



1	 <p style="text-align: center;">THE SANCTITY OF ISLAM 11 March 2016AD / 2 Jamadilakhir 1437H</p>
2	الحمد لله، الحمد لله القائل:
3	<p>قُلْ يٰٓأَيُّهَا الْكٰفِرُونَ ﴿١﴾ لَا أَعْبُدُ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ ﴿٢﴾ وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عٰبِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ ﴿٣﴾</p> <p>وَلَا أَنَا عٰبِدُ مَا عٰبَدْتُمْ ﴿٤﴾ وَلَا أَنْتُمْ عٰبِدُونَ مَا أَعْبُدُ ﴿٥﴾ لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِي دِينِ ﴿٦﴾</p>
4	أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ.
5	اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
6	أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ. وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَى، وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ يَا أُولِي الْأَلْبَابِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>The strength of Islam is based on conviction placed on the character of its followers Therefore, we should re-evaluate the conviction that is tempered within us, whether it is flourishing, or withering and rotting due to the cumulative poison of sin within our heart. Elevate the level of our conviction by performing all that have been commanded, and abandoning all that have been prohibited.</p>
8	<p>The <i>mimbar</i> on this blessed day will touch on the negative perception regarding Islam, in a sermon entitled: "The Sanctity of Islam".</p>
9	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>What is Islamophobia and how did this propaganda emerge? Islamophobia is defined as a fear of, and a hatred for, Islam. It grew out of prejudice and</p>



	discrimination against Islam and Muslims.
10	False statements, such as claims that Islam encourages violence in politics, restricting social rights and gender discrimination, limiting economic development, non-tolerance in religion, and some others, have raised concerns in the western world which views Islam as conveying a culture in conflict with their civilization as a whole.
11	Even though this Islamophobia movement was first detected around 1925 in France, it gained infamy / notoriety after the events on 11 September 2001 at the World Trade Center in New York, United States of America, which allegedly involved Muslim terrorists carrying out the attacks. After the September 11 incident, whatever terror episodes involving Muslims, even though small, will be portrayed as transgression by Islam in general and heralded as an atrocity that could jeopardise peace and tranquillity of a country.
12	Although it has been repeatedly stated by prominent scholars, like Dr Yusuf Qaradawi, that Islam is not motivated or based on violence, but due to continuous violent tragedies committed by various militant groups such as al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and, of late, by ISIS, Islamophobia has again thrived and is getting difficult to contain.
13	Undeniably, there are some Muslims who commit acts of violence and terrorism. But, in all fairness, it is just a small handful of the millions of Muslims around the world who commit such atrocities. While it is true there are some Muslims who are seemingly backward, but there are also many other Muslims who are making their name as pioneers of science and modernity as well as making a variety of contributions to the stability and sustainability of the world.
14	Surely the enemies of Islam would not see the successes and achievements of such good Muslims, but in fact shall try to conceal them by emphasising and focusing only on the misdeeds and atrocities committed by a very small number of Islamic extremists.



15	Although conflicts or disturbances are small, it would always make the front page of newspapers and the theatrics of their headlines. Over time, as such notion is increasingly embedded in the minds of the public, especially in the west, unfounded fears and apprehensions against Muslims would certainly stick in their minds.
16	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Today, we see the effects of Islamophobia against citizens of the world. Muslims in every corner of the world are affected by false accusations thrown by their enemies, akin to predators competing for food.</p>
17	<p>This has been foreseen and mentioned by Rasulullah SAW in a <i>hadith</i>, narrated by Thauban RA and recorded by Abu Daud RHM:</p> <p>يُوشِكُ الْأُمَمُ أَنْ تَدَاعَى عَلَيْكُمْ كَمَا تَدَاعَى الْأَكْلَةُ إِلَى قَصْعَتِهَا. فَقَالَ قَائِلٌ: وَمِنْ قِلَّةِ نَحْنُ يَوْمئِذٍ؟ قَالَ: بَلْ أَنْتُمْ يَوْمئِذٍ كَثِيرٌ وَلَكِنَّكُمْ غُثَاءٌ كَغُثَاءِ السَّيْلِ، وَلَيَنْزَعَنَّ اللَّهُ مِنْ صُدُورِ عَدُوِّكُمْ الْمَهَابَةَ مِنْكُمْ، وَلَيَقْدِفَنَّ اللَّهُ فِي قُلُوبِكُمُ الْوَهْنَ. فَقَالَ قَائِلٌ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، وَمَا الْوَهْنُ؟ قَالَ: حُبُّ الدُّنْيَا وَكَرَاهِيَةُ الْمَوْتِ. (رواية أبي داود)</p>
18	<p>Which means: "Almost certainly you will be mobbed like a bunch of predators which compete for food." Then someone asked: "Is it because of our small number?" Rasulullah SAW said: "In fact, there would be many of you, like floating bubbles. But, Allah has removed the fear of you from the chest of your enemies. And, Allah has instilled the disease of Al-Wahan in your heart. "Someone asked: "O, Messenger of Allah, what is Al-Wahan? Rasulullah SAW answered:" The love of worldly pleasures and the hatred of death."</p>
19	Following the attack on the World Trade Centre in New York, discrimination against Islam and Muslims has escalated. We see France banning the wearing of the <i>niqab</i> . In the US, the proposed construction of a mosque at Ground Zero was fiercely opposed. Western cities such as Paris has tightened checks on Muslim visitors.



