

DO NOT SPEAK WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَىٰ 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 عَلَىٰ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَىٰ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَبِأَعْيَادِ اللَّهِ، إِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

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 blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Islam is a perfect religion which invites its followers to speak on the basis of knowledge and truth. Islam prohibits a Muslim speaking without knowledge because it may lead to very serious implications especially when one speaks about a religious issue without knowledge that is revealed by Allah the Almighty or His Prophet. Lately, we have heard baseless insults about people which include trivializing the institutions of the Malay Rulers. There are also those who are making remarks such as ‘hudud law is not appropriate in a plural society’, ‘reject the RUU 355 Bill’, etc.

As Muslims, we are forbidden to talk about religion without knowledge as mentioned by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 7 (Surah Al-A'raf), verse (ayat)33:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قُلْ إِنَّمَا حَرَّمَ رَبِّي الْفَوَاحِشَ مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ وَالْإِثْمَ وَالْبَغْيَ بِغَيْرِ الْحَقِّ وَأَنْ تُشْرِكُوا

بِاللَّهِ مَا لَمْ يُنَزِّلْ بِهِ سُلْطَانًا وَأَنْ تَقُولُوا عَلَى اللَّهِ مَا لَا نَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٣﴾

Which means: “Say: the things that my Lord hath indeed forbidden are: shameful deeds, whether open or secret; sins and trespasses against truth or reason; assigning of partners to Allah, for which He hath given no authority; and saying things about Allah of which ye have no knowledge.”

Remember that speaking without knowledge can damage the faith. For example, saying that "Islamic law is not appropriate in modern times" is damaging because Islamic law is the law that comes from the Quran and the *Hadith* of the Prophet (may Allah's blessings and peace be upon him [pbuh]). Indeed, we will be held accountable before Allah the Almighty in the hereafter for what we say as mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 50 (Surah Qaf), verse (*ayat*)18.

مَا يَلْفِظُ مِنْ قَوْلٍ إِلَّا لَدَيْهِ رَقِيبٌ عَتِيدٌ

Which means: *Not a word does he utter but there is a sentinel by him, ready (to note it).*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us remember that talking about Allah the Almighty without knowledge is a mistake caused by evil desires as declared by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 28 (Surah Al-Qasas), verse (*ayat*) 50:

فَإِنْ لَّمْ يَسْتَجِيبُوا لَكَ فَاعْلَمْ أَنَّمَا يَتَّبِعُونَ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ وَمَنْ أَضَلُّ مِمَّنِ اتَّبَعَ هَوَاهُ

بِغَيْرِ هُدًى مِّنَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ

Which means: *But if they hearken not to thee, know that they only follow their own lusts: and who is more astray than one who follow his own lusts, devoid of guidance from Allah? for Allah guides not people given to wrong-doing.*

Pious Muslims are those who watch every word they utter to ensure that those words are guided by the Qur'an and the *Sunnah* of the Prophet (pbuh) and not made up as they desire.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Only the people who believe in Allah the Almighty and the life in the Hereafter are watchful of their words. This was stated by the Prophet (pbuh) in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Imam Bukhari:

وَمَنْ كَانَ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ فَلْيُكَلِّمْ خَيْرًا أَوْ لِيَصْمُتْ

Which means: Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him say something good, or else remain silent.

This *Hadith* teaches Muslims to tell the truth, to use polite language, to not insult, deceive, or hurt people. Allah has reminded us in the Quran in Chapter 49 (Surah Al-Hujurat), verse (*ayat*) 11:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لَا يَسْخَرَّ قَوْمٌ مِنْ قَوْمٍ عَسَىٰ أَنْ يَكُونُوا خَيْرًا مِنْهُمْ وَلَا نِسَاءٌ مِنْ نِسَاءٍ عَسَىٰ أَنْ يَكُنَّ خَيْرًا مِنْهُنَّ وَلَا تَلْمِزُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَلَا تَنَابَزُوا بِالْأَلْقَابِ بِئْسَ الْأَسْمُ الْمُسُوفُ بَعْدَ الْإِيمَانِ وَمَنْ لَمْ يَتُبْ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الظَّالِمُونَ

Which means: *O ye who believe! Let not some men among you laugh at others: It may be that the latter are better than the former: Nor let some women laugh at others: It may be that the latter are better than the former: Nor defame nor be sarcastic to each other, nor call each other by (offensive) nicknames: Ill-seeming is a name connoting wickedness, (to be used of one) after he has believed: And those who do not desist are (indeed) doing wrong.*

We should play the best role by talking based on correct knowledge and avoiding conversations that can bring harm to, or degrade others because all our deeds will be evaluated in the Hereafter as mentioned by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 40 (Surah Ghafir), verse (*ayat*) 17:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

أَلْيَوْمَ تُجْزَىٰ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ لَا ظُلْمَ أَلْيَوْمَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ ﴿١٧﴾

Which means: *That Day will every soul be requited for what it earned; no injustice will there be that Day, for Allah is Swift in taking account.*

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعِنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ،
وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّيْ وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِيْ
وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا
نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.