

## TEACHERS: THE BUILDERS OF THE 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.

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،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَ أُوصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ 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,

In conjunction with the Teachers' Day Celebration which we celebrate annually on May 16, today we have a special sermon (*khutbah*) with the theme "Teachers: the Builders of the Nation". Teachers are noble human beings who are persistent, dedicated, and sincere in educating everyone. But unfortunately today, teachers' actions are often misinterpreted and they are being looked down upon or blamed by people for exercising their responsibilities, especially when they are disciplining

students. Have we ever heard of students assaulting or abusing teachers? What do we think of parents who assault teachers because their children are being punished or caned as a result of bad attitudes?

It is unfair to penalize teachers for just a few issues that can be resolved. Indeed, children are a test from Allah the Almighty for their guardians and therefore it is our collective responsibility to ensure that the trust bestowed by Him is not betrayed. Allah the Almighty has mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 8 (*Surah al-Anfal*), verses (*ayat*) 27 and 28:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يٰۤأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا تَخُونُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ وَخَوْنُوا أَمْنَتِكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٢٧﴾

وَأَعْلَمُوا أَنَّمَا أَمْوَالُكُمْ وَأَوْلَادُكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ وَأَنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ أَجْرٌ عَظِيمٌ ﴿٢٨﴾

Which means: *O you who have believed, do not betray Allah and the Messenger or betray your trusts while you know [the consequence]. And know that your properties and your children are but a trial and that Allah has with Him a great reward.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*Imam al-Ghazali in his book 'Ihya Ulumuddin has mentioned the advice of Luqman al-Hakim to his son about respecting teachers, "O my son, communicate and get close to your teachers so that Allah the Almighty will revive your heart with wisdom, as He revives the earth with rains from the sky."*

Indeed, the teachers' contributions and sacrifices in educating children to become knowledgeable and virtuous members of society are highly acclaimed in Islam. Teachers have always strived to create an educated generation to build a developed, peaceful and prosperous nation.

Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 58 (*Surah Al-Mujadalah*), verse (*ayat*) 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,

The world of education today is filled with many challenges for teachers. Teachers are faced with students who are more proficient in using various electronic devices. As such, teachers must possess the same or better ability to ensure that students devote their full attention and passion to learning.

Let us all consider sacrifices, roles, and responsibilities that teachers have to perform such as: being doctors and nurses to sick students; being lawyers and judges to disputing students; being carpenters when there is physical damage to the school; being police or investigators for students' misconduct; and being performers, actors, singers, and comedians to entertain sad students.

This is the reality of teachers and they are not expecting anything in return

except for understanding of their responsibilities and challenges.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The roles of nation building and educating future generations starts with teachers. Parents, educators, neighbours, the society and the media must play their roles in developing future generations of leaders.

The importance of this consultation is mentioned by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 42 (*Surah As-Shura*), verse (*ayat*) 38:

وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَمْرُهُمْ شُورَى بَيْنَهُمْ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ ﴿٣٨﴾

Which means: *And those who have responded to their lord and established prayer and whose affair is [determined by] consultation among themselves, and they give charity from what We have provided them.*

Parents can collaborate with schools through the Parent and Community Association in order to foster a good relationship. According to studies which were conducted by experts in education, schools need to have a strong relationship with parents to ensure that the teaching and learning process can be successfully implemented.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

To end today's *khutbah* (sermon), let us ponder on a *Hadith* of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) which was narrated by *Imam Ahmad*:

لَيْسَ مِنَّا مَنْ لَمْ يُجَلِّ كَبِيرَنَا وَيَرْحَمْ صَغِيرَنَا وَيَعْرِفَ لِعَالِمِنَا حَقَّهُ

Which means: *He who does not respect the elders, does not show mercy to youth, and does not know the rights of those who have knowledge (teachers) is not among us.*

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا مِنْ قَبْلِكَ إِلَّا رِجَالًا نُوْحِيَ إِلَيْهِمْ  
فَسْأَلُوا أَهْلَ الذِّكْرِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٤٣﴾

Which means: *And We sent not (as our messengers) before you except men to whom We revealed (Our message). So ask the people of the message if you do not know.*

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 إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.