

THE DANGERS OF DRUG ABUSE

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ

سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ

وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأُوصِيكُمْ وَآيَايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

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 blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Allah the Almighty appoints man as vicegerent of the earth because we are created with the ability to reason. One of the objectives (maqasid) of Islamic Legislation (Shari'ah) is to maintain human intellect and therefore all things that can bring harm to the mind is forbidden in Islam. Some prohibitions are articulated clearly such as the banning of alcohol which is written in the Quran. Although alcohol has certain advantages, the harm that it causes to human intelligence and humanity is much greater. Similarly, anything which may damage our thinking ability such as drug abuse remains unlawful. Muslim scholars have unanimously declared that drug abuse is illegal under the Islamic legislation. It is stated in the Quran in Chapter 2 (Surah al-Baqarah), verse 195:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

... وَلَا تُلْقُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ وَأَحْسِنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿١٩٥﴾

Which means: *And spend in the way of Allah and do not throw [yourselves] with your [own] hands into destruction [by refraining]. And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good.*

Since 1983, illegal drugs have been declared as the number one enemy in our country.

Drug abuse is defined as the use of illegal/dangerous drugs, including eating, chewing, sucking, swallowing, drinking, inhaling or inserting substances into the body by whatever means. In our country, illegal drugs were first introduced during the British colonial era, when workers from China and India were brought in, along with opium, which they were addicted to. Later, it affected the local youth.

According to the 2015 statistics of the National Anti-Drugs Agency of Malaysia, 63% of new drug addicts started taking drugs due to peer influence. Other factors include curiosity, thrill and depression. The report also reveals that drug addiction starts as early as primary school age. The number of drug addicts among adolescents and youth under 40 years old is alarming and is increasing every year.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The responsibility for curbing drug abuse should not be left to government agencies such as the National Anti-drugs Agency, non-governmental organizations, or religious organizations alone but it should be a

shared responsibility among all members of society. This problem begins at home. Parents need to provide much love and affection to their children from birth until they become teenagers. Children who are ignored at home will seek love and freedom from their peers. If they are surrounded by unhealthy peers, they can be lured into various negative elements which normally begins with smoking, promiscuity, and later drug abuse. To overcome these problems, parents must invite their children to attend congregational prayers at the mosques, monitor who their children's friends are, and encourage their children to be involved in beneficial activities in their neighborhood so that their children avoid drug abuse.

In addition, all residents in residential areas should be proactive. If we notice any youth suspected of being involved in unhealthy or doubtful activities, we must advise them politely and with wisdom. If we are not able to do that, we must inform his or her parents, or the leader of the community for suitable actions. If there is suspicion of drug trafficking activity in our neighborhood, we must immediately report it to the authorities. Allowing our neighbors's children to be involved in negative activities means allowing our own children to be exposed to the same problem. We must reflect upon the advice of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in a *Hadith* which was reported by *Sahih Muslim*:

مَنْ رَأَى مِنْكُمْ مُنْكَرًا فَلْيُغَيِّرْهُ بِيَدِهِ فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَبِلِسَانِهِ فَإِنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ
فَبِقَلْبِهِ وَذَلِكَ أَضْعَفُ الْإِيمَانِ

Which means: "If one of you sees something wrong, let him change it with his hand (power); if he cannot, then with his tongue (advice); if he cannot, then with his heart and this is the weakest faith".

Allah the Almighty reminds us in the Quran in Chapter 66 (Surah al-Tahrim), verse 6:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوًا أَنفُسِكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا

مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٦﴾

Which means: *O you who have believed, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe; they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded.*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ
قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ،
وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.