

TEACHER'S DAY

May 12, 2023 | 21 Shawwal 1444 H

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

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Every year on 16 May, teachers are honored during teacher's day celebrations and are recognized by the community for their enormous contribution to the development of our people and our country. It is appropriate that we give high status to teachers as noble people dedicated to educating all of us.

The teaching profession is a noble career that is a catalyst for the development of knowledge and the progress of the community as well as the

formation of citizens who are spiritually and physically balanced. Teachers are not just *mudarris* (instructors) but must act as *muallim* (conveyors of true knowledge), as *murabbi* (nurturers who educate with love), as *muaddib* (developers of students' manners and morals), as *muzakki* (purifiers of morals and faith), as *muthabbit* (builder of students' confidence and inner strength), as *qudwatun hasanah* (a positive exemplar for students) and as *mursyid* (a guide towards the truth).

The job of a teacher is not an easy job that can be accomplished by anyone. Being a teacher is considered a very noble and special duty especially in this era full of challenges. It demands sacrifice and solid commitment in educating the nation's children to be excellent and well-mannered people. The noble duty of teachers is recognized by Allah the Almighty as He has said in the Quran in Chapter 58 (*Surah Al-Mujadila*) verse (*ayat*) 11:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ

Which means: “...Allah will raise up, by many degrees, those of you who believe and those who have been given knowledge:...”

We should be grateful for the sacrifices and services of the teachers who have educated and guided us to become good human beings today - the teachers who were directly involved in educating us at school or university or the teachers who taught us how to read the Quran, *fardu ain* (individual obligations), etc. Without guidance and instruction from them we would not have a strong foundation to practice the basic *fard* (obligation) in Islam.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Since the teachers' position is very noble, then they should be respected and remembered for their services throughout their lives. Therefore, let us pray together to Allah the Almighty so that the teachers who have educated us receive His mercy and blessings all the time. We also pray that Allah the Almighty will bestow rewards and forgive the sins of those teachers who are no longer with us in this world, for all their sacrifices and services.

Students must always respect their teachers and return the favor by practicing the manners taught by Islam including greeting them, maintaining their dignity and refraining from criticizing and shaming them. Speak with the teachers in a polite manner and do not protest or oppose their instructions and never hurt their feelings so that the knowledge obtained is blessed by Allah the Almighty.

Parents must tell their children to always respect and obey their teachers' instructions. It is very disheartening that nowadays there are parents who are willing to attack and sue teachers when their children are subjected to strict action by the teachers for disciplinary offenses in school. This situation can negatively affect the teachers' relationship with the parents and the students. In addition, the actions of these parents can destroy the students' respect for their teachers. The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Muslim:

مَا مِنْ مَوْلُودٍ إِلَّا يُولَدُ عَلَى الْفِطْرَةِ، فَأَبَوَاهُ يُهَوِّدَانِهِ أَوْ يُنَصِّرَانِهِ أَوْ يُمَجِّسَانِهِ

Which means: “Everyone is born a Muslim, but his parents make him a Jew, a Christian, or a Magian...”

Therefore, parents should give full trust to teachers in shaping and educating their children to be useful people for the family, society, and country. No teacher wants to ruin the future of his/her students.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As members of society, we should feel obligated to work together alongside teachers to realize the country's hopes to produce a first-class generation with the spirit of “*Ulul Albab*” (“the people of intellect”). The task of educating students and preventing social problems should be done jointly between parents, the community and teachers as the saying goes “it takes a village to raise a child”.

Let us all support teachers who educate our children to be obedient members of the society. Allah the Almighty mentions in the Quran in Chapter 66 (*Surah At-Tahrim*) verse (*ayat*) 6:

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قَوْا أَنفُسِكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ
وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ
وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٦﴾

Which means: “*Believers, guard yourselves and your families against a Fire fuelled by people and stones, over which stand angels, stern and strong; angels who never disobey Allah’s commands to them, but do as they are ordered.*”

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ
الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ
الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.