



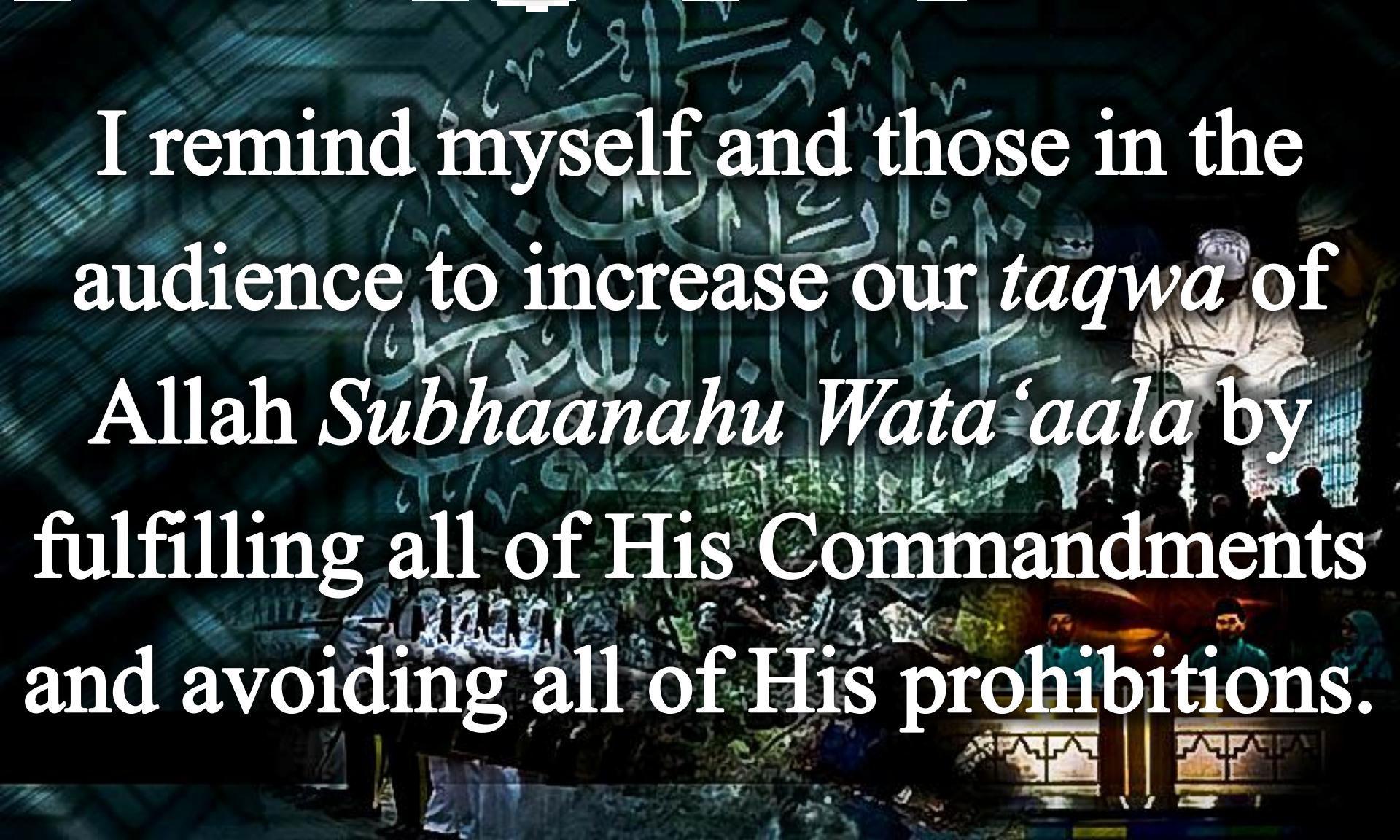
جَابَاتَانِ اِسْلَامِ سِلَانْجُور  
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

