

YOUTH: THE COUNTRY'S HOPE

19 Jamadil Awal 1443H/December 24, 2021

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ
سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
وَأَشْهَدُ 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 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 forgiven in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Youth are the pillars of society and the hope of a country. They are the generation who will be the leaders in the future. An Arabic proverb says:

شَبَابُ الْيَوْمِ رِجَالُ الْغَدِ

Which means: “The youth of today will be the leaders of tomorrow.”

Ali (the Prophet's companion) once said: *"If you want to see the future of a country, then look at its youth today."*

Youth is a challenging time in one's life. Many young men and women are trapped in various sinful activities. They are controlled by lust that pushes them to seek pleasure. Some of them think that youth is the time to enjoy, and repentance can wait until old age. This is a wrong perception. The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam al-Hakim:

إِغْتَنِمِ حَمْسًا قَبْلَ حَمْسٍ: شَبَابَكَ قَبْلَ هَرَمِكَ، وَصِحَّتَكَ قَبْلَ سَقَمِكَ،

وَعِغْنَاكَ قَبْلَ فُقْرِكَ ، وَفَرَاغَكَ قَبْلَ شُغْلِكَ ، وَحَيَاتَكَ قَبْلَ مَوْتِكَ.

Which means: *"Take advantage of five before the occurrence of five: Your youth before old age; and your health before sickness; and your wealth before poverty; and your free time before pre-occupation; and your life before death."*

Today's youth need to stay away from all inner negative elements. One of the methods is to get closer to Allah the Almighty. In a *Hadith*, the Prophet (PBUH) mentioned one of the 7 groups that will be protected by Allah the Almighty on the Day of Judgment:

...وَشَابُّ نَشَأًا فِي عِبَادَةِ رَبِّهِ

Which means: ...a youth who has been brought up in the worship of Allah (i.e., worships Allah sincerely from childhood)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

During the Prophet's life, most of the people who received the call of *da'wah* (the practice of conveying the message of Islam to Non-Muslims) are the youth and teenagers. For example, Abu Bakr converted to Islam at the age of 38, Umar at the age of 28, Ali at the age of 10 and many others who converted to Islam in their teenage years such as Mus'ab bin Umair, and Usamah bin Zaid. They later helped the Prophet (PBUH) enormously in *da'wah* and became pillars of strength for the Muslims in their *jihad fi sabilillah* (struggles in the path of Allah the Almighty).

Allah the Almighty presents an exemplary story for today's youth to emulate the strong faith of the youth of the cave (*Ashabul Kahf*) He says in the Quran in Chapter 18 (*Surah Al-Kahf*) verse (*ayat*) 10:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
إِذْ أَوْى الْفِتْيَةُ إِلَى الْكَهْفِ فَقَالُوا رَبَّنَا آئِنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً وَهَيِّئْ لَنَا
مِنْ أَمْرِنَا رَشَدًا ﴿١٠﴾

Which means: “*When the young men sought refuge in the cave and said, ‘Our Lord, grant us Your mercy, and find us a good way out of our ordeal’*”

Ashabul Kahf avoided the tyranny of the Roman rulers, who wanted to kill them for refusing to worship idols, by hiding in a cave. Allah the Almighty put them to sleep in the cave for many years.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our country is in dire need of youth who are knowledgeable, skilled, strong-willed, positive and with integrity. In conclusion, let us call upon all youth to keep their faith, always seek knowledge and skills and stay away from social problems such as drug addiction, free mixing with the opposite gender, hedonistic behavior, etc. Be the youth who are *istiqamah* (steadfast) in defending Islamic rules in this country so that our country will not be ruled by the enemies of Islam. Hopefully, with the strength of our youth, our country will be more developed, peaceful, prosperous and blessed by Allah the Almighty.

Allah the Almighty said to the Prophet (PBUH) as recorded in the Quran in Chapter 18 (*Surah Al Kahf*), verse (*ayat*) 13:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

نَحْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ نَبَأَهُم بِالْحَقِّ إِنَّهُمْ فِتْيَةٌ ءَامَنُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ وَزِدْنَاهُمْ

هُدًى ۝ ١٣

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.”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنْ

آيَاتِ 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.