

PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY (*Malulidur Rasul*)

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ
الْمُشْرِكُونَ أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ
بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. May we be forgiven by Allah the Almighty in this world and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters

Today is 12th Rabiul Awal 1439H which marks the birthday anniversary of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Although he has left us for more than 1,400 years ago, our love toward him is still strong as if he were still alive. As a muslim, it is compulsory for us to love Allah the Almighty and His Messenger (pbuh) more than anything else.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 3 (surah Ali Imran) verse 31:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ

رَجِيمٌ ٣١

Which means: Say, [O Muhammad], "If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful."

Those who love the Messenger of Allah have a high standing in their faith and are always patient in facing challenges in their lives as mentioned by Imam at-Tirmizi in a hadith narrated by Abdullah bin Mughaffal r.a.:

Once a man came to the Prophet (pbuh) and said, "I love you." The man said, "By Allah, I love you." And he repeated this sentence three times. The Prophet (pbuh) said, "If you really love me, then be prepared for poverty, for extreme hardship rushes more rapidly towards a person who loves me, than a flood flows towards its goal"

As an example, a companion of the Prophet (pbuh), Suhaib bin Sinan had nothing when he first came to Makkah and later became a wealthy man. When he migrated to Madinah, Suhaib had to leave all his wealth behind. Thus, he met the Prophet (pbuh) and the prophet said, "The trade has been successful, O Suhayb!"

This depicts the truth that faith and love of a true muslim towards the Prophet (pbuh) supercedes his love for materialistic wealth which will lead him to success in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters

Let us observe the muslims of today. Is their love for Allah the Almighty and His Messenger the same as those of the prophet's companions? Some of us admit that we love Allah the Almighty and His Messenger, but yet we prioritise our wants. How many of us are willing to congregare to mosques when we hear the call of adzan? How many of us are willing to sacrifice our wealth to help our brothers in need, our neighbours and other muslims in need. We unashamedly put our self interest first rather than our religion.

Dear brothers and sisters

Maulidur Rasul should be celebrated throughout the year especially in the month of Rabiul Awwal. Among the practices that we should undertake during Maulidur Rasul are increase *salawat* to the Prophet (pbuh), read about the life of the Prophet, sing songs of praises for Prophet Muhammad (*marhaban*) and revive Sunnah of the Prophet. These are some of the ways to bring us closer to our prophet (pbuh).

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated in sahih Imam al-Bukhari

لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّىٰ أَكُونَ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِنْ وَالِدِهِ وَوَلَدِهِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ

Which means: *“None of you have faith unless I'm dear to him then his father and his son and all Mankind.”*

Dear brothers and sisters

Let us increase our *selawat* (invocation of praises to prophet Muhammad) as mentioned in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Nasai:

مَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ صَلَاةً وَاحِدَةً صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ عَشْرَ صَلَوَاتٍ

Which means: *He who invokes one blessings upon me, Allah will shower ten blessings upon him.*

In another hadith narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi, the Prophet (pbuh) said:

أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَكْثَرُهُمْ عَلَيَّ صَلَاةً

Which means: *The people who will be nearest to me on the Day of Resurrection will be those who supplicate more often for me.*

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 9 (surah A-Taubah) verse 128:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ
عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿١٢٨﴾

Which means: *There has certainly come to you a Messenger from among yourselves. Grievous to him is what you suffer; [he is] concerned over you and to the believers is kind and merciful.*

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