

WATER IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا
وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ
لَهُ،

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا
عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى حَبِيبِكَ وَرَسُولِكَ
سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ لَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ
إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيَكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ
الْمُتَّقُونَ

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from those that He has prohibited. Hopefully we will be among the people who receive His blessings in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and sisters,

It is undeniable that water is the most valuable resource that is needed for all aspects of life. Without water, we cannot continue living. Allah the Almighty says in Chapter 21 (Surah Al-Anbiya), verse (ayat)30:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
أَوَلَمْ يَرِ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَنَّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ كَانَتْ رَتْقًا فَفَنَّهُمَا
وَجَعَلْنَا مِنَ الْمَاءِ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ حَيٍّ أَفَلَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

Which means: *Are the disbelievers not aware that the heavens and the earth used to be joined together and that We ripped them apart, that We made every living thing from water? Will they not believe?*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our county is blessed with an abundance of water resources that is used for a variety of needs. Clean water is not only used for drinking, but is also used in many daily activities such as washing, cleaning, bathing, etc. Water is also important for the economy as it is used in agriculture, industry and transportation. Water can also be used to generate electricity. A lack of water, such as during a drought, can lead to famine as is the case in some countries which are highly dependent on their agricultural products. Allah the Almighty says in Chapter 16 (Surah An-Nahl), verse (ayat) 65:

وَاللَّهُ أَنْزَلَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَحْيَا بِهِ الْأَرْضَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَةً لِقَوْمٍ يَسْمَعُونَ ﴿٦٥﴾

Which means: *It is God who sends water down from the sky and with it revives the earth when it is dead. There truly is a sign in this for people who listen.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us conserve our water sources such as our rivers, lakes and water catchment areas so that they are always in the best condition. Let us not turn rivers and drains into dumping grounds as this will lead to the pollution of our water sources and even lead to death, as has been reported in the news recently. A large portion of our rivers are no longer suitable to bathe in, much less to be used as a source of drinking water. These conditions should not be left as they are, and everyone needs to play an active role in protecting our rivers so that they can be used safely. We should feel ashamed that we have let our rivers run murky with filth that could cause the destruction of the river's occupants as well as pose a threat to human health. Our rivers are also getting drier, but floods can happen more easily due to the destruction of natural water catchments which is a result of poor forest management and excessive logging.

Allah the Almighty says in Chapter 30 (Surah Ar-Rum), verse (*ayat*) 41:

ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي

عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ ﴿٤١﴾

Which means: *Corruption has flourished on land and sea as a result of people's actions and He will make them taste the consequences of some of their own actions so that they may turn back.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Islam is really concerned with saving water and condemns the act of wasting water in all aspects of life such as when bathing, when washing your vehicle, and even when performing ablution as mentioned in a *Hadith* which was narrated by Ibnu Majah:

أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - مَرَّ بِسَعْدٍ، وَهُوَ يَتَوَضَّأُ، فَقَالَ: "مَا هَذَا السَّرْفُ؟" فَقَالَ: "أَفِي الْوُضُوءِ إِسْرَافٌ؟" قَالَ: "نَعَمْ، وَإِنْ كُنْتَ عَلَى نَهْرٍ جَارٍ"

Which means: *The Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) passed by Sa'ad, when he was performing ablution, and he said: "What is this extravagance?" He said: "Can there be extravagance in ablution?" He said: "Yes, even if you are on the bank of a flowing river."*

Allah the Almighty says in Chapter 17 (Surah Al-Isra), verse (ayat) 27:

إِنَّ الْمُبَذِّرِينَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيْطَانِ ^طوَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِرَبِّهِ كَفُورًا ﴿٢٧﴾

Which means: *Those who squander are the partners of Satan, and Satan is most ungrateful to his Lord.*

Let us work together to conserve our environment and our resources, especially water, in order to sustain our life on this earth. Be frugal, and do not waste water! Those who are wasteful are among the partners of the devil. Let us all ask forgiveness from Allah the Almighty for all the wrongdoings that we may have done in order to receive His blessings and rewards as stated in the Quran in Chapter 71 (Surah Nuh), verses (ayat) 10-12:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

فَقُلْتُ اسْتَغْفِرُوا رَبَّكُمْ إِنَّهُ كَانَ غَفَّارًا ﴿١٠﴾ يُرْسِلِ السَّمَاءَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِدْرَارًا ﴿١١﴾ وَيُمْدِدْكُمْ

بِأَمْوَالٍ وَبَنِينَ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ وَيَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ أَنْهَارًا ﴿١٢﴾

Which means: *I said, "Ask forgiveness of your Lord: He is ever forgiving. He will send down abundant rain from the sky for you; He will give you wealth and sons; He will provide you with gardens and rivers."*

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلَ هَذَا وَاسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.