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In conjunction with the upcoming Independence celebration, I implore fellow congregation to free ourselves from any form of 'aqeedah, beliefs, and lifestyle that actually

deviates from true Islamic teachings, so as to attain salvation in this world and the Hereafter. Today's khutbah invites us to internalize upon the meaning of "Independence According To Islam."

Independence or freedom is from among the basic principles in the Sharee'ah. Independence in Islam encompasses all aspects of life whether in religion, politics, economics,

thoughts, culture, personality, and many others. Independence that is commonly understood by the masses is the freedom from colonial rule.

That is why we find every year citizens of this nation celebrate Independence Day on the 31st of August. The question begs is independence in Islam confined to such

understanding only? It is clear that Islam as a religion that is built upon tawheed, had come to free mankind from the enslavement to the creation to enslavement to Allah Almighty Subhaanahu Wata 'aala Alone.

That is why, as history has proven, that when the Muslims had successfully conquered non-Muslim nations such as Rome and Persia, it was not the same as when the

Western colonialists were colonizing Muslim lands. The facts had clearly indicated that the West had colonized by controlling the lands, its resources, fikrah (thoughts), 'aqeedah, and

siyaasah (politics) so that everyone will submit and were monopolized by them. On the contrary, the ruling under Islam intends to liberate mankind from the shackles of shirk in the servitude to other humans, unto devotion to the Oneness of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala Alone. Hence, the real independence is when one only submits to the Islamic

guidance and fully surrender to the Will of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala. Islam referring to terms like well-being, prosperity, and peace, all alludes to the meaning of independence.

This reality is seen during the early stage of Islam where صلى الله (صلى الله) Rasulullah had brought (عليه وسلم) prosperity to Madeenah and liberated Makkah from the grip of Quraysh pagans. Similarly,

the reign of Khulafaa' ar-Raashideen had liberated many nations from the grip of kufr (disbelief). Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in al-Qur'an:

"Say, "This is my way; I invite to Allah with insight, I and those who follow me. And exalted is Allah; and I am not of those who associate others with Him."" (Yoosuf 12:108)

It is evident from this verse that mankind will only attain salvation and liberation once they receive the guidance from Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala and the Messenger that He sent.

On the contrary, those that avoids the guidance of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala, their lives will always remain colonized and heedless, which in the end destroys their own selves.

On the authority of ibn 'Umar radiy Allaahu 'anhuma that صلى الله (صلى الله) said: (عليه وسلم) said "I have been ordered to fight against the people until they testify that there

is none worthy of worship except Allah and that **Muhammad is the Messenger** of Allah, and until they establish the salaah and pay the zakaat. And if they do that then

they will have gained protection from me for their lives and property, unless [they commit acts that are punishable] in Islam, and their reckoning will be with Allah." (al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

Among the characteristics of independence according to Islam are: 1. An ummah possessing the winning mentality. Winning by always thinking of the best ways to contribute to

oneself, to Islam, the people, or the nation. He must strive to liberate himself from backwardness until everything reaches the well-respected and highest pinnacle.

2. Always keen on defending independence. This is because freedom is a great ni'mah from Allah that is not bestowed upon all mankind. Many nations and people

throughout history have fought from the past until the present but have yet to taste freedom. Ponder upon the Muslims in Ghazza, Muslims in Arakan (Myanmar), and few other

nations. Their lives, physically and mentally, are shackled with colonization. Everything is blocked off and prevented including practicing one's own religion and doing normal daily

routine activities. 3. Always remember those giving their lives fighting for independence. The generation of today should not forget the great sacrifices of our freedom fighters who

truly paved the way for us. These includes the Muslim scholars who had fought with the likes of Tokku Paloh, Shaykh 'Abdus Samad al-Palembangi, Tok Janggut, Tok Gajah,

'Abdullah Fahim, 'Abdur Rahman Limbong, Shaykh Daud al-Fatani, and many others rahimahumullah. It was due to their fighting spirit that we are now reaping the fruits of their

valiant effort. Therefore, as an ummah that is dignified and having upright character, we are compelled to honor and commemorate the true service of our native warriors, whether still living

or fallen in the line of duty. 4. Liberating oneself from traits that can destroy humane characteristics such as moral decay and incurring the Wrath of Allah, for example, through concerts

purely as extreme entertainment that is infested with drug abuse, intoxicants, and unlawful free mixing which only ends in the demise of our youth. Would that be deemed as liberation?

Honestly, ask from the bottom of your heart The Arab poetry goes on saying that: "The survivability of a nation is due to virtuous akhlaaq, while the collapse of a

nation is due to corrupted akhlaaq." 5. Even more important, we must always seek forgiveness from Allah Ta'aala so as to attain His Pleasure and spared from the

torment of Hellfire, whose fuel is people and stones. In reality, true independence in Islam is when we are successful in overcoming our evil desire and the enemies of Allah that strives to

prevent mankind from worshipping Allah and fulfilling their fitrah as His obedient slaves. On the authority of Abu Muhammad 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr ibn al-'As

radiyAllaahu 'anhuma who said: Rasulullah (عليه وسلم) said: "None of you [truly] believes until his desires are subservient to that which I have brought." (an-Nawawi considered it hasan saheeh in his 40 Hadeeth)

This is the real value of independence that is taught by our religion. We must always strive to liberate ourselves from the influence of shaytaan and our evil desire.

Let us utilize our mind and control our emotions based upon al-Qur'an and as-Sunnah, and further practice upon its teachings.

In conclusion, comprehending independence in Islam entails that: 1- We should become those that are always grateful upon the bounty of independence,

and it behoove us to defend it. 2- We must free ourselves from being enslaved to the creations and instead enslaving ourselves to Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala Alone.

3- We must comprehend that independence alludes to our success in abiding by all of the guidance and Sharee'ah of Islam, and to fully surrender our soul to the

Will of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala. 4-We must understand that independence means for us to successfully free ourselves from matters that corrupts the akhlaaq and acts that

incurs the Wrath of Allah. 5-We must always strive to free ourselves so that we will always attain a heart that is tranquil and peaceful, dedicated for 'ibaadah unto Allah, always attaining the

forgiveness of Allah, and living a life that is full of barakah and hidaayah from Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. Let us further ponder and contemplate upon the ni'mah

of independence for this year by expressing our gratitude and penitence for all the bounties from Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala. It becomes utterly useless for us commemorate

Independence Day from the grip of colonial rule but at the same time our 'aqeedah, akhlaaq, Sharee 'ah are all colonized by foreign culture and civilization that totally contradicts Islamic teachings.

"And, [moreover], this is My path, which is straight, so follow it; and do not follow [other] ways, for you will be separated from His way. This has He instructed you that you may become righteous." (al-An'aam 6:153)



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



JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

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