

The Dangers of Alcohol and Gambling

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
وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.

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 be blessed and loved by Allah the Almighty in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Drinking alcohol and gambling are great sins which become a cancer of a society that disobeys the command of Allah the Almighty. This problem has existed since the beginning of time as mentioned by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 2 (Surah al-Baqarah), verse (ayat) 219:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ ^ط قُلْ فِيهِمَا إِثْمٌ كَبِيرٌ وَمَنْفَعٌ لِلنَّاسِ وَإِنَّهُمَا

أَكْبَرُ مِنْ نَفْعِهِمَا ^ط

Which means: *They ask thee concerning wine and gambling. Say: "In them is great sin, and some profit, for men; but the sin is greater than the profit."*

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

مَا أَسْكَرَ كَثِيرُهُ فَقَلِيلُهُ حَرَامٌ

Which means: "If a large quantity of any beverage intoxicates, then a small amount of it is prohibited."

Gambling is basically a bet for easy gains whereas the profits are uncertain. In the past, gambling activities were carried out in the form of lottery, betting on cock fights, betting in card games, etc.

Nowadays gambling is done in new ways such as betting on horse races, gambling machines, football betting, internet gambling, betting on a competition, etc. In addition, there are also gambling centers provided by unlicensed gambling operators such as in business premises, rental houses and plantation areas.

Alcohol and gambling are paired together by Allah the Almighty in the Quran to demonstrate that both of them have an adverse effect on a society and country regardless of whether they are Muslims or non-Muslims. Allah the Almighty stated in the Quran in Chapter 5 (Surah al-Maidah), verse (ayat) 90:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْمَيْسِرُ وَالْأَنْصَابُ وَالْأَزْلَامُ رِجْسٌ مِّنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ

فَاجْتَنِبُوهُ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٩٠﴾

Which means: *O ye who believe! Intoxicants and gambling, (dedication of) stones, and (divination by) arrows, are an abomination,- of Satan's handwork: eschew such (abomination), that ye may prosper.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Muslims are obliged to preserve religion (Islam), life, intellect, wealth, and lineage as outlined in the objectives of the Islamic law (*maqasid al-sharia*). Drinking alcohol will damage our mind and destroy our sanity, and it is addictive. Alcoholic addiction can break the family institution and cause family members to fight, steal, rape and even kill.

Those who are involved with gambling are willing to spend money which is allocated for family needs such as food and children's schooling. They are also burdened with debts that can eventually lead to bankruptcy. Communal harmony will also be damaged due to the negative effects of gambling such as fights, revenge and disrespect for each other which will lead to prolonged hostilities.

Alcohol is the mother of all evil and drinking it is the greatest of sins. A *Hadith* which was narrated by *Imam* al-Tabrani said that the Prophet (pbuh) was asked about alcohol to which he replied:

هِيَ أَكْبَرُ الْكَبَائِرِ وَأُمُّ الْفَوَاحِشِ،

Which means: *It is the biggest sin and the mother of all evil.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Be aware that drinking and gambling violate the *Sharia* Criminal Offenses Act 2013 section 26 and 27. The penalty upon conviction is a fine of up to five thousand ringgit or imprisonment of not more than three years or whipping.

Let us work together to curb alcohol and gambling problems. As we know, satan wants humans to always be in conflict and hostile to each other as a result of alcohol and gambling. Eventually humans will be far from remembering Allah the Almighty. Allah the Almighty has reminded us in the Quran in Chapter 5 (Surah al Maidah), verse (*ayat*) 91

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّمَا يُرِيدُ الشَّيْطَانُ أَنْ يُوقِعَ بَيْنَكُمُ الْعَدَاوَةَ وَالْبَغْضَاءَ فِي الْخَمْرِ وَالْمَيْسِرِ وَيَصُدَّكُمْ

عَنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَعَنِ الصَّلَاةِ فَهَلْ أَنْتُمْ مُنْتَهُونَ ﴿٩١﴾

Which means: *Satan's plan is (but) to excite enmity and hatred between you, with intoxicants and gambling, and hinder you from the remembrance of Allah, and from prayer: will ye not then abstain?*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمَنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.