

AVOID DISAGREEMENTS (*KHILAFIAH*) THAT DIVIDE THE
MUSLIM COMMUNITY (*UMMAH*)

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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ

أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

وَأَشْهَدُ 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 وَأُوصِيكُمْ 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 all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Khilaf, or *ikhtilaf*, generally means disagreement. Although some scholars have different opinions about the definitions of *khilaf* and *ikhtilaf*, they agree on the general meaning.

In the book of *Sahih Muslim*, it is narrated that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him [*pbuh*]) once prayed for 3 things for his followers. Two were accepted, while one was rejected. The ones accepted were that his people would not die of starvation and drowning. What was rejected was that his people would not be hostile to one another.

Surely there is a reason that Allah the Almighty did not accept the request of the Prophet (PBUH) for Muslims not to be hostile to one another. Allah the

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَجَعَلَ النَّاسَ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً ۗ وَلَا يَزَالُونَ مُخْتَلِفِينَ ﴿١١٨﴾ إِلَّا مَنْ رَحِمَ رَبُّكَ ۗ وَلِذَلِكَ خَلَقَهُمْ وَتَمَّتْ
كَلِمَةُ رَبِّكَ لَأَمْلَأَنَّ جَهَنَّمَ مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿١١٩﴾

Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 11 (*Surah Hud*) verses (*ayat*) 118 and 119:

Which means: *If your Lord had pleased, He would have made all people a single community, but they continue to have their differences- except those on whom your Lord has mercy- for He created them to be this way, and the word of your Lord is final: ‘I shall definitely fill Hell with both jinn and men.’*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In this verse, Allah the Almighty explains that humans are divided into *ahlul ikhtilaf*, those who constantly disagree leading to enmity and deviance, and the second group is *ahlul rahmah*, those who are united with the true religion by being open-minded and accepting differences of opinion.

Lately, it is despairing when matters of *khilafiah* (differences of opinion) regarding religion are openly debated such as the reading of *Yasin* and *tahlil* on Friday night, performing *sunnah* prayer before Friday prayers, reading *Qunut*, giving *talkin*, reciting prayer intentions, doing *wirid* and reciting supplications after congregational prayers or performing congregational *hajat* prayer.

This open debate can cause Muslims to be divided. These things are among the *sunnah* practices that are not required to be performed but are allowed in the State of Pahang. Any individual who disputes these differences of opinion and considers them to be deviant teaching has committed an offense that can be prosecuted in the *Sharia* court because it has been decided by the Pahang *Sharia*

Law Consultative Committee that these *khilafiah* matters can be practiced and will be rewarded by Allah the Almighty.

Heed the message of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) so that we do not create disunity due to *khilafiah* matters as stated in a *Hadith* narrated by Ibn Majah:

مَنْ تَرَكَ الْكَذِبَ وَهُوَ بَاطِلٌ بُنِيَ لَهُ قَصْرٌ فِي رَبَضِ الْجَنَّةِ وَمَنْ تَرَكَ الْمِرَاءَ وَهُوَ مُحِقٌّ بُنِيَ لَهُ فِي وَسْطِهَا وَمَنْ حَسَّنَ خُلُقَهُ بُنِيَ لَهُ فِي أَعْلَاهَا

Which means: “Whoever gives up telling lies in support of a false claim, a palace will be built for him in the outskirts of Paradise. Whoever gives up argument when he is in the right, a palace will be built for him in the middle (of Paradise). And whoever had good behavior, a palace will be built for him in the highest reaches (of Paradise).”

Sheikh Jad al-Haq, the former leader of al-Azhar University advised the public who do not have the ability to make *ijtihad* (independent reasoning or decision) to accept the *mazhab* (the school of thought) within the country and avoid disunity. Follow the *fatwa* (Islamic rulings) in the State of Pahang, which are based on the final opinion of the Shafi'i *Mazhab*.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us be warned that if the matter of *khilafiah* is not controlled it will eventually lead to disunity among Muslims.

The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Abu Daud:

فَإِنَّهُ مَنْ يَعِشْ مِنْكُمْ بَعْدِي فَسَيَرَى اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا، فَعَلَيْكُمْ بِسُنَّتِي وَسُنَّةِ
الْخُلَفَاءِ الْمَهْدِيِّينَ الرَّاشِدِينَ، تَمَسَّكُوا بِهَا وَعَضُّوا عَلَيْهَا بِالنَّوَاجِدِ

Which means: “...for those of you who live after me will see great disagreement. You must then follow my sunnah and that of the rightly-guided caliphs. Hold fast to it...”

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ
فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَى شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ

آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ ﴿١٣﴾

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ. وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ
الْحَكِيمِ. وَتَقَبَّلَ اللهُ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا
وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَاَسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