

WORK AS IBADAH

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ
وَرَسُولَهُ. 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 increase our righteousness and obedience to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Islam demands its followers to work hard for their livelihood and for the well-being of their families, communities and country. Islam prohibits its followers to be irresponsible, lazy and to cheat in their job. However, the question that arises is , have the jobs that had been done fulfil the requirements of islamic jurisprudence (*syariah*)? Have we stayed away from prohibitions such as cheating and misappropriation, etc? Remember, everything that we do in this life is *ibadah*. Allah the Almighty mentioned in chapter 51 (surah az-Zariyat) verse 56:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ﴿٥٦﴾

Which means: “*And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me.*”

Dear brothers and sisters,

Professor Dr. Yusof Al-Qaradhawi in describing the concept of work as worship set five essential requirements that must be adhered to in order to qualify our work as worship. The condition is that every work done, must not be in conflict with Islamic laws. Every work must be done with a sincere intention of carrying out the task as caliphs of Allah the Almighty. The work must also be carried out with great determination and with the best ability and that the work should always be in accordance with the provisions of Islamic jurisprudence.

Trust is the basis of every job. Without this nature, various irregularities or deviations will occur. If we are trustworthy, we will not neglect any responsibility entrusted upon us and we will not betray our employer or abuse the trust given to us.

A good and diligent worker is able to showcase his job perfectly and constantly improves his / her job quality from time to time. A hadith narrated by Imam Al-Baihaqi Rahimahullah mentioned that the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى يُحِبُّ إِذَا عَمِلَ أَحَدُكُمْ عَمَلًا أَنْ يُتَّقِنَهُ

Which means: *“Indeed Allah loves one who when he does a work, he does it with excellence.”*

Today we find foreign workers dominating various fields of employment in our country such as construction, agriculture, manufacturing, security and other sectors. They are trusted because of their sincerity and disciplined attitude in their work. Some of our young people have no jobs and do not want to work whereas job opportunities are always open to them. Some of them have jobs but are not earnest and disciplined in their work for example coming late to work, truancy and not being trustworthy. These are negative attitudes that needs to be changed.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Islam values every single believer who has good morals and is trustworthy. Therefore, do not solely think about money and complain and question the salary earned that does not commensurate with the work and positions held. Islam demands that its people carry out their work in full trust because every source of sustenance will be questioned in the Hereafter.

Remember! In performing our work, we can not use them as an excuse to abandon our obligations to Allah the Almighty. Many leave their five daily prayers and Friday prayers solely because of work. Be assured that Allah the Almighty will not bless the work we do because of our negligence in carrying out His commandments.

We must show noble character to colleagues and the public while performing our duties. We must not use our position and rank as tickets for us to swear or to humiliate our subordinates. Instead, be courteous in admonishing and advising them. Work diligently and respect employees or those who hold higher positions so that the atmosphere in the workplace will be harmonious.

If these criteria are met, only then can we truly say that work is a form of worship and it will be greatly rewarded by Allah the Almighty.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 16 (al-Nahl) verse 114:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
فَكُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَاشْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ
إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ

Which means: *Then eat of what Allah has provided for you [which is] lawful and good. And be grateful for the favor of Allah, if it is [indeed] Him that you worship.*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِيْ 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 لِيْ
وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ
وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