

WORKING WITH INTEGRITY

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ
اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تُؤَدُّوا الْأَمَانَاتِ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهَا وَإِذَا حَكَمْتُمْ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ أَنْ تَحْكُمُوا بِالْعَدْلِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ نِعِمَّا يَعِظُكُمْ بِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ
كَانَ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا ﴿٥٨﴾

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ
وَبَارِكْ عَلَىٰ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.

Let us obey Allah by doing everything that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits.
Only by obeying Him will we receive His blessings in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

‘*Amanah*’ can be interpreted as integrity, honesty, meticulousness, and trustworthiness.
‘*Amanah*’ can also mean performing a task that has been entrusted to us to the best of our ability.
One of the greatest *amanah* is being trustworthy with our job.

Islam demands its followers work hard to seek permissible (halal) sustenance for our own
benefits and for the benefit of our family and our community. Islam prohibits us from being
irresponsible, being lazy, cheating or being dishonest in carrying out our duties because we will
be questioned regarding our *amanah* in the afterlife. Allah the Almighty said in the Quran in
Chapter 9 (Surah al-Tawbah), verse (ayat) 105:

وَقُلْ أَعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَسَتُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عِلْمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا

كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٠٥﴾

Which means: *And say [Oh Muhammad], "Do [as you will], for Allah will see your deeds, and [so, will] His Messenger and the believers. And you will be returned to the Knower of the unseen and the witnessed, and He will inform you of what you used to do."*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) reminded us in a *Hadith* which was reported by Imam al-Bukhari and Muslim regarding the obligation to fulfill our *amanah*:

...أَلَا كُنتُمْ رَاعٍ وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ...

Which means: *"You are all leaders and you will be responsible for the ones you lead ..."*

This *Hadith* explains that *amanah* is important in determining the future of a family, community and country. However, the media today is reporting widespread fraud and betrayal among people. For example, many public projects whether small or big, have failed because the people who are responsible for carrying them out are not *amanah*. The Prophet (pbuh) warned us in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

...إِذَا ضَيِّعَتِ الْأَمَانَةُ فَانْتَظِرِ السَّاعَةَ قَالَ كَيْفَ إِضَاعَتُهَا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ إِذَا أُسْنِدَ الْأَمْرُ إِلَىٰ غَيْرِ أَهْلِهِ فَانْتَظِرِ السَّاعَةَ

Which means: *"... If amanah is abused, so wait for the destruction." He was asked, how would the amanah be abused? He replied, "If a job is given to the people who are not responsible or qualified, so watch for the destruction."*

We can conclude from the above *Hadith* that giving a position to someone who is not qualified either morally or academically may be considered an act of betrayal. Errors or negligence in awarding an *amanah* not only destroys an organization but it also endangers the society and country.

A lesson that can be learned from the above *Hadith* is that betrayal can lead to negative consequences such as a delay in making decisions, abuse of power, acceptance of bribes, or unjust personal gain while holding a certain position.

Therefore, let us together reflect upon ourselves and evaluate our commitment to perform our job. We must carry out our work responsibly and properly. We must complete a task in the best possible way and we must refrain from committing any fraud, forgery, or embezzlement in order to obtain wealth that is not rightfully ours.

We must believe that people who work with *amanah* and faith will be granted prosperity and blessings as Allah the Almighty has promised in the Quran in Chapter 16 (Surah al-Nahl), verse (ayat) 97:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيٰوةً طَيِّبَةً ۚ وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ

بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٩٧﴾

Which means: *Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the best of what they used to do.*

لِبُوكِ اللَّهِ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي
هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.