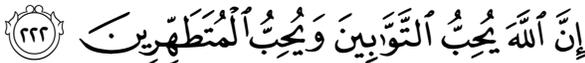




1	 <p style="text-align: center;">FAITH PRESERVED, NATURE RESTORED IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATIONAL RECYCLING DAY 11 November 2016AD / 11 Safar 1438H</p>
2	<p>إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّهُ فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ وَلِيًّا مُرْشِدًا.</p>
3	<p>أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ،</p>
4	<p>اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ دَعَا بِدَعْوَتِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
5	<p>أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.</p>
6	<p>قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ يَتَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ ﴿١٠٢﴾</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, On this auspicious day, let us together increase our conviction in Allah SWT. True conviction can only be achieved by vigorously obeying all the commands of Allah SWT and avoiding all that He has forbade. May this message and reminder bring us great benefit in this world and in the hereafter.</p>
8	<p>A beautiful and fresh natural environment is a gift from Allah SWT to all of us. Thus, Islam, as a religion of mercy and blessings to all creatures, has also impressed upon its followers to preserve and conserve the environment</p>



	around them. In fact, such acts are closely related to our faith.
9	Accordingly, the sermon today is entitled 'Faith Preserved, Nature Restored' .
10	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, By having faith in Allah SWT, one cannot escape from the aspect of cleanliness, clarity and purity of soul. Although we often make mistakes and errors, there is always the chance to repent as a way to purify our souls. Cleanliness and purity of mind is also manifested outwardly by Islam as it encourages its followers to cleanse themselves before performing acts of worship, to ensure food, beverage and property is obtained through legal means, to procreate through proper and respectable ways and so on.
11	Therefore, Allah SWT stated in Surah al-Baqarah, verse 222 as follows:  Which means: <i>Indeed, Allah loves those who are constantly repentant and loves those who purify themselves."</i>
12	How wonderful it would be if everyone appreciates and reflects upon the true meaning of faith, to the point that this world becomes prosperous and peaceful, where everyone loves beauty, so much so that a thick underbrush can be transformed into a park. The culture of cleanliness should not be due to any vested interests, but should be an act of charity and goodwill on its own. This is one of our real responsibilities as human beings, which is to happily bequeath beauty and splendour to be shared by later generations.
13	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Humans have been appointed as vicegerents of Allah SWT on earth. The earth, and its ecosystem, has been created perfectly by Allah SWT. It is a place where Allah SWT is testing His servants, to see whether we will abide by the rules or reject them.
14	Accordingly, Allah SWT bestows upon us a mind and common sense as



	important assets to administer and manage this world. Thus, any action we commit will affect the world, positively or negatively. All these are natural laws (<i>sunnatullah</i>) so that we shall be cautious and careful before taking any action, and be responsible for what we have done.
15	<p>This is the essence of the words of Allah SWT in Surah al-Rum, verses 41 to 42:</p> <p>ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ بِمَا كَسَبَتْ أَيْدِي النَّاسِ لِيُذِيقَهُمْ بَعْضَ الَّذِي عَمِلُوا لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْجِعُونَ ﴿٤١﴾ قُلْ سِيرُوا فِي الْأَرْضِ فَانظُرُوا كَيْفَ كَانَ عَاقِبَةُ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلُ كَانِ أَكْثَرُهُمْ مُشْرِكِينَ ﴿٤٢﴾</p>
16	<p>Which means: “Mischief has appeared on land and sea because of (the deed) that the hands of men have earned, that (Allah) may give them a taste of some of their deeds: in order that they may turn back (from Evil). Say: "Travel through the earth and see what the end of those before (you) was: Most of them worshipped others besides Allah.”</p>
17	<p>Zaid bin Rafi' r.h said that those verses were in relation to rain which was withheld from the land, and was followed by famine. Ibn Kathir r.h also added, that due to many immoral acts committed by its inhabitants, the bounty of crops and fruits were reduced. In addition, Abu al-'Aliyah r.h said that those who commit disobedience against Allah SWT is akin to having damaged the earth. This is because the maintenance and sustainability of the earth and the sky is a form of obedience to Allah SWT.</p>
18	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>Islam prohibits us from being wasteful in relation to wealth, food, clothing and other items. Islam also prohibits wastage of time, energy, thoughts and so on. Humans are easily deceived, confused and immersed in this worldly life. On the surface, all those items may seem to be in abundance, but in fact they are not much, and would be wasteful if not utilised properly.</p>
19	<p>Such wasteful attitude has no place in Islam. In fact, it is despised. As</p>



	<p>declared by Allah SWT in Surah al-Isra', verse 27:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  إِنَّ الْمُبَذِّرِينَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيْطَانِ وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ لِرَبِّهِ كَفُورًا </p> <p>Which means: "Verily spendthrifts are brothers of the Evil Ones; and the Evil One is to his Lord (himself) ungrateful."</p>
20	<p>The practice of being prudent and frugal are signs of gratefulness for all the gifts and blessings bestowed by Allah SWT upon us. On the other hand, wasteful practices are signs of arrogance, boastfulness and ungratefulness. While it is true Allah SWT has bestowed this world upon us for our consumption and use, but it is not for us to waste and misuse. In fact, it should be saved through recycling.</p>
21	<p>Adopting a culture of recycling materials, substances or items which have been used, would bring a positive impact upon many things. Among them is that it can conserve natural resources such as energy, air, and water. In addition, it saves money and can generate employment for the needy.</p>
22	<p>Any vast available tract of land can be saved from being made a landfill for garbage, while at the same time generating creative and innovative ideas in people's minds. Muslims should adopt such recycling initiatives as part of our culture, so as to set an example for other nations to follow.</p>
23	<p>Imam al-Bukhari RA recorded a story narrated by Ibn Abbas RA, where he said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مَرَّ بِشَاةٍ مَيْتَةٍ، فَقَالَ: هَلَّا اسْتَمْتَعْتُمْ بِهَا بِهَا؟ قَالُوا: إِنَّهَا مَيْتَةٌ، قَالَ: إِنَّمَا حُرِّمَ أَكْلُهَا. </p>
24	<p>Which means: "There was (a time) Rasulullah SAW walked past a carcass of a goat. He then said: "Why do not you make use of its skin?" They (the Companions) replied: "(This is because) it has become a carcass." He thus said: "Surely, what is forbidden is only to eat it."</p>
25	<p>It is clear that Islam encourages its followers to avoid wastage, and try to</p>



	take advantage and find other benefits or usage even though from a carcass that is forbidden to be consumed.
26	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>We need this world to live in, and this world also requires us to protect it. Therefore, this attitude of ignorance and irresponsibility in protecting the environment must be avoided. In terms of education, as parents we should instil a basic love for the environment in our children from the very beginning, in order to ensure its sustainability for future generations. Efforts to foster public awareness on the importance of the environment, such as cleanliness campaigns, seminars, exhibitions and others should be encouraged by various parties from time to time.</p>
27	<p>To conclude the sermon today, let us reflect upon some of its gist, as guidance and reminder for us:</p> <p>First: Muslims must preserve their faith by displaying good personal and environmental practices in relation to cleanliness.</p> <p>Second: Preserving and conserving the beauty and harmony of the environment is a religious obligation.</p> <p>Third: All parties should avoid wastage and be prudent and thrifty in all aspects of life.</p>
28	<p>Let us reflect upon the words of Allah SWT in Surah Hud, verse 61:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>وَإِلَى ثَمُودَ أَخَاهُمْ صَالِحًا قَالَ يَا قَوْمِ أَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مَا لَكُمْ مِنْ إِلَهٍ غَيْرُهُ هُوَ أَنْشَأَكُمْ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ وَاسْتَعْمَرَكُمْ فِيهَا فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ ثُمَّ تَوْبُوا إِلَيْهِ إِنَّ رَبِّي قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبٌ ﴿٦١﴾</p>
29	<p>Which means: "To the people of Thamud, (We sent) Prophet Salih, one of their own brethren. He said: "O my people! Worship Allah: you have no</p>



	<p><i>other God but Him. It is He Who has produced you from the earth and settled you therein: then ask forgiveness of Him, and turn to Him (in repentance): for my Lord is (always) near, ready to answer."</i></p>
30	<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 وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ .</p>