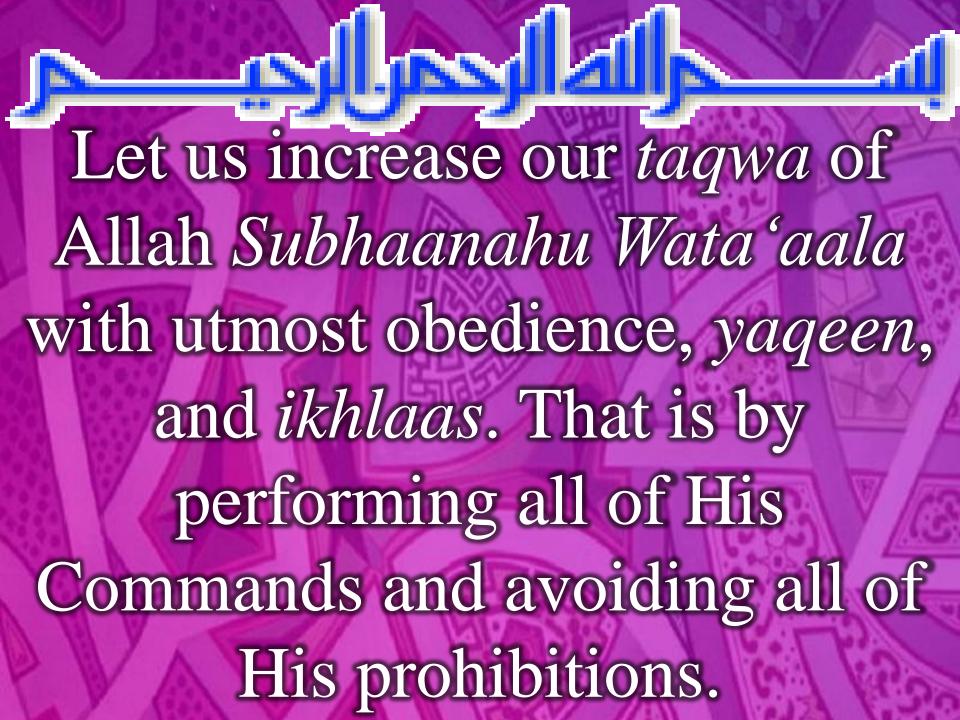


FITNAH-MONGERING DESTROYS THE MUSLIM UMMAH



We truly hope to become among the muttagoon, attaining safety and success in this world and the Hereafter. The topic of today's khutbah is "Fitnah-Mongering Destroys The Muslim Ummah."

Fitnah here means accusation, whether information, story, tale, and others, that is fabricated with the intention to denigrate or destroy a person, institution, or a group, and its like.

In this modern world, with all the technological advancement, the spreading of fitnah is becoming super easy whether through the television, radio, sms, email, websites or blogs.

Fitnah spreads very quickly and widespread, far out and reachable without even the slightest concern to verify the information received, hence propagated and announced to others right then.

Such attitude is strongly prohibited in Islam, because Islam teaches us to verify every piece of news that has reached us especially if it was conveyed through those deemed as faasiq or those

that are heedless of Allah's Commands; that these information are to be thoroughly investigated and verified before being propagated to others.

Allah Subhaanahu
Wata'aala mentions in alQur'an:

"O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient one with information, investigate,

lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful."

(al-Hujuraat 49:6)

Based on this verse, it is waajib upon every Muslim to scrutinize every piece of news that they receive so that he or she will not be entrapped in allegations having fitnah in nature.

Any information received should first be verified of its authenticity. Wisdom and intellectual maturity are vital to be utilized, so one will not be deceived by malicious news or fitnah.

The culture or habit of fitnah-mongering is truly despicable and hated by Islam, that it is categorized as a major

Spreading fitnah through backbiting and its like, whether knowingly or not, is from among deplorable acts, that is when a person mentions or narrate the shortcoming of others even

without mentioning any name but it is known to the listener. The gossiper or the one spreading the information will usually mention the phrase "it was heard that" or "it was rumored".

However, when this news have propagated from one to another, and repeated, then the unverified or inauthentic information will transform into becoming a fact and authentic information.

Among the severe warning and magnitude of sins of creating fitnah and spreading fitnah mentioned in al-Qur'an and as-Sunnah are:

1- The tattler, gossiper, or backbiter is deemed as the most despicable of human being. In the hadeeth of Asmaa' bint Yazeed radiyAllaahu 'anha,

Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said: "... "Shall I tell you about the most evil ones from amongst you?" They said, "Of course."

He said, "Those who go around with Nameemah. They make enmity between friends and they seek problems for the innocent."

(Ahmad and al-Bukhaari in al-Adab al-Mufrad: *hasan*)

2- Spreading fitnah and backbiting is likened to devouring the flesh of another human being (another Muslim). Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala mentions in al-Qur'an:

"O you who have believed, avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumption is sin. And do not spy or backbite each other. Would one of you like to the eat the flesh of

his brother when dead? You would detest it. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Accepting of repentance and Merciful."

(al-Hujuraat 49:12)

3- The tattler and backbiter will be severely punished in the grave. Narrated ibn 'Abbaas radiyAllaahu 'anhuma: Rasulullah (sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam) passed by two graves and said, "Both of them (persons in the grave) are being tortured, and they are not being tortured for a major sin. This one used not to save himself from being soiled

with his urine, and the other used to go about with calumnies (among the people to rouse hostilities)..." (al-Bukhaari)

4- The Prophet sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam mentioned that the tattler will not enter Paradise. Narrated Hudhayfah radiyAllaahu 'anh:

I heard the Prophet (sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam) saying, "A Qattaat (tale-bearer) will not enter Paradise." (al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Aside from those severe warning and the grave sin of fitnah-mongering mentioned in the Sharee 'ah, fitnah also has its negative effects within the society. Among them:

1- The sin of causing and spreading fitnah is deemed as wrongdoing between human beings. It will not be forgiven until the one being slandered actually forgives the wrongdoing.

Perhaps many among us think that propagating fitnah is only a minor offense, hence they easily disseminate news and information without further verification.

Fitnah causes division within the household and destroys the society. It is due to fitnah that relationship between siblings, spouses, neighbors, and others are shattered and cutoff,

that it even leads to perpetual enmity. Fitnahmongering is likened to the blazing fire that intensely devours those dry branches until it all become ashes.

3- Fitnah normally occurs intending to degrade or tarnish certain individuals or groups. Such lowly approach is definitely intended to make one stand out above others,

thinking that they themselves are better and more qualified than those being slandered. Often times, majority of those involved in fitnahmongering would not even have any interest in the

matter. But since such wickedness has become a habit, though evil, it provides some sort of satisfaction to its perpetrators.

4- The culture of fitnahmongering can threaten the peace and stability of a nation. Therefore, let us not allow ourselves, our family, and our

surrounding from becoming culprits that would further desecrate and taint the existing harmony by causing turmoil that stems from the fitnah being spread.

5- Fitnah can degrade and cause indignity to individuals and groups. It can also cause financial loss, because launching a defamation suit against

fitnah-mongers will churn up a significant loss whether financially, emotionally, and others. As a conclusion from this khutbah, we gather that:

1- Creating and spreading fitnah is from among the major sins that are deplored by the Sharee 'ah

2- The severe threat and stern punishment upon those being sinful of fitnah and spreading fitnah, as mentioned in various verses and numerous ahaadeeth.

3- It is waajib upon every Muslim to verify and authenticate every news and piece of information that they receive, especially those categorized as mere rumors and hearsay, so that one would not fall into the committing fitnah.

4- The heinous culture of fitnah-mongering is despicable for it will disrupt the unity within a household, dividing the community, and impedes upon the stability and harmony of a nation.

5- All conflict or confusion cannot be resolved through fitnah-mongering. On the contrary, all types of issues and problems can be resolved with humility, tolerance, and forgiving.

"And those who harm believing men and believing women for [something] other than what they have earned have certainly born upon themselves a slander and manifest sin."

(al-Ahzaab 33:58)

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفْعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَبَاتِ وَالدُّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقْبَلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلْاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُو السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قُولِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ المُسلِمِينَ وَالمُسلِمَاتِ وَالمُومُومِنِينَ وَالمُؤمِنَاتِ الأحباء منهم والأموات قاستغفروه 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

