

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SEEKING KNOWLEDGE

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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.

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، اِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأُوصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

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,**

Islam encourages its followers to seek knowledge and act upon it. The high status of knowledge in Islam is such that the first revelation sent down to Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was the command to read, which is the key to knowledge. Even Allah the Almighty praises those who have knowledge when He said in chapter 58 (surah al-Mujadalah) verse 11:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
يَرْفَعُ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ

**Which means:** “...Allah will elevate those of you who are faithful, and raise those gifted with knowledge in rank...”

Likewise, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said in a hadith narrated by Ibn Majah,

طَلَبُ الْعِلْمِ فَرِيضَةٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ

**Which means:** *“Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim.”*

Such is the greatness of the position of knowledge in Islam that words of wisdom were spread by scholars; namely, seek knowledge from cradle to the grave, and seek knowledge even if you have to go as far as China. Therefore, it is not surprising how Islamic civilization has recorded a glorious history through the contributions of scholars from the time of the companions until today. They have skills and expertise in various fields of knowledge, such as Imam al-Shafie who pioneered the writing of usul fiqh. Imam al-Bukhari, Imam Muslim and others collected hundreds of thousands of hadiths. Imam Tabari, Imam Fakhruddin ar-Razi, Imam Qurtubi and others have written volumes of Quranic commentary. Imam al-Ghazali is famous for writing Sufism through Ihya Ulumiddin. Ibn Sina contributed significantly in medical science and other figures who gave knowledge in various scientific disciplines.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Seeking knowledge has many advantages, as mentioned by the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) in a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim, which means:

*“Whoever takes a path upon which to obtain knowledge, Allah would make that path easy, leading to Paradise for him and those persons*

*who assemble in the house among the houses of Allah (mosques) and recite the Book of Allah and they learn and teach the Qur'an (among themselves) there would descend upon them tranquility and mercy would cover them and the angels would surround them and Allah mentions them in the presence of those near Him...”*

This hadith promises several advantages, namely entering into heaven with ease, gaining peace, receiving blessings from Allah the Almighty, protection by the angels and Allah the Almighty will mention the names of those who are in gatherings seeking knowledge.

Imam al-Ghazali (may Allah have mercy on him) divided knowledge into two parts, namely knowledge of fardhu ain and fardhu kifayah. Religious knowledge required for the perfection of faith, worship and morals is fardhu ain. Meanwhile, any knowledge that benefits humans, such as medicine, engineering, mathematics, agriculture, animal husbandry, and others, is fardhu kifayah.

Knowledge can also save us from becoming victims of deception. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) instructed Zaid bin Thabit to learn the language of the Jews to be safe from their deceit. Zaid bin Thabit said in a hadith narrated by Abu Daud,

*“The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) ordered me to learn the writing of the Jews; so I learned the writing of the Jews because of him,” He said, “I swear by Allah, I do not trust Jews in respect of writing for me. So I learned it, (their language)”.*

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Recently, there has been an issue of lack of interest among Muslim teenagers in pursuing knowledge. It is very worrying when more than 10 thousand students did not attend the SPM examination in 2023. Based on records from the Malaysian Ministry of Education, in 2023 there were 300 thousand SPM graduates who were not interested in continuing their studies at universities, including the possibility of being interested in the GIG economy.

It is true that occupation is something that is important for someone to earn a living. However, giving up the opportunity to study at the age of 17 to 23 because of being tempted by the perceived large income (minimum salary of RM1700) at this young age, is actually giving up part of the cycle of human life as a student. Therefore, if any family is not desperate for their children to work quickly, encourage these children to continue to pursue formal knowledge at colleges and universities until they graduate. Do not let the government's mandatory minimum wage of RM1,700 discourage teenagers from continuing their studies.

If this phenomenon continues, our country will produce an unskilled workforce in the next ten to twenty years. The greatness of a country that was previously known as a country with highly educated and professional personnel will be lost. What is more worrying is that the number of Muslim professionals will continue to decrease, even though the state and central governments are always encouraging the production of professional workforce.

For children who are not interested in academic studies, seize the opportunity to complete their life cycle as a student by learning skills

(TVET) provided by the state and federal governments. So, seize this golden opportunity at the state level, where the Pahang state government has provided learning opportunities in both academic and skills through UnIPSAS, UCYP University and Pahang Skills.

In conclusion, Islam tells its followers to seek knowledge, whether it is the knowledge of fardu ain or fardu kifayah. People who seek knowledge are promised various advantages both in this world and in the hereafter. Young people who abandon their studies because they want to work immediately are actually abandoning the cycle of their human life, which is their time of learning. To benefit society and the country, we must continue to learn whether it is religious knowledge, academics, or skills.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

شَهِدَ اللَّهُ أَنَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ وَالْمَلَائِكَةُ وَأُولُو الْعِلْمِ قَائِمًا بِالْقِسْطِ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ١٨

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، وَلِسَانِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.