

INFLATION AND THE PRICE OF GOODS

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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 عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ 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,

Inflation and the increase in the price of goods is worrying, especially since the country is still recovering from the pandemic. Many consumers face a decline in purchasing power and quality of life.

Indeed, this inflation is a test from Allah the Almighty for the believers. Allah the Almighty is observing how we respond to this test.

During the time of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him [PBUH]), the price of goods once increased to the point that the companions complained to him. It cannot be denied that when the business climate is good, then the determination of the price of goods will be fair to both traders and buyers.

Inflation is due to the malicious planning of certain groups who betray the people and the country. Among their crimes are smuggling cooking oil and selling petrol, diesel, or other subsidized goods to noncitizens, while all of these are for the people of this country. As a result, the people have to bear the price increase. Allah the Almighty mentions in the Quran in Chapter 22 (*Surah Al-Hajj*) verse (*ayat*) 38:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُدْفِعُ عَنِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ خَوَّانٍ كَفُورٍ ﴿٣٨﴾

Which means: “Allah will defend the believers; Allah does not love the unfaithful or the ungrateful.”

Imam Tarmizi narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) warned traders:

إِنَّ التُّجَّارَ يُبْعَثُونَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ فُجَّارًا إِلَّا مَنْ اتَّقَى اللَّهَ وَبَرَ وَصَدَقَ

Which means: “Indeed the merchants will be resurrected on the Day of judgment with the wicked, except the one who has Taqwa of Allah, who behaves charitably and is truthful.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Islam also prohibits the practice of *ihtikar* (hiding) goods or monopolizing goods. According to Imam al-Nawawi, *ihtikar* means that a person buys food in bulk and hides it so that it can be sold at a higher price. This heinous act is absolutely forbidden in Islam. In *Musnad Ahmad*, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said:

مَنْ دَخَلَ فِي شَيْءٍ مِنْ أَسْعَارِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ لِيُغْلِيَهُ عَلَيْهِمْ ، فَإِنَّ حَقًّا عَلَيَّ

اللَّهُ أَنْ يُقْعِدَهُ بِعُظْمٍ مِنَ النَّارِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ

Which means: Whoever causes an increase in the price of goods for the Muslims, Allah the Almighty will place him in the hellfire on the Day of Judgment.

Look at how rampant the monopolization of goods by middlemen is in our country. It is the responsibility of the authorities to enforce anti-monopoly laws and regulate middlemen so that fair opportunities are given to everyone. Those who gain wealth in an unfair manner need to be controlled with a trade policy that

is fair to the people. This also indirectly controls the price of goods, by creating healthy competition that will benefit consumers.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Muslims, let us spend wisely in accordance with the *Sharia*. Some of us were negligent previously by spending and eating lavishly. What's more, with the existence of various modern businesses, whether online or physical stores, coupled with the proliferation of various e-wallet payment methods and credit services, many spend extravagantly without realizing it, which ultimately leads to financial problems. Life becomes difficult when the price of goods increases. Do not get too caught up in the temptation of worldly desires and current trends. Buy only what we need. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 25 (*Surah Al-Furqan*) verse (*ayat*) 67:

وَالَّذِينَ إِذَا أَنْفَقُوا لَمْ يُسْرِفُوا وَلَمْ يَقْتُرُوا وَكَانَ بَيْنَ ذَلِكَ قَوَامًا ﴿٦٧﴾

Which means: *(Those whom Allah is pleased with) are those who are neither wasteful nor niggardly when they spend, but keep to a just balance;*

Let us ponder upon the advice of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in Sahih Bukhari:

رَحِمَ اللَّهُ رَجُلًا سَمَحًا إِذَا بَاعَ، وَإِذَا اشْتَرَى، وَإِذَا اقْتَضَى

Which means: *“May Allah show mercy to a man who adopts a kind attitude when he sells, buys and demands for the repayment of loans.”*

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَأَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَلَا تَغُرَّكُمْ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا يَغُرَّتْكُمْ بِاللَّهِ الْغُرُورُ ﴿٥﴾

Finally, let us all be reminded by the verse in the Quran in Chapter 35 (*Surah Al-Fatir*) verse (*ayat*) 5:

Which means: “People! Allah’s promise is true, so do not let the present life deceive you. Do not let the Deceiver (Shaytan) deceive you about Allah:”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ. وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ

الْحَكِيمِ. وَتَقَبَّلَ اللَّهُ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا

وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ

وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