

**RETURN TO GREATNESS THROUGH ISLAM**

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إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، مُحَمَّدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ
 أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّهُ فَلَنْ يُجِدَ لَهُ وِليًّا مُرْشِدًا.
 أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ
 عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ دَعَا بِدَعْوَتِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.
 أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.

قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ وَمَا اخْتَلَفَ الَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْعِلْمُ
 بَغْيًا بَيْنَهُمْ وَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ سَرِيعُ الْحِسَابِ ﴿١٩﴾

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

Let us enhance our conviction in Allah SWT through sincere obedience to Him and His Messenger, and avoiding all that He has forbade us from doing. May we be rewarded with blessings and forgiveness from Allah SWT.

Have we ever reflected upon and thought about how lucky we are to have been born as Muslims? Have we ever noticed the difference between how our new Muslim converts act and how they appreciate the guidance of Islam, compared to those who have long since inherited their religion at birth? Unfortunately, many Muslims today do not seem to appreciate the priceless blessings of Islam. Therefore, the sermon today shall discuss the topic: **"Return to Greatness Through Islam"**.

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

Let us together reflect upon the question: what is Islam and what makes it impressive? To answer that, we first must realize the true nature of humans who live on this earth. As Allah SWT has stated in Surah Al-An'am, verse 32:



وَمَا الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا إِلَّا لَعِبٌ وَلَهُوَ وَلَدَارُ الْآخِرَةِ خَيْرٌ لِّلَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾

Which means: “And the worldly life is not but amusement and diversion; but the home of the Hereafter is best for those who fear Allah SWT, so will you not reason?”

Acknowledge the fact that our purpose in this life is simply to build our conviction and devotion towards Allah SWT alone. Through conviction and faith, we will surely be victorious, peaceful and secure in the eternal Hereafter. Therefore, the only way to build conviction and devotion is to obey Allah SWT through compliance of Islamic laws.

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

In reality, many Muslims today are becoming increasingly distant from practicing the true Islamic way of life. They seem to have lost faith in Islam, a way of life which ensures happiness in this world and in the Hereafter. In fact, some are embarrassed to openly display the Islamic way of life. Isn't Islam a comprehensive way of life, which is perfect and guarantees us abundance and success in this world and in the Hereafter? Let us ponder upon this affirmation by Allah SWT, in Surah Ali Imran, verse 85:

وَمَنْ يَبْتَغِ غَيْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ دِينًا فَلَنْ يُقْبَلَ مِنْهُ وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ ﴿٨٥﴾

Which means: “If anyone desires a religion other than Islam (submission to Allah), never will it be accepted of him; and in the Hereafter He will be in the ranks of those who have lost (All spiritual good)”.

Therefore, be thankful that Allah SWT has chosen us to be Muslims among all others in the world.

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

Although our ultimate goal is achieving happiness in the Hereafter, we must also remember that we are also vicegerents of Allah SWT on earth, who are responsible to administer this world according to the rules set by Him. Rasulullah SAW had in fact reminded us to hold steadfastly to the teachings of Islam. As recorded by Ibn Majah



Rahimahullah and narrated by al-'Irbadh bin Sariyah RA, Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:

قَدْ تَرَكْتُكُمْ عَلَى الْبَيْضَاءِ، لَيْلُهَا كَنَهَارِهَا لَا يَزِيغُ عَنْهَا بَعْدِي إِلَّا هَالِكٌ .

Which means: “Indeed I have left you upon a clear white path, its night is like its day. No one deviates from it after me, except that he is destroyed.”

History has also proven that Islam would lead us to success and excellence. Look at the greatness and the pinnacle of education and knowledge achieved at the time of the Abbasid Caliphate, especially during the reign of Caliph Harun al-Rashid. Acknowledge also the sophistication and military tactics of the great Ottoman Caliphate which saw Islam ruling two-thirds of the known world then. This is clear proof that Islam brought glory to the world without neglecting the requirements of the Hereafter. Islam would be far greater if its followers actively engage in good deeds. Islam would be more dignified if its followers intensely acquire knowledge. Islam would reign supreme if its followers put faith and conviction as the axis of life. On the other hand, as a result of ignoring faith and conviction in life, being complacent and neglectful due to the pleasures of the world, and being unable to see the importance of seeking knowledge, then of course, Muslims would look backward and weak.

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

We will definitely be great with Islam, because Islam is the religion recognised by Allah SWT. We can be magnificent with Islam because Allah SWT will always be with us, if we remain devoutly on His path. We can achieve real success with Islam if we strategize towards it. Therefore, let us start with knowledge, as knowledge is the light that illuminates our path. There are three basic types of knowledge which must be emphasised and acquired in this life, namely:

First: The Knowledge of Faith

Faith is a matter of belief and trust. We must learn about each one in order for our conviction to be secure and protected from all forms of distortions, such as liberal thinking, secularism, *Shiah* and others. We must also acquire knowledge regarding matters which can cause the invalidation of faith through speech or actions. This is the main fortress that must be strengthened by every Muslim. If faith collapses, the bastion of Islam will also fall.

**Second: Knowledge about Islam**

Islam encompasses all knowledge related to man's way of life, including worship, jurisprudence, commercial dealings, criminal law and government. If we are ignorant about such systems of Islam, it is likely our deeds will be invalidated or void. When we are ignorant about them, we may easily commit actions forbidden by Allah SWT. Therefore, we would not have a valid reason to question judgements passed in the Hereafter when we have in fact been given the chance right now to acquire as much knowledge as possible, to prepare for that eventual day.

