

PRUDENCE AND AVOIDING WASTAGE

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 أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

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

Dear brothers and sisters,

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 5(surah al-Maidah) verse 3:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمْ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

Which means: *This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion.*

Therefore, the blessings of Allah the Almighty should be used according to the level determined by Him so that we belong to those who are grateful and protected from becoming unbelievers. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 14 (surah Ibrahim) verse 7:

وَإِذْ تَأَذَّنَ رَبُّكُمْ لَئِن شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ^ط وَلَئِن كَفَرْتُمْ إِنَّ عَذَابِي

لَشَدِيدٌ

Which means: *And [remember] when your lord proclaimed, 'If you are grateful, I will surely increase you in favor; but if you deny indeed, My punishment is severe.'*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Blessings are a test from Allah the Almighty to His servants to measure whether they are among those who are grateful or those who are disbelievers. Islam does not forbid its followers to spend with the blessings they have been given, but Islam educates and guides them to spend prudently by giving priority to matters such as education, food, clothings, health and shelter for themselves, their families and the community.

Avoid spending on things that are not important and following our wants that can cause excessiveness and wastages. This habit causes many Muslims to spend more than they can afford , which eventually lead them to be plagued with debts which involve usury that is prohibited by Allah the Almighty. An example is borrowing money from loan sharks.. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 27 (surah al-Isra) verse 27:

إِنَّ الْمُبَذِّرِينَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيَاطِينِ ^ط وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِرَبِّهِ كَفُورًا ﴿٢٧﴾

Which means: *Indeed, the wasteful are brothers of the devils, and ever has Satan been to his Lord ungrateful.*

Ibn Mas'ud and Ibn Abbas radhiallahu anhuma interpreted this verse as improper expenditure or use of property which leads to wastage or extravagance. Similarly, Imam al-Syafie viewed wastage as spending property not in the way that is permitted by islamic laws.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Prophet (pbuh) is the best role model in simple and thrifty living. He was always grateful for the blessings Allah the Almighty bestowed upon him and used these blessings wisely. A hadith from Aisyah radhiallahu anha and narrated by Imam Ahmad, mentioned the simplicity of the Prophet (pbuh). In fact, the Prophet (pbuh) sewed his own clothes and mended his sandals on his own.

He also urged his followers to keep on being thrifty and not waste ; even in performing demands of worship such as ablution. The prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Ibnu Majah:

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مَرَّ بِسَعْدٍ وَهُوَ يَتَوَضَّأُ فَقَالَ مَا هَذَا السَّرْفُ فَقَالَ أَفِي الْوُضُوءِ إِسْرَافٌ قَالَ نَعَمْ وَإِنْ كُنْتَ عَلَى نَهْرٍ جَارٍ

Which means: *Abdullah ibn Amr reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, passed by Saad while he was performing ablution. The Prophet said, "What is this extravagance?" Saad said, "Is there extravagance with water in ablution?" The Prophet said, "Yes, even if you were on the banks of a flowing river."*

Being thrifty does not mean spending wealth or money in a prudent way as to become miserly. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 25 (surah al-Furqaan) verse 67:

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَنْفَقُوا لَمْ يُسْرِفُوا وَلَمْ يَقْتُرُوا وَكَانَ بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ قَوَامًا ﴿٦٧﴾

Which means: *And [they are] those who, when they spend, do so not excessively or sparingly but are ever, between that is [justly] moderate.*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us be prudent in our daily expenditure and avoid spending unnecessarily. When eating, take what is required only. Be thrifty when using water and electricity. These are practices that we should emulate especially in the current economic situation which is unpredictable and with increasing price of daily needs.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 7 (surah al-A'raf) verse 31:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَبْنَیْ ءَادَمَ خُذُوا زِينَتَكُمْ عِنْدَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ ﴿٣١﴾

Which means: *O children of Adam, take your adornment at every masjid, and eat and drink, but not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess.*

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 فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.