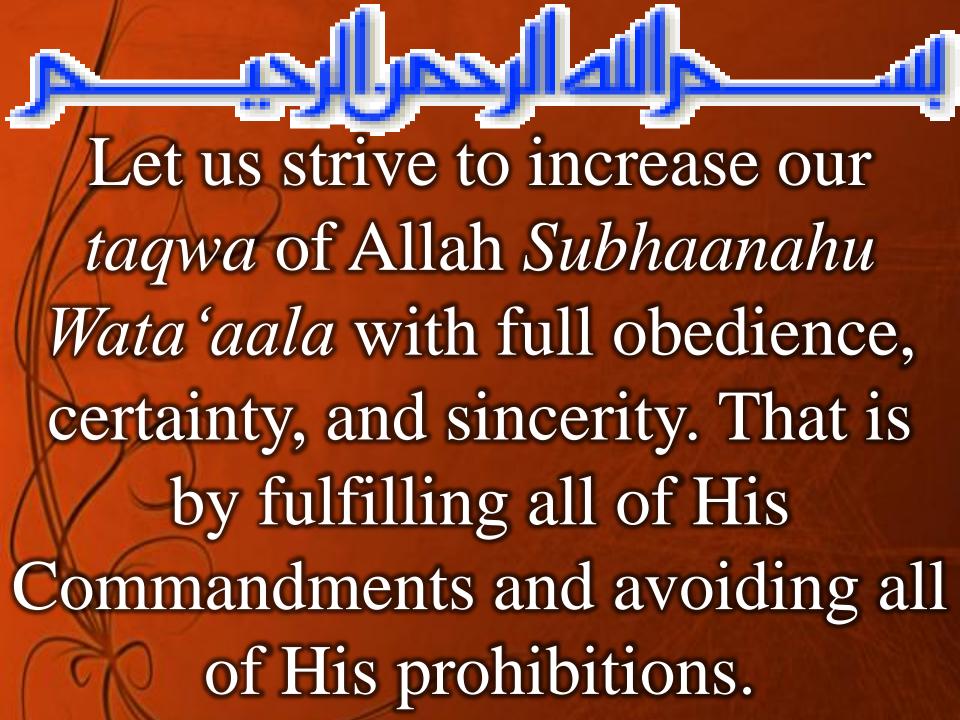




THE YOUTH – THE HOPE FOR ISLAM AND THE NATION



Indeed, we truly hope to become individuals having taqwa, attaining success and salvation in this world and the Hereafter. On this blessed day, let us ponder upon the khutbah titled: "The Youth - The Hope For Islam And The Nation."

We always hear of the slogan stating "the youths are the hope for the nation" and we sometimes hear "the youths are the pillars of the nation." These phrases are uttered throughout all walks of

society, though usually by community leaders. It behoove us to ponder and evaluate if the youths are truly worthy of the hope and expectation for Islam, the people, and the nation.

In reality, the young generation of today is faced with great challenges and roles. Like it or not, they play a vital role in driving the nation towards progress and development.

If they are corrupted today, then corrupted is the religion and the nation in the future. However, if today's youth are equipped with firm 'aqeedah, unwavering imaan, and beautiful

character, then Islam and the nation will be in a sound state as expected by all. In Islam, the youth has a special status and becomes a focal point in al-Qur'an and as-Sunnah.

They are not only deemed as "the hope for the religion and the nation" but also recognized as "guardians of the religion." Al-Qur'an mentions the story of As-haab al-Kahfi,

the story of the dwellers of the cave having unswerving 'aqeedah, solid imaan, and sound character. They had lived under a tyrant ruler, in a society that is corrupted in its religion and akhlaaq.

These youths had a special status that Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala had praised and recognized them as "youths who believed in their Lord, and We increased them in guidance."

(al-Kahf 18:13)

Islamic history has shown that Islam was championed, defended, and spread by the youths around Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam. 'Ali radiyAllaahu 'anh was the first child to affirm

his imaan to Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam and he ('Ali) even slept in Rasulullah's bed when the Quraysh plotted to kill Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam.

Abu Bakr radiyAllaahu 'anh embraced Islam at the age of 38 and he then gave away all of his wealth for the cause of Islam. 'Umar took the shahaadah when he was 26 years old.

Sa'ad ibn Abi Waqqaas, al-Zubayr bin al-'Awwaam, Talhah bin 'Ubaydillaah radiyAllaahu 'anhum ajma 'een all embraced Islam while still in their teenage years.

They were all cornerstones in the spread of Islam that they were all mentioned as among the 10 Companions guaranteed Paradise radiyAllaahu 'anhum ajma 'een.

The nation's future whether in terms of politics, economics, social, or even religion, is truly in the hands of the young generation. If they appear or turn out to be corrupted, then corrupted

is the religion, people, and nation in the future. This is truly the challenge for the Muslim youths of today. Take heed, for the attacks and onslaughts by the enemies of Islam

come in various forms, not just limited to ideology, culture, identity, economy, and education.

Ideological attacks from the enemies of Islam is not only in the form of propaganda by

religions other than Islam such as Hinduism, Buddhism, or Christianity, but they appear with hideous and confusing identity such as secularism, an ideology that separates religious values from worldly affairs. Not to mention liberalism, an ideology promoting freedom sans guidelines. Also pluralism, an ideology acknowledging that every religion has the same

objectives.

The attacks upon the culture or the identity of a people and religion are further enhanced via the local and international media. The Muslim youths that are void

of awareness and realization will just drown in the popular and predominant trend by emulating a lifestyle that is full of negligence and heedlessness, strayed away from Divine guidance.

This generation only lives for the moment, not thinking about their future. What is important to them is that they are indulged in fun, enjoyment, glamor, and entertainment.

Hiding and sugarcoated under the banner of "human rights" and "freedom", the very identity of the people and religion are slowly erased and ultimately destroyed.

The onslaught upon the economy and education is systemically done by idolizing the West as the qiblah in providing guidelines and policies. Be mindful O Muslims!

Verily the advancement of the Muslim ummah cannot be achieved based on Western ideals and approaches for they clearly contradict the Sharee 'ah, being far from having

religious ideals whilst progress in Islam is founded upon religious grounds. Remember, as Muslims, our minds should not be stuck in the old ways. The Muslim mind must be creative,

innovative, and competent so that the Muslim *ummah* will progress, flourish, excel, and recognized.

The Muslim youth must equip themselves for the advancement of the nation

and religion. Among the pertinent ingredients: 1- Strengthening the 'aqeedah and having strong will in Islam. Verily, every community member must play his or her very role with

cooperation. Whether as a leader, head of family, father, mother, educator, and others, all must work together in building and inculcating imaan in the Muslim youths.

Verily, imaan is the shield that will distance mankind from disobedience. Narrated Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh, the Messenger of Allah 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..."

(Muslim)

2-Actively increasing authentic Islamic knowledge. Advanced nations according to Islam do not only flourish in the knowledge and material aspect, but instead a nation that is able

maintain the quality of lives, religion, intellect, wealth, and progeny of its citizen. Hence, both the Islamic and worldly knowledge must be given its due rights in producing leaders citizens that are vigilant upon the rights of The Creator, and the rights between the creations of Allah.

3- Safeguarding akhlaaq and curbing social ills.

Indeed, Islam came to improve human behavior unto that which is compatible with human's fitrah. Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh reported that the Messenger of Allah

sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"I was sent to perfect good character."

(al-Adab al-Mufrad of Imaam al-Bukhaari: saheeh)

4- Having strong spirit and love for Islam and the Muslim nation. The generation that has full understanding and confidence in Islam will surely protect and defend

their conviction. The intense love for Islam will place Islam in its deserving place. While the strong love for the Muslim nation will spur advancement for the nation and its people.

5-Togetherness in building and developing the nation. Each individual has a role to play in the process of nation building based upon their portfolio and position, whether as a thinker,

educator, engineer, doctor, mechanic, and others. Everyone must contribute in spurring the nation's growth. Therefore, the young generation must aim high and become ambitious.

The education received at the primary, secondary, or tertiary (university) levels were not merely for pursuing a career or securing a handsome paycheck in the time to come.

Instead, it is for developing and improving the status of the nation and its people. Lessons that can be deduced from this khutbah are:

1- The youths are the hope of the future for Islam and the Muslim nation. They play a vital role in propelling the nation towards becoming more advanced in terms of spiritual and physical

development, stability, and national harmony.

2- The nation's future whether in the realm of politics, economics, social, and religion lies in the hands of the young generation.

If they are spoiled, then spoiled is the future for the religion, nation, and its people. 3- The youths must step up in facing contemporary challenges such as the

numerous attacks upon the ideology, culture, identity, economy, and education from the scores of enemies of Islam. Indeed, those that are capable of overcoming these challenges are those

having solid 'aqeedah, firm imaan, and beautiful characters. 4- The young generation must increase and enrich their Islamic knowledge that is based upon authentic

sources. This is because knowledge is the bridge for progress, and religion is mankind's savior.

"Men whom neither commerce nor sale distracts from the remembrance of Allah and performance of prayer

and giving of zakaah. They fear a Day in which the hearts and eyes will [fearfully] turn about."

(an-Noor 24:37)

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَيَاتِ وَالذَّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلْاوَتُهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ أَقُوْلُ قُوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِر الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الأُحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأُمُوَاتُ 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



DISEDIAKAN OLEH:

BAHAGIAN KHUTBAH,

JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

ILLUSTRASI OLEH:

UNIT TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT,

JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR