



HUDOOD FROM



PERSPECTIVE

I would like to remind myself and all of us to strive in increasing our *taqwa* of Allah by upholding all of His Commands and avoiding all of His prohibitions.

May Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala bestow His Rahmah upon all of us in attaining salvation in this world and His Pleasure in the Hereafter.

Today's *khutbah* intends to clarify an important matter that is *"Hudood From The Islamic Perspective."* The issue of *hudood* has always been a polemic that is seasonal within our society. Almost everyone regardless of their background would pitch in and comment on the topic of hudood that it leaves

negative perceptions upon Allah's Ordainment in that regard. The term *hudood* means limitation, boundary, limit, or restriction. From the technical (Shara') definition,

it refers to punishments decreed by Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala in al-Qur'an and as-Sunnah. It is the sole rights of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala that cannot be altered, amended,

added, or reduced. However, its implementation requires thorough preparation, such as the society's sound understanding, legal and judicial infrastructure, and the competency of entrusted

bodies. The term hudood was repeated 11 times in al-Qur'an. Almost all of them carry the meaning and interpretation as the limits of Allah's Law (Sharee'ah).

This includes matters regarding *salaah*, fasting, divorce, *'iddah*, *zhihaar, faraa 'id*, inheritance, and many more.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in al-Qur'an: **"These are the limits [set by]** Allah, and whoever obeys **Allah and His Messenger** will be admitted

by Him to gardens [in Paradise] under which rivers flow, abiding eternally therein; and that is the great attainment. And whoever disobeys Allah and **His Messenger**

and transgresses His limits - He will put him into the Fire to abide eternally therein, and he will have a humiliating punishment." (an-Nisaa' 4:13-14)

The term hudood was repeated twice in those verses, however it did not even mention aspects of criminal punishment. This is because hudood carries a broader meaning, inclusive

of all takleefi rulings that are obligatory to be fulfilled or avoided. In reality, the obligation of 'ibaadah such as salaah, zakaah, and others are also a form of compliance with the

regulations and laws of Allah. They are not limited to only criminal laws. Hence, as Muslims, in reality, we have fulfilled a huge portion of such rulings and regulations or laws on a

daily basis even without mentioning the term hudood. Why is it today that we have these narrow perceptions that greatly deviates whenever the term hudood is mentioned that it gives rise

to polemics that causes fitnah to the Islamic Sharee'ah itself, even to Islam in totality. What crosses their mind is only violence and brutality, while hudood, as explained earlier,

refers to the limit, limitation, restriction, or boundary. Let us traverse through the existing laws that are upheld all over the world. In the name of justice and human rights, it is as if there is

indirect effort to lighten punishments upon criminals. Furthermore, there are criminal acts that are actually acknowledged as charity. They would commit crime (violations of numerous laws)

and then allowed to join or establish associations and provided legal defense through legal institutions. Such allocation only causes the objective of reducing crime become even

more difficult. The enforcement of laws actually concentrates on the technicality in determining a conviction, not the crime committed which actually poses threat to public safety.

This is the form of manmade laws that attempts to portray affection and tenderness, socalled more humane, but at the same time provides leeway for the criminals that in the end, they easily move

about and become more active. The prosperous and peaceful nation that is always coveted has now reached a juncture that is unpredictable.

Indeed, the society's concerns upon personal safety, their families, and belongings definitely have its basis. Thus, it behooves now that residences are installed with iron grills,

though realizing the potential risks in the event of a fire. Aside from CCTV and alarm system, nowadays residential areas are to be fenced around and equipped with a security force to monitor its

activities. Though having to incur heavy costs and burdening both residents and visitors, it has now become a need even though in reality there is no complete guarantee for full security.

Such legal concept is not in tune with Islamic legislations, which was determined by Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala. Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala mentions in

al-Qur'an: "...and do not be taken by pity for them in the religion of Allah, if you should believe in Allah and the Last Day..." (an-Noor 24:2)

The concept of reducing the punishment and facilitating for the criminals, and furthermore vilifying Islamic legislations as being harsh and barbaric, are all untrue and unfounded.

Even if we accept Islamic legislation as being harsh, then it is to achieve its objectives. However harsh it may be, it is not absolute, for while deemed as harsh, it is filled with wisdom.

Hikmah carries a broad definition and it truly belongs to Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala. It definitely makes no sense to think that Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala has mistaken in

determining and placing hikmah in His Laws. And it is impossible that Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala would persecute and oppress His creations, while at the same time Allah Subhaanahu

Wata 'aala Himself had forbade oppression upon Himself. Verily, the mercy of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala truly overcomes His Wrath.

In other words, hudood may be seen as harsh. But it is harshness filled with mercy. In hudood, it is not easy to implement a punishment. It is governed by numerous restrictions and strict

conditions, that if they cannot be fulfilled, then the case is dropped just like that. This applies to both the punishment of stoning due to fornication and capital punishment for apostasy.

Even though these two punishments are deemed heavy, one can still easily attain release from them. For the adultery offender, it is when he or she retracts his confession (iqraar).

And for the apostate, it is when he or she sincerely repents. With that, both cases are dropped, only through withdrawal of their confessions and sincere repentance.

From those perspectives, it clearly shows that punishment is not the objective for the criminal aspect of the Sharee 'ah, which covers hudood. This is because its legislation

emphasizes more on the effect of prevention rather than punishments imposed. In other words, punishment in Islam is an educational process and nurturing for the cleansing of the soul,

motivating one towards performing good deeds (instead of sinful deeds). This is the effect that is to be achieved through such legislation, which is the psychological effect.

With regard to stoning, cutting off the hand, and capital punishment, definitely they are horrifying. But is it not such gruesome consequences that will cause one to think a

thousand times before committing such crime? This is the effect of preventive measures from various levels of punishments. If minor, then minor would be its effect (gruesomeness), and if

major, then major would be its effect. This is the condition imposed by Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala in al-Qur'an in the case of cutting off the hand of which نَكَالاً مِّنَ الله which means

punishment from Allah. Is it befitting to deem the punishment of Allah as cruel, or truthfully who is the actual cruel one? In reality, that very cruelty will in the end return to one's own self.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala will not become more noble or less due to human actions, for Allah is The Most Rich, The Most Complete.

The lessons that can be derived from today's khutbah, among them: 1- The Muslim ummah must

strive to learn and comprehend the true meaning of *hudood*, so as to avoid any misunderstanding that can corrupt the 'aqeedah. 2- The Muslim ummah is obligated to abide by the laws decreed by Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala,

for prosperous living in this world and the Hereafter. 3- The Muslim *ummah* must have certainty in Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala who is The Most Knowledgeable and The Most Just in

determining all matters pertaining to regulations of human life, which is enriched with hikmah and full of rahmah. 4- The Muslim *ummah* must refrain from questioning the

laws of Allah without knowing the actual meaning and intent, so as to avoid the corruption of 'aqeedah, which will be punished in the Hereafter.

"The only statement of the [true] believers when they are called to Allah and His Messenger to judge between them is that they say, "We hear and we obey." And those are the successful." (an-Noor 24:51)



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

DI SEDIAKAN OLEH : BAHAGIAN KHUTBAH, JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

ILLUSTRASI OLEH:

UNIT TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT,

JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR