

A HAPPY FAMILY FOR A PEACEFUL NATION

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ
سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ
بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ ﴿٢١﴾

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ 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,

Love is a very important element and is heavily emphasized in Islam, especially in building a happy family. Love can be established through harmonious relationships among all members of the family and by respecting and helping each other. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Tirmidhi:

مَنْ لَا يَرْحَمِ النَّاسَ لَا يَرْحَمُهُ اللَّهُ

Which means: "Whoever does not love mankind, will not be loved by Allah."

However, it is not that easy for a married couple to form a happy family that is built on devotion to Allah the Almighty and to receive His mercy in this world and in the hereafter. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 66 (Surah al-Tahrim), verse (ayat) 6:

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قَوًّا أَنفُسِكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ

غَلَظٌ 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.*

Based on this verse, the leader of a household (either husband or wife) is responsible for establishing the basic rules of the household so that they will be in accordance with Islamic law. In other words, to form a happy family, one needs to learn the teachings of Islam.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Both parents and children need to perform their roles and responsibilities in making a happy family. This responsibility should be instilled from the beginning of marriage so parents will be the first to give guidance to their children, especially in matters related to faith, morality and Islamic law. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 31 (Surah Luqman), verse (ayat) 13:

وَإِذْ قَالَ لُقْمَانُ لِابْنِهِ ۖ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُ ۖ يَبْنِي لَا تَشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ

إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿١٣﴾

Which means: *And [mention, O Muhammad], when Luqman said to his son while he was instructing him, "O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah. Indeed, association [with him] is great injustice."*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A happy family must be built on certain Islamic requirements such as giving priority to learning the true monotheistic knowledge like what has been compiled by Imam Abu Hassan Al-Ashari and Abu Mansur Al-Maturudi instead of following the later interpretation of monotheistic knowledge that was introduced by Ibnu Taimiyah (*Tauhid Uluhiyah, Tauhid Rububiyah, and Tauhid Asma*). Al-Ashari and Abu Mansur Al-Maturudi emphasize the twenty important attributes of Allah the Almighty. By mastering this knowledge, we will be free from assigning partners to Allah the Almighty or likening Allah to His creation such as Allah sits on the throne or in heaven, while Allah exists in location that befits His Majesty.

Both husbands and wives should be aware of their rights and responsibilities. Among other things, husbands must provide maintenance and education for their children and wives. Whereas wives must respect and obey their husbands as long as their demands do not conflict with Islamic law.

This is the foundation of building a happy home as mentioned by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 30 (Surah al-Rum), verse (ayat) 21:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا
وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يُفَكِّرُونَ ﴿٢١﴾

Which means: *And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought.*

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Ibn Majah:

خَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِ ، وَإِذَا مَاتَ صَاحِبُكُمْ فَدَعُوهُ

Which means: "The best among you is the best to his family, and when one of the family members dies do not remember anything except for what is good about him".

Let us hope that we will succeed in building harmonious families that bring many blessings to the society and the country. Let us all recite the supplication that Allah has mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 25 (Surah al-Furqan), verse (ayat) 74:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ
وَأَجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ﴿٧٤﴾

Which means: And those who say, "Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous."

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
وَأَسْتَغْفِرُكَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.