# FUNERAL RITES: A COLLECTIVE DUTY

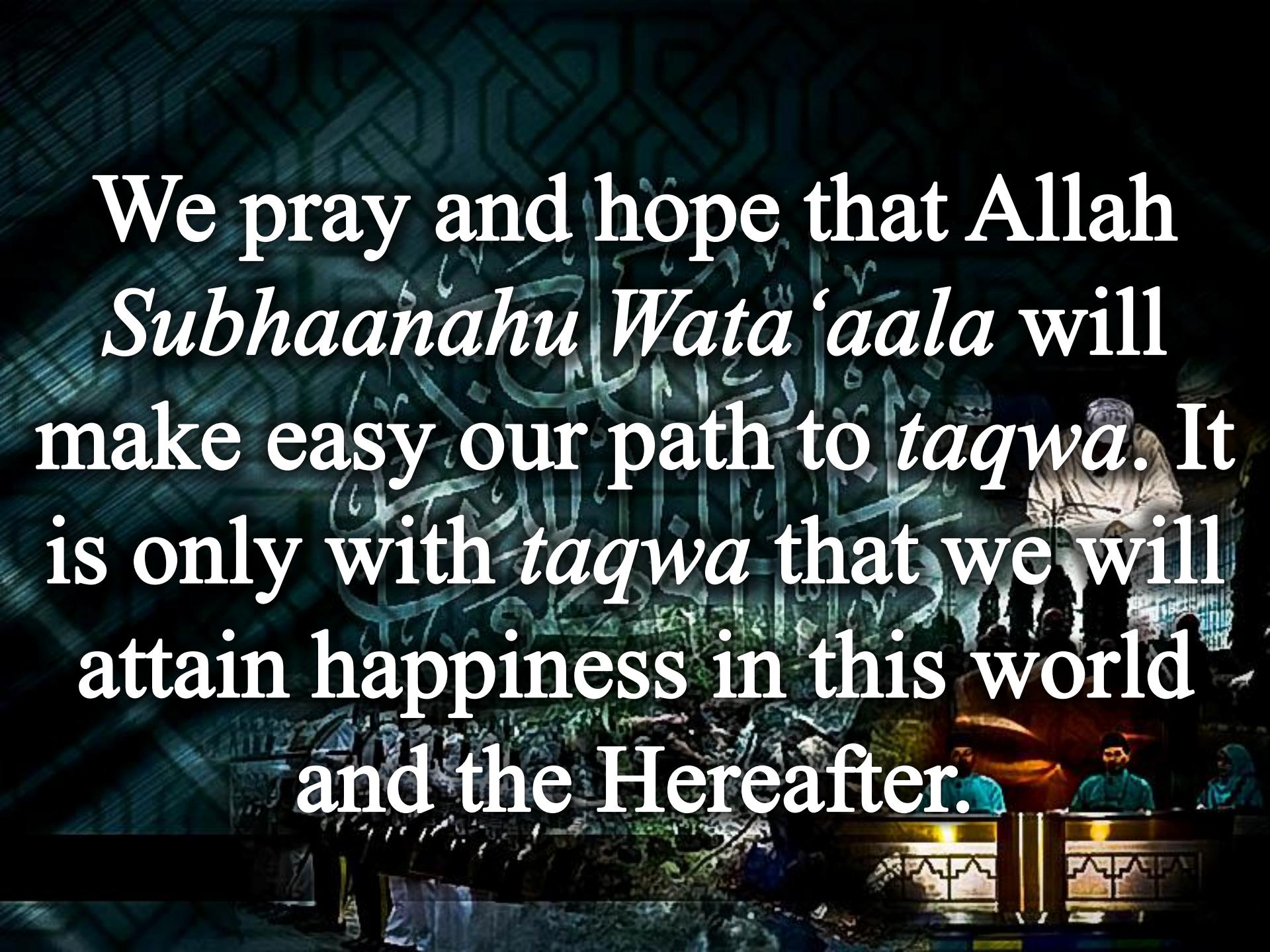




I remind myself and those in the audience to increase our *taqwa* of Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala* by fulfilling all of His Commandments and avoiding all of His prohibitions.



We pray and hope that Allah  
*Subhaanahu Wata ‘aala* will  
make easy our path to *taqwa*. It  
is only with *taqwa* that we will  
attain happiness in this world  
and the Hereafter.



Every being living on this earth  
will surely taste death. Allah  
*Subhaanahu Wata‘aala*  
mentions in al-Qur‘an:

“For every nation is a [specified] term. When their time has come, then they will not remain behind an hour, nor will they precede [it].”

(Yoonus 10:49)

For the deceased, all their worldly dealings ended after they breathed their last. But for us living, we are obligated to perform the funeral rites upon the dead which include *ghusl* (washing), *kafn* (shrouding), *janaazah* prayer, and the burial.

However, majority in the society are heedless, negligent, or feel unobligated to participate in the process of funeral rites.

They assume that it is the responsibility of the *imam*, *muadhdhin*,

and the mosque administrator in fulfilling the *fard kifaayah*, without the need of their participation.

The reality is that not everyone is willing, capable, knowledgeable,

or courageous enough to perform funeral rites. Some are afraid to look at a dead body. When death occurs, many of the family members, relatives, neighbors, and friends would pay a visit to the deceased.

Among them are those reciting al-Qur'an, making *adhkaar*, but many would only sit idly or busy conversing with others.

Would it not be more appropriate if they recite al-Qur'an or help out in preparation for the burial

such as washing the *janaazah*,  
*kafn* (shrouding), joining  
*janaazah* prayer, and digging  
the grave?

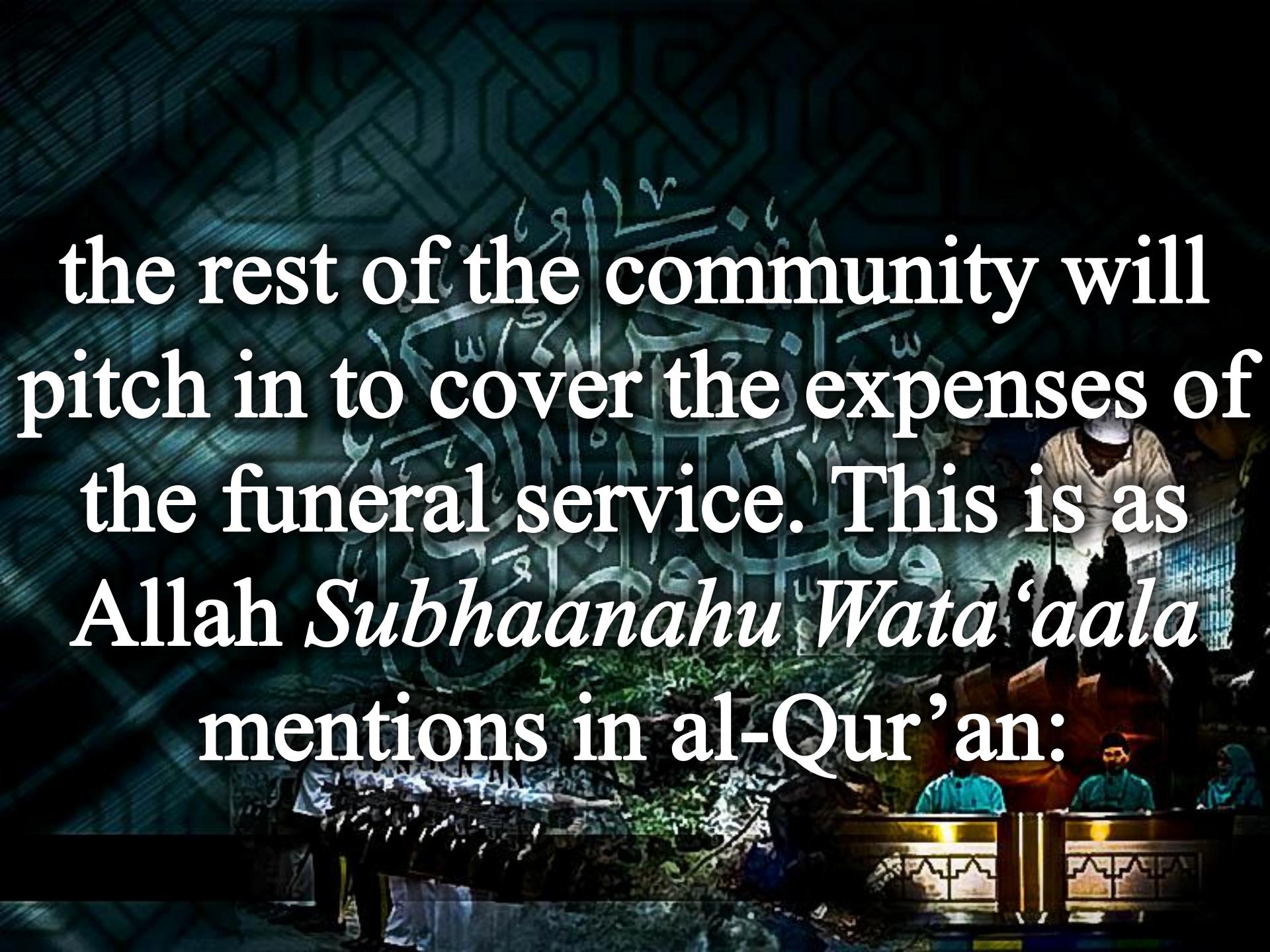
Narrated ibn ‘Abbas  
*radiyAllaahu ‘anhu*: The  
Messenger of Allah *sallAllaahu*  
*‘alayhi wasallam* said:

