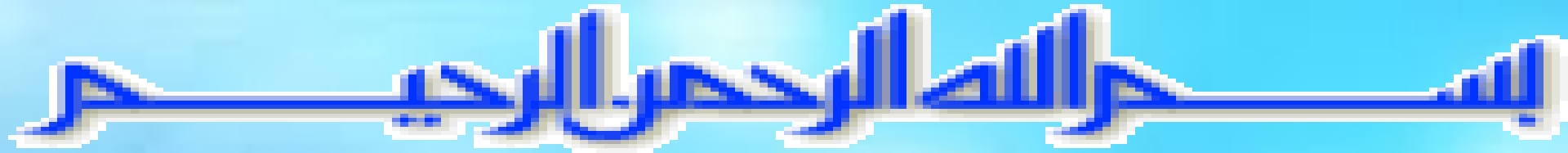




جَبَاتَانِ اِغَامَا اِسْلَامِ سِلَانْغُورِ  
JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

# ***THE MUSLIM UMMAH IS A READING NATION***





**Let us altogether strive in increasing our level of *taqwa* in the Sight of Allah with absolute *taqwa*, as commanded by Allah in our obedience to Him. It is only through**

the provision of *taqwa*  
that we will attain  
blissfulness and  
prosperity in our lives in  
this world and the  
Hereafter.

The *khutbah* today is titled ;

***“THE MUSLIM  
UMMAH IS A  
READING NATION.”***



Reading is the bridge to knowledge. Reading is a very good habit that must be practiced by everyone at all levels. Moreover, the first *wahy* (revelation) sent to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the

very command to read.  
This was mentioned in the  
first verse of soorah al-  
'Alaq:

***“Read! In the Name of  
your Lord, Who has  
created (all that exists).”***

**The Islamic civilization is known as the civilization of knowledge. This was manifested with the vast development of the Islamic civilization when the city of Baghdad became known as the**

**center of knowledge, in which it became the focus of the world with the gathering of scholars. Research and translation activities were robust that it led to the establishment of Bayt al-Hikmah as a**



**knowledge institution,  
founded by Caliph Haroon  
ar-Rasheed. Knowledge-  
based activities did not  
just revolve around the  
basic knowledge of  
Islam, but also a thorough  
process of the**

**Islamization of  
knowledge took place  
upon philosophical and  
scientific works into the  
Arabic language.**

**The richness of Islamic  
knowledge within various**

fields and sciences had caused Islam to expand in its influence through knowledge. Islam did not spread through violence as falsely attributed by the West. Islam spread through *akhlaaq* (good

conduct) and knowledge.  
This is parallel with al-  
Qur'an as the mother of  
all sciences that had  
transformed the lives of  
the ignorant (*jaahiliyyah*)  
Arabs into becoming  
noble people.

**Why is it today the Muslims are viewed as a nation that is no longer glorious like the previous Muslim *ummah*, aside from the war, colonization, and division factors?**

Among the reason is that the Muslim *ummah* is plagued with ignorance, due to lack of reading and interest in pursuing knowledge. When one does not read as much, how can his knowledge

increase? Do we not take lessons that the term al-Qur'an refers to something that is often read or recited?

Therefore, it behooves an *ummah* that is guided by al-Qur'an to also become

**a reading nation.**

**The latest interim  
research undertaken by  
the National Library of  
Malaysia discovered  
that reading habit**



**amongst Malaysians  
has increased.**

**In 2014, Malaysians  
were found to have read  
an average of 15 books  
per year!**

**Reading habit must be nurtured not just as a favorite practice and to fill one's past time, but it is as stated by a historian in Egypt, namely Dr Raghieb as-Sirjani, that reading is a necessity of**

life. This is because the life of a person who reads extensively is very different than a person who reads very little. If we are to change the world, then we have to change the humans whom

are its inhabitants. To  
change the humans, then  
instill knowledge into  
them. This can be  
derived as a lesson from  
the *hadeeth* of Prophet  
Muhammad صلى الله  
عليه وسلم

narrated by Mu'aawiyah  
ibn Abi Sufyaan  
*radiyAllaahu 'anh,*