

PREPARATION FOR THE PATH OF SEEKING KNOWLEDGE

I implore upon all of us to increase our taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala by fulfilling all of His Commands and avoiding all of His prohibitions.

Let us increase our remembrance of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala and salawaat upon our beloved Prophet sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam, and also strive our

utmost in practicing the sunnah of Rasulullah sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam. We truly hope that this will bring us tremendous benefit in this world and the Hereafter.

With the new school term approaching, we would like to remind the children to make adequate preparation for the new experience and challenges that lies ahead. The most important preparation is to have the right intention,

which is to seek knowledge purely for the sake of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. Every student must be determined to attain as much knowledge possible, all the way up to the highest level available.

Students should be resolute to strive hard in achieving success, and becoming those that truly benefit the society in the coming times.

Also important is to ensure that the physical and mental state of our children is always in good condition. Indeed, the strong healthy body is better than the weak one. Narrated Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh that the Messenger of Allah

In addition, the ordainment of zakaah provides a sound proof that Islam is a religion that takes into great consideration on aspects of economy, social, physical development, education, and all other aspects pertaining to human lives.

sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"A strong believer is better and is more lovable to Allah than a weak believer..."

(Muslim)

In addition, the children should earn the blessing of their parents before leaving home for school. 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr bin al-'As radiyAllaahu 'anhuma reported that Rasulullah sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

The Pleasure of Allah lies in the pleasure of the parent. The Anger of Allah lies in the anger of the parent."

(at-Tirmidhi, al-Bazzaar, at-Tabaraani: saheeh)

Indeed, the pursuit of knowledge is not only for a brief duration, for it is a lengthy path that requires tremendous sacrifice of energy, wealth, and soul. Hence, it behooves great patience along with diligence in acquiring

the knowledge passed on by the teacher. This is because knowledge has various branches that is far and wide, which cannot be thoroughly mastered even until the last breath.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in al-Qur'an: "Say, "If the sea were ink for [writing] the words of my Lord, the sea would be exhausted before the words

of my Lord were exhausted, even if We brought the like of it as a supplement."

(al-Kahf 18:109)

Therefore, fellow students must seize such opportunity to garner as much knowledge as possible to be made as provision for the life of this world, especially for the Hereafter. The most appropriate avenues for acquiring knowledge

is at the schools and learning institutes, not those entertainment premises, sidewalks, shopping malls, or its like for it will only groom bad behavior and personality.

In reality, school is not only a venue for academic learning but more importantly, for the nurturing of self-esteem and personality of a true mu'min with taqwa. With this upbringing, they will not be easily swayed into acts of

munkar and social vices that have corrupted many of today's youth.

It is very unfortunate that there are students having the audacity to lie to their parents and teachers, leaving their homes in school uniforms but instead

headed to places like shopping malls and cybercafés just to have fun with their friends. Such behavior and character is definitely a great disservice to all, for those precious times and energy should have been spent

in acquiring knowledge but instead wasted irresponsibly. The parents have been entrusted and given due responsibility to safeguard and ensure that their offspring are equipped with complete education and knowledge,

especially that of fard al-'ayn. Rest assured for they will be held accountable in front of Allah in the Hereafter. The parents are to provide the much needed support and encouragement to their children.

Words of encouragement only are insufficient to boost the zeal for learning for the children. There are various ways and methods that can be utilized by parents to motivate their children prior to beginning their study sessions.

Among them is by providing them the basic necessities for their learning. This is very crucial to ensure that children will be able to learn with ease and comfort, hence boosting their motivation to continue learning.

Additionally, the parents also have a role to assist their children in overcoming any form of obstacles that can hinder and weaken their learning accomplishment. The parents should identify and guide their children to an

effective learning technique, and manifest strong interest to continuously seek knowledge throughout their entire lives. This will in turn drive the children to persevere in their learning process.

Indeed, the realm of learning is not as easy as it is thought. Just like a career, it is filled with challenges and obstacles. Therefore, the parents' help to the children is very crucial so that they will be able to effectively endure any situation

that arises.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala has granted superiority and privilege to those seeking knowledge, among them: 1- The reward of Paradise Narrated Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh that

Rasulullah sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"Whosoever follows a path to seek knowledge therein, Allah will make easy for him a path to Paradise."

(Muslim)

2- Granted nobility throughout life by Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala and His Messenger sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam. Abu ad-Dardaa' radiyAllaahu 'anh reported that Rasulullah sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"... The superiority of the learned man over the devout worshipper is like that of the full moon to the rest of the stars (i.e., in brightness) ..." (Abu Dawood, at-Tirmidhi: saheeh)

It is evident that those seeking knowledge is not only elevated and benefited by the knowledge acquired, but also benefitted by others and the surrounding.

3- The angels and creations on earth will pray to Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala seeking forgiveness for those seeking knowledge (part of previous hadeeth mentioned).

4- Those having knowledge have succeeded in ridding off ignorance from them, thus making it easier to abstain from vile and munkar acts.

Indeed, the soul that is pure and cleansed from sins is vital for the student of knowledge. This is because the knowledge attained is 'nur' (light) from Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala

and it will not enter into the hearts of those indulged in sinful acts.

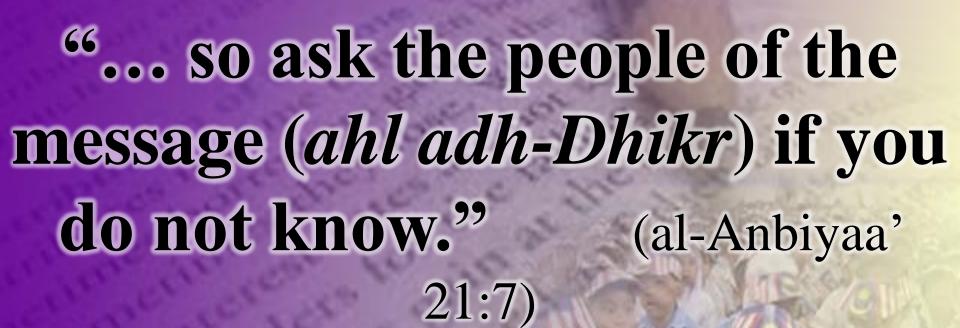
Moreover, those striving to seek knowledge are of the same level and stature with those carrying out *jihaad*.

This is because seeking knowledge is from among the different type of jihaad that is called for in Islam. For those having knowledge, Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala has granted them prominence over those not having

knowledge, among them: 1- Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala placed the people of knowledge at a high stature and nobility compared to those without knowledge, as mentioned in al-Qur'an:

"... Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees ..." (al-Mujaadilah 70:11)

2- The people of knowledge will be respected and looked up by the society, and they will be referred to for any arising matters. As Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in al-Qur'an:



Whatever it is, the most important thing that must be comprehended is the very intent and main objective in seeking knowledge, which is to increase the imaan and taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala, and attaining His Pleasure.

Indeed, a person will be fearful to disobey the command of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala after truly knowing Him. Therefore, God-consciousness and the fear of disobeying Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala will not be present in one's self until

one acquires knowledge that will strengthen the imaan, taqwa, and akhlaaq. It is only through having true authentic knowledge that one will be able to increase the taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala.

On the contrary, being void of sound knowledge is akin to the blind person that will eventually become astray due to lack of guidance and not knowing the appropriate direction for the desired destination.

We must realize that the sacrifice made by the parents whether financially or physically are of very high value and irreplaceable even with humongous wealth. Their sacrifice was purely sincere without intending the material

gain and reward from their offspring. Instead, they only yearn and desire to see their children succeed in wading through their lives in this world. Therefore, what is truly hoped is for all of us to recognize and appreciate all the great sacrifice and service by our parents, by us becoming diligent and dedicated in fulfilling their dream and expectation.

Truly, there is no greater gift for the parents other than for them to see their progeny become among the righteous, attaining academic excellence, and having the true taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala.

"And those who strive for Us -We will surely guide them to Our ways. And indeed, Allah is with the doers of good." (al-'Ankaboot 29:69)

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَيَاتِ وَالذُّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلاوَتُهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُوْلُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأُسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِر الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الأحْبَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالأَمْوَاتَ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِبْمُ

O Allah, You are the Almighty Lord, we are grateful unto You for having bestowed upon us Mercy and Blessings, nourishing us to strive to continue in strengthening the Muslim nation especially the state of Selangor, as an advanced, progressive, peaceful, and benevolent state.

We beseech and beg You, Ya Allah, to strengthen our imaan, increase our good deeds, strengthen our unity, increase our provision, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, nourish our soul with beautiful akhlaag, guide us to the Path that is Pleasing to You,

protect us from Your severe tribulations such as the long drought, severe flooding, disease outbreak, violence and instability, poverty, and others, so that our land will become more peaceful and blessed.

Oh Allah, we ask You to open up the hearts of the Muslim ummah especially in Selangor, to fulfill their zakaat obligation as You had decreed in al-Qur'an. Bless the lives of those who have fulfilled their zakaat obligation, loving and caring for the poor and needy.

Purify their wealth and soul so that they will live according to that which pleases You. Protect the poor and needy from disbelief and everlasting poverty. Allaahummaa ameen





DISEDIAKAN OLEH:

BAHAGIAN KHUTBAH,

JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

ILLUSTRASI OLEH:

UNIT TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT,

JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR