

prohibitions. May we become an ummah that is always bestowed with the Shade and Mercy of Allah in this world, and maghfirah (forgiveness) in the Hereafter.

Islam heavily emphasize on neighborly relations for it is part and parcel of the way of life in Islam. Hence, let us internalize upon this week's khutbah entitled:

## "How Are Your Neighbors?"

It is the nature of the human life that they would require mutual aid from each other. Of course, such aid and help

would be expected from those nearest to us. Aside from friends and relatives, those that are closest to us that play significant role in providing assistance are the neighbors.

We are obligated to secure good and friendly relation with our neighbors for it plays a significant role in ensuring community living that is safe and harmonious. It will also provide

facilitation, ease, tranquility, and a way out for any difficulty or problem. Hence, Islam stipulates that the neighbors also have their rights upon us that are to be fulfilled. Our neighbors must

be treated with respect and politeness just as how we would love our own family. It was narrated from Jaabir bin 'Abdillaah radiyAllaahu 'anh that Rasulullah عليه وسلم said:

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"Neighbors are of three kinds." Firstly, the neighbor who enjoys only one right (and as far as rights are concerned) he is of the lowest grade. Secondly, the one who enjoys two rights, and thirdly the neighbor who enjoys three rights"

(al-Bazzaar and Abu Nu'aym: da'eef)

The three categories of the neighbors' rights mentioned in the hadeeth are: 1. Neighbors entitled to

1. Neighbors entitled to one rights, namely the rights of neighbors only, for the non-Muslims and

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non-relatives. Neighbors entitled to two rights, namely the rights of neighbors and the rights of Islam, referring to the Muslims.

3. Neighbors entitled to three rights, namely the rights of neighbors, the rights of Islam, and the rights of kinship.

The role of the neighbors in our lives is truly great and undeniable, especially with the location of our residential area being in the urban area. Our homes that are only separated by the

concrete wall provide a solid argument (proof) that we are to preserve silaaturrahm (ties of brotherhood) amongst mankind. In fact, Islam solidifies the status of the neighbors by stipulating

that neighbors are those 40 homes in front of us, 40 homes behind us, and 40 homes on our right and left, as firmly stated by Prophet Muhammad

صلى الله عليه وسلم

Having good neighbors actually begins with us. We would greet them, aid each other, inquire about their well being, sharing food and provision whenever we have extra, and providing

assistance when they are afflicted with difficulties. Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh reported: Rasulullah صلى الله Said:

"... Let him who believes in Allah and the Last Day

be generous to his neighbor..."

(Agreed Upon)

In an atmosphere such as Malaysia where there is a diverse society with different ethnicities and faith, it is

very possible that our next-door neighbor is a non-Muslim. Therefore, this is the time for us to manifest the beauty of Islam with tolerance, cooperation, and personal characteristics as a

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Muslim that is always submissive and obedient to his religion. Actions that contradict the Shara' must be avoided so that the image of Islam will not be tarnished in their very eyes.

Therefore, time and career constraint is not an excuse for us to not exchange greetings in strengthening our brotherhood. Let us throw out our ego and selfishness for our neighbors

would be the ones that we truly need in times of difficulty. When faced with an emergency situation, unfortunately with the spouse working outstation and the relatives are too far

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away, while needing urgent help, definitely the aid of the neighbors are most welcomed. However, how would this actually happen if we have never even uttered a single word to our next-door

neighbor? In addition, the rights of respecting the neighbors includes not hurting them emotionally such as making loud noise in the night, including raising the

speakers' volume high that it is blasting out loud outside the mosque area during activities inside the mosque, that it disturbs the neighbors living nearby, except for the adhaan (call to prayer).

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Moreover, there are also those that are very passionate about karaoke that it becomes deafening to the ears, those cranking up their vehicle with loud exhaust noise, blocking

the pathway with their parked vehicles, leaving their pet animals' defecation to litter around that it suffocates the nose, and dumped waste that would cause diseases.

Narrated Abu Shurayh radiyAllaahu'anh: Rasulullah عليه وسلم said: "By Allah, he does not believe! By Allah, he does not believe! By Allah, he does not believe!"

It was said, "Who is that, O Allah's Messenger?" He said, "That person whose neighbor does not feel safe from his evil"

(al-Bukhaari)

Caring attitude towards the neighbors is a highly admirable culture. Laudable behavior such as accommodating, respectful, and pleasant speech such as greeting when seeing each

other are necessary elements in creating harmonious atmosphere amongst neighbors. The cordial relationship established will enable us to further interact with one another that we

become cooperative and open in accepting criticism. Hence, facilities that are to be shared can be utilized in the best manner. However, all these will not happen if we are still engrained with

selfishness and isolating ourselves just like "kera sumbang" (secluding oneself from others) or "enau dalam belukar melepaskan pucuk masingmasing"(lacking togetherness, everyone

in their own world). Therefore, let us altogether internalize and exercise open-mindedness, tolerance, understanding, forbearance, exchanging views, focusing on the commonalities, and

strengthening broken relationship with full wisdom and love. In short, the characteristics of a good neighbor is to always greet others, visiting others, lending a hand, and helping one another. On the contrary, avoid being

prejudice, jealousy, envy, slander, and others that would only ignite the flame of hatred and strife. Narrated Abu Dharr al-Ghifaari radiyAllaahu'anh: Rasulullah صلى الله said:

"... If you buy some meat or cook something in a pot, then increase its broth, and serve some of it to your neighbor" (at-Tirmidhi: hasan saheeh)

In another hadeeth, ibn 'Abbaas radiyAllaahu 'anhuma reported that Rasulullah صلى الله said: "A man is not a believer who fills his stomach while his neighbor is hungry"

(al-Bukhaari's al-Adab al-Mufrad: saheeh)

As such, the neighbors are so crucial in our lives that it is as if they would inherit from our rights and possession, as mentioned in the *hadeeth* of

ibn 'Umar radiyAllaahu 'anhuma where Rasulullah صلى الله Said: "Jibreel kept on recommending me about treating the neighbors in

a kind and polite manner,

so much so that I thought that he would order (me) to make them (my) heirs" (al-Bukhaari and Muslim) Furthermore, safeguarding the tongue from instigating, gossiping, and slander must

be duly emphasized for it is feared that they can severe the relationship amongst the neighbors and incurring Allah's Wrath. The Malay proverb goes "Kerana Pulut Santan Binasa,

Kerana Mulut Badan Binasa" (because of the sticky rice, the milk is perished; because of the tongue, the body is destroyed). Rasulullah مالىالله had even given an

explanation in this regard to a man who asked: "O Rasulullah! A certain woman prays in the night, fasts in the day, acts, and gives sadaqah, but injures her neighbors with her

tongue." The Messenger of Allah صلى الله said, "There is no good in her. She is one of the people of the Fire"

(ibn Hibbaan, al-Bazzaar, al-Haakim, Ahmad, al-Adab al-Mufrad: saheeh)

As precious gems to be taken and practiced after we complete today's Friday prayer, let us review the conclusion from this khutbah, namely:

The Muslim ummah must strengthen their silaaturrahm and expand their brotherhood amongst mankind including their fellow neighbors.

2. The Muslim ummah is forbidden from hurting the neighbors' feelings and avoid all negative traits.

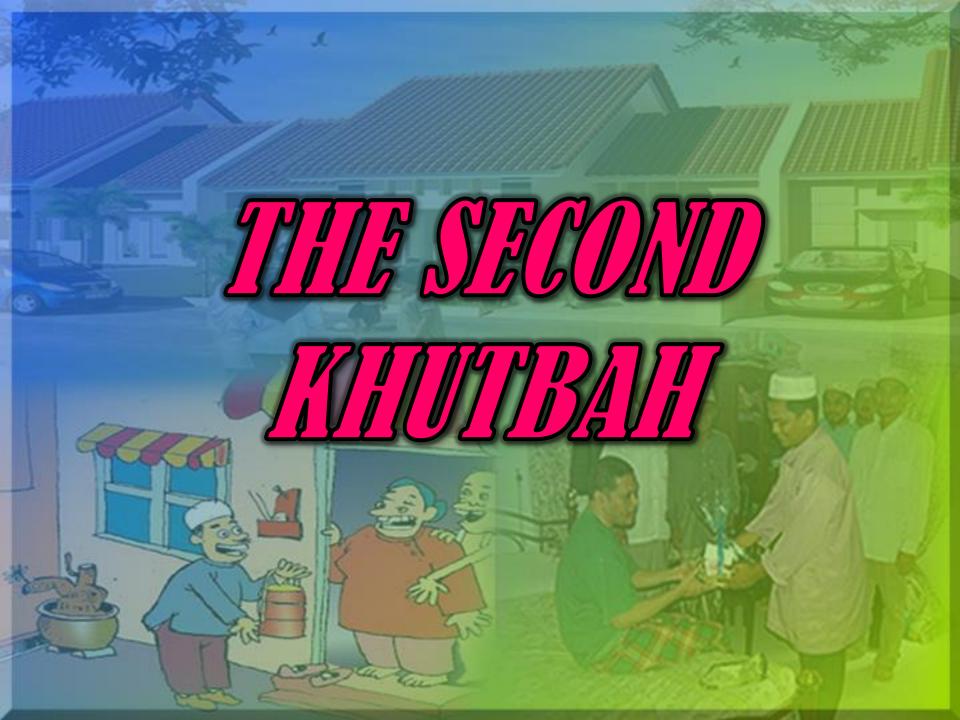
3. The Muslim umah must always project themselves and manifest the noble image of Islam to members of other faiths.

Thus, let us solidify the ukhuwwah (brotherhood) that has been constructed. Indeed, good neighbors are complement to the blissfulness and harmony that we currently enjoy.



"Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and to parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the neighbor farther away, the companion at your side, the traveler, and those whom your right hands possess. Indeed, Allah does not like those who are selfdeluding and boastful" (an-Nisaa' 4:36)

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْأَيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرَ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلاوَتُهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قُولِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغُورُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُوْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُوْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاعِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأُمْوَاتُ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيْمُ



Once again, I would like to remind all of us that Islam teaches its adherents to remain moderate in all actions and deeds. At the same time, the Muslims are to avoid any form of extremism in which its

consequences will only disrupt the harmony, unity, and security of the Muslim ummah and our nation. Extremism will only give negative impression upon the nobility and holiness of al-Islam. On the contrary, the Muslim

ummah must inculcate noble akhlaaq, having utmost personality and attitude as true Muslims so that the world will سلى الله مالاله know that Rasulullah عليه وسلم was sent down as a messenger, and Islam that was revealed is mercy



O Allah, You are the Lord that is All Mighty, we are grateful to You for having bestowed upon us rahmah and ni'mah, that we are able to continue the effort in empowering the Muslim ummah especially in Selangor, as an

advanced state, prosperous, and providing welfare.

Hence, we sincerely beseech you, O Allah, strengthen our imaan, accept our deeds, strengthen our unity, increase our rizq, enrich us with

beneficial knowledge, cultivate our soul with good mannerisms, return us to the path that you are pleased with, protect us from disasters and your severe trials, so that our nation will become more peaceful and filled with blessings.

O Allah, we sincerely beseech you, strengthen our beliefs according to the creed of Ahlus Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah, and protect us from deeds and 'ageedah that are astray such as the extreme Shee'is, Qadiyani, and other ideologies.

O Allah, open up our hearts in fulfilling the five daily prayers, performing zakaat, and other obligations. Bless those that have fulfilled their zakaat and loving the fugaraa' and masaakeen, and those that have

made waqfand gave up their wealth for Tabung Amanah Pembangunan Islam Selangor (Islamic Development Trust Fund of Selangor) with continuous reward until the Hereafter.

O Allah, increase and widen the rizg of those that made waqf from their wealth with perpetual rewards until the Last Day.



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