“If a Muslim dies and forty people, who do not associate anything with Allah in worship, participate in the funeral prayer over him, Allah will accept their intercession for him.” (Muslim)

Each one of us should be involved in carrying out *fard kifaayah* acts especially in funeral rites, by joining funeral services committee organized by the mosque administration.

Among the benefits of establishing a family assistance fund for the deceased:

1- Implementing the spirit of *ta‘awun* or helping out each other. When a member of the community passes away,



the rest of the community will pitch in to cover the expenses of the funeral service. This is as Allah *Subhaanahu Wata'aala* mentions in al-Qur'an:

“... And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is severe in penalty.”

(al-Maa’idah 5:2)

2- This benefit is a very significant one. By making financial contribution into the fund, we are directly involved in participating in the affairs of the funeral rites every time death occurs within the community.

When the money from the fund  
is used to purchasing the *kafn*  
(shroud) cloth, it implies that  
the funeral services committee  
members have collectively  
provided the *kafn* cloth for the  
*janaazah.*

When a portion of the fund is distributed as wage to those that washed the *janaazah*, it is as if the committee members have together washed the *janaazah*.

When the fund is used to prepare the grave,

then it is as if all members dug up the hole together without having to pick up a shovel. In other words, each member carries out the duty of *fard kifaayah* in the affairs of funeral rites.

3- The establishment of the family assistance fund for the deceased provides ample opportunity for '*amal jaariyah*' or *sadaqah jaariyah*. *Jaariyah* means continuous (flowing).

What is it that is continuous? It is the good deeds, whether it continues temporarily or eternally. Narrated Abu

Hurayrah *radiyAllaahu 'anh:*  
The Messenger of Allah  
*sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam*  
said:

“When a man dies, his deeds come to an end except for three things: *Sadaqah Jaariyah* (ceaseless charity); a knowledge which is beneficial, or a virtuous descendant who prays for him (for the deceased).”  
(Muslim and Ahmad)

4- By joining the funeral services committee, one is relieved from the burden of debt at his/her demise. By not joining, in the event that this person dies and the family does not have sufficient funds,

then the extended family has to bear the expenses for the *kafn*, wages for washing the *janaazah* and digging up the grave, and end up being in unnecessary debt.

Even if the deceased was very careful not to be in debt while alive, it is very unfortunate if at the time of death the family members had to fall into debt in carrying out the funeral rites.

By becoming a committee member, it is unlikely that the burden of debt would become an issue because all the expenditure will be covered by the allocated fund. Those in audience may be aware of the fate of the soul if the debt has

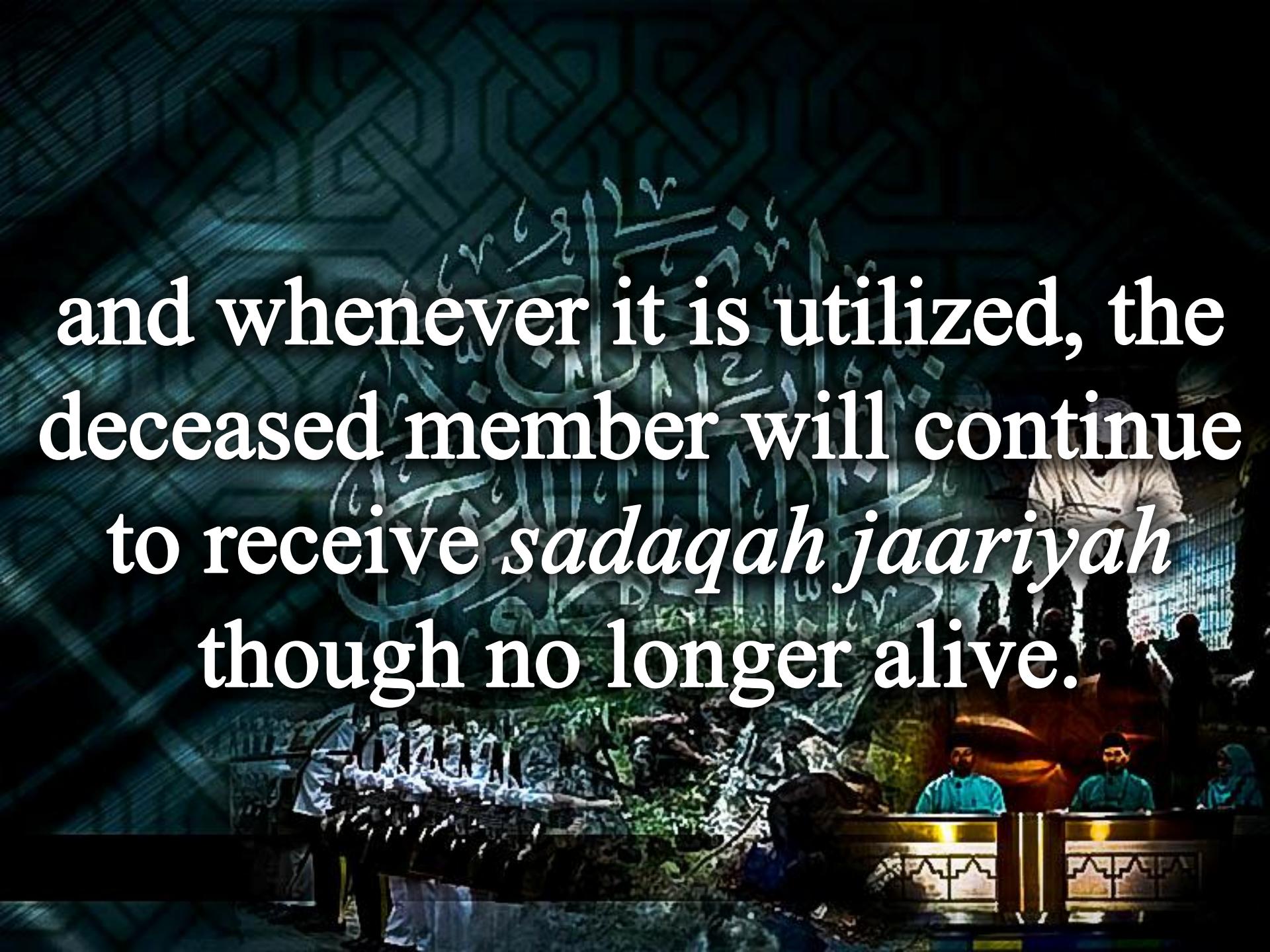
not been fulfilled. Narrated Abu Hurayrah *radiyAllaahu 'anh*: The Messenger of Allah *sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam* said: “The soul of the believer is suspended because of his debt until it is paid off.”

(Ahmad and at-Tirmidhi: *saheeh*)

If it was decreed that a member of the funeral services committee dies early after having paid fees for a few years in advance, then there is excess amount in fees that should not have been paid for.

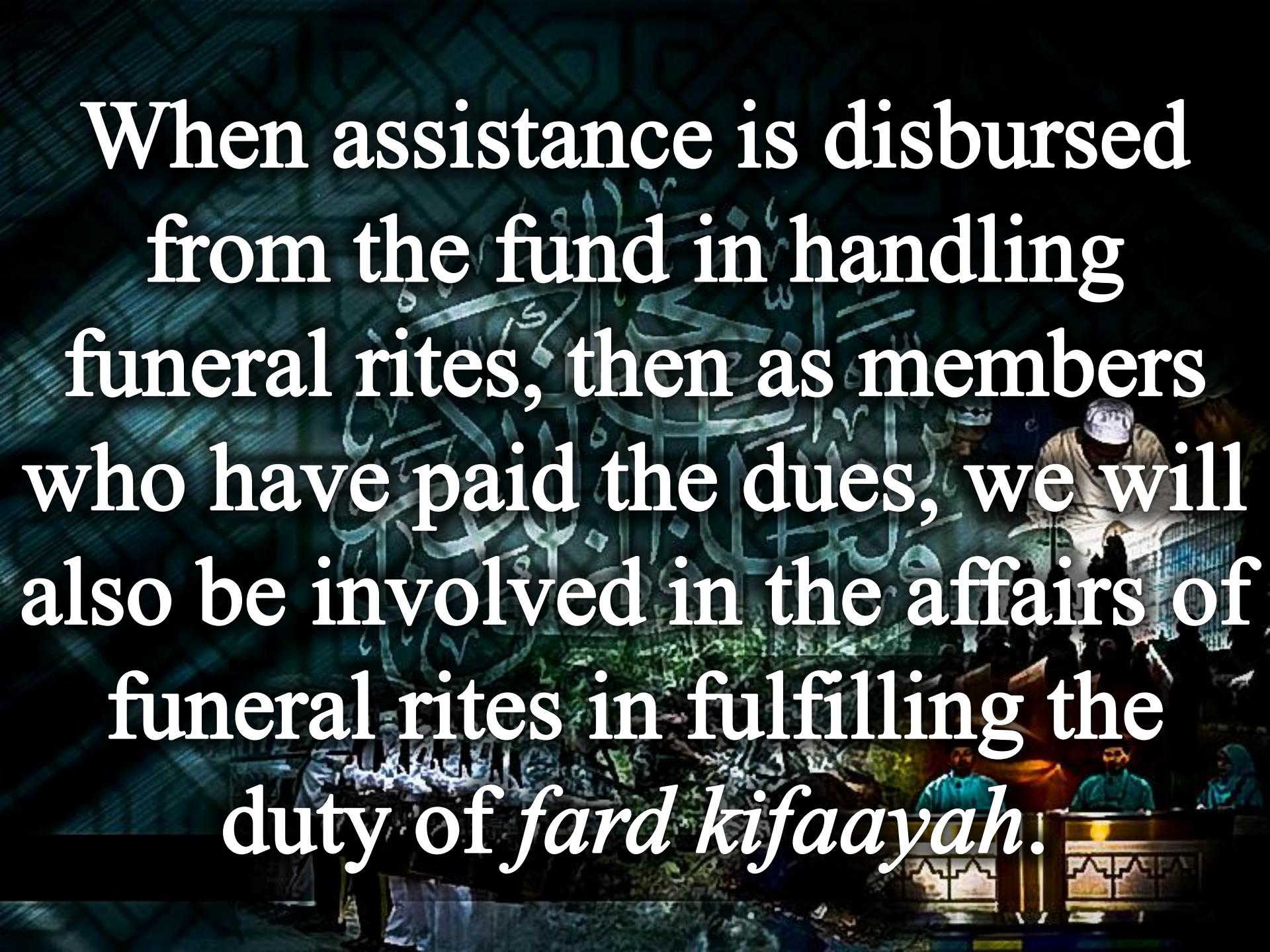
Normally in this case, the family of the bereaved will not request for the return of payment excess. That money will stay in the fund,

and whenever it is utilized, the deceased member will continue to receive *sadaqah jaariyah* though no longer alive.



Therefore, let us all together contribute into the family assistance fund for the deceased if it is established. The sooner we become a member, the more membership fees we will have contributed into such fund.

When assistance is disbursed from the fund in handling funeral rites, then as members who have paid the dues, we will also be involved in the affairs of funeral rites in fulfilling the duty of *fard kifaayah*.



Indeed, always remind  
ourselves of the previous verse  
mentioned:

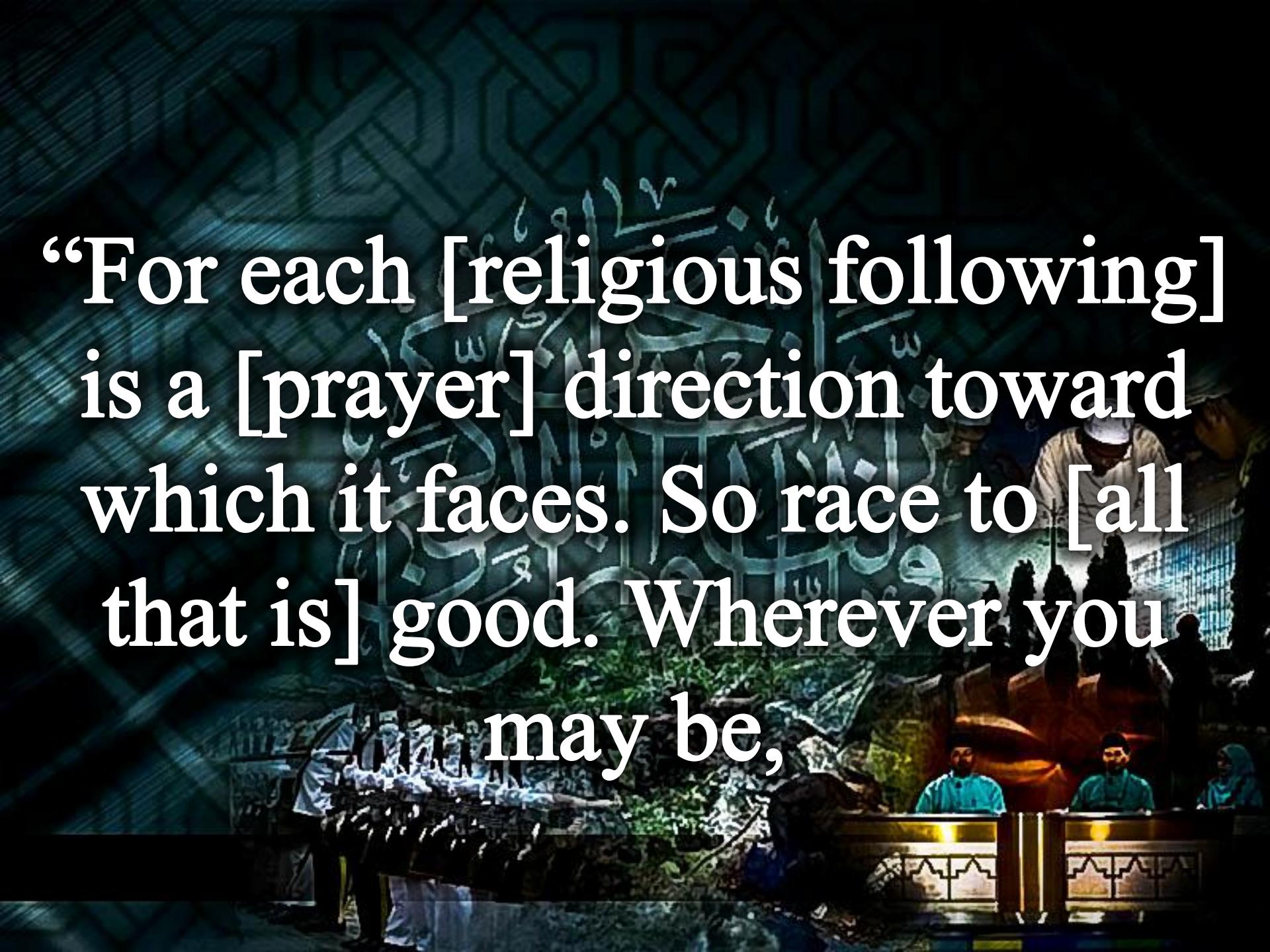
“... And cooperate in  
righteousness and piety, but do  
not cooperate in sin and  
aggression.

And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is severe in penalty.”

(al-Maa’idah 5:2)

May Allah *Subhaanahu Wata ‘aala*  
be pleased with all our ‘ibaadah,  
and may He reward us for them.

