



## “EXPLOITATION OF RELIGION FOR WORLDLY GAIN”

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَائِلِ... وَلَا تَشْتَرُوا بِعَايَتِي ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا وَإِنِّي فَاتَّقُونَ<sup>1</sup>

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى 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 everything decreed by Allah and His Messenger, as well as avoiding all of His prohibitions.

Today I would like to discuss upon an important topic for the Muslim *ummah*, namely the “**EXPLOITATION OF RELIGION FOR WORLDLY GAIN**”.

**Dear blessed audience,**

This worldly life is a bridge that leads to the Hereafter that is everlasting. What a tremendous loss for those engrossed in chasing after the worldly gain, remaining heedless, and deceived by worldly deceptions that they forget to distinguish between the *halaal* and *haraam*. In the *hadeeth* of Abu Hurayrah *radiyAllaahu ‘anh*, Rasulullah صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم said:

يَخْرُجُ فِي آخِرِ الزَّمَانِ رِجَالٌ يَخْتَلُونَ الدُّنْيَا بِالدِّينِ، يَلْبَسُونَ لِلنَّاسِ جُلُودَ الضَّأْنِ مِنَ اللَّيْنِ، أَلْسِنَتُهُمْ أَحْلَى مِنَ السُّكَّرِ، وَقُلُوبُهُمْ قُلُوبُ الذِّئَابِ.

(at-Tirmidhi)

<sup>1</sup> al-Baqarah 2:41



***"In the end of time there shall come men who will swindle the world with religion, deceiving the people in soft skins of sheep [pretending to be ascetics], their tongues are sweeter than sugar and their hearts are the hearts of wolves..."***

Those being referred to in this *hadeeth* are those utilizing the religion as a tool in reaping the rewards and benefits of this world. They are willing to use the religion for worldly interests.

Of late, we find some entrepreneurs exploiting the religion in becoming rich quick through the easy path, in the name of religion. There are those that would con others through direct selling such as get-rich-quick scheme that is supposedly based on Islam. This has been proven through reports in the mass and electronic media, where multiple complaints have been made regarding its modus operandi in using religion as a platform to garner their clients' trust. To make things even worse, these irresponsible quarters also exploited the religion's name as bait, by convincing others that such investment is *Sharee'ah*-compliant when in reality it does not even exist.

There are also exploitations in package offerings for hajj and *'umrah*, with eye-catching packages at incredibly low prices. They would utilize mosques and *suraus* to promote their packages, and some would even use influential religious figures to attract public attention.

In addition, there are also those abusing the term *waqf* (endowment) such as *waqf* of al-Qur'an, *waqf* of land, mosque, *tahfizh* (Qur'an memorization) centers and others for the purpose of *'ibaadah* and welfare, but in reality all are for mere personal gain. Similarly with donations and contributions under the pretext of the religion but purely for personal use. In reality, they have murdered the public's trust in Islam.

Islam also strongly forbids any form of manipulative activities in business. As an example, the labeling of food and beverage by a company may attract the attention and interest of potential buyers. Moreover, there are even products that would use *hadeeth* as *daleel* (evidence) to support their sales, by placing certain *hadeeth* to attract potential clients, claiming that it is the authentic product that is according to the *sunnah*. Hence, today we find many products sold having the "elements" of religion as its commercial value in increasing its sales. Some of their claims are actually based upon fabricated *hadeeth* and matters that are untrue at all. Such practice can degrade the noble status of Islam, for mocking the *hadeeth* of Rasulullah ﷺ itself, and also corrupt the *'aqeedah* of the Muslims.



Today, we see an increasing amount of products with the claim of having Qur'anic verses being read over them, whether the complete 30 *juz* (parts) or part of it. These products are sold at a premium price and way more expensive compared to the regular ones. Similarly, reading incantations over certain water and medicine for the sake of money, and claiming that this "holy" water can cure illness or increase the love between the spouses. Such action opens up the door of *fitnah* towards al-Qur'an, especially when al-Qur'an is not just recited over beverages but also over perfume, chickens (livestock), vitamin, certain food item, and many others.

Therefore, these will create a new *fitnah* upon Islam and al-Qur'an. It is crystal clear that "commercializing" the recitation of al-Qur'an in those forms is not the actual objectives of its revelation from Allah. Similarly, with the exploitation of children in collecting donations using the name of religion and welfare. These donation drives in public areas, claimed to be done by *tahfizh* students, has greatly tarnished the virtuous name of such institution as a place for learning and memorizing al-Qur'an. Everyone must exercise a proactive role and take firm action upon anyone using the name of the religion and welfare in collecting donation and exploiting children.

