

PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, LIGHTEN THE BURDEN

الْحَمْدُ 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 عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا
مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ ﴿١٠٦﴾

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

Let us all increase our obedience towards Allah the Almighty by doing everything that He prescribes and avoiding all that He prohibits. Hopefully, we will be forgiven in this world and in the hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Every believer must care about his brother's affairs. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam Ahmad:

مَثَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ فِي تَوَادُّهِمْ، وَتَعَاطُفِهِمْ، وَتَرَاحُمِهِمْ، مَثَلُ الْجَسَدِ، إِذَا اشْتَكَى مِنْهُ عُضْوٌ

تَدَاعَى سَائِرُ الْجَسَدِ بِالسَّهَرِ وَالْحُمَى

Which means: *"The parable of believers who are loving and caring for one another, is like the body; if one part of the body is ill, then the other parts will lose their sleep or fall ill also."*

In another *Hadith*, which was narrated by Imam Muslim, the Prophet (pbuh) made an analogy that the believer's brotherhood is like a building:

الْمُؤْمِنُ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبَيْتِ إِذَا يَشُدُّ بَعْضُهُ بَعْضًا

Which means: *"believers with other believers are like a building, some of them strengthen the others."*

All praise belongs to Allah the Almighty. We are grateful to Him because Muslims in Malaysia and in Pahang, are able to live a peaceful life. However, there are oppressed Muslims such as the Rohingyas in the West of Myanmar who have been oppressed since 1978. Their human rights have been violated by the Myanmar army and no protection has been given to them so that hundreds of thousands of them have become refugees.

Muslims in Palestine have been facing the tyranny of Israel's Zionist regime for decades. Our brothers and sisters in Syria are being oppressed by Basyar Assad's regime and Muslims in Yemen are threatened by famine. Similar fates are befalling millions of Muslims in Somalia, Ethiopia and some other poor Muslim countries.

While we are sleeping soundly on our comfortable mattresses and soft pillows, our Muslim brothers and sisters in some countries are sleeping in hunger or fear. Some are even sleeping in the rubble of collapsed buildings accompanied by gunshots and explosions.

What is our role as fellow Muslim brothers and sisters who are blessed with a better life? Do we not feel sad or hurt to see the fate of those who are in distress?

Helping distressed or mistreated Muslims is highly encouraged in Islam. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

أَنْصُرُ أَخَاكَ ظَالِمًا أَوْ مَظْلُومًا قَالُوا يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ هَذَا نَنْصُرُهُ مَظْلُومًا فَكَيْفَ نَنْصُرُهُ
ظَالِمًا قَالَ تَأْخُذُ فَوْقَ يَدَيْهِ.

Which means: Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said, "Help your brother, whether he is an oppressor or he is an oppressed one". His companions asked, "O Allah's Messenger (pbuh)! It is all right to help him if he is oppressed, but how should we help him if he is an oppressor?" The Prophet (pbuh) said, "By preventing him from oppressing others."

Allah the Almighty said in the Quran in Chapter 5 (Surah al-Ma'idah), verse (*ayat*) 2:

...وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ ۖ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ ...

Which means: ...*And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression...*

If we are true believers, we will surely look for ways to help our brothers and sisters in faith. Though most of us are not able to provide physical assistance, Allah the Almighty has granted us a better sustenance. Therefore, let us together provide financial assistance to the Muslims who are in need by donating to organizations that have received written permission

from the Malaysian Government or the Islamic Religious and Malay Customs Council of Pahang. There is no excuse for us to keep silent or to neglect helping them financially. If we do not have the financial ability, the least we can do is to pray to Allah the Almighty for their safety and freedom.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There are also members of the society around us who need help such as the destitute, people with low incomes, single mothers, orphans, preachers who dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to the spread of Islam in particular in the interior, students who are not able to further their studies, disabled people, people with chronic illnesses who need money to pay expensive medical bills and others. Let us lend a helping hand by sharing some of our sustenance which has been bestowed by Allah the Almighty.

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a *Hadith which was* narrated by Imam Muslim which means: *"Whoever relieves a believer's misery from his tribulations in this world, then Allah will alleviate one hardship from his tribulations on the Day of Resurrection. Whoever lightens the burden of a person who is in trouble, Allah will give him ease in this world and in the Hereafter."*

The committee members of the mosque can play a role by visiting their congregation to encourage them to attend the congregational prayers and to identify those who are in great need of assistance. The collection money of the mosque must be used for the benefit of the mosque's congregation. It should also be used to clean and maintain the community cemetery instead of letting thousands of Ringgits sit idle in the bank. It is the duty of the mosque committee to report anything that happens in the community to the Islamic Religious and Malay Custom Council of Pahang. Allah the Almighty reminds us to give charity as mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 57 (Surah Al-Hadid), verse (*ayat*) 7:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
ءَامِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَأَنْفِقُوا مِمَّا جَعَلَكُمْ مُسْتَخْلِفِينَ فِيهِ ۖ فَالَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ
وَأَنْفَقُوا لَهُمْ أَجْرٌ كَبِيرٌ ﴿٥٦﴾

Which means: Believe in Allah and His messenger, and spend (in charity) out of the (substance) whereof He has made you heirs. For, those of you who believe and spend (in charity), for them is a great Reward.

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي 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 لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.