showing the straight path, guide them, lead them, direct them; but never ever leave them.

If you leave them, you leave your brotherhood.

If you leave them, evil is waiting to take them.

Never forget for evil, you are leaving them. This is itself is evil on its own

Third, I expect from the students of Islamic studies not to be what I called “subject-blind”.

Be good in your studies in Islamic studies. However, read and study the literatures from other disciplines too.

Do not think with cliché.

Improve yourself by reading from the east and the west.

Read history, comparative religion, classical Indian literatures and classical world literatures. Follow the world news what is going on in the world.

Fourth be aware that knowledge you learn is to live with this knowledge, to implement and apply to the life.

To apply with the sincerity/*ikhlas*. To use for the benefit of the society you live in and for the benefit of humanity.

Work with scientists, engineers, politicians, teachers, community workers.

Work with them to develop your society, your city, your country. Work with scientists, engineers, politicians, teachers, community workers. Encourage them to bring the latest technology for the cities, housing, road, and schooling. Fight with them against poverty, against discrimination and against ignorance. Open your doors to them. Open doors with them.

Fifth Do not underestimate yourself, and do not let anyone underestimate you as a muslim scholar. Work hard you have potential to change something for better for your society, for Muslim Ummah and even for the world.

Sixth have future vision, learn about the past, be proud with your past but do not live in the past. Muslims ruled in the world with justice as rulers and contributed to the science in a great deal as scientists. However alongside with past, present and future also need your attention.

Ask yourself:

What is the contribution of the Muslim ummah to the world peace?

What is the contribution of the Muslim ummah to the science?

What is missing now?

What happened to the time of Biruni or Dihlawi?

What happened to Indian soil cannot raise them anymore?

Why Oxford and Cambridge but not Delhi and Baghdad anymore?

Why Harvard and Sorbonne but not Ray, Bukhara and Samarkand anymore?

What went wrong? What went wrong that the world is not talking about us with our contribution with science and knowledge but rather with something else?

Think about these questions and have vision for the future of yourself in 5, 10, an20 years time where to be and what to do.

Think about these questions and have vision for the future of your society, your country and all humanity.

If I summarize my message in brief

“Unite with your people, your people in religion and your people in the region”

I believe this will defeat the evil between us all and this will bring peace and harmony between us all.

Thank you for listening

Prof. Dr. Bilal GÖKKIR

Rector

Yalova University