



1	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BEGGING IS A DISGRACEFUL TRAIT</b> 8 April 2015AD / 1 Rajab 1437H</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ وَأَنْعَمَ، وَهَدَانَا بِالْقُرْآنِ لَلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ،</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ لَكُمْ الْأَرْضَ ذُلُولًا فَامْشُوا فِي مَنَاكِبِهَا وَكُلُوا مِنْ رِزْقِهِ وَإِلَيْهِ النُّشُورُ ﴿١٥﴾</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 أَجْمَعِينَ.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">أَمَّا بَعْدُ، يَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.</p>
7	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>The ultimate success coveted by every believer is receiving Allah SWT's incomparable reward of Paradise. It is with true conviction and faith in Allah SWT that we are able to attain Paradise. Thus, on this auspicious day, let us increase our conviction in Allah SWT by obeying all that He has commanded and avoiding all that He has prohibited. May we be among those who are successful in this world and in the Hereafter.</p>
8	<p>On this auspicious day, let us together reflect on a sermon entitled: <b><i>“Begging is a Disgraceful Trait”</i></b>.</p>
9	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>Allah SWT stated in Surah al-Mulk, verse 15, which was read out at the beginning of this sermon and has the following meaning:</p> <p><i>“It is He who has made the earth manageable for you, so traverse through its tracts and enjoy the Sustenance which He furnishes: but unto Him is the</i></p>



	<i>Resurrection.</i> "
10	Islam strongly encourages each of its followers to acquire assets, wealth and property by Allah SWT through lawful and favourable means. Property or wealth amassed through hard work and our own efforts is more valuable than begging or expecting charity from others. It is the responsibility of each mature adult ( <i>mukallaf</i> ) especially a husband or head of the family, to provide for and financially support his wife and children.
11	This is evident when we see people diligently commuting to their workplaces daily, to ensure their responsibilities to their families are fulfilled. However, amid the hustle and bustle of city life, there are also individuals who are simply looking for easy ways to earn a living by asking for charity or begging.
12	During the time of Rasulullah SAW, a companion from the Ansar tribe named Qabisoh bin al-Mukhariq came to Rasulullah SAW. He came with the intention of asking assistance from Rasulullah SAW because of a very heavy burden he was facing.
13	He had hoped that Rasulullah SAW would assist him by giving some aid or handout to ease the hardship. Rasulullah SAW asked him to stay for a while until some form of charity or handout is received and can be given to Qabisoh.
14	When Qabisoh received the handout, Rasulullah SAW said to him, as recorded by Imam Muslim Nu'aim Rahimahullah and narrated by Kinana bin al-'Adawi: يَا قَبِيصَةَ! إِنَّ الْمَسْأَلَةَ لَا تَحِلُّ إِلَّا لِأَحَدٍ ثَلَاثَةً؛ رَجُلٌ تَحْمِلُ حَمَالَةً فَحَلَّتْ لَهُ الْمَسْأَلَةُ حَتَّى يُصَيِّبَهَا ثُمَّ يَمْسِكُ، وَرَجُلٌ أَصَابَتْهُ جَائِحَةٌ اجْتَاكَ مَالَهُ فَحَلَّتْ لَهُ الْمَسْأَلَةُ حَتَّى يُصَيِّبَ قَوْمًا مِنْ عَيْشٍ أَوْ قَالَ: سِدَادًا مِنْ عَيْشٍ، وَرَجُلٌ أَصَابَتْهُ فَاقَةٌ حَتَّى يَقُومَ ثَلَاثَةً مِنْ ذَوِي الْحِجَابِ مِنْ قَوْمِهِ: "لَقَدْ أَصَابَتْ فُلَانًا فَاقَةٌ" فَحَلَّتْ لَهُ الْمَسْأَلَةُ حَتَّى



	<p>يُصِيبَ قَوَامًا مِنْ عَيْشٍ، أَوْ قَالَ: سِدَادًا مِنْ عَيْشٍ. فَمَا سِوَاهُنَّ مِنَ الْمَسْأَلَةِ، يَا قَبِيصَةَ سُحْتًا! يَا كُلُّهَا صَاحِبَهَا سُحْتًا. (رواه مسلم)</p>
15	<p><b>Which means:</b> “O, Qabisa, begging is unlawful except for one of three cases: a man who is in heavy debt, so begging is permissible for him until he pays it, after which he must stop; a man whose property is destroyed by a calamity, so begging is permissible for him until he can support himself; and a man who is afflicted by poverty attested to by three astute members of his people, so begging is permissible for him until he can support himself. O, Qabisa, besides these three cases, begging is forbidden and (if he continues) it is akin to the beggar consuming what is forbidden.</p>
16	<p>Rasulullah SAW had, through this <i>hadith</i>, shown that begging for handout or charity is forbidden, except for the three groups mentioned. However, it should be remembered that the act of begging should only be an option until life can be re-built.</p>
17	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> Although Rasulullah SAW stresses that the act of begging is forbidden, there are still individuals who choose to beg for a living or for income. They either operate alone or in groups.</p>
18	<p>These begging activities are very active in many public places such as mosques, shopping centres, markets and so on. The common <i>modus operandi</i> is to use disabilities such as blindness, incapacity, and paralysis, in the hope of gaining sympathy from the public. It is more disconcerting when some are willing to use children to engage in these activities with them.</p>
19	<p>Remember the warning of Rasulullah SAW, as recorded by Imam al-Bukhari Rahimahullah and narrated by Abdullah bin Umar RA:</p> <p>مَا يَزَالُ الرَّجُلُ يَسْأَلُ النَّاسَ حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ لَيْسَ فِي وَجْهِهِ مِرْعَةٌ لَحْمٍ.</p>



	(رواه البخاري)
	<b>Which Means:</b> <i>"Those who are always begging from others will appear on the Day of Judgment without any piece of flesh on his face."</i>
20	In view of this, we have to take note of these rampant begging activities which are more widespread now. There is a possibility that these beggars are part of a syndicate. This is evident when the authorities, while searching for them to provide assistance, are unable to trace them. If the beggars are really in need of help, they would certainly welcome any form of assistance from the authorities.
21	There are also those among them who deceive the public by forging documents or letters purportedly obtained from the authorities in order to justify their activities to obtain donations for charities. This causes the public to fall for their scams. In fact, there are some who mislead the public by saying that they do not get help from the Social Welfare Department or <i>Baitulmal</i> , whereas in fact they are either not eligible for aid or not among the recipients who are eligible to receive <i>zakat</i> .
22	Reflect on this hadith by Rasulullah SAW as narrated by Hubsyi bin Junaadah RA and recorded by Imam Ahmad Rahimahullah: <p style="text-align: center;">مَنْ سَأَلَ مِنْ غَيْرِ فَقَرٍ فَكَأَنَّمَا يَأْكُلُ الْجَمْرَ. (رواه أحمد)</p> <b>Which means:</b> <i>"Whoever begs from others without being in any difficulty, it is akin to eating the coals of Hell."</i>
23	<b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> Rampant begging activities in this country must be overcome. No doubt, there are still those among us who are forced to beg because of financial burdens and difficulties. However, the act of begging is not the easy way out to get assistance.
24	Various other initiatives may be pursued, such as requesting assistance from <i>Baitulmal</i> or other related agencies. Seek the necessary assistance



	immediately from the parties concerned, so that the burden may be overcome, or at least lightened.
25	Islam strongly encourages the giving of donations and contributions while not abandoning the obligation of <i>Zakat</i> . In a situation of widespread begging, it is better for us to donate or contribute to mosques, religious schools, charities and other certified public trust organisations. However, do not forget to give charity or donate to charity centres and <i>Baitulmal</i> , so that assistance may be rendered to recipients who are eligible to receive zakat.
26	Remember, if we refrain from handing out assistance to beggars, it does not mean we are being stingy or mean, but because we love them and want them to avoid consuming what is illegally gained. Help them in the right way by referring their problems to the relevant agencies or organisations, such as through the Asnaf Identification Squad ( <i>Squad Jejak Asnaf</i> ) established by <i>Baitulmal of the Federal Territory Islamic Council</i> .
27	Allah SWT declared in Surah al-Baqarah verse 273: <p style="text-align: center;">لِلْفُقَرَاءِ الَّذِينَ أَحْصَرُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ ضَرْبًا فِي  الْأَرْضِ يَحْسَبُهُمُ الْجَاهِلُ أَغْنِيَاءَ مِنَ التَّعَفُّفِ تَعْرِفُهُمْ بِسِيمَاهُمْ لَا  يَسْأَلُونَ النَّاسَ إِلْحَاقًا وَمَا تُنْفِقُوا مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَأَنَّ اللَّهَ بِهٖ عَلِيمٌ ﴿٢٧﴾</p>
28	<b>Which means:</b> “(Charity) is for the poor in need who (has fought or served) in Allah's cause who are restricted (from travel) and cannot move about in the land seeking (for trade or work). The ignorant thinks that because of their modesty, that they are free from want. You shall know them by their (unfailing) mark: they beg not importunately from all and sundry. And whatever of good you give be assured Allah knows it well.”
29	The <i>mimbar</i> would like to remind those involved in these begging activities, whether through syndicates or not, to stop. All related government agencies should be involved in stopping this unsavoury activity immediately. Take appropriate action according to the law as it tarnishes the image of Islam.



30	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>The conclusions that we can draw, and reflect upon, from today's sermon are:</p> <p><b>First:</b> Islam encourages its believers to seek a comfortable living in this world through their own efforts, not by expecting handouts from others.</p> <p><b>Second:</b> The act of expecting handouts from others or begging is prohibited by Islam. In fact, it is a sin that leads to Hell.</p> <p><b>Third:</b> Donate a portion of our property or wealth in the way of Allah SWT through the appropriate channels or agencies, so that the distribution of aid to the poor and needy may be conducted fairly and impartially.</p>
31	<p>As stated by Allah SWT in Surah al-Isra 'verse 30:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  <b>إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَبْسُطُ الرِّزْقَ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيَقْدِرُ إِنَّهُ كَانَ بِعِبَادِهِ خَبِيرًا بَصِيرًا</b> </p> <p><b>Which means:</b> "Verily the Lord does provide sustenance in abundance for whom He pleases and He provides in a just measure: for He does know and regard all His servants."</p>
32	<p>بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمُ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>