

## POLITENESS IN SPEECH AND ACTIONS

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 عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى  
سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

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

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Islam is a religion of mercy and compassion that gives great emphasis on actions and relationships in society. The Prophet (pbuh ) was an affectionate person. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 21 (surah al-Anbiya) verse 107:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١٠٧﴾

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

Muslims are peace loving people who respect and help each other. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari and Imam Muslim:

الْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلِمَ الْمُسْلِمُونَ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ

Which means: “*A Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hands the Muslims are safe.*”

One of the seemingly lost cultures in our society now is politeness. The Malay community is well known as a society that puts high value in politeness. This value has been declining since the time of our ancestors. It is worrisome and sad to note that this value is diminishing.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Politeness refers to being courteous and ethical in deeds and language. It includes lowering the voice accompanied by commendable actions. Besides these, we should also be polite on the road, at our work place and at shopping complexes.

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari which means:

Allah’s messenger (pbuh) said, “Anybody who believes in Allah and the Last Day should not harm his neighbour, and anybody who believes in Allah and the Last Day should entertain his guest generously and anybody who believes in Allah and the Last Day should talk what is good or keep quiet. (i.e. abstain from all kinds of evil and dirty talk).

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Muslims are very concerned about good values in speech. Let us not use rude, obscene or vulgar language. Every word has its worth. Therefore, use them appropriately according to the situation and the environment. Courtesy based on good behavior and use of proper words selected when speaking to someone is an essential element in a society

When courtesy is combined with the language used; meaningful conversation takes place that contains a pleasant speech, full of respectfulness to others and accompanied by noble character.

Values of respect to others in the malay society is often associated with calls and use of personal pronouns such as summoning older people with names like Abang Long , Abang Ngah and so on. We usually do not use 'I' or 'you' as a person who speaks to older people because this is considered rude and impolite. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 49 (surah Al-Hujurat) verse 11:

وَلَا تَلْمِزُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَلَا تَنَابَزُوا بِالْأَلْقَابِ بِئْسَ الْأَسْمُ الْفُسُوقُ بَعْدَ الْإِيمَانِ

Which means: “...And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name of disobedience after [one's] faith.

Islam creates a noble culture and it is one of the influences that make the malays respected. Therefore, maintain politeness in our speech as it reflects the civilization of a nation.

It is indeed unfortunate that the true muslim culture is not widely practised today. This noble culture has been eroded by modern communication technology. What is sad about the use of language in the social media is that

they are crude, abusive, and impolite language. It has taken away the culture of courtesy that has been preserved in our society thus far.

Therefore, let us instill determination and resolve to restore the glorious days of practising courtesy in our daily speech and actions. We must educate the new generation of millennials; so that politeness and thoughtfulness become a way of life.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 19 (surah Maryam) verse 96:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ سَيَجْعَلُ لَهُمُ الرَّحْمَنُ وُدًّا ﴿٩٦﴾

Which means: *Indeed, those who have believed and done righteous deeds - the Most Merciful will appoint for them affection.*

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 الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.