

MARRIAGE AND PROGENY

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

أَشْهَدُ 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 وَإِبَائِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ قَارَ الْمَتَّقُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

Dear brothers and sisters

Family institution built through marriage which is the Sunnah of the Prophet (pbuh) is highly recommended. It is the natural disposition of men and women who need to live lovingly with each other in accordance with the Sharia. This marriage stipulation is in line with one of the natural tendencies of human nature, which is to have offsprings.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 4 (surah an-Nisa') verse 3:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
فَأَنْكِحُوا مَا طَابَ لَكُمْ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ مَثْنَى وَثُلَاثَ وَرُبْعًا ^طفَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا فَوَاحِدَةً

Which means: *“Then marry other women of your choice - two, three, or four. But if you are afraid you will fail to maintain justice, then content yourselves with one”*

In this verse, Allah the Almighty commands us to marry to fulfill the demands of human nature and for the continuation of the human race as desired by Him.

However, in recent times, some married couples tend not to have children (childfree) or do not want to have many children because they consider this to be a burden in their lives and careers. It is feared that this lifestyle will become widespread among the community, especially for newly married young couples. This situation can have long-term effects that will change the local and global social structure.

The fertility rate and the number of births in Malaysia over the past five decades have been declining and it is expected that the annual

population growth rate will continue to decrease until it reaches 0.7 percent in 2050. If the tendency to reduce the number of children or the influence of not having children (childfree) continues, the number of Muslims and the development of the country will be negatively affected if no preventive measures are taken .

Dear brothers and sisters,

Basically, marriage and having children is a natural thing and has its own purpose according to syaria. Let us not be afraid to have many children because of poverty. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 24 (surah an-Nur) verse 32:

إِن يَكُونُوا فُقَرَاءَ يُغْنِهِمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٣٢﴾

Which means: *“If they are poor, Allah will enrich them out of His bounty. For Allah is All-Bountiful, All-Knowing.”*

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 17 (surah al-Isra) verse 31:

وَلَا تَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ خَشْيَةَ إِمْلَاقٍ مِّنْ نَّحْنُ نَرْزُقُهُمْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ إِنَّ قَتْلَهُمْ كَانَ خِطْئًا كَبِيرًا

Which means: *“Do not kill your children for fear of poverty. We provide for them and for you. Surely killing them is a heinous sin.”*

The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Abu Daud:

تَزَوَّجُوا الْوُدُودَ الْوَالِدَةَ فَإِنِّي مُكَاتِرٌ بِكُمْ الْأُمَّمَ

Which means: *“Marry the one who is fertile and loving, for I will boast of your great numbers.”*

According to Imam Ibnu 'Ashur in his book *Maqasid al-Shariah al-Islamiah*, one of the purposes (*maqasid*) of marriage is to safeguard lineage and increase offsprings; it is even included in the fundamental purpose of marriage.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In order to protect the welfare of offsprings and lineage, Islam forbids free association without control which ultimately leads to adultery and forbidden relationships.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 17 (surah al-Isra) verse 32:

وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا الزَّيْنَىٰ إِنَّهُ كَانَ فَحِشَةً وَسَاءَ سَبِيلًا ﴿٣٢﴾

Which means: “Do not go near adultery. It is truly a shameful deed and an evil way.”

This verse explains that it is the responsibility of every Muslim to stay away from things that can lead to adultery such as promiscuity, close proximity and others. Be in the know that the act of adultery leads to the destruction of the lineage and keeps away the blessings and invites the wrath of Allah the Almighty.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, the number of teenagers who had given birth to children out of wedlock from 2012 to 2016, is 20,236 involving teenagers under the age of 18. Meanwhile, it was reported that as many as 911 cases of baby abandonment occurred from 2010 till August 2018. Out of the 911 cases, 585 cases of abandoned babies were found dead and the remaining 326 were found alive. These data and statistics show a very worrying phenomenon.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Parents play a significant role in their children's education. They should get to know and be close to their children according to the guidance as narrated from some of the Salaf which means:

“Play with them for the first seven years (of their life); then teach them for the next seven years; then advise them for the next seven years (and after that).”

From this Salaf, we can understand that the child's education process has three phases that parents need to pay attention to. These words describe how close the relationship between parents and their children is to ensure that they are not involved in free association. Parents should be friends with their teenage children so that they are always under parental guidance.

At the same time, matters pertaining to marriage should be simplified. Parents should not request for expensive wedding expenses and beyond their means. Late marriage may also contribute to promiscuity and it is feared that it can lead to adultery and out-of-wedlock pregnancies.

Do not be tempted to follow other people's pace and make marriage difficult. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Abu Daud which means:

“The best marriage is one that is easiest.”

The Prophet (pbuh) also said in a hadith narrated by Anas bin Malik Radiallahu Anhu which means: "*Perform a wedding even with just a goat.*"

This hadith explains that Islam requires us to facilitate the wedding ceremony according to our respective abilities. To conclude this sermon:

1. Marriage is seen as a *wasilah* (closeness) to achieve religious perfection and the Prophet (pbuh) is proud of the large number of Muslims.
2. Stay away from free association and keep to the limits of association as set by Islamic Sharia.
3. Parents should not neglect their responsibilities to ensure that children do not engage in free association.
4. Society should simplify marriage matters so that the wishes of young couples who want to get married can be expedited.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ قَرِيبًا ﴿١﴾

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