Third: Knowledge in obtaining Ihsan

Obtaining *Ihsan* as described by Rasulullah SAW is worshipping Allah SWT as if we can actually see Him, but if we cannot act as if we actually see Him, then we still have the belief that He is constantly watching over us. Be mindful that Allah SWT sees our behaviour, knows the intent of our heart, as well as know our plans. Therefore, in the process of obtaining *Ihsan*, we are required to be aware, and to educate our hearts to always remember Allah SWT.

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

Sayiddina Umar Al Khattab RA offered a reminder:

نَحْنُ قَوْمٌ أَعَزَّنَا اللَّهُ بِالْإِسْلَامِ. فَإِنْ ابْتَغَيْنَا الْعِزَّةَ بغيرِهِ، أَذَلَّنَا اللَّهُ

Which means: "We are all honoured by Allah SWT through Islam. But, if we seek glory apart from Islam, Allah SWT will humiliate us."

Don't even dare to dream of becoming leaders of the world, let alone be put on a pedestal or be held in high regard if we do not practice Islam completely. The reality today is that we view prayer obligations as insignificant, we mix the lawful with the unlawful, have unrestrained mingling between men and women, look at wrongdoings as a normal part of life, allow the modesty of our wives and daughters to be exposed and allow evil to propagate and flourish.

Reflect upon the reminder given by Rasulullah SAW, as recorded by Imam Abu Dawud *Rahimahullah* and narrated by al-'Irbadh bin Sariyah RA:



فَعَلَيْكُمْ بِسُنَّتِي وَسُنَّةِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الْمَهْدِيِّينَ الرَّاشِدِينَ، تَمَسَّكُوا بِهَا وَعَضُّوا عَلَيْهَا بِالنَّوَاجِدِ

Which means: “Follow my Sunnah, and the practices of the Rightly Guided Caliphs who come after me. Hold steadfast to that like a bite with your molar teeth”

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

Ending the sermon today, let us together reflect on some takeaways as our guidance:

First: Islam is a religion of blessings, harmony, progress, excellence and is a comprehensive way of life.

Second: Understanding and embracing Islam is a continuous and endless process. Seek the knowledge of Islam in order to increase our faith and conviction.

Third: Restore the beauty and grandeur of Islam through our earnest embrace of its practices in our life.

Allah SWT declared in Surah as-Saf, verse 7:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَمَنْ أَظْلَمُ مِمَّنِ افْتَرَىٰ عَلَى اللَّهِ الْكَذِبَ وَهُوَ يُدْعَىٰ إِلَى الْإِسْلَامِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٧﴾

Which means: “Who does greater wrong than one who invents falsehood against Allah, even as he is being invited to Islam? And Allah guides not those who do wrong.”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.



SECOND SERMON

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَلِيِّ الصَّالِحِينَ، وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ، وَلَا عُدْوَانَ إِلَّا عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ، وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى إِمَامِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ، وَقُدْوَةِ النَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ الْمُبِينُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، صَادِقُ الْوَعْدِ الْأَمِينِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ، وَحَافِظُوا عَلَى الطَّاعَةِ وَحُضُورِ الْجُمُعَةِ مَعَ الْمُصَلِّينَ. وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى أَمْرُكُمْ بِأَمْرٍ بَدَأَ فِيهِ بِنَفْسِهِ وَثَنَى بِمَلَائِكَتِهِ الْمُقْرَبِينَ. فَقَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى مُخْبِرًا وَآمِرًا بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ :

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا ﴿٥٦﴾

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ فِي الْعَالَمِينَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مُجِيدٌ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْأَرْبَعَةِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرُ وَعُثْمَانُ وَعَلِيٌّ، وَعَنْ أَزْوَاجِ نَبِيِّنَا الْمُطَهَّرَاتِ وَعَنْ أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ وَقَرَابَتِهِ وَسَائِرِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. وَارْضَ عَنَّا بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ.

وَإِيْدِ اللَّهُمَّ بِالتَّوْفِيقِ وَالْهُدَايَةِ مُدَبِّرِ هَذِهِ الْبِلَادِ الْإِسْلَامِيَّةِ مَلِكْنَا كَبَاوَهُ دَوْلِي يَغْمَهَا مَلِيَا
سري فدوك بكنيدا يغ دفتوان الكوخ ك-15 سلطان محمد ك-5.



اللَّهُمَّ أَطْلُ عُمُرَهُ مُصْلِحًا لِلْمُوظَّفِينَ وَالرَّعِيَّةِ وَالْبِلَادِ، وَبَلِّغْ مَقاصِدَهُ لِطَرِيقِ الْهُدَى وَالرَّشَادِ.
اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ مَالِيزِيَا وَسَائِرَ بِلَادِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ طَيِّبَةً آمِنَةً مُطْمَئِنَّةً رَاحِيَةً، يَا رَوْفُ بِالْعِبَادِ.
اللَّهُمَّ أَعِزِّ الْإِسْلَامَ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ فِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ وَحِينٍ، وَأَنْصُرْ مَنْ نَصَرَ الدِّينَ، وَاخْذُلْ مَنْ
خَذَلَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَأَعْلِ كَلِمَتَكَ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ، وَدَمِّرْ أَعْدَاءَكَ أَعْدَاءَ الدِّينِ.

O, Allah, the Most Merciful and Compassionate, we are thankful for all the blessings and graces bestowed upon us by You, give guidance and instructions to us and our leaders, Strengthen solidarity between us, unite our hearts in following your path, make all our dealings easy, increase for us useful knowledge, nurture our souls with good character, guide us to the path that is blessed by You, strengthen our faith against all Your trials and tribulations, Preserve peace, prosperity and security of our country, Malaysia and the Federal Territory, in particular. Keep us from any unrest, disunity and chaos.

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي
الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.
عِبَادَ اللَّهِ،

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَايَ ذِي الْقُرْبَى وَيَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ
وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٩٠﴾

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