

THE PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY 1440H

(Maulidur Rasul)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ
سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ
بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿١٢٨﴾

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،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَأَيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May our lives be blessed by Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The month of Rabiul Awal reminds us of our beloved prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Those who miss him would certainly be gladly waiting for the arrival of this noble birth month. Indeed, the prophet's presence is a gift from Allah the Almighty to guide mankind to the right path. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 21 (surah al-Anbiya) verse 107:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٠٧﴾

Which means: “*And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.*”

Allah the Almighty sent His messenger, the prophet to guide us to a life according to the correct *aqidah* (religious creed) and ethics as delineated in the al- Qur'an. Undeniably, the goal of human life is to obtain the pleasure of Allah the Almighty by adhering to the Sunnah of the Prophet (pbuh). This is explained by Allah the Almighty in chapter 33 (surah al-Azhab) verse 21:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ
وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا

Which means: “*There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent role model for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often.*”

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim which means, “*I have left behind two things, you will never go astray as long as you hold fast onto them ie. the Quran and Sunnah.*”

Dear brothers and sisters,

What we are concerned about is that today's Muslims claim they love the Prophet (pbuh) but their practices and actions are contrary to the teachings brought by His Messenger (pbuh) for example, some claim that it is not necessary to cover our aurah which is considered outdated and contradicts individual rights. More than this, there are Muslims with weak iman that are being influenced by liberal beliefs that prioritize freedom of thoughts and lust rather than practicing the Sunnah of the Prophet (pbuh). They promote outrageous human rights, gender equality rights, and individual freedom rights with the goal of achieving ultimate harmony and happiness. What is clear is

that they want to be able to live freely without any religious obligations. It seems to them that the intellect is higher than the Divine revelation and the teachings of the prophets that is to be followed. If we reject the guidance shown by our prophet, and instead follow our hearts and lust, surely we will be lost and led astray from our religion.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us increase our knowledge by reading the *sirah* (study of the life of Muhammad) so that we really know and love our prophet (pbuh) and his family members. Among them is to increase *salawat* to the prophet (pbuh) as mentioned by him in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Nasaie:

مَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ صَلَاةً وَاحِدَةً صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ عَشْرَ صَلَوَاتٍ

Which means: “*Whoever sends blessings upon me once will have Allah send blessings upon him ten times.*”

The prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi:

أَوْلَى النَّاسِ بِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَكْثَرُهُمْ عَلَيَّ صَلَاةً

Which means: “*The most important human beings on the Day of Judgment are those who give the most blessings (salawat) to me*”.

Therefore, let us increase our blessings (*salawat*) to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) so that our hearts really love the Messenger of Allah, his family and companions.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 3 (surah Ali Imran) verse 31:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٣١﴾

Which means: “Say, [O Muhammad], “If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.”

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 وَأَسْتَغْفِرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ
وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ.