



"SEEKING LIVELIHOOD AS A FORM OF WORSHIP"

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَائِلِ: وَقُلْ أَعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ
وَسَتُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عِلْمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ¹
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَىٰ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ،
فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ! اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أُوصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ. قَالَ
اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Dear blessed Muslims,

Let us altogether strive to increase our *taqwa* of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* with absolute *taqwa*, by practicing all that has been commanded by Him and avoiding all of His prohibitions.

Today, I will expound on a *khutbah* titled "**SEEKING LIVELIHOOD AS A FORM OF WORSHIP**".

Dear noble guests of Allah,

Islam holds high regard for those that strive in seeking livelihood and dislikes those that are lazy and likes to beg from others. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ has reminded us in the *hadeeth* of Zubayr bin al-'Awwaam *radiyAllahu 'anh*, in which he said:

لَأنَّ يَأْخُذَ أَحَدُكُمْ حَبْلَهُ ، فَيَأْتِي بِحُزْمَةِ الْحَطَبِ عَلَى ظَهْرِهِ ، فَيَبِيعُهَا ،
فَيَكْفَى اللَّهَ بِهَا وَجْهَهُ خَيْرٌ لَهُ مِنْ أَنْ يَسْأَلَ النَّاسَ أَعْطَوْهُ أَوْ مَنَعُوهُ

"It is better for anyone of you to take a rope (and cut) and bring a bundle of wood (from the forest) over his back and sell it and Allah will save his face (from the Hell-Fire) because of that, rather than to ask the people who may give him or not."

(al-Bukhaari)

Indeed, the prophets *'alayhimus Salaatu was-Salaam* also worked to earn their living. Prophet Adam did farming, Prophet Idrees was a tailor, Prophet Nooh and Zakariya were carpenters, and Prophet Dawood was a blacksmith. Prophet Moosa was a shepherd, while Prophet Muhammad did commerce. Similarly with the Companions where Abu Bakr as-Siddeeq sold clothing, 'Umar bin al-Khattaab ran a leather business, 'Uthmaan ibn 'Affaan was a successful trader. The same goes with 'Abdur Rahman ibn 'Awf, Talhah bin 'Ubaydillaah, az-Zubayr bin al-'Awwaam, 'Amr

¹ at-Tawbah 9:105



bin al-'As, and many other Companions *radiyAllaahu 'anhum*. The Companions had their own jobs in seeking livelihood in this worldly life, and they even gave away their wealth (*infaaq*) in the path of Allah.

Dearest audience,

Islam highly encourages its adherents to work hard because this world is filled with multitude of provisions from Allah, whether on the surface of the earth or buried underneath, deep in the ocean, or up high in outer space. They all can be cultivated by mankind by utilizing the intellect and endeavor bestowed by Allah to mankind. Islam does not require us to pray continuously or perform *i'tikaaf* in the masjid at all times. Sayyidina 'Umar himself had chased away a man who was making *du'aa* in the masjid when it was already *duha* time, telling him: "*The sky will not rain down gold and silver only through supplication.*"

Dear respected guests of Allah,

'Ibaadah (worship) in Islam must be fully comprehended in a wider and comprehensive context. *'Ibaadah* is not just confined to *salaah*, fasting, *zakaat*, performing hajj, making *dhikr*, reciting al-Qur'an, giving charity, undertaking *jihaad* in the path of Allah, and its like. In fact, Islam also includes seeking livelihood as part of the meaning of *'ibaadah*. Rasulullah ﷺ has taught the Companions indirectly on the meaning of work as *'ibaadah*.

Abu Hurayrah *radiyAllaahu 'anh* narrated that once a few Companions saw a man who works diligently. They said: "***Is it not better if he performs jihaad in the path of Allah.***" Rasulullah quickly replied: "***Do not say as such for if he works to provide for his young children, then he is in the path of Allah. If he works to support his elderly parents, then he is in the path of Allah. And if he works to seek his livelihood, then he is in the path of Allah.***"

(*al-Bayhaqi*)

Therefore, for the work that is pursued, one must avoid cheating, power abuse, untrustworthiness, complacency, and its like for that work is inseparable from the realm of worship. That is why a person who performs *salaah* will not lie on the number of *raka'ah* obligated, and the fasting person will not eat in secret though knowing that no one sees him. All of these is because one truly comprehends that the *salaah* and fasting are *'ibaadah*. Hence, the *rooh* (spirit) of *'ibaadah* must be engrained in the workplace if the intention is to develop quality workers.

Dear noble audience,

There are several matters that must be observed by every working Muslim so that their occupation will earn profit in this world and the Hereafter. Furthermore, it will be filled with values of *'ibaadah* that are pleasing and accepted by Allah. Among those matters are:

1. The job pursued must be lawful and *Sharee'ah*-compliant.



It is not allowed for a Muslim to work in an area that is deemed by Islam as immoral and inflicting harm such as working in a nightclub, brothel, casino, bar, non *Sharee’ah*-compliant financial institutions, and its like.

2. Working with diligence and responsibility.

Islam not only encourages the Muslims to work but at the same time it requires them to work with diligence, trustworthiness, and responsibly.

3. Having the intention to work as *‘ibadah* and seeking the pleasure of Allah.

Working with the noble intention for the sake of Allah will uplift the dignity of such work from just a regular job to being part of worship. Such job will generate tremendous reward and deemed as righteous deeds. Such job will be deemed like a prayer mat (*sejadah*) that is vast and stretched out. One is bestowed with blessings in this world and tremendous reward in the Hereafter.

4. Not neglecting one’s duties to Allah.

Whatever work we embrace, our obligations to Allah must never be neglected such as the five daily prayers, fasting in Ramadaan, and many others.

Dear blessed audience,

Islam places high regard upon those seeking livelihood to support themselves and their families from pure and permissible sources. The fatigue endured from seeking *halaal* provision all day will be greatly rewarded by Allah.

The reality is that not everyone can work in a fully air-conditioned room. Some will have to toil under the scorching heat of the sun, performing heavy work that is very exhausting. However, Allah will look at them with love and forgiveness if they strive to work and preserve the rights of Allah such as safeguarding the five daily prayers, fasting in Ramadaan, and its like.

Furthermore, the difficulty and exhaustion in seeking livelihood will be rewarded with the expiation of previous sins by Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala*. In the *hadeeth* of Anas bin Maalik *radiyAllaahu ‘anh*, Rasulullah ﷺ was reported to have said:

“Whoever falls asleep in exhaustion due to seeking *halaal* provision, then he sleeps in the forgiveness of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala*.”

(at-Tabaraani)

Dear blessed Muslims,

Verily, in our persistence of seeking livelihood, let us ensure that the wealth accumulated was not earned from work that is contrary to the *Sharee’ah*.

Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta’aala* mentions in verse 188 of Soorah al-Baqarah:



وَلَا تَأْكُلُوا أَمْوَالَكُمْ بَيْنَكُمْ بِالْبَاطِلِ وَتُدْخُلُوا بِهَا إِلَى الْحُكَّامِ لِتَأْكُلُوا فَرِيقًا
مِّنْ أَمْوَالِ النَّاسِ بِالْإِثْمِ وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٨٨﴾

“And do not consume one another’s wealth unjustly or send it [in bribery] to the rulers in order that [they might aid] you [to] consume a portion of the wealth of the people in sin, while you know [it is unlawful].”

Let us be fearful of income earned from unlawful or impermissible sources, especially bribery that occurs within administrative affairs and its like. The statistics released by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (SPRM) regarding arrests made for alleged bribery in 2016 amongst civil servants or government officials, and the general public amounts to 939 arrests. However, this figure would be much higher if we are to include those that are still free in receiving and giving bribery out there.

Just imagine those involved in bribery returning to their homes with the “income” earned from such corrupt practice, then given to their spouses, children, and parents. Hence, earnings from such corruption will be disseminated to a portion of mankind. As a result of consuming earnings from bribery, gone are the blessings and mercy from Allah. They will not attain love and mercy from Allah. They will be deprived from tranquility and blissfulness in their household, even though the family is seen filled with pleasure.

Therefore, let us ensure that the earnings that we take home are from permissible sources. It is feared that earnings from impermissible sources will have grave effect upon our children and family members. They may not know that the food they consume or clothing they wear are from unlawful sources. Hence, the onus is upon us to ensure that everything that enters the home is all *halaal*.

Dear Muslims,

To end the *khutbah* today, I would like to implore and remind dearest congregation that:

1. The Muslim *ummah* must have firm certainty that the purpose of its creation is solely for worship.
2. The Muslim *ummah* must emulate the prophets whom would diligently seek their livelihood and perform *‘ibaadah*.
3. The Muslim *ummah* must seek their provisions through means that are lawful and *Sharee’ah*-compliant.
4. The Muslim *ummah* must be hardworking, avoid laziness, and not beg from others.
5. The Muslim *ummah* must have deep conviction that impermissible means of livelihood will lead to Hellfire.



أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
وَأَبْتَغِ فِي مَا آتَاكَ اللَّهُ الدَّارَ الْآخِرَةَ وَلَا تَنْسَ نَصِيبَكَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا وَأَحْسِنَ
كَمَا أَحْسَنَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْكَ وَلَا تَبْغِ الْفُسَادَ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُفْسِدِينَ



"But seek, through that which Allah has given you, the home of the Hereafter; and [yet], do not forget your share of the world. And do good as Allah has done good to you. And desire not corruption in the land. Indeed, Allah does not like corrupters."

(al-Qasas 28:77)

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ.
أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ
وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

Shopuan /Nurul
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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَنَا مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَرَزَقَنَا مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Dear blessed audience,

Once again, I would like to remind all of us to always have the *taqwa* of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* and realize that Islam teaches us to remain moderate in every actions and deeds. As Muslims, we are to manifest noble *akhlaaq*, having utmost personality and attitude for Rasulullah ﷺ was sent to perfect *akhlaaq* and as mercy for the entire mankind and the worlds.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَمَوْلَانَا مُحَمَّدٍ سَيِّدِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنْ أَصْحَابِهِ وَقَرَابَتِهِ وَأَزْوَاجِهِ وَذُرِّيَّاتِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، إِنَّكَ سَمِيعٌ قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبُ الدَّعَوَاتِ يَا قَاضِيَ الْحَاجَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ وَنَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكَ بِنَبِيِّكَ الْأَمِينِ، وَنَسْأَلُكَ بِأَسْمَائِكَ الْحُسْنَى وَصِفَاتِكَ الْعُظْمَى أَنْ تَحْفَظَ بَعَيْنِ عِنَايَتِكَ الرَّبَّانِيَّةِ وَبِحِفْظِ وَقَايَتِكَ الصَّمَدَانِيَّةِ، جَلَالَةَ مَلِكِنَا الْمُعْظَمِ سُلْطَانَ سَلَغُور، سُلْطَانَ شَرَفِ الدِّينِ ادریس شاه الحاج ابن المرحوم سُلْطَانَ صَلَاحُ الدِّينِ عبد العزيز شاه الحاج. اللَّهُمَّ أَدِمِ الْعُونَ وَالْهِدَايَةَ وَالتَّوْفِيقَ، وَالصِّحَّةَ وَالسَّلَامَةَ مِنْكَ، لَوْلِيَّ عَهْدِ سَلَغُور، تَغْكُو أَمِيرِ شَاهِ ابْنِ السُّلْطَانِ شَرَفِ الدِّينِ ادریس شاه الحاج فِي أَمْنٍ وَصَلَاحٍ وَعَافِيَةٍ بِمَنْكَ وَكَرَمِكَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ. اللَّهُمَّ أَطِلْ عُمرَهُمَا مُصْلِحَيْنِ لِلْمُوظَّفَيْنِ وَالرَّعِيَّةِ وَالْبِلَادِ، وَبَلِّغْ مَقَاصِدَهُمَا لِطَرِيقِ الْهُدَى وَالرَّشَادِ.



O Allah, You are the Lord that is All Mighty, we are grateful to You for having bestowed upon us *rahmah* and *ni'mah*, that we are able to continue the effort in empowering the Muslim *ummah* especially in the state of Selangor, as an advanced state, prosperous and providing welfare, under the auspices and leadership of our Ruler as the Head of Islamic affairs in this state.

Hence, we sincerely beseech You, O Allah, strengthen our *imaan* and creed according to that of *Ahl as-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah*. Protect us from the practices and *'aqeedah* that are deviating and astray such as *Shee'ah*, *Qadiyaani*, and other ideologies. O Allah, strengthen our unity, increase our *rizq*, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, cultivate our soul with good mannerisms, protect us from disasters and epidemics especially the H5N1 (H Five N One) avian flu outbreak. We humbly beseech you O Allah, so that this outbreak does not spread to our state, Selangor Darul Ehsan. *Allaahummaa ameen!*

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا. رَبَّنَا
ءَاتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ. عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ
بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَايَ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ
يَعْظُمُكُمْ لِعَظْمِكُمْ تَذَكُّرُونَ ﴿١٠٠﴾

فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُواهُ عَلَىٰ نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ
فَضْلِهِ ۚ يُعْطِكُمْ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.
