

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH IN SOCIETY

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اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَغِيْثُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنْ شُرُوْر اَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ اَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللّٰهُ
فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ، وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُوْلُهُ.
اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى اٰلِهِ وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِيْنَ.
اَمَّا بَعْدُ،
فَيَا عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اِنْفُوا اللّٰهَ وَاَوْصِيْكُمْ وَاِيَّايَ بِتَقْوٰى اللّٰهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُوْنَ.

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,

Youth are the inheritors and successors who will lead the future of the *ummah* (community). If they are good, then the country will be good. If they are corrupt, then the country's leadership will be crippled. The words of the Malay wise man, "*Pemuda Harapan Bangsa Pemudi Tiang Negara*" which means: "The male youth are the hope and the female youth are the pillars of a nation" are true. In conjunction with the Pahang State Youth Day Celebration this year, let us ponder upon Allah the Almighty's words in the Quran in Chapter 18 (*Surah Al-Kahf*) Verse (*Ayat*) 13:

اَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيْمِ

نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ نَبَأَهُم بِالْحَقِّ اِنَّهُمْ فِتْنَةٌ ؕ اٰمَنُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ وَزِدْنَهُمْ هُدًى ۝ ۱۳

Which means: *“[Prophet], We shall tell you their story as it really was. They were young men who believed in their Lord, and We gave them more and more guidance.”*

This proves that efforts to educate the youth are so important that Allah the Almighty mentions the story of Luqman educating his son to become a believer and worship Allah in the Quran in Chapter 31 (*Surah Luqman*) Verse (*Ayat*) 13:

Which means: *“Luqman counselled his son, ‘My son, do not attribute any partners to Allah: attributing partners to Him is a terrible wrong.’”*

And also, in Verse (*Ayat*) 17:

Which means: *“Keep up the prayer, my son; pray and do good; forbid what is wrong; bear anything that happens to you steadfastly: these are things to be aspired to.”*

Therefore, the youth should strive to know Allah the Almighty and to love worshiping Him so they understand that worship is the main responsibility in life. Indeed, youth who are close to Allah the Almighty will be beneficial to society and the country.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Youth are like fertile soil, every seed planted will surely thrive. That is the value of youth. The seed planted in their souls is like knowledge. If good knowledge is in their souls, it will surely bear good fruit and vice

versa. All scholars such as Imam Shafie, Imam Al-Ghazali, Ibn Sina and others were youth figures who were born during the peak of the development of Islamic knowledge. Their expertise in their respective fields contributed to the strength of Muslim civilization. They inherited the nature of the Prophet Muhammad's companions who were thirsty for knowledge by always being with the Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) to seek knowledge. A companion named *Saidina* Malik Ibn Huwairith said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari:

Which means: *“We came to the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) and we were young men close in age. He let us stay with him for twenty days.”*

This story shows the passion of the youth in seeking knowledge during the time of the Prophet (PBUH) which should be emulated by the youth today. Without knowledge, expertise and skills, Muslims will be forced to depend on the world's great powers in economic, military might, etc. Therefore, the youth should increase their knowledge and acquire skills in every field that can contribute to religion, society and country.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Be aware that various efforts have been made by the enemies of Islam to corrupt the minds of the Muslim youth, especially through social media, television, radio, magazines, entertainment and others. Muslim youth have been exposed to a culture of hedonism that lives according to desire alone, drifting without any connection to religion. We have been warned by the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari:

Which means: *“You will follow the ways of those nations who were before you, span by span and cubit by cubit (i.e., inch by inch) so much so that even if they entered a hole of a mastigure, you would follow them.” The companions asked, “O Allah’s Messenger! (Do you mean) the Jews and the Christians?” He said, “Whom else?”*

Therefore, the youth must be aware of the schemes of the enemies of Islam. The youth must have an identity through self-development by seeking knowledge, seeking righteous friends and choosing an environment that is suitable for the development of a Muslim personality. Make yourself useful in serving the *ummah* by participating in *gotong royong*, charity work and community activities and stay away from any negative and bad behavior.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The conclusions of today’s sermon are:

First, youth should always increase their knowledge and acquire skills in a field that can contribute to society and the country.

Second, youth must have an identity that is aligned with the true teachings of Islam which includes faith, Islamic law and good character.

Third, avoid negative behaviors and get involved in community activities that are beneficial to the people and the country.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلَنْ تَرْضَى عَنْكَ الْيَهُودُ وَلَا النَّصَارَى حَتَّى تَتَّبِعَ مِلَّتَهُمْ قُلْ إِنَّ هُدَى اللَّهِ هُوَ الْهُدَى وَلَئِنْ اتَّبَعْتَ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ بَعْدَ الَّذِي جَاءَكَ مِنَ الْعِلْمِ مَا لَكَ مِنَ اللَّهِ مِنْ وَلِيٍّ وَلَا نَصِيرٍ ١٢٠

Which means: “The Jews and the Christians will never be pleased with you unless you follow their way. Say, ‘Allah’s guidance is the only true guidance.’ If you were to follow their desires after the knowledge that has come to you, you would find no one to protect you from Allah or help you.” (Quran [Al-Baqarah] 2:120)

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.