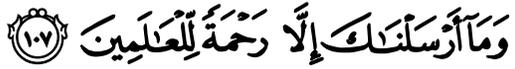


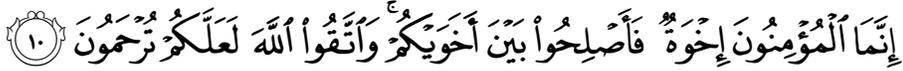


1	 <p style="text-align: center;">ISLAM THE PILLAR OF UNITY 8 January 2016AD / 27 Rabiulawwal 1437H</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ وَأَنْعَمَ، وَهَدَانَا بِالْقُرْآنِ لَلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْرَمُ،</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَى شَفَا حُفْرٍ مِنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ ﴿١٠٣﴾</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;">أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ،</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;">اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, While going through our busy daily schedule, let us not forget that we are the vicegerent of Allah SWT on earth, and are given our own set of trust and responsibility towards Allah SWT. Ponder for a while and ask: are we steadfast in bearing the standard of our religion, or shall we be carried away by the pleasures of this world? Come, let us quickly perform all His commands and stay away from all that He has prohibited. Steel ourselves</p>



	with faith, adorn our form with conviction. May we be prevented by Allah SWT from feeling the punishment of Hell that would be very painful indeed.
8	The Mimbar today would like to deliver a sermon entitled: <i>“Islam The Pillar Of Unity”</i> .
9	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Peace and tranquillity are two meaningful things which have no monetary substitute. With peace, we are able to perform all the commands of Allah SWT calmly and serenely without any worry. It is totally different when compared to our brothers in Palestine, Syria and other volatile Islamic nations.
10	Their lives are haunted by incessant bombings and shootings. Their ears are accustomed to the thousands of explosions every day. Their eyes are dry of tears for the martyrs within their beloved family. Their hearts are steeled to face various challenges in this life. Would we be happy with such situation? Are we willing to face such endless challenges??
11	Indeed, Islam is not a religion that is based on violence as alleged by the enemies of Islam. Islam is actually a religion that brings blessings to the entire the world.
12	This is in line with the words of Allah SWT in Surah Al-Anbiyaa’ verse 107:  Which means: <i>“We sent you not, but as a Mercy for all creatures”</i> .
13	Before the arrival of Islam, the world was in darkness. The worship of idols, beastly behaviour, the trampling of rights of the weak and the treating of women as beings who merely fulfil men’s desires, were the norm back then. The Arabs were disunited. Fragmentation and enmity between them took hold for hundreds of years.
14	With the advent of the blessings of Islam under the leadership of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, the Arabs were eventually united. They



	became a race and a people who were modern in every aspect, and in fact were able to defeat two great superpowers at that time, namely the Romans and the Persians. Thereafter the Companions began spreading Islam to all over the world, and it has spread and remained until today.
15	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, In our beloved Malaysia today, Islam's dignity is being derided and belittled. Islamic institutions are no longer viewed as sacred, but are in fact put down and slandered as they wish. Even more saddening is when we discover that those who belittle are not the non-Muslims, but are actually those who profess to be Muslims, akin to turncoats or enemy collaborators. This is indeed shocking and is a great blow to all Muslims.
16	Islam's position as the religion of the Federation is being questioned in the open without any feeling of guilt. The right to speak up, which is allegedly the basis of why they are doing it, is used for their own personal gains, not due to legitimate reasons.
17	The difference in politics and ideology which should actually be an opportunity for intellectual discourse that could strengthen a nation, has turned into a poisonous venom. A very shallow understanding of religious knowledge has also contributed to this situation. Besides political enmity, there are also certain groups and movements who try to debase Islam's sanctity altogether.
18	The laws of Allah SWT is questioned and made fun of. If it is not restrained, it shall become a cancerous tumour and invite a never-ending wrath. It shall eventually weaken the <i>Ummah's</i> unity.
19	Remember the advice of Allah SWT in Surah Al-Hujurat verse 10:  Which means: <i>“The Believers are but a single Brotherhood: So make peace and reconciliation between your two (contending) brothers; and fear Allah, that you may receive Mercy”.</i>



20	<p>The effort to gain unity while living as a society and a nation shall not be short of trials and tribulations. Arrogance and pride would always be the main stumbling block in receiving the thoughts or the opinions of others. Such attitude shall lead to fractures and splinters, be it within homes, families, society or the nation. Such attitude would also lead to individuals or groups to commit aggression and violence upon others.</p>
21	<p>A neighbour who lives in a world of arrogance shall not care about other surrounding neighbours. They will not heed others, and they will not ask after one another, even to sit down for a chat and share the laughter. Sad indeed when neighbours are known only when there are feasts, when there is sad news or when an emergency occurs.</p>
22	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Disunity and enmity is actually an act or a social problem that is very much disliked in Islam. Prophet Muhammad SAW was sent by Allah SWT to unite all mankind so that we may live in peace and harmony. Disunity is abhorred, for it shall weaken the <i>Ummah</i> in all aspects, and shall make us weak and unable to face mounting challenges.</p>
23	<p>Besides guaranteeing failure, disunity would also result in the loss of blessings and bounties from Allah SWT. Those who cause chaos and enmity are those who are not thankful for the blessings of Allah SWT. Thankfulness is actually a condition before more blessings can come. Denying it would only guarantee tragedy and chastisement from Allah SWT, because Allah SWT has promised that He shall add on to the bounty if it is being thanked for, and he shall give punishment if it is denied.</p>
24	<p>Disunity would also cause the <i>Ummah</i> to lose its greatness in the eyes of its enemies, and shall no longer intimidate them anymore. This will cause the <i>Ummah</i> to be ridiculed and their lives, wealth and creed to be threatened. This can already be seen today, when everywhere in the world the <i>Ummah</i> is very weak due to enmity amongst themselves. In Arab lands, Africa, Asia, and even in Malaysia itself we can sense some enmity between ourselves. Eventually, Muslims shall be defeated not because of</p>



	the strength of our enemies, but due to our own weaknesses.
25	The spread of the wrong <i>akidah</i> , or creed, amongst Muslims is also a factor that leads to disunity among us. Muslims in Malaysia holds fast to the <i>creed of Ahlul Sunnah wal Jamaah</i> . Therefore, we must ensure that this shall endure and be defended. Disunity and enmity among Muslims may easily happen if the aspect of our creed is not given attention to. Eventually, wrong teachings or beliefs shall only confuse the society.
26	Therefore, let us come back to the command of Allah SWT in Surah Al-Anfal verse 1: <p style="text-align: center;">يَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْأَنْفَالِ قُلِ الْأَنْفَالُ لِلَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ فَأَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَصْلِحُوا ذَاتَ بَيْنِكُمْ وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ إِن كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ</p>
27	Which means: <i>"They ask you concerning (things taken as) spoils of war. Say: "(such) spoils are at the disposal of Allah and the Messenger: So fear Allah, and keep straight the relations between yourselves: Obey Allah and His Messenger, if you do believe."</i>
28	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, To conclude this sermon, let us ponder upon the takeaways for today: First: Islam is a religion that brings blessings to the world, no matter the race, status or lineage; Second: Disunity among Muslims would only benefit and give opportunity to the enemies of Islam to further weaken us; Third: Let us rise up and build the strength of Muslims through unity and accord, which is the very pulse of the greatness of Islam from then until now, by holding steadfastly to the teachings of <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> .



29	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah Asy-Syuraa verse 13:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>شَرَعَ لَكُمْ مِنَ الدِّينِ مَا وَصَّى بِهِ نُوحًا وَالَّذِي أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ وَمَا وَصَّيْنَا بِهِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَمُوسَى وَعِيسَى أَنْ أَقِيمُوا الدِّينَ وَلَا تَتَفَرَّقُوا فِيهِ كَبُرَ عَلَى الْمُشْرِكِينَ مَا تَدْعُوهُمْ إِلَيْهِ اللَّهُ يَجْتَبِي إِلَيْهِ مَنْ يَشَاءُ وَيَهْدِي إِلَيْهِ مَنْ يُنِيبُ ﴿١٣﴾</p>
30	<p>Which means: “The same religion has He established for you as that which He enjoined on Noah - which We have sent by inspiration to you - and that which We enjoined on Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: Namely, that you should remain steadfast in religion, and make no divisions therein: to those who worship other things than Allah, hard is the (way) to which you call them. Allah chooses to Himself those whom He pleases, and guides to Himself those who turn (to Him).”</p>
31	<p>بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلَ هَذَا وَاسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ .</p>