

FAMILY EDUCATION THE ISLAMIC WAY

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،

فِيَا 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. Only through obedience towards Him will we be blessed by Allah the Almighty in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Educating families according to Islamic principles is a great responsibility. As the head of a family, a husband or father is ordered by Allah the Almighty to carry out this great task as mentioned by Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

كُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ وَمَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، فَالْإِمَامُ رَاعٍ وَهُوَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، وَالرَّجُلُ فِي أَهْلِهِ رَاعٍ وَهُوَ
مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ، وَالْمَرْأَةُ فِي بَيْتِ زَوْجِهَا رَاعِيَةٌ وَهِيَ مَسْئُولَةٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهَا،

Which means: “Every one of you is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock. The leader of people is a guardian and is responsible for his subjects. A man is the guardian of his family and he is responsible for them. A woman is the guardian of her husband’s home and his children and she is responsible for them...”

According to Islam, educating the family is the process of guiding them to obey Allah the Almighty alone and not associating partners with Him, nurturing and training them with noble and commendable values derived from the Qur'an and the Prophet's tradition (*al-Sunnah*), and advising them to obey Allah the Almighty's commands and avoid His prohibitions. The head of the family must always guard their family from the hell fire as commanded by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 66 (Surah al-Tahrim), verse (*ayat*) 6:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا

Which means: *O ye who believe! save yourselves and your families from a Fire ...*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A pious wife is the one who is guided by her husband to always carry out religious obligations such as performing her five daily prayers, fasting, preserving her *aurat* (nakedness), respecting her husband and always guarding her honor and dignity. Once becoming a mother, a wife must work as a team with her husband to guide and care for their children lovingly. Allah the Almighty has promised Paradise as the reward for a pious woman as mentioned by the Prophet (pbuh) in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Ahmad:

إِذَا صَلَّتْ الْمَرْءُ خَمْسَهَا، وَصَامَتْ شَهْرَهَا، وَحَفِظَتْ فَرْجَهَا، وَأَطَاعَتْ زَوْجَهَا، قِيلَ لَهَا:
أَدْخُلِي الْجَنَّةَ مِنْ أَيِّ أَبْوَابِ الْجَنَّةِ شِئْتَ

Which means: *“If a woman prays her five daily prayers, fasts in the month of Ramadhan, guards her chastity and respects her husband, it will be said to her: ‘Enter Paradise by whichever of the gates of Paradise you wish.’”*

Educating children is a shared responsibility for parents and this initial education from parents will determine the lifestyle of their children in the future. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Muslim:

مَا مِنْ مَوْلُودٍ إِلَّا يُولَدُ عَلَى الْفِطْرَةِ فَأَبَوَاهُ يُهَوِّدَانِهِ أَوْ يُنَصِّرَانِهِ أَوْ يُمَجِّسَانِهِ

Which means: "No baby is born but upon *Fitra* (natural state as a Muslim). It is his parents who make him a Jew or a Christian or a Polytheist." (*Sahih Muslim*, Book 033, Number 6426)

Teach children from childhood to know Allah the Almighty and to obey His commands, to love the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) and his family members by emulating their character and practicing the Prophet's tradition (*Sunnah*), and prohibit them from sinning. Teach them to respect parents, be polite to teachers and older people, and to maintain good manners while socializing with friends and everyone else. Buy the right reading materials for them, ensure appropriate entertainment and clothing for them, and monitor their friends. It is easy to shape children's character if we start from an early age as the Malay proverb says: "if we want to bend bamboo, it must be done from shoot".

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A family leader needs to be optimistic and patient in the process of educating his family members as commanded by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 4 (Surah al-Nisa), verse (*ayat*) 19:

وَعَاشِرُوهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ ۖ فَإِنْ كَرِهْتُمُوهُنَّ فَعَسَىٰ أَنْ تَكْرَهُوا شَيْئًا وَيَجْعَلَ اللَّهُ فِيهِ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا

Which means: ... live with them on a footing of kindness and equity. If ye take a dislike to them it may be that ye dislike a thing, and Allah brings about through it a great deal of good.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The best way to educate our family members is by leading through example. Therefore, invite them for all congregational prayers at the mosque and to read the Quran. Show them kind words and behavior when interacting with them. In addition, ask Allah the Almighty for His guidance as stated 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 وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ﴿٧٤﴾

Which means: *And those who pray, "Our Lord! Grant unto us wives and offspring who will be the comfort of our eyes, and give us (the grace) to lead 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 وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.