

## EXTREMISM OR OBSESSION

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أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ 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 وَأَوْصِيكُمْ 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,**

In the Quran, the followers of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him [PBUH]) are described as the chosen people, also known as *ummatan wasatan*. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) verse (*ayat*) 143:

وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَاكُمْ أُمَّةً وَسَطًا لِتَكُونُوا شُهَدَاءَ عَلَى النَّاسِ ...

**Which means:** “*We have made you [believers] into a just community, so that you may bear witness [to the truth] before others and so that the Messenger may bear witness [to it] before you...*”

According to Imam Ibn Kathir (may Allah be pleased with him), *ummatan wasatan* are the best people. Imam Ibn Jarir Al-Tabari (may Allah be pleased with

him) explained that *wasatan* is to be moderate. Doing something too much leads to extremism, while doing it less leads to negligence and both are frowned upon in our religion. Similarly, if Muslims fail to become *ummatan wasatan*, extremism and ignorance will be rampant in society.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Extremism in faith means being obsessed and blindly fanatical about one's beliefs. This attitude makes someone feel that only they are right, while others are wrong, perverted, or *kufur* (*disbelievers*). In this situation statements such as, "We are the only Muslims" "We are the only supporters of the *Sunnah*" or "We are the only ones who will enter heaven" will start to circulate within a community.

Extreme attitudes are tests for society from Allah the Almighty. Extremism was previously encountered as mentioned by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 5 (*Surah Al-Ma'idah*) verse (*ayat*) 77:

فَلْيَا أَهْلَ الْكِتَابِ لَا تَغْلُوا فِي دِينِكُمْ غَيْرَ الْحَقِّ وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا أَهْوَاءَ قَوْمٍ قَدْ ضَلُّوا مِنْ قَبْلُ وَأَضَلُّوا كَثِيرًا  
وَضَلُّوا عَنْ سَوَاءِ السَّبِيلِ

**Which means:** Say, "O People of the Book! Do not go to extremes in your faith beyond the truth, nor follow the vain desires of those who went astray before you. They misled many and strayed from the Right Way."

This verse was revealed as a warning for the people of the book who revered their Prophet to the point of worshipping him as God. When reprimanded to return to the truth, they refused, and were willing to take extreme action.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

The main triggers for extremism in religion are:

1. Interpreting Islamic law according to one's own desires and intellect,
2. Depending on unreliable sources that do not have authority or
3. Seeking influence for one's own benefit and according to one's own desires.

In addition to damaging a person's faith, extremism eventually causes Muslims to be ridiculed, looked down upon or abused. When someone dies the community refuses to pray for him and worse, the blood of a Muslim is considered lawful to be spilled. It begins with the attitude of labeling friends as *munafik*, a person who practices *bid'ah* or *khawarij*, simply because they are different in matters of religion that are not a core belief. In the end, this extreme attitude leads to a culture of *takfiri*, which is the behavior of easily claiming that others are disbelievers or are misled.

Islam has strongly rejected all movements that threaten peace in any form, including those brought by religious extremists. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam An-Nasa'i:

وإِيَّاكُمْ وَالْغُلُوَّ فِي الدِّينِ فَإِنَّمَا أَهْلَكَ مَنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ الْغُلُوَّ فِي الدِّينِ

**Which means:** “And beware of going to extremes in religious matters, for those who came before you were destroyed because of going to extremes in religious matters.”

## Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The threat of religious extremist movements should be taken seriously by all parties as it involves the safety of the people. If a threat is not controlled, it will surely lead to the collapse of the nation and cause chaos in the country.

In order to prevent extremism, the federal government has developed the Malaysian Action Plan to Prevent and Control Violent Extremists (MyPCVE). The plan coordinates the roles, strategies, and initiatives of action by the government sector, the private sector, the mass media, the education sector, and various community groups. It aims to address the threat of extremist violence through four key domains, which are prevention, enforcement, recovery and strengthening.

In order to support moderation and cultivate the harmony of the people, the Pahang state government calls for Muslims to hold fast to the teachings of *Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah* through the *Asha'irah* and *Maturidiyah manhaj*, practicing the *fiqh* according to the *Shafi'e* school of thought and celebrating the views of other respected scholars, as well as striving to learn the pure Sufism based on the teachings of *Imam Al-Ghazali* and *Imam Junaid Al-Baghdadi*. Do not question practices that are considered to be *khilaf* (debatable) according to the religion, such as reading *Yasin* on Friday night, *tahlil* for the deceased, congregation *hajat* prayers and other *fatwa* (rulings) decided by the Pahang State Islamic Law Consultative Committee. Rebelling against a *fatwa* is an offense based on the Pahang Islamic Criminal Offenses Law Enactment 2013 (Section 13).

Let us ponder upon and take the following lessons from this *khutbah*:

1. Muslims should be aware that Islam is a simple, moderate, and practical religion, aligned with human nature which can be practiced in all situations, times and places.
2. Muslims should avoid extreme and radical attitudes that will only lead to slander, harm and destruction of the country.
3. Muslims should adhere to authoritative sources and avoid falling into extremism.

Let us support the rulers in preventing extremist behavior from spreading among the society by reporting to the authorities if there are extreme groups that can threaten social harmony.

إِنَّمَا الْمُؤْمِنُونَ إِخْوَةٌ فَأَصْلِحُوا بَيْنَ أَخَوَيْكُمْ ۗ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

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.