

JUSTLEADERS, THE NATION PROSPERS

بسيح النما الرحيكر

I urge all of us to strive in increasing our taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala by fulfilling all of His Commandments and avoiding all of His prohibitions.

Leadership in Islam has a broad definition and connotation that also includes leaders within the family institution, community, society, and the Muslim nation. The bigger the leadership scope, the heavier

the responsibility. On the authority of 'Abdullah ibn 'Umar radiyAllaahu 'anhuma: that Rasulullah sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"Each of you is a shepherd and each of you is responsible for his flock.

The leader is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock; a man is the shepherd of his family and is responsible for his flock; a woman is the shepherd in the house of her husband and is responsible for her flock; a servant is the

shepherd of his master's wealth and is responsible for it. Each of you is a shepherd and is responsible for his flock."

(al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

In the history of Islamic leadership, Rasulullah sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam was the first leader of the Muslim ummah who was successful in forming the first Islamic state in Madeenah al-Munawwarah.

Even though Madeenah population was comprised of various tribes and ethnicity, they had all lived in peace and harmony due to the justice and wisdom of Rasulullah sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam.

The justice of Muhammad sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam as a leader and statesman was evident in many different occasion. This is based on numerous authentic narrations,

and among them the hadeeth of 'A'ishah radiyAllaahu 'anha regarding the lady from Bani Makhzum that stole, where the Messenger of Allah sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"... By Allah, if Fatima, the daughter of Muhammad stole, I would cut off her hand."

(al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

In implementing the Sharee 'ah, Rasulullah sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam never differentiated between his family members, relatives, companions, influential individuals, and vice versa. He sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam

was always just in dealing with all matters. His style of leadership was later emulated by the Caliphs such as Abu Bakr as-Siddeeq, 'Umar ibn al-Khattaab, and others such that peace and prosperity in Madeenah was

well maintained. This is a clear evidence indicating that the presence of a just leader will bring harmony into the household, society, and entire population, bringing prosperity in the land with the protection from

Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala.A leader is only deemed as a just leader upon becoming capable of fulfilling the amaanah (trust) entrusted with perfection. The two major amaanah that must be shouldered by a leader in any

nation are:

- 1. Fulfillment and implementation of the Sharee'ah of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala.
- 2. Guiding and leading mankind towards a life that is pleasing to Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala.

The just leader must always utilize al-Qur'an as the primary source in fulfilling all the amaanah. This is because al-Our'an contains Allah's Laws that are comprehensive as compared to laws created by His creations.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala mentions in al-Qur'an: "And judge, [O Muhammad], between them by what Allah has revealed and do not follow

their inclinations and beware of them, lest they tempt you away from some of what Allah has revealed to you."

(al-Maa'idah 5:49)

Indeed, this amaanah is a heavy burden that is to be fulfilled. Its challenges are daunting and enormous. Not everyone comprehends the hikmah and benefit in the implementation of Allah's Sharee 'ah.

Not to mention those that refuse to be bounded by rules and regulations that they deem as suppressing their freedom. What more for a leader who does not understand the scope of duties and responsibilities to be

carried out? Hence, such frailty and deficiency will only further taint the purity of Islamic teachings.

Islam has laid down the principle that leadership should not be given to the person without the necessary

qualification and those unfit for the position. What more if the person demands or strive to obtain such position through deceits. Such attitude will only make the leadership position as a highly sought prized item, causing

unhealthy activities such as bribery, fitnah, misappropriation, and others. The nation will become chaotic when such person is appointed as their leader for the very intent solely lies in the selfinterest.

Therefore, in the leadership of a nation, its flourishing or decline depends upon the good or bad of its administration. If the amaanah of leadership is fulfilled with justice, then prosperous is the country.

But if the amaanah is fulfilled unjustly, then the country will collapse and its ummah doomed. In the same hadeeth of 'A'ishah radiyAllaahu 'anha previously mentioned:

The Messenger of Allah sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam then stood up and addressed (people) saying: "O people, those who have gone before you were destroyed, because if any one of high rank committed theft amongst

them, they spared him; and it anyone of low rank committed theft, they inflicted the prescribed punishment upon him. By Allah, if Fatima, daughter of Muhammad, were to steal, I would have her hand cut off."

(al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Every leader has been bestowed amaanah by Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala to implement laws that has been prescribed with full justice. Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala mentions in al-Qur'an:

"Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due and when you judge between people to judge with justice. Excellent is that which Allah instructs you. Indeed, Allah is ever Hearing and Seeing."

(an-Nisaa' 4:58)

The scholars of tafseer have explained that the meaning of the verse above is addressed specifically to the leaders ('umaraa'). Justice that is commanded is not exclusive for the Muslims only but includes all walks of society

with its diverse ethnicity and religion that falls under the ruling of the leadership. Indeed, justice is a right that is entitled to all individuals regardless of their creed, race, and status.

For example, Islamic Law prohibits Muslims from declaring war or transgresses against non-Muslims that sought refuge and protection under Islamic government. Furthermore, they are to be granted the same rights

enjoyed by the Muslims. Hence, it behooves the Muslim ummah today to emulate the justice that was manifested by Rasulullah sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam in carrying out his duties and responsibilities as a leader.

What is happening today is that there are from among the leaders those that are unjust in fulfilling their amaanah. Truly they have failed their amaanah from Allah and His Messenger when they chose to not implement the Sharee'ah

of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala on this earth. Instead, they have betrayed by inventing rulings that are not based according to His Sharee'ah. In result, various types of evil and crime become rampant and remain

unsolved. Hence, the peace and prosperity that is longed for is not achieved. Allah *Subhaanahu* Wata'aala mentions in al-Qur'an:

"O you who have believed, do not betray Allah and the Messenger or betray your trusts while you know [the consequence]."

(al-Anfaal 8:27)

There are some leaders in this world that are engrossed in accumulating wealth for their own personal gain while the population continues to live in misery. The welfare of the people is never a concern.

In the end, patience runs out and the people rose in opposition due to the injustices of their leaders. Indeed, this is the reality of the current phenomenon in several of the Muslim

countries today, stemming from the greed of their leaders. This predicament will definitely result in greater catastrophe for mankind in its entirety. In the hadeeth of Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh, Rasulullah sallAllaahu 'alayhi

wasallam responded to a Bedouin's enquiry regarding the Hour:

"When honesty is lost, then wait for the Hour (Doomsday)." The Bedouin said, "How will that be lost?" The Prophet sallAllaahu 'alayhi wasallam said, "

When the power or authority comes in the hands of unfit persons, then wait for the Hour (Doomsday)."

(al-Bukhaari)

A leader that is just in fulfilling his responsibilities will attain the protection of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala on the Last Day. This is based upon the saheeh hadeeth of Abu Hurayrah radiy Allaahu 'anh

regarding the seven types of people that will be under the shade of Allah where there is no shade other than His Shade on that Day. One of the groups would be the just leader.

What is clear is that the just leader will attain nobility not only from among mankind but also with Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. They will always be praised in this world because of their justice to the society, bringing

harmony and prosperity in the land. They will be honored with the protection of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala from any punishment. On the contrary, the unjust leader will only destroy the harmony and prosperity in the land. In

the end, they would only attain severe torment on the Day of Reckoning.

Among the main characteristics that must be manifested in a leader are:

- 1. Having sincere intention
- 2. Having full obedience to

- Allah and His Rasul
- 3. Comprehension of the objectives of implementing the Sharee'ah.
- 4. Being amaanah (trustworthy), having strong self-identity, and other excellent (mahmudah) characteristics.

Let us all unite in increasing the prosperity and harmony of our land by supporting leaders that are just and trustworthy (amaanah). Let us constantly make du'a so that Allah will bestow upon us a leader that fully implements Islamic

teachings, trustworthy, and responsible. We truly hope that leadership that is built upon the leadership within the family, community, and nation will be manifested in our lives today.

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just.

Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do."

(al-Maa'idah 5:8)

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَيَاتِ وَالذَّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّى وَمِنْكُمْ تِلاوَتُهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُولُ قُوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِر الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الأحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالأَمْوَات فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيْمُ

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 akhlaaq, 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*



DI SEDIAKAN OLEH:

UNIT KHUTBAH,
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

ILLUSTRASI OLEH:

UNIT TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT,
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR