

DESTRUCTION DUE TO RIBAA



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

Let us increase our remembrance of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala and salawaat upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam, and to strive in implementing all of his sunnah. We hope that all these will help us to attain rahmah in this world and the next.

Ribaa (usury or interest) is a type of transaction that unlawfully takes away the right of others. This practice has long existed since the period of Jaahiliyyah (Ignorance). After the coming of Islam, Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala has

made it forbidden through the version in al-Qur'an which mentions:

"But Allah has permitted trade and has forbidden interest."

(al-Baqarah 2:275)

According to Imaam ash-Shaafi'i rahimahullah, ribaa can be defined as a contract that includes an increase of an amount for a particular effort that is unclear according to the Sharee 'ah. Among the increasing of value that is

considered as ribaa is the debit-credit contract stipulating a higher amount upon debt payment or delay in paying back the loan. The same goes in selling and buying transaction;

when there is excess of value in certain commodities such as gold, silver, wheat, and its like, then it is regarded as ribaa. Clearly, ribaa is haraam according to the Sharee 'ah.

Those that are involved in the realm of ribaa has been given stern warning and threat from Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala with various form of hardship and torment, among them:

1- Those involved with ribaa will not attain tranquility in 'ibaadah for Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala does not bestow barakah upon wealth that originated from ribaa sources.

- 2- Those involved in ribaa will be resurrected confused (as if drunken) the Day of Reckoning, as if he had been possessed by shaytaan.
- 3-Those that repeatedly commit ribaa will be thrown into the Fire and abide therein forever.

Even though Islam does not prevent us Muslims from accumulating wealth through business trade, but revenues amassed from ribaa is unlawful and extremely despised by the Sharee ah. This is because it is a form of dhulm (oppression)

unto others for the sake of gaining worldly benefit in an unlawful manner according to the Sharee 'ah. This type of oppression is commonly practiced by unlawful loan agencies such as ah long (illegitimate loan sharks),

moneylenders, and its like. There are times where such oppression has led to death or injuries to the borrower or even the family members.

Among the form of oppression within ribaa that is very common nowadays is specifying an interest rate in a loan contract, imposing multifold charges on late payments, and many more.

As an example, a person that wants to take a loan will be subjected to the condition which results to having to pay more than the borrowed amount. And when the payment is made late,

the lender will require the borrower to pay at a higher rate. This will cause tremendous pressure on the borrower for having to settle the loan multiple times over the original amount.

This scenario will definitely affect the financial situation of the borrower, having to bear the heavy debt from ribaa that dramatically increase at all times.

The Muslim ummah has been commanded to abstain from ribaa for it will cause destructions whether upon the individual or the society atlarge. From among the destruction is the deteriorating spirit of mutual assistance

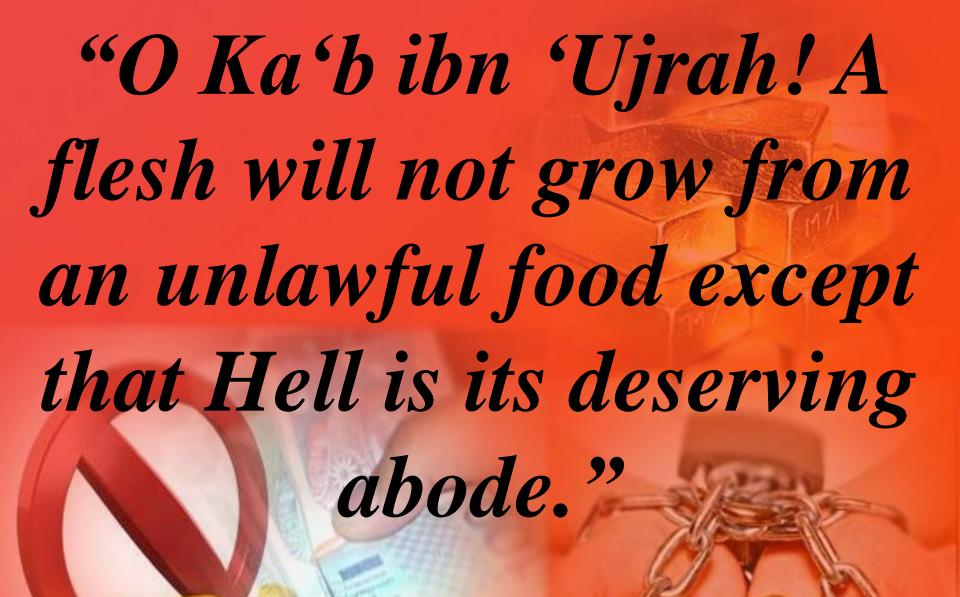
between the Muslims. In essence, the act of lending a loan is an act of good for it helps alleviate the burden shouldered by others. Unfortunately when it is tarnished with elements of ribaa, it destroys the original

intent of the very reason that the loan was issued for, which is to provide assistance to those in need. Another destruction that is due to the widespread practice of ribaa is the collapse of the family institution.

In reality, the family institution holds a vital role in the shaping of a generation that is to lead the nation in the days to come. Therefore, this cause must be fully supported by ensuring that the source of income used in raising such generation is from

halaal sources. When the children are raised using halaal income, then Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala will bless their entire lives. On the contrary, if they are raised using haraam income, then their lives will be chaotic because their own flesh contains unlawful sources including those from ribaa. Such lives not only demolish one's own self but also that of the whole entire family members.

Verily, the livelihood that is based upon ribaa and other unlawful sources is despised and cursed by Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam, as it was narrated in a hadeeth:



(at-Tirmidhi)

Jaabir radiyAllaahu 'anh narrates that Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"No meat (i.e. person) that was nourished with haraam will enter paradise.

Every meat (i.e. person) that was nourished with haraam is more deserving of the Fire."

(Ahmad, ad-Daarimi, al-Bayhaqi; also in Mishkaatul Masaabih)

Another outcome from the practice of ribaa that is quite significant is the economic collapse of the Muslim ummah. It is undeniable that there are traders and entrepreneurs whom do not have sufficient capital to run their businesses.

Hence, they had to resort to seeking loans from various individuals and financial institutions. When the lender stipulates ribaa that is excessive as compared to the amount of the loan obtained, then this will definitely affect their income.

What more if such business does not bring about any profit. In such scenario, it is obvious that the trader has failed in paying back all of his debts, and possibly having to declare bankruptcy.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in al-Qur'an: "O you who have believed, do not consume usury, doubled and multiplied, but fear Allah that you may be successful."

(Aali-'Imraan 3:130)

On the authority of Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh that Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said: "A time will certainly come over the people when none will remain who will not

devour usury. If he does not devour it, its vapor will overtake him."

(Ahmad, Abu Dawood, an-Nasaa'i, ibn Maajah)

This is the calamity that has plagued the Muslim nation at the End of Time, when ribaa has become part of their lives. So, as Muslims, we should not take lightly on the practice of ribaa that is widely common.

Let us beseech our True Ilaah to be kept away from those that are committing ribaa. Let us be diligent in preventing ourselves from being involved in any form of conventional transaction which involves elements of ribaa,

whether in buying and selling, loan affairs, pawning, and many others. Let us turn to those financial institutions that have made Islam as their avenue for commerce.

It is sincerely hoped that all of our efforts partaken will free us entirely from the dusts or ribaa, which has taken the us by storm, living at the End of Time.

"And if you do not, then be informed of a war [against you] from Allah and His Messenger. But if you repent, you may have your principal -[thus] you do no wrong, nor are you wronged."

(al-Baqarah 2:279)

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَيَاتِ وَالذَّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلْاوَتُهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُوْلُ قُوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِر الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الأُحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالأَمْوَاتِ 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:
BAHAGIAN KHUTBAH,
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

ILLUSTRASI OLEH:
UNIT TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR