

VERIFY BEFORE SHARING

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،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَآيَايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by carrying out all that He commands and abstaining from all that He prohibits. Hopefully, we will receive His blessings in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We need communication to share and connect with each other. As Muslims, we should follow the teachings and guidance of the Qur'an and the Tradition of Prophet Muhammad (*Sunnah*), as they are the highest references in Islam, when communicating with others. Nowadays, social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and others have become the main source of information distribution and communication for many people.

Unfortunately, some people use social media as a means to spread misinformation and slander by maliciously creating news that is untrue. It is even more unfortunate when such news is accepted as the truth, and some people even continue to spread the news to others without thinking or investigating the legitimacy of the news.

We need to take the *Tabayyun* approach, which is to investigate carefully, to be weary of news spread by others and to investigate the events and news until we are sure of their validity. Allah the Almighty says in the Qura'an in Chapter 49 (Surah al-Hujurat), verse (*ayat*) 6:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِن جَاءَكُمْ فَاسِقٌ بِنَبَأٍ فَتَبَيَّنُوا أَن تُصِيبُوا قَوْمًا بِمَجهَلَةٍ

فَنُصِبُحُوا عَلَى مَا فَعَلْتُمْ نَادِمِينَ ﴿٦﴾

Which means: “O you who believe, if a sinful person brings you a report, verify its correctness, lest you should harm a people out of ignorance, and then become remorseful on what you did.”

The concept of *Tabayyun*, or meticulousness, also teaches us not to accuse others or say anything but the truth, and teaches us that making up stories is a sign of hypocrisy. We must ensure that the news we hear is authentic and from a dependable source in order for it to be shared. It is not wrong for us to suspect and investigate a certain piece of news, as it can prevent us from sinning and defaming others. Remember! There may be individuals who are defamed, humiliated and abused due to the untrue news spread by the people. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam Muslim:

كَفَى بِالْمَرْءِ كَذِبًا أَنْ يُحَدِّثَ بِكُلِّ مَا سَمِعَ

Which means: “It is enough for someone to be thought of as a liar if he shares everything that he has heard.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The issue of security is very important, especially if it involves someone's dignity and even their life as a result of the disclosure of sensitive information to irresponsible parties. As users of social media, we should understand that there are things that can be shared with others, and there are also things that should be kept private. Sharing private information can affect families, organizations, religions and countries. We are obligated to have good manners and act according to Islamic guidelines on social sites. Allah the Almighty says in the Qur'an in Chapter 49 (Surah al-Hujurat), verse (ayat)11:

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا يَسْخَرُونَ مِنْ قَوْمٍ مِّنْ قَوْمٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونُوا خَيْرًا مِّنْهُمْ وَلَا

نِسَاءٌ مِّنْ نِّسَاءٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُنَّ خَيْرًا مِّنْهُنَّ وَلَا نَلْمِزُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَلَا تَنَابَزُوا بِالْأَلْقَابِ

بِئْسَ الْأَسْمُ الْفُسُوقُ بَعْدَ الْإِيمَانِ وَمَنْ لَّمْ يَتُبْ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ ﴿١١﴾

Which means: “O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent - then it is those who are the wrongdoers.”

Let us never degrade, ridicule, insult or reveal other people's shame on social media as such acts are prohibited in Islam. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said in an authentic *Hadith* narrated by Imam al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim:

مَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَلْيَقُلْ خَيْرًا أَوْ لِيَصْمُتْ

Which means: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Day of Judgement, let him say good or remain quiet."

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we end today's sermon, let us all be mindful and acknowledge our shortcomings and weaknesses when we have been on social media. We must remember that all our actions will be questioned and accounted for in the Hereafter. Allah the Almighty says in the Qur'an in Chapter 17 (Surah al-Israk), verse (ayat) 36:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَلَا تَقْفُ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ بِهِ عِلْمٌ إِنَّ السَّمْعَ وَالْبَصَرَ وَالْفُؤَادَ كُلُّ أُولَئِكَ كَانَ
عَنْهُ مَسْئُولًا ﴿٣٦﴾

Which means: "And do not follow a thing about which you have no knowledge. Surely, the ear, the eye and the heart – each one of them shall be interrogated."

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 الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