

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITY IN MONITORING  
CHILDREN

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ  
كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ، 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 وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ  
مُسْلِمُونَ.

قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

أَلْمَالُ وَالْبَنُونَ زِينَةُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا <sup>ط</sup> وَالْبَاقِيَاتُ الصَّالِحَاتُ خَيْرٌ عِنْدَ رَبِّكَ

ثَوَابًا وَخَيْرٌ أَمَلًا ﴿٤٦﴾

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be forgiven in this world and in the Hereafter.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters.**

The rate of crime involving teenagers is worrisome. The statistics from the Home Ministry reported that in 2016 alone, 691 teenagers were involved in rape offenses. Even more frightening is that there are cases which involve children who are between the ages of 7 and 10. Additionally, teenagers are also involved in various immoral behavior such as mixing freely with the opposite gender, smoking, sniffing glue, running away from home, and premarital sex.

We were recently shocked by the arson of *Maahad Tahfiz* which was committed by teenagers . The crime was committed in the middle of the night, when teenagers are supposed to be at home.

Educating children, especially those who have reached adolescent age, is very challenging for parents in this modern age. Without proper education and supervision, children are easily influenced by the negative elements that are introduced by peers or mass media.

That is the reason why Islam is very concerned about the education of children of all ages. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam al-Tirmidzi:

مَا نَحَلَ وَالِدٌ وَلَدَهُ مِنْ نُحْلٍ أَفْضَلَ مِنْ أَدَبٍ حَسَنٍ

.Which means: "*The best gift from a father to his child is education and upbringing.*"

Abdullah Ibn Umar said:

أَدَّبِ ابْنَكَ ، فَإِنَّكَ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ وَلَدِكَ ، مَاذَا أَدَّبْتَهُ ؟ وَمَاذَا عَلَّمْتَهُ ، وَإِنَّهُ

مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ بَرِّكَ وَطَوَاعِيَّتِهِ لَكَ

Which means: *Educate your child because you will be questioned about what you taught him. And indeed your child will also be questioned about how you treated him and his obedience to you.*

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters.**

It is sad when there are cases of parents who neglect their teenagers with the reason that “they are already big and therefore they can fend for themselves.”

There are parents who let their children go out at night without any sound reason and are allowing their children to be negatively influenced. Some Muslim scholars assert that guiding and educating children is not only teaching the knowledge of religion, but also encouraging them to perform congregational prayers especially for *Maghrib*, *Isyak* and *Subuh* with the hope that they will not wander around aimlessly and be trapped in unhealthy activities.

In addition, Islam encourages parents to be acquainted with their children’s friends so that their children will not be negatively influenced. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Ahmad:

الْمَرْءُ عَلَى دِينِ خَلِيلِهِ فَلْيَنْظُرْ أَحَدَكُمْ مَنْ يُخَالِلُ

Which means: *“A person is likely to follow the faith of his friend, so look whom you befriend.”*

Parents should also ensure that their teenage children are not isolating themselves in their rooms. Responsible parents should be concerned about what their children are doing when they are alone because negative elements such as unlawful sex, violence, negative foreign culture and extreme entertainment can penetrate children's minds through television, computers, the Internet, telephones, etc.

Parents must also be concerned about the way their children dress. Some parents let their children go out wearing clothes which are inappropriate according to the Islamic dress code. In addition, some parents allow their daughters to ride a motorcycle or watch a movie alone with a boyfriend. This is contradictory to the teachings of Islam and it is one of the causes in the increase of social illnesses among adolescents.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters.**

To end this *khutbah* (sermon), let us together monitor our children from a young age so that they can live a true Islamic way of life. Let us pray to Allah the Almighty to guide our families as 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 وَاجْعَلْنَا  
لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا

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 اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ  
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُوْلُ  
قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ،  
وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.