

THE HAPPY FAMILY

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الْحَمْدُ 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، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأُوصِيكُمْ 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,

Humans were created in pairs. The *sharia* (Islamic law) establishes marriage to make it permissible for a man and a woman to live together as a couple. Marriage is a bond of love, affection and compassion as stated by Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 30 (*Surah Ar-Rum*) Verse (*ayat*) 21:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَمِنْ ءَايَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

Which means: “Another of His signs is that He created spouses from among yourselves for you to live with in tranquillity: He ordained love and kindness between you. There truly are signs in this for those who reflect.”

Marriage unites a man and a woman, but divorce separates them. Marriage is highly encouraged by the *sharia*, while divorce, without an acceptable reason, is highly discouraged because divorce has many negative effects on the couple, family members and the surrounding community.

Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) Verse (*ayat*) 229:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
الطَّلَاقُ مَرَّتَانٍ فَإِمْسَاكَ بِمَعْرُوفٍ أَوْ تَسْرِيحُ بِإِحْسَنٍ

Which means: “*Divorce (which can be reconciled) can happen twice, and [each time] wives either be kept on in an acceptable manner or released in a good way...*”

Based on the record of divorce cases in the State of Pahang issued by the Pahang Islamic Religious Department for the year 2024, there were 3484 cases compared to 3135 cases in 2023 and 3145 cases in 2022.

The increasing divorce rate is very worrying. These figures indicate that households and families are becoming increasingly fragile. Divorce is the cause of various problems in society, such as depression, emotional stress, mental illness, moral decay, drug abuse, incest, and abandoned children.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

To build a happy and peaceful household, several steps can be taken:

First: Correct the intentions and goals of marriage. Couples need to have maturity, wisdom and patience in managing the household.

Second: The husband must be responsible for providing for sustenance. The wife's respect to her husband is also an important key to a happy family.

Third: Practice a moderate lifestyle, spend within your means and avoid debt which can cause life stress.

Fourth: If a dispute arises, seek advice from a religious office or any counseling center or refer to those who are knowledgeable.

Fifth: Avoid sharing household crises on social media.

Sixth: Respect each other's parents, family and in-laws. Parents and older family members play the role of peacemakers, helping to harmonize the relationship between husband and wife.

Seventh: A husband and wife who often argue will cause mental distress and emotional stress, especially for young children, particularly if it ends in divorce.

Eighth: Avoid free mixing/association with non-*mahrams* (people you can marry) which can lead to greater sins.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Abi Daud which means:

“The lawful thing which Allah hates most is divorce.”

The word “divorce” should not be pronounced too lightly according to your heart’s desires and feelings. According to Section 47 of the Islamic Family Law Enactment 2005 of the State of Pahang, every divorce must go through the application process at the *Sharia* Court. It is common in this country for the husband to fail to comply with Section 125 of the same enactment, which states that pronouncing divorce outside the court is an offence that can result in a fine of RM1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or both.

The rules and laws that are enacted are intended to save marriages and reduce the occurrence of unjustified divorces according to the *sharia*. A divorce application in court gives the couple the opportunity to voice the reasons for the divorce, allowing reconciliation efforts to be initiated, and then fair consideration by the judge to determine there is no other way but divorce to overcome the problems that have befallen the household.

We are reminded to always remain calm, to control anger, to relieve mental stress before pronouncing “divorce” and to first think about the ‘rescue’ channels provided at religious offices or in the *Sharia* Court. Divorces that are carried out hastily and without proper consideration will lead to regret.

Several points can be stated to conclude the *khutbah* (sermon):

First: Divorce is something that is permitted by Islamic law, but it is the permissible matter that Allah Almighty hates the most.

Second: Divorce is the last resort if all efforts to restore the marriage fail. Divorce involves damage to the relationship between two families, children, and society. It is unpleasant. It is bitter and painful for those who go through it.

Third: If divorce is an unavoidable choice, then do it in a good way following the correct channels so that it ends harmoniously and peacefully.

Muslims are encouraged to recite the supplication as stated in the Quran in Chapter 25 (*Surah Al-Furqan*) Verse (*ayat*) 74:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَرْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا

Which means: “*those who pray, ‘Our Lord, give us joy in our spouses and offspring. Make us good examples to those who are aware of You’.*”

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.