

## HOLDING FAST TO *AHLU SUNNAH WAL JAMAAH*

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أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ  
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّهِ 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 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,**

All Prophets were sent to guide people to worship Allah the Almighty and to stay away from *taghut* (the worship of false gods). Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 16 (*Surah An-Nahl*) verse (ayat) 36:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَلَقَدْ بَعَثْنَا فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ رَسُولًا أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ وَاجْتَنِبُوا  
الطَّاغُوتَ فَمِنْهُمْ مَن هَدَى اللَّهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَن حَقَّتْ عَلَيْهِ الضَّلَالَةُ فَسِيرُوا  
فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الْمُكذِّبِينَ ﴿٣٦﴾

**Which means:** “We sent a messenger to every community, saying, ‘Worship Allah and shun false gods.’ Among them were some Allah guided; misguidance took hold of others. So travel through the earth and see what was the fate of those who denied the truth.”

Deviation of faith that stems from obsession, heresy and ignorance is among the challenges experienced by believers which eventually led to the disunity of Muslims. The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Tirmizi:

وَإِنَّ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ تَفَرَّقَتْ عَلَى ثِنْتَيْنِ وَسَبْعِينَ مِلَّةً وَتَفَرَّقَتْ أُمَّتِي عَلَى ثَلَاثٍ  
وَسَبْعِينَ مِلَّةً كُلُّهُمْ فِي النَّارِ إِلَّا مِلَّةً وَاحِدَةً قَالُوا وَمَنْ هِيَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ قَالَ مَا  
أَنَا عَلَيْهِ وَأَصْحَابِي

**Which means:** “The Bani Isra’il (Jews) divided into 72 sects, but my people will divide into 73 sects, all of which but one will go to hell.” On being asked which it was, he replied, “It is the one to which I and my companions belong.”

Since the death of the Prophet (PBUH), the Muslim Nation (*ummah*) has been divided due to the emergence of false prophets, tribes that refuse to pay *zakat*, *Khawarij*, and the emergence of Shiites and *Mu'tazilah*. Some arise out of self-interest, and some arise out of political divisions that eventually lead to misleading ideologies.

For that reason, it is very important that we follow the guidelines that the Prophet (PBUH) has taught us, so as to adopt the *manhaj* (the methodology by which truth is reached) of his life and that of his companions. In another narration, the Prophet (PBUH) also instructed his people to follow *al-Sawad al-A'zam* and *jamaah*, which means a large group, based on al-Quran and as-*Sunnah*. This is the *manhaj* known as *Ahlu Sunnah wal Jamaah*.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

The school of *Ahlu Sunnah wal Jamaah* of *Asha'irah* and *Maturidiyyah* is practiced by Muslims in Pahang. This is based on:

First: Adhering to the oneness of God (*Tauhid*) based on the 20 main attributes of Allah which was founded by Imam Abu Hasan al-Ashaari and Imam Abu Mansur al-Maturidi who lived in the earliest 3 centuries after the Prophet which were considered the best centuries according to the Prophet (PBUH).

Second: Practicing one of the authoritative schools of jurisprudence, especially in Pahang, which follows the Shafie school of thought.

Third: Accepting the teachings of a respectable order of Sufism that does not contradict Islamic Law (*Shari'ah*).

A large number of scholars follow the *Asha'irah* school. Among them are Imam al-Juwaini, Imam al-Ghazali, Fakhruddin al-Razi, al-Subki, al-Sanusi and many others.

Sultan Muhammad al-Fateh, who succeeded in conquering the City of Constantinople (Istanbul) was a practitioner of the oneness of God (*Tauhid*) based on the 20 main attributes of Allah. He was the leader who was mentioned in the *hadith* of the Prophet (PBUH) as the best leader with the best army.

In the *Book of al-Tabaqat*, Imam al-Subki stated that Abu Hasan al-Ash'ari did not invent a new opinion in his tenure. This is what the Prophet (PBUH) mentioned in his *hadith* about *Ahlu Sunnah wal Jamaah*.

In conclusion, let us together hold fast to this faith by learning the true teachings based on *Asha'irah* and *Maturidiyyah*. Do not follow other faiths such as *rububiyah*, *uluhiyah* and *asma 'wa sifat* as well as *Wahhabi*, Shia and other deviant teachings. Remember what Allah says in the Quran in Chapter 39 (*Surah Az-Zumar*), verse (*ayat*) 18:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ  
الَّذِينَ يَسْتَمِعُونَ الْقَوْلَ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ أَحْسَنَهُ أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَاهُمُ اللَّهُ  
وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ أُولُوا الْأَلْبَابِ

**Which means:** “Those who listen to what is said and follow what is best. These are the ones Allah has guided; these are the people of understanding.”

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ. وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ  
الْحَكِيمِ. وَتَقَبَّلَ اللهُ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا  
وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ  
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