20	In the Netherlands, Geert Wilders, a politician, officially launched an anti-Islam party to wage political battles against Muslims there. He arrogantly published a book and a film defaming Islam. The films entitled " <i>Fitna 1</i> " which scornfully portrays Islam as a religion of violence and " <i>Fitna 2</i> " which launched malicious attacks against the personality of Rasulullah SAW as a prophet of the Muslims.
21	And the latest incident, still fresh in our memory, regarding an intelligent American Muslim student, Ahmad Muhammad, who was arrested for allegedly, according to his teacher, creating a bomb. After investigations, it turns out that Ahmad Muhammad was only constructing a clock! Fear and anxiety based on the shadows of Islamophobia will continue until the end of time if Muslims choose to ignore and take no action to tackle them.
22	As for Malaysians, since all these events and incidents happen far from our country, we tend to assume that it will not affect our country and its people. But, without us realizing it, this Islamophobia nonsense has subtly and quietly invaded the mind of Malaysians. Islamophobia in Malaysia is spreading from another perspective. It evolved through the misconceptions against Islam, namely through the following:
23	First , Islam should not be made to compare with other religions. This means that Islam is not to be treated as equal with other religions. For example, they question why the word <i>Allah</i> cannot be applied in the writings of other religions.
24	Yes, Islam has its own sets of values. What can be shared - such as the rights of other religions to peacefully exercise their rituals without interruption - will be granted, and what cannot be shared - such as full adherence to Allah SWT in faith, conviction and worshipping - will remain exclusive to Muslims.
25	It's clearly enshrined in Surah Al-Kafirun, as mentioned in the beginning of the sermon, which has the following meaning:



	<p>"Say (O Muhammad):" O disbelievers! I do not worship what you worship. And you do not want to worship (Allah) that which I worship. And I shall not practice that which you worship. Nor will you practice that which I worship. For you, your religion and to me, my religion. "</p>
26	<p>Second, Malaysians do not understand and do not view the Islamic system from various angles, thus they label Islam as being unjust. For example, they question why women should cover more parts of the body, pray in rows behind the men, receive a smaller percentage from the distribution of property and must accept polygamy! Worse still, they label this as discrimination against women, without really investigating and understanding beyond the actual system and the blessings that come with it.</p>
27	<p>Third, they see Islamic penal code as a primitive form of law and punishment, without them actually learning and understanding the procedures, as they do with the procedures of civil law. The society is only presented with the fearful image of amputations, painful strokes of the cane and tragic death. This unfounded and unjust view of the Islamic penal code create the shadows of Islamophobia.</p>
28	<p>Worse yet, they just assume that only <i>Hudud</i> law is the law in Islam, whereas Islamic law is made up of <i>Hudud</i>, <i>Qisas</i> and <i>Takzir</i>. Through the enemy known as ignorance, we will eventually lose out to man-made laws.</p>
29	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Islam will not be seen accurately when the <i>Ummah</i> observes and practices some parts of the teachings, but abandons other parts. Even Islam will be slandered by this. That is why Allah SWT has reminded us to take and look at Islam from every angle.</p>
30	<p>This is confirmed by surah Al-Baqarah, verse 208:</p> <p>يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا اَدْخُلُوْا فِي السِّلْمِ كَآفَّةً وَلَا تَتَّبِعُوْا خُطُوٰتِ الشَّيْطٰنِ اِنَّهٗ لَكُمْ عَدُوٌّ مُّبِيْنٌ ﴿٢٠٨﴾</p>



31	Which means: <i>“O, you who believe! Enter into Islam whole-heartedly; and follow not the footsteps of Satan; for he is to you an avowed enemy.”</i>
32	Among those seen as following in the footsteps of Satan is the act of practicing some parts of the teachings of Islam while abandoning the other parts. Such is how Satan shall triumph in slandering our divine religion and leading its followers plunging into the trap of Islamophobia. Therefore, the best way to prevent Islamophobia is to fully understand and properly practice the teachings of Islam which advocates peace, development and the preservation of humanity. With it, Islamophobia will dissolve and crumble over time, like the sands on the beach being washed away by the ocean waves.
33	For the situation in Malaysia in particular, a series of briefings, and the dissemination of information to counter the misunderstanding over Islam, must be held continuously. Explanation on the accurate procedure and system of Islam together with the explanation about divine wisdom contained in them should be circulated to the public, especially those who are caught up in the misunderstanding.
34	Until when must Muslims keep silent if friends, colleagues and neighbours, who often have questions, need answers on the issues, which would help to counter Islamophobia? We cannot plead ignorance as the reason for not clarifying and explaining the truth about Islam. The source of this knowledge is at our fingertips.
35	Sacrifice and make efforts to find out the information needed to face Islamophobia which often lingers around us. This is truly <i>Jihad</i> in upholding the sanctity of Islam and Allah SWT from malice and slander of other communities around the world. May Allah SWT bestow countless rewards upon those who defend His holy religion by repelling and rebutting misconceptions borne out of ignorance.
36	To summarise today’s sermon, let us reflect upon the following reminders: First: Understand that Islamophobia is triggered by those who do



	<p>not practice Islam thoroughly, coupled with the propaganda of the enemies of Islam who are hoping for a chance to defame and slander Islam.</p> <p>Second: The belittling of Islam, in general, and Muslims, in particular, is the effect of Islamophobia, not to mention being shunned and looked at with suspicion by the world community.</p> <p>Third: Muslims and the <i>Ummah</i> should return to the true teachings of Islam, extolling values and principles of <i>mahmudah</i> and willing to explain and inform the truth about Islam in order to remove any misunderstanding that can trigger Islamophobia.</p>
37	<p>Let us reflect upon the words of Allah SWT through Surah An-Nahl, verse 125:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">أَدْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ وَجَدِلْهُمْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَنْ ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ ﴿١٢٥﴾</p>
38	<p>Which means: “Invite (all) to the way of the Lord (O’ Muhammad) with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious: for the Lord knows best who have strayed from His Path and who has received guidance.”</p>
39	<p>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.</p>