### **Dear blessed Muslims,**

Islam does not prohibit us from seeking the bounties of this world for it is a place for us to "cultivate" our Hereafter. But it should never be done through a path that is wrong, deviating, and manipulating the religion. Islam wants us to always remain vigilant in worldly affairs so that we would not deviate from the path determined by Allah. We must realize that the life of the Hereafter is the real life and eternal that must be given utmost priority.

To end this *khutbah*, let us altogether take preventive measures in curbing this phenomenon, namely:

1. The Muslim *ummah* must fear upon the severe punishment of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* for manipulating the religion for worldly gain.
2. The Muslim *ummah* must avoid themselves from exploiting and "selling away" their religion solely to attain a piece of worldly profit that is only temporary.
3. The Muslim *ummah* must always remain careful and not become easily duped by those that are always taking advantage of the religion.



أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَشْتَرُونَ بِعَهْدِ اللَّهِ وَأَيْمَانِهِمْ ثَمَنًا قَلِيلًا أُولَٰئِكَ لَا خَلَاقَ لَهُمْ فِي الْآخِرَةِ  
وَلَا يُكَلِّمُهُمُ اللَّهُ وَلَا يَنْظُرُ إِلَيْهِمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَمَةِ وَلَا يُزَكِّيهِمْ وَلَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ



***"Indeed, those who exchange the covenant of Allah and their [own] oaths for a small price will have no share in the Hereafter, and Allah will not speak to them or look at them on the Day of Resurrection, nor will He purify them; and they will have a painful punishment."***

*(Aal-'Imraan 3:77)*

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



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

**Dear blessed Muslims,**

Once again, I would like to remind all of us 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. At the same time, we are to avoid any form of deviant ideologies and extremism in which its consequences will only disrupt the harmony, unity, and security of the Muslim *ummah* and our nation.

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

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

اَللّٰهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، إِنَّكَ سَمِيعٌ قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبُ الدَّعَوَاتِ وَيَا قَاضِيَ الْحَاجَاتِ. اَللّٰهُمَّ إِنَّا نَسْأَلُكَ وَنَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْكَ بِنَبِيِّكَ الْأَمِينِ، وَنَسْأَلُكَ بِأَسْمَائِكَ الْحُسْنَى وَصِفَاتِكَ الْعُظْمَى أَنْ تَحْفَظَ بَعِينَ عِنَايَتِكَ الرَّبَّانِيَّةِ وَبِحِفْظِ وَقَايَتِكَ الصِّمْدَانِيَّةِ، جَلَالَةَ مَلِكِنَا الْمُعَظَّمِ سُلْطَانَ سَلَاعُور، سُلْطَانَ شَرْفِ الدِّينِ اَدْرِيسِ شَاهِ الْحَاجِ ابْنِ الْمَرْحُومِ سُلْطَانَ صَلَاحِ الدِّينِ عَبْدِ الْعَزِيزِ شَاهِ الْحَاجِ. اَللّٰهُمَّ أَدِمِ الْعَوْنَ وَالْهِدَايَةَ وَالتَّوْفِيقَ، وَالصِّحَّةَ وَالسَّلَامَةَ مِنْكَ، لَوْلِيَّ عَهْدِ سَلَاعُور، تَغْكُو أَمِيرِ شَاهِ ابْنِ السُّلْطَانِ شَرْفِ الدِّينِ



ادريس شاه الحاج في أمني وصلاحي وعافيه بمنك وكرمك يا ذا الجلال والإكرام.  
اللهم أطل عمرهم مصلحين للموظفين والرعية والبلاد، وبلغ مقاصدهما لطريق  
الهدى والرشاد.

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*, accept our deeds, strengthen our unity, increase our *rizq*, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, cultivate our soul with good mannerisms, return us to the path that You are pleased with, protect us from disasters and Your severe trials such as droughts, floods, and epidemics, so that our state will always remain protected and blessed.

O Allah, open up our hearts in fulfilling the five daily prayers, performing *zakaat*, and other obligations, as well as making *waqf* and *infaaq* of our wealth especially to *Perbadanan Wakaf Negeri Selangor* (Selangor Waqf Corporation) and *Tabung Amanah Pembangunan Islam Selangor* (Islamic Development Trust Fund of Selangor).

O Allah, protect us from the practices and '*aqeedah* that are deviating and astray such as *Shree'ah*, *Qadiyaani*, and other ideologies.

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا. رَبَّنَا إِنَّا  
فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةٌ وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةٌ وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ. عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ  
وَالْإِحْسَنِ وَإِيتَايَ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ عِظْكُمْ  
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٩٠﴾



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

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JAIS/Nurul  
19.01.2017