

SEEKING WHAT IS LAWFUL (halal)

18 July 2025 / 22 MUHARAM 1447H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْفَائِلِ: يَا أَيُّهَا الرُّسُلُ كُلُّوْا مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَاعْمَلُوا صَالِحًا إِنِّي بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ عَلِيمٌ

نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوْذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّهِ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ 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,

Working to earn a living is part of the teachings of Islam. Allah the Almighty rewards His servants who strive to earn halal livelihood and spend it for good. Remember! Indeed, there is a great reward when wealth is spent to provide for one's wife and children, as Allah Almighty says in chapter 2 (Surah Al-Baqarah) verse 172:

أَعُوْذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُلُوا مِن طَيِّبَاتِ مَا رَزَقْنَاكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا لِلَّهِ إِن كُنتُمْ إِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُونَ

Which means: “O believers! Eat from the good things We have provided for you. And give thanks to Allah if you truly worship Him alone.”

Seeking halal sustenance is an obligation as stated by Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessing be upon him) in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Tabrani,

طَلَبُ الْحَلَالِ وَاجِبٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ

Which means: “*Seeking the lawful is a duty upon every Muslim.*”

Therefore, always strive to ensure that the sustenance we obtain is halal. Ensure that the food and drinks we choose are halal. Alhamdulillah, in our country, food and beverages that have the halal logo from JAKIM are abundant and sufficient for daily needs. So choose one with the halal logo to be safe from getting involved with haram and dubious food (*syubhat*). Likewise, when eating out, look for food stalls and restaurants that have halal logo or are owned by Muslims.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Halal sustenance is a source of sustenance obtained in a lawful manner. Therefore, avoid committing acts that make such sustenance haram by taking something that belongs to others without permission such as seizing, stealing or robbing. Similarly, someone who works in an office needs to remember that office property can only be used for work purposes and not for personal reasons. Similarly, taking the produce of other people's crops, fruits and livestock without permission of the owner is a sinful act.

Sustenance also becomes unlawful when it is obtained through fraud, whether in business or through any of the fraudulent methods that are prevalent today. It is very sad when fraud is rampant in our society. We often hear of victims of fraud through get-rich-quick scheme investments,

online fraud or scamming, fraud in buying and selling and what is even more saddening is fraud in Hajj and Umrah packages. Remember! all acts of deception are major sins and the money earned is forbidden. Heed what the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim which means: “Whoever deceives us is not one of us.”

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) also said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari which means: “If they (the seller or buyer) lie and cover up (the defects of the goods), then the blessings of their sale and purchase will be nullified.”

Dear brothers and sisters,

Corruption is also among the sources of unlawful sustenance. Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Ahmad:

لَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَى الرَّاشِي وَالْمُرْتَشِي

Which means: “*May the Curse of Allah be upon the briber and the bribe recipient*”.

Take note of what Sayyidina Abdullah bin Rawahah (may Allah be pleased with him) said as narrated by Imam Malik: “*O Jews! The bribe you offer is forbidden, and we Muslims do not eat it*”

Therefore, do not take advantage of your position to engage in corruption. The lawful livelihood for employees is the wages paid by the employer based on the work that had been entrusted to them. Any

additional payments obtained from external parties of interest are feared to be implicated in corruption.

Dear brothers and sisters,

In conclusion, make effort to ensure that food and drinks are from halal sources. Likewise, seek halal sustenance by carrying out tasks in accordance with the income obtained. Stay away from cheating, stealing, extortion, taking bribes and taking the rights of others because these are things that are forbidden by Islamic law.

Let us all ensure that the sustenance obtained and given to our wives and children is halal and pleasing to Allah the Almighty. Let us be reminded that flesh that grows from what is haram, deserves hell. In addition, practice this dua in your daily life:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا ، وَرِزْقًا طَيِّبًا ، وَعَمَلًا مُتَقَبَّلًا

Which means: “O Allah, I ask You for beneficial knowledge, good sustenance, and accepted deeds.”.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ كُلُوا مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوا خُطُوَاتِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِنَّهُ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُبِينٌ
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.