

HARI HOL

16 MAY 2025 | 18 ZULKAEDAH 1446H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَائِلُ : كُلُّ نَفْسٍ ذَائِقَةُ الْمَوْتِ ثُمَّ إِلَيْنَا تُرْجَعُونَ
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 وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

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

Dear brothers and sisters,

Death will definitely happen to every living creature. That is the same for us who are called humans. We will surely die. No one knows when, how and where, except Allah azza Wajalla. Allah azza Wajalla says in chapter 31 (Surah Luqman) verse 34:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
إِنَّ اللَّهَ عِنْدَهُ عِلْمُ السَّاعَةِ وَيُنَزِّلُ الْغَيْثَ وَيَعْلَمُ مَا فِي الْأَرْحَامِ وَمَا تَدْرِي نَفْسٌ مَّاذَا تَكْسِبُ غَدًا وَمَا تَدْرِي
نَفْسٌ بِأَيِّ أَرْضٍ تَمُوتُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ٣٤

Which means: “Indeed, Allah alone has the knowledge of the Hour. He sends down the rain, and knows what is in the wombs. No soul knows what it will earn for tomorrow, and no soul knows in what land it will die. Surely Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware.”

That is why in Islam, we are required to always remember death and be prepared with provisions to face life after death no matter where we are. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 67 (surah al-Mulk) verse 2 which means:

“He is the One Who created death and life in order to test which of you is best in deeds. And He is the Almighty, All-Forgiving.”

In a hadith narrated by Imam Ibn Majah, Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was asked:

فَأَيُّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ أَكْيَسُ ؟ قَالَ : أَكْثَرُهُمْ لِلْمَوْتِ ذِكْرًا ، وَأَحْسَنُهُمْ لِمَا بَعْدَهُ إِسْتِعْدَادًا ، أَوْلَانِكَ الْأَكْيَاسُ

Which means: *“Who is the wisest among the people, O Messenger of Allah?” He replied: “The one who remembers death most often and the one who is best prepared to meet it. These are the truly wise,...”.*

From the verse of the Quran and hadith, it is clear that Islam demands that we remember death and gather as much reward as possible for our provision in the afterlife, such as by performing acts of worship, doing good to others, and so on.

Dear brothers and sisters,

May 22 is Hari Hol, a public holiday for the State of Pahang Darul Makmur. In the history of this state, Hari Hol is declared a public holiday since 1974 to commemorate the anniversary of the death of the fourth Sultan of Pahang, Al-Marhum Sultan Abu Bakar Ri'ayatuddin Al-Muadzam Shah.. Since 2020, Hol Day was changed to May 22, which is in conjunction with

the anniversary of the death of the late Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar, the fifth Sultan of Pahang.

Perhaps many people in this state still do not know the meaning and teachings behind Hari Hol. There is a view that says that the word 'Hol' comes from the Arabic word 'Haul' (حَوْل) which means a year or anniversary. In Malay, Arabic and palace traditions, 'Hol' is a ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of the death of a king or someone highly respected such as community figures, leaders and islamic scholars. It is usually filled with the recitation of Surah Yasin, tahlil, supplication and narration of their contributions to the community.

Hari Hol is not just a day of remembrance. It is a day for reflection and a time for us to remember the services of past leaders who are no longer with us. They planted the seeds of justice, goodness and piety in their administration. The previous Sultans of Pahang were kings who contributed greatly to the development and prosperity of this state.

The king is the head of religion and the umbrella under which the common people take shelter in this country. The people, in turn, play a role in maintaining unity and showing loyalty to the king. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

السَّمْعُ وَالطَّاعَةُ عَلَى الْمَرْءِ الْمُسْلِمِ فِيمَا أَحَبَّ وَكَرِهَ، مَا لَمْ يُؤْمَرْ بِمَعْصِيَةٍ، فَإِذَا أُمِرَ بِمَعْصِيَةٍ فَلَا سَمْعَ وَلَا طَاعَةَ

Which means: *"A Muslim has to listen to and obey (the order of his ruler) whether he likes it or not, as long as his orders involve not one in disobedience (to Allah), but if an act of disobedience (to Allah) is imposed one should not listen to it or obey it."*

Hari Hol also reminds us that the hereafter is the true and eternal life. At the same time, children or surviving heirs bear the responsibility of praying for the well-being of the souls of their departed parents. Likewise, the citizens of a state are also encouraged to offer abundant prayers for their kings and leaders. The renowned scholar and hadith expert, Fudhail bin 'Iyadh (may Allah have mercy on him), once said:

"If I had a prayer that would be answered, I would direct it to my leader." Someone asked him, "Why is that?" Fudhail replied, "If I direct the prayer to myself only, then it would only benefit me. But if I direct it to my leader, then the people and the country would also benefit."

Dear brothers and sisters,

Several important points can be concluded from today's sermon, namely:

First, Islam requires us to remember death often and prepare for it with provisions in the form of acts of worship and good deeds.

Second, let us strengthen unity especially among fellow Muslims by obeying all of Allah's commands and paying allegiance to the king and righteous leaders.

Third, we are required to increase supplication for our deceased parents so that their souls may be showered with blessings and granted forgiveness by Allah the Almighty.

To conclude this sermon, in conjunction with the celebration of Hol, let us pray for forgiveness and blessings for the late Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah Ibni Almarhum Sultan Abu Bakar, the fifth Sultan of Pahang, for his contributions to the religion, race, state and nation.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
يُقَوِّمُ إِنَّمَا هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا مَتْعٌ وَإِنَّ الْآخِرَةَ هِيَ دَارُ الْقَرَارِ ٣٩

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.