

## SHAPING A COMMUNITY THAT LOVE KNOWLEDGE

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 وَرَسُولَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ  
وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.  
أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَقْرَأَ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ ﴿١﴾ خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ ﴿٢﴾ أَلَمْ يَكُنْ أَكْرَمًا  
أَلَمْ يَكُنْ أَكْرَمًا ﴿٣﴾ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ ﴿٤﴾ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ ﴿٥﴾  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ 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 receive His forgiveness in this world and the hereafter.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Islam has made it compulsory for us to seek knowledge as stated by the Prophet (pbuh) and narrated by Ibnu Majah:

طَلَبُ الْعِلْمِ فَرِيضَةٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ

Which means: *Seeking knowledge is obligatory on every Muslim.*

Based on this fact, we should all feel humbled. We may be empowered by worldly knowledge, but there are still many things that we do not know. That is why islamic scholars highly encourage us to seek knowledge “from the cradle until the grave”. Though we may be of old age, it is not an obstacle for us to continue to study and learn.

The head of a family plays an important role to inculcate the love for knowledge among family members. For example, it is recommended that each home has a mini library, or at least a rack of books for each family member to read. We should cultivate an interest within ourselves and our family members to read, watch programs that give knowledge on television and diligently attend lectures related to religious topics or other academic knowledge.

Teenage boys and girls alike need to equip themselves with basic knowledge of Islam adequately. Among them are the knowledge of Quran, *Fiqh*, *Aqidah*, *sirah Nabawiyyah* (life history of the Prophet) and morals.

Currently, there are many resources and opportunities for us to acquire all sorts of knowledge that is made available to us from all levels of society. In the field of religion, we can learn at various institutions such as KAFA, J-QAF, institutions of higher education, ‘*Tafaqquh Fiddin*’ (learning the religion) programs, and free programs in the form of morning and evening lectures in nearby mosques and *surau*. Though many facilities are available for us to acquire religious knowledge, it is up to us to take the necessary action to obtain this knowledge. We must be willing to sacrifice our time to listen to the lectures presented in mosques and *surau*. We should not leave once the lectures start. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Baihaqi:

كُنْ عَالِمًا أَوْ مُتَعَلِّمًا أَوْ مُسْتَمِعًا أَوْ مُجِبًّا وَلَا تَكُنْ خَامِسًا فَتَهْلِكَ

Which means: *Make yourselves wise men or people who study or who hear religious instruction, or any person who loves religious knowledge, and do not become the fifth category, which will destroy you.*

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim

مَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَلْتَمِسُ فِيهِ عِلْمًا سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ

Which means: *Allah makes the way to Jannah easy for him who treads the path in search of knowledge.*

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 58 (surah al-Mujadalah) verse 11:

يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ

وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ ﴿١١﴾

Which means: *Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees. And Allah is Acquainted with what you do.*

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

To end the sermon today, let us make this supplication which is taken from surah Taha verse 114:

رَبِّ زِدْنِي عِلْمًا

Which means: *"My Lord, increase me in knowledge."*

May we be among those who are committed to obtaining and learning useful knowledge while we are still alive.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 9 (surah at-Taubah) verse 122:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

❖ وَمَا كَانَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لِيَنْفِرُوا كَافَّةً فَلَوْلَا نَفَرَ مِنْ كُلِّ فِرْقَةٍ مِّنْهُمْ طَائِفَةٌ

لِيَتَفَقَّهُوا فِي الدِّينِ وَلِيُنذِرُوا قَوْمَهُمْ إِذَا رَجَعُوا إِلَيْهِمْ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَحْذَرُونَ ﴿١٢٢﴾

Which means: *And it is not for the believers to go forth [to battle] all at once. For there should separate from every division of them a group [remaining] to obtain understanding in the religion and warn their people when they return to them that they might be cautious.*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ 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 الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.