

MESSAGE FROM
THE GRAND ĀYATULLĀH AS-SAYYID ‘ALI AL-ḤUSAYNI AS-SISTĀNI
FOR THE 3RD CONFERENCE OF THE
WORLD ISLAMIC SUMMIT OF EDUCATION (WISE)
IN KARBALA, IRAQ – 3-5 JANUARY 2024

In the name of Allāh, the Kind, the Merciful
All praise is due to Allāh, the Lord of the universe, and blessings and greetings be to the best of the Prophets and Messengers, Muḥammad and his esteemed and pure progeny.

Almighty Allāh, in the Holy Qur’ān, says:

وَ الْعَصْرُ * إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ * إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ * وَ تَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَ تَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ

“I swear by the time, surely the human being is indeed in loss except those who believe and do good deeds, and counsel one another about the truth, and counsel one another for patience.”

Greetings to the participants of this blessed conference, to the principals of the Islamic schools that are participating in it, and, through them, to each teacher and student at these schools from different countries.

One of the demands of faith and reason is for the believers to **cooperate** in guiding the new generations toward the fundamentals of true faith, the values of pure religion, and uncorrupted nature, and also to **help** one another in teaching them the salient features of their religion, raising them and purifying their souls so that these fundamentals and teachings are instilled in them, and to protect them from misguidance, deviation and confusion.

This is especially important during the **present time** in which the banners of misguidance are increasing, erroneous opinions and challenges are spreading, deviating views are circulating, and the elements that are distorting pure nature and noble moral values are expanding. Almighty Allāh has said, “*و تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَ التَّقْوَى وَ لَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَ الْعُدْوَانِ*” -- *Help one another in righteousness and piety, and do not help one another in sin and aggression.*” [5:2]

Since the most obvious path in achieving this noble goal in the diaspora is **establishing** private schools that would allow protection of the elements of faith and culture for the children of the believing generations, it is imperative to put concerted efforts into **supporting** these schools spiritually, culturally and financially so that they can materialize the expected results in the best of forms; rather, establishing even more schools to cover the huge deficiency in this field.

It is for this reason that the Grand Religious Authority **congratulates** the organizers and the participants of this conference (that represents a necessary step in fulfilling the goals mentioned

earlier) for organizing this important gathering to study various aspects regarding their common work and to become familiar with diverse experiences in this field in order to correct any deficiencies that may exist in some of them and raise them to a higher level of perfection and mastery.

The **most important issue** that the participants of this conference and those who work in Islamic schools should strive for is **sincerity** for the sake of Almighty Allāh, further organizing their tasks, constantly increasing their knowledge, and familiarizing themselves with whatever benefits them and the work that they are doing. They should pay more attention to their own character and behaviour so that they can be role models for their students. They should compete in the field of pious fear, righteousness, humility, hard work, kindness and other noble ideas and virtuous morals, present the best of the best, and seek consultation and synchronize their affairs among themselves in the best manner.

We **ask the Almighty** to raise this deed to Himself and accept it to the best of **acceptance**, and bless it, increase it and multiply it abundantly and place it within the view of His Wali (may Allāh hasten his noble appearance), and make it a source of his happiness and of his pure forefathers (may Allāh's blessing be upon them all). As Almighty Allāh has said:

“ *وَقُلِ اعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ* -- *And (O Muhammad) say, 'Do good deeds, and Allāh will see your good work and (so will) His Messenger and the (chosen) believers.'*” [9:105]

Was-salāmu ‘alaykum wa raḥmatullāh ta‘āla wa barākātuh.
14 Jumadi al-Ākhirah 1445 AH

Seal: The Office of as-Sayyid As-Sistāni, an-Najaf al-Ashraf