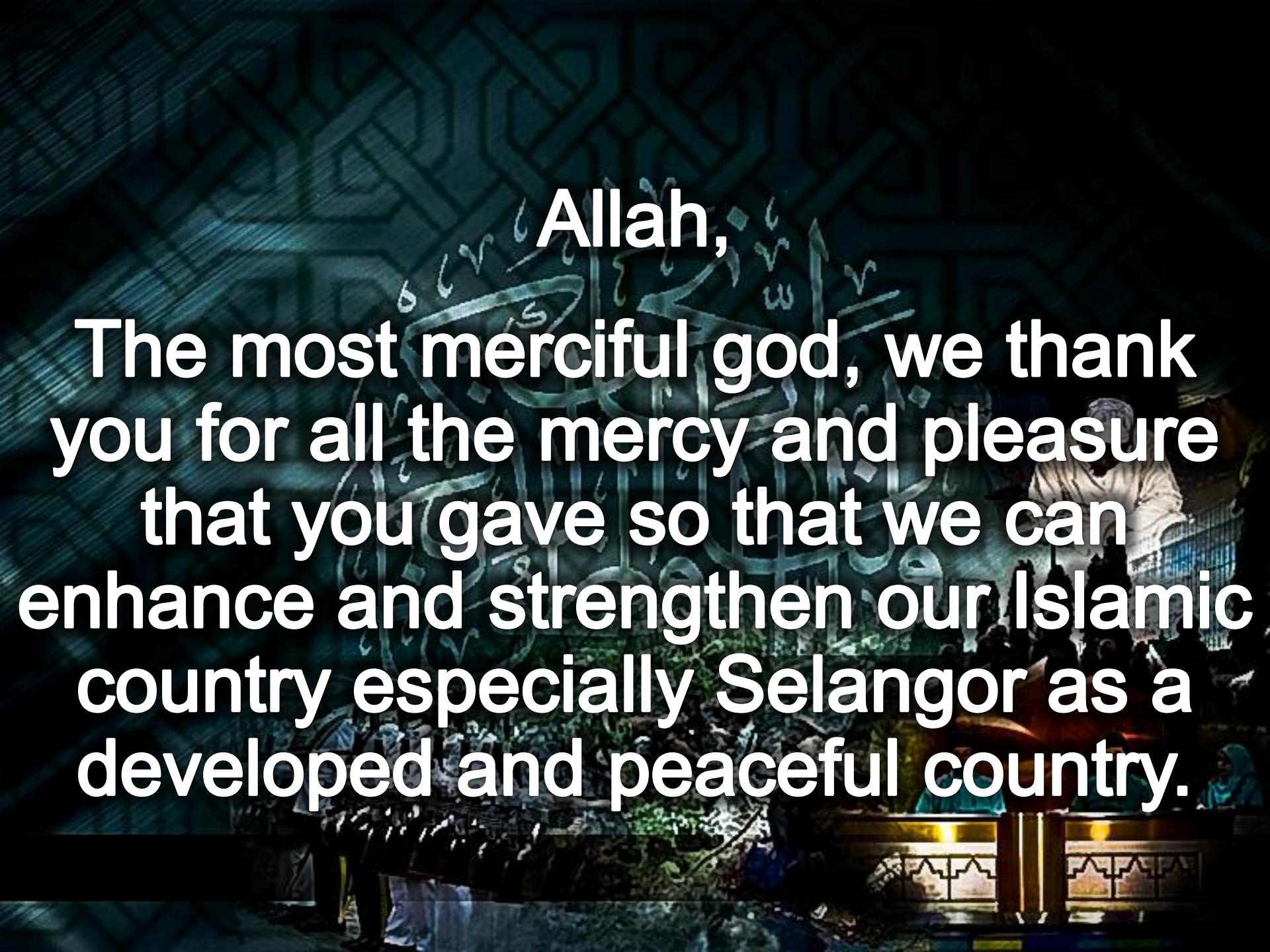
“For each [religious following]  
is a [prayer] direction toward  
which it faces. So race to [all  
that is] good. Wherever you  
may be,



Allah will bring you forth [for judgment] all together. Indeed, Allah is over all things competent.”

(al-Baqarah 2:148)

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ وَنَفَعَنِي  
وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْأَيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ  
وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ  
الْعَلِيمُ أَقُولُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ  
لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ  
وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ  
وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ  
إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ



# Allah,

The most merciful god, we thank you for all the mercy and pleasure that you gave so that we can enhance and strengthen our Islamic country especially Selangor as a developed and peaceful country.

O Allah,

We beg you to increase our practice, brace up our unity, give us prosperous life, make us rich with good knowledge, flourish our soul with noble character, bring back our youngsters to the right path, save us from your biggest test such

as huge flood, drought, epidemic, disputing between ourselves, poorness and anything else so that this country will be more prosperous and blessed.



DI SEDIAKAN OLEH :  
UNIT KHUTBAH,  
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

ILLUSTRASI OLEH:  
UNIT TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT  
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR