

In the name of Allah the Most Merciful and Compassionate

"France Has Returned Oh Descendants of the Lions"

By Sheikh: Ayman az Zawahiri



In the name of Allah, and praise be to Allah and prayer and peace be upon the messenger of Allah and upon his family and his companions and those who followed him

Oh Muslim brothers everywhere, may Allah's peace and mercy and blessings be upon you

Thereafter:

I would like to direct these words of mine to our Muslim Ummah in the Islamic Maghreb, and I say to it:

You have been – throughout the history of Islam - an impervious shield for your Ummah against invaders and aggressors.

In the modern age, pages of light were written in the record of history in the resistance of the French and the Italians and the Spanish and the English.

And it continues to resist and fight, even forcing the disbelieving invader to leave, and leaving behind its supporters, who are of our skin and speak with our tongue.

And you were hoping from your rulers – after the departure of the foreign invader – to rule you by Islamic Sharia, and impart justice upon you, and simplify the Shura, and grant victory to the oppressed, and stamp down the corrupt.

But the supporters of the disbelieving invader pursued you in the worst manner, and approached you in the most terrible of methods, and spread deviations of creed and behaviours, and prevented Sharia and fought it, and stripped you of your money and your wealth, and imposed tyrants and the corrupt and thieves upon you.

They surrendered to a regime of the greatest international criminals, and were subjected to its economic laws, and recognized the existence of Israel.

Then came the revolutions of the mighty Arab people, its spark was launched from the glorious Qirwan, and its earthquake shook the world mightily, and the Ummah was given glad tidings toward the approaching demise of tyranny and the tyrants, and the tyrants of Tunisia fled, and Libya rose up against its tyrants,

and the tyrants of the Maghreb hurriedly sought to contain the wave of anger, and the criminals of Algeria shuddered and stole it.

But the conspiracy was bigger than the deceived people, and the old corruption returned more ferocious and even more corrupt, and those who shared in the conspiracy were those who claimed that they were Islamic movements, raised on the manhaj of defeat, and the culture of compromise, and how they triumphed over a revolution ridden by people who surrendered.

The peoples' revolutions were preceded and coincided with a courageous jihadist uprising, which prevailed in the Islamic Maghreb from the peaks of the Atlas and the coasts of Tunisia and even to the plains of the Sahel and the desert and the Muslim country of Sudan, they allied together against the international and local apostasy. They waged campaigns against it, and they steadfastly pushed and defended, and the disbelieving invaders were forced to return by themselves another time.

Oh descendants of the lions, these are those who fought your fathers and killed them and expelled them. They have returned to kill your Muslim brothers and expel them, and to remind you that you are still under their occupation and their oppression.

So where are you? Where is your Islamic zeal? Where is your eagerness? Where is your settlement of your duties for the inheritance of your fathers?

These are the ones who insulted your prophet – may Allah's prayer and peace be upon him – and violated his sanctity, and they have come to occupy your land, and kill your brothers.

How can you be pleased with that?

Your Lord, glorified and exalted is He, says: (The prophet is more worthy of the believers than themselves), and He says (Verily those who abuse Allah and His messenger, Allah has cursed them in this world and in the Hereafter and prepared for them a humiliating punishment), and Allah, glorified is he, says: (Those who have believed in him and honoured him and supported him and followed the light which was sent down with him – it is those who will be the successful ones.)

Where are you from those who invade your land with soldiers who insulted your prophet, may Allah's prayer and peace be upon him.

Where are you from which your Lord, glorified is He, who said: (Oh you who have believed, what is with you that when you are told to go forth for the sake of Allah, that you stick heavily to the Earth? Are you pleased with the life of this world rather than the Hereafter? What is the enjoyment of the worldly life compared to the Hereafter except a little.) Where are you from which your Lord, glorified is He, who said: (What is with you that you fight not for the sake of Allah and for the oppressed among the men and women and children who say "Our Lord, take us out of this city of oppressive people and appoint for us from Yourself a protector and appoint for us from Yourself a helper." (75) Those who believe fight for the sake of Allah and those who disbelieve fight for the sake of the tyrants. So fight against the allies of Satan and verily, the plot of Satan has ever been weak."

And our final prayer is praise be to Allah the Lord of the Worlds, and Allah's prayer and peace be upon our master Muhammad and upon his family and his companions. And may Allah's peace and mercy and blessings be upon you.