

Let us increase our *taqwa* of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala by strictly adhering to the tenets of Islam, fulfilling the Commands of Allah, and avoiding all of His prohibitions,.

in pursuit of attaining His Pleasure. Let us prepare with necessary provisions for the lives of the Hereafter, for indeed taqwa is the best of provision

Living in a time that is technologically advanced and filled with daunting challenges, has truly become a great test for the integrity of the Muslim's personality and self-identity nowadays. Without solid inner strength, they will be immersed

with the mainstream ideology that viciously ravage through the fortresses which encapsulates the fragile imaan. Hence, today's khutbah will be delivered upon the topic of "Collective Effort In Safeguarding Our Imaan."

Self-confidence is a special characteristic that an individual or a group of community can possess, which becomes the symbol for them to be known for and honored with. Those having confidence will be able to defend the very principles

that they believe in, even if placed in a hostile environment that challenges those beliefs. In Islam, the key ingredients that develop the self-esteem are imaan and taqwa. Self-esteem will develop an individual that is positive and having noble

character. Imaan must be properly nurtured and cultivated in every Muslim in order to safeguard their integrity. Without imaan, the individual will be prone to get involved with various types of munkar and disobedience.

Without imaan, the leader will sway into bribery. Without imaan, the employee will betray the trust. Without imaan, the child will become rebellious and disobey the parents.

And it is without imaan that the young lady will lose her honor and dignity! On the authority of Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh, the Messenger sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"The fornicator who fornicates is not a believer so long as he commits it, and no thief who steals is a believer as long as he commits theft, and no drunkard who drinks wine is a believer as long as he drinks it." (al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Today, due to the ailing personality, we witness clearly that the teenagers and adults are eagerly imitating the ways and lifestyle of the enemies of Islam, whom are constantly diligent in poisoning the minds and beliefs of the Muslim youth.

The young and the old would mix freely without restriction, extremely engrossed in entertainment, busy having fun, that they would neglect salaah and other religious duties. None can be further expected from those that have drowned and

submerged along with their corrupted personality. They have lost their guidance and sense of direction. Their ways of thinking and assessment has far deviated from the guidelines of al-Qur'an and the sunnah of

Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam. In the end, their lives would become despicable in this world and even burdened with the torment in the Hereafter. So true are the words of Allah, as mentioned in al-Qur'an:

"And We have certainly created for Hell many of the jinn and mankind. **They have hearts with** which they do not understand, they have eyes with which they do not see,

and they have ears with which they do not hear. **Those are like livestock;** rather, they are more astray. It is they who are the heedless."

(al-A'raaf 7:179)

With this realization, we must take action to ensure that the Muslim ummah today will gain the awareness and realization from negligence. We must return to foster our imaan and develop our Muslim personality.

Therefore, everyone should be helping each other out in cultivating this noble effort. Beginning from one's own self and all the way to the national level, we should all unite our efforts in achieving our goals.

Indeed, personality development is a collective responsibility that must be fulfilled. Among the measures to be taken are:

1- Muslims should learn and educate themselves to become intelligent in evaluating and choosing good deeds over bad ones.

For example, teenagers are easily influenced by their peers where many would spend most of their time with their peer. With good companionship, then many goods will come out of it. They will remind each other often, eager to increase their

knowledge, and improving their character as Muslim teenagers. On the contrary, having companions that are always committing disobedience, then its negative consequences will trickle down and inflict upon the individual.

They are too busy and concerned with entertainment, munkar, and unbeneficial activities. Abu Musa al-Ash'ari radiyAllaahu 'anh reported that Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"The example of a good companion and a bad **companion is like that of the** seller of musk, and the one who blows the blacksmith's **bellows.** So as for the seller of musk then either he will grant you some, or you buy some

from him, or at least you enjoy a pleasant smell from him. As for the one who blows the blacksmith's bellows then either he will burn your clothes or you will get an offensive smell from him." (al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

2- Parents play a vital role in ensuring that their families are in a living in a conducive environment. They are responsible to bond with their children, befriend them, and encourage them to be involved with healthy activities.

Unfortunately there are parents that deem their role as to provide and support the family only, and nothing more. In result, their teenage children are neglected without the much needed love, care, and upbringing.

Hence, they would rather place their trust in their uncouth friends, becoming vulnerable and easily influenced with their peer's rude behavior. In addition, parents must encourage their progeny to hold fast to the tenets of Islam,

and uphold the Sharee 'ah as the source of reference for all of their actions. Let us contemplate upon the advice that Luqmaan al-Haakim gave to his son, as mentioned in al-Qur'an:

"O my son, establish prayer, enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and be patient over what befalls you. Indeed, [all] that is of the matters [requiring] determination." (Luqmaan 31:17)

3- Teachers and educators of today must become the murshid and *murabbi* with caliber, competency, and always willing to educate with good manners and vision, such as diligence, friendliness, courteous, considerate, tolerant, patient,

sensitive, and responsible. Remember well, that the teaching career is an amaanah that has to be fulfilled. The persistence and perseverance in educating is a struggle that will be tremendously rewarded by Allah.

In curbing the social ills and un-Islamic norms from spreading and plaguing the community, teachers and educators must plant a strong foundation of 'ageedah and belief in Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala.

Develop the character of the students into possessing excellent akhlaaq and fearing the torment of Hereafter. Do not ever get tired of having to continuously advice, educate, nurture, and nourish the students' mind with good advice

At the same time, it behooves the teachers to display sound Islamic character, so it will become good exemplary and emulated by the students.

4- The mass media whether printed or electronic, should also execute their noble duty and responsibility in developing today's generation. Do not only focus on financial profits and revenue at the expense of the beloved religion and people,

by disseminating immoral stories, spooky tales, and excessive entertainment that is without beneficial purposes. They play a significant role in shaping the minds and lifestyle of the society. Increase programs, articles, and stories

having elements of da 'wah and also educative. Also various entertainments that help develop the Muslim mind, character, and identity. We must realize that for everything published or broadcasted to the society, whether beneficial or not,

they are in actuality investments that will reveal its results in the Hereafter. Jareer ibn 'Abdillah radiyAllaahu 'anh relates that Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

Whoever initiates a good practice (sunnah hasanah) in Islam and is emulated by others in doing so will get the reward of it and the reward of all those who act upon it without their rewards being diminished in any respect.

And whosoever initiates an evil practice (sunnah sayyi'ah) in Islam and is emulated by others will bear the sin of it and the sin of all those who act on it without their burden being diminished in the least." (Muslim, Ahmad, and others)

If everyone would cooperate and galvanize efforts in the noble cause of awakening the Muslim ummah, then insha Allah we will one day witness its fruits and results. A new generation will be born, living upon the true faith,

founded upon strong imaan, with al-Qur'an and the sunnah of Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam as guidance. In reality, this is the real and actual Muslim character that is hoped for.

In conclusion, let us revisit the main points from today's khutbah, among them: 1- Indeed, self-identity is a manifestation of the potency or strength of an individual or a group of them that must be further developed and

safeguarded. 2- The Muslim character is a personality that is developed based upon imaan and taqwa, according to al-Qur'an and the sunnah of Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam.

3- Developing and generating excellent character is the responsibility of all. Thus, potent and sound cooperation that is continuous is the main factor that will help guarantee the success of such noble ambition.

"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)



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.

O Allah, Please increase and widen the provision of those who endowed their wealth, blessed the poor with true faith and lasting health,

O Allah, Please accept their endowment and rewards them with an eternal rewards in the Hereafter. Allaahummaa ameen



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