

Hold Tight to Islam

25 Syawal 1443H/ May 27, 2022

أَحْمَدُ لِلَّهِ مُحَمَّدُهُ 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 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,

Have we ever reflected on how lucky we are to be born Muslim? Have we pondered upon the faith of our brothers and sisters who have just discovered the guidance of Islam, while we inherited this religion from birth? Why do we not appreciate the blessings of Islam which are invaluable?

Most of us today are drifting further and further away from the Islamic way of life. We seem to have lost faith in the Islamic way of living which

guarantees happiness in the life of this world and in the hereafter. In fact, some of us are ashamed to publicly practice the Islamic way of life. Isn't Islam a comprehensive, perfect way of life that guarantees the well-being of us in this world and in the hereafter?

Allah the Almighty mentioned in the Quran in Chapter 3 (*Surah Ali Imran*) verse (*ayat*) 85:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ
الْخَاسِرِينَ

Which means: “If anyone seeks a religion other than complete devotion to God [Islam], it will not be accepted from him: he will be one of the losers in the Hereafter.”

We are the caliphs on this earth who are responsible for governing this world according to the guidelines that have been set by Allah the Almighty. Even the Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) once reminded us to adhere to the teachings of Islam as he said in a *Hadith* narrated by Ibn Majah:

لَقَدْ تَرَكْتُكُمْ عَلَىٰ مِثْلِ الْبَيْضَاءِ، لَيْلُهَا كَنَهَارِهَا، لَا يَزِيغُ عَنْهَا إِلَّا هَالِكٌ

Which means: “I am leaving you upon a (path of) brightness whose night is like its day. No one will deviate from it after I am gone except one who is doomed...”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We will become great and glorious by practising Islamic teachings, because Islam is the religion blessed by Allah and He will always guide us. If we are diligent in following His path and use Islamic teaching strategically, we can achieve success.

Let us together start by seeking knowledge, because knowledge is the light that illuminates the path of life. The basic knowledge that must be emphasized in this life include first is knowledge regarding faith. Faith is a matter of belief and trust. We must study it meticulously so that our faith is safe and protected from all forms of deviation such as liberal thinking and other ideologies.

Next is knowledge regarding Islam. Islam covers all knowledge related to human life, including worship, marriage, business, law and politics. If we are ignorant of Islamic law, we will be susceptible to doing activities that Allah the Almighty has forbidden.

Finally, is knowledge regarding *Ihsan*. The Prophet (PBUH) described *Ihsan* as worshipping Allah the Almighty as if we see Him. Even though we are not able to see Allah, we have to believe that Allah the Almighty sees us. *Ihsan* demands our hearts not falter and trains our hearts to always remember Allah the Almighty. Let us remember that the only religion that is accepted by Allah is Islam as He mentions in the Quran in Chapter 3 (*Surah Ali Imran*), verse (*ayat*) 19:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا
جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِثَايَتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ ﴿١٩﴾

Which means: "True Religion, in Allah's eyes, is Islam: [devotion to Him alone]. Those who were given the Scripture disagreed out of rivalry, only after they had been given knowledge- if anyone denies Allah's revelations, Allah is swift to take account-"

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ
لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْعَالَمِ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ
الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.