

ROAD SAFETY

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.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ وَحَمَلْنَاهُمْ فِي الْوَجْدِ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ

وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِمَّنْ خَلَقْنَا تَفْضِيلًا ﴿٥٦﴾

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Let us all increase our obedience towards Allah the Almighty by doing everything that He prescribes and avoiding everything that He prohibits. Hopefully we will receive His forgiveness in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

All praise be to Allah the Almighty. We are now approaching the end of *Ramadhan*, the fasting month for Muslims. Customarily, this is the time that Muslims travel to the hometown of their parents in order to celebrate *Eid-al-fitri* (the celebration at the end of the fasting month) with relatives. As a result, the number of users on the road will increase and the likelihood of road accidents will also increase. Let us remind ourselves to drive carefully so that we will arrive at our destination safely.

Unfortunately, some undisciplined drivers may cause catastrophic accidents. This matter is not something to be neglected because it involves the loss of life and property. Allah the Almighty has warned us in the Quran in Chapter 2 (Surah al-Baqarah), verse (ayat) 195:

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.*

Road accidents are one of the leading causes of death in this country and they occur almost daily. On average, 18 people (including motorcyclists, car drivers and passengers, pedestrians, etc.) die each day due to road accidents.

It is a great loss to the community and the country because those who die include students, teachers, business people, and others who are contributors to the development of the nation.

Road accidents may cause young children to be orphaned and to lose their source of comfort. Sudden death in auto accidents also gives great impact to the emotional state of the family. In addition, it burdens wives who lose their husbands and have to raise their children as single mothers.

It is true that death is the will of Allah the Almighty and accidents have been predestined by Him. However, Muslims must try our best to take precautionary and preventive measures instead of blaming fate.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Islam prohibits arrogance as stated in the Quran in Chapter 17 (Surah al-Isra), verse (*ayat*) 37:

وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّكَ لَن تَخْرِقَ الْأَرْضَ وَلَن تَبْلُغَ الْجِبَالَ طُولًا ﴿٣٧﴾

Which means: *And do not walk upon the earth exultantly. Indeed, you will never tear the earth [apart], and you will never reach the mountains in height.*

We are prohibited from riding or driving a vehicle in an intimidating manner. We have to respect other road users by not speeding like mad men, not breaking the traffic rules at will, and not cutting queue.

Violation of traffic rules such as crossing double lines, speeding, driving against the traffic flow, running red lights, and racing illegally may cause accidents. Do not let negligence or a bad attitude be the cause of a catastrophe that may hurt or kill others. Let us learn lessons from two recent accidents: one where a group of young children riding bicycles were killed and the other a fatal accident which involved a drunk driver who drove against the traffic flow.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Muslim:

كُلُّ الْمُسْلِمِ عَلَى الْمُسْلِمِ حَرَامٌ دَمُهُ وَمَالُهُ وَعَرَضُهُ

Which means: *Everything belonging to a Muslim is inviolable for a Muslim; his honor, his blood and property.*

We are prohibited from shedding blood and taking the property of others due to our reckless driving. Road accidents can be avoided or minimized if all of us are careful, disciplined, and we abide by traffic rules and regulations.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

To end today's *khutbah*, let us together refrain from committing acts that may endanger the safety of ourselves and other road users. Hopefully we can celebrate *Eid* with our families during this anticipated month of *Shawwal*. Let us be respectful and courteous drivers. As stated in the Quran in Chapter 43 (Surah Az-Zukhruf), verses (*ayat*) 13-14, we must recite a prayer each time before we drive so that our journey will be blessed by Allah the Almighty:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَنَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ ﴿١٣﴾
وَإِنَّا إِلَىٰ رَبِّنَا لَمُنْقَلِبُونَ ﴿١٤﴾

Which means: ... *Exalted is He who has subjected this to us, and we could not have [otherwise] subdued it. And indeed we, to our Lord, will [surely] return.*

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.