



1	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNDER THE SAME SKY</b> 20 January 2017AD / 14 Rabiulakhir 1438H</p>
2	<p>إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، فَحَمْدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يَضَلِّهِ 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، أُوصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُقْلِحُونَ.</p>
6	<p>قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ وَمَا كَانَ النَّاسُ إِلَّا أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً فَاخْتَفَوْا وَلَوْلَا كَلِمَةٌ سَبَقَتْ مِنْ رَبِّكَ لَقُضِيَ بَيْنَهُمْ فِيمَا فِيهِ يَخْتَلِفُونَ ﴿١٩﴾</p>
7	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> Let us endeavor to prepare as much as possible for our eventual victory in the Hereafter by increasing the level of our conviction at all times. Avoid all sins and the displeasure of Allah SWT, but instead double our good deeds. May we receive the blessings of true happiness in this world and in the Hereafter.</p>
8	<p>On this auspicious day, let us reflect upon the sermon entitled, "<b>Under the Same Sky</b>".</p>
9	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> It has been centuries since a majority of Muslims in Malaysia accepted and received the Islamic faith based on the <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> school of</p>



	thought, which is founded on the Al-Quran and Al-Hadith. It was delivered by Rasulullah SAW and continued by his Companions.
10	In the subsequent long period after the death of Rasulullah SAW, there were divisions and splits among the Muslim Ummah. Additionally, at that time, the very influential Roman and Greek philosophies had begun to seep into the minds of Muslims. It was then that the term <b>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</b> emerged to preserve the authenticity of the conviction from being marred by distorted reasoning. It was formulated and famously propagated by Imam Abu Hasan Al-Asy'ari, Imam Abu Mansur Al-Maturidi and earlier scholars who fought to preserve the <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> school of thought and conviction.
11	When we trace the history of our nation, we see that there has emerged various schools of thought and doctrines which threatens the authenticity of the conviction. There are a number of misguided teachings and beliefs which are still active today. We need to know and understand why people often stray from the path of true conviction. Among the reasons that we have to note are:
12	<b>First:</b> Ignorance of true conviction due to lack of understanding and knowledge, as well as not being actually concerned about the matter. As a result, they see what is right as wrong, and what is wrong as something right.
13	<b>Second:</b> Being obsessed or fanatical towards something inherited from ancestors or a figure, even though it is wrong. There are those who are even willing to ignore the truth simply because it is contrary to what is inherited.
14	Verse 170 of Surah Al-Baqarah described to us this attitude: وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمُ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلْ نَتَّبِعُ مَا أَلْفَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ ءَابَاءَنَا أُولَٰئِكَ كَانُوا ءَابَاءَهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ ﴿١٧٠﴾



15	<p><b>Which means:</b> "When it is said to them: "Follow what Allah has revealed:" They say: "Nay! We shall follow the ways of our fathers." What! Even though their fathers were void of wisdom and guidance?"</p>
16	<p><b>Third:</b> Adopting an attitude of blind imitation by following the opinions of men in matters of faith, without considering and understanding authentic points and arguments available in the Al-Qur'an and Al-Hadith. Doing so, and mixed with false points and arguments, leads to the formation of groupings.</p>
17	<p>As narrated by Abu Daud and Al-Baihaqi, Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">اِفْتَرَقَتِ الْيَهُودُ عَلَىٰ اِحْدَىٰ اَوْ ثِنْتَيْنِ وَسَبْعِينَ فِرْقَةً وَتَفَرَّقَتِ النَّصَارَىٰ عَلَىٰ اِحْدَىٰ اَوْ ثِنْتَيْنِ وَسَبْعِينَ فِرْقَةً وَتَفْتَرِقُ اُمَّتِي عَلَىٰ ثَلَاثٍ وَسَبْعِينَ فِرْقَةً</p>
18	<p><b>Which means:</b> "The Jews were split into seventy-one, or seventy-two, divisions, while the Christians were similarly split into seventy-one, or seventy-two, divisions, and my Ummah will be split into seventy-three divisions."</p>
19	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>How should our principles be, so as to be in accordance with the conviction of <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i>?</p> <p><b>First:</b> We should have a strong adherence to Al-Quran and Al-Hadith. There is no doubt that these two sources are the best references for mankind.</p>
20	<p>Such is the command of Allah SWT in Surah An-Nur, verses 51 to 52:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">اِنَّمَا كَانَ قَوْلَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذَا دُعُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ لِيَحْكُمَ بَيْنَهُمْ أَنْ يَقُولُوا سَمِعْنَا وَأَطَعْنَا وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٥١﴾ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَيَخْشَ اللَّهَ وَيَتَّقْهِ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ ﴿٥٢﴾</p>



21	<p><b>Which means:</b> “The answer of the Believers, when summoned to the Book of Allah and His Messenger, in order that He may judge between them, is no other than this: they say, “We hear and we obey”: it is such as these that will attain felicity. It is such as obey Allah and His Messenger, and fear Allah and do right, that will win (in the end)”</p>
22	<p><b>Second:</b> We should adhere to the principles of the Pious Predecessors (<i>Salafus Soleh</i>). The definition of <b>Salaf</b> is from the three periods closest to the period or time of Rasulullah SAW '. The Pious Predecessors are his Companions, and the <i>Tabi'in</i> and <i>Tabi'ut Tabi'in</i>.</p>
23	<p>In a hadith recorded by Imam Al-Bukhari and narrated by Abdullah Rahimahullah RA, Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">خَيْرَ النَّاسِ قَرْنِي ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ ثُمَّ الَّذِينَ يَلُونَهُمْ</p> <p><b>Which means:</b> “The best of mankind is my generation, then those that follow them and then those that follow them.”</p>
24	<p><b>Third:</b> We should not denounce, or label as ‘infidels’, those who do not agree with us. This is the true attitude of <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i>. We should be compassionate towards fellow <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> as well as being sympathetic, with a very commendable attitude, offering gentle approach in explaining the truth and wisdom in eliminating misunderstandings and ignorance.</p>
25	<p>It is undeniable that there are a handful of <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> followers who are harsh, but it stems from the individual, rather than the <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> as a whole.</p>
26	<p><b>Fourth:</b> The merits of <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> also lies in its simplicity. Among the simple approach embraced by Abu Hasan al-Ash'ari, is rejecting those who adhere to reasoning alone, or sticking only to literal interpretations of the Al-Quran and Al-Hadith. He opposed old-fashioned thinking and encouraged the combination of common sense that is accompanied by revelation. He also believed that the combination of</p>



	reasoning and revelation makes it easier for people to understand the Islamic faith. Even non-Muslims would also be able to witness how beautiful Islam is.
27	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>To end the sermon today, let us consider the conclusions that we should understand:</p> <p><b>First:</b> The conviction of <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> is the true conviction taught by Rasulullah SAW, followed by his Companions and successors, and has now become predominant in our country.</p> <p><b>Second:</b> Many have strayed away from the conviction of <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> due to their ignorance, fanatical opinions and mindless following without investigating the truth of what is believed.</p> <p><b>Third:</b> The <i>Ahli Sunnah Wal Jamaah</i> are simple in their practices. They do not behave fanatically, or employ extreme thinking, to enforce their views.</p>
28	<p>Remember the words of Allah SWT in Surah Ali Imran, verse 103:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p>وَأَعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوا ۗ وَاذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا وَكُنْتُمْ عَلَىٰ شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ ﴿١٠٣﴾</p>
29	<p><b>Which means:</b> “And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves; and</p>



	<p><i>remember with gratitude Allah's favour on you; for you were enemies and He joined your hearts in love, so that by His Grace, you became brethren; and you were on the brink of the pit of Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah make His Signs clear to you: That you may be guided”</i></p>
30	<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 اللهُ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُنَّ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>