

ROAD SAFETY

April 29, 2022 / 27 Ramadan 1443H

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،
فَيَا 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,

Alhamdulillah (Praise be to Allah) we are at the end of *Ramadhan*. Usually our community will return to their hometown to celebrate *Eid* with relatives. During this time the number of motorists on the road will increase. Remember our arrival is awaited not to be mourned. Therefore, drive safely.

Nevertheless, the negligent attitude of a handful of drivers can lead to catastrophic accidents. This is not something to be taken lightly as it

involves lives and property. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) verse (*ayat*) 195:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَلَا تُلْقُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ وَأَحْسِنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Which means: “...do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands, but do good, for Allah loves those who do good.”

One of the highest contributors to deaths in this country is fatal road accidents. Cases of death due to road accidents are reported everyday. It is a great loss to our society and our country because of the premature deaths of youths and other productive members of society like teachers and businessmen.

Road accidents have also left many children orphaned. Sudden deaths have a great impact on the emotions of family members. Wives who lose their husbands due to road accidents have to raise their children as single mothers.

It is true that deaths and road accidents happen by the will of Allah the Almighty. However, Muslims should not blame fate, but should try their best to prevent accidents from happening.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Islam forbids us to be arrogant in this life as mentioned by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 17 (*Surah Al-Israk*) verse (*ayat*) 37:

وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّكَ لَنْ تَخْرِقَ الْأَرْضَ وَلَنْ تَبْلُغَ الْجِبَالَ طُولًا ﴿٣٧﴾

Which means: “Do not strut arrogantly about the earth: you cannot break it open, nor match the mountains in height.”

Therefore, Muslims are prohibited from driving vehicles in an arrogant manner. We should respect other road users, instead of acting like we own the road by speeding (over the limit), breaking the rules or passing others in a reckless manner.

Violations of traffic rules such as passing on double lines, going against the traffic, running red traffic lights, or racing illegally can cause accidents which do not only hurt the violators but also other innocent people. Do not let our negligence and bad attitude be the cause of catastrophes that cause others to be killed or injured. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam Muslim:

كُلُّ الْمُسْلِمِ عَلَى الْمُسْلِمِ حَرَامٌ دَمُهُ وَمَالُهُ وَعِرْضُهُ

Which means: “Every Muslim’s blood, property and honor are unlawful to be violated by another Muslim.”

We are forbidden to shed blood or damage the property of others, due to our recklessness on the road. Traffic accidents can be avoided or can at least be reduced if we are careful, disciplined and abide by the rules while driving.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Let us not endanger the safety of ourselves and other road users. Hopefully we can arrive at our destinations to celebrate with our loved ones in the long-awaited joy of *Shawwal*. Drive safely so our journey may be blessed and our safety preserved by Allah the Almighty. Always remember every time we start a journey to recite the following supplication from the Quran in Chapter 43 (*Surah Az-Zukhruf*) verses (*ayat*) 13-14:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي سَخَّرَ لَنَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لَهُ مُقْرِنِينَ ﴿١٣﴾ وَإِنَّا إِلَىٰ رَبِّنَا
لَمُنْقَلِبُونَ ﴿١٤﴾

Which means: ... ‘*Glory be to Him who has given us control over this; we could not have done it by ourselves. Truly it is to our Lord that we are returning.*’

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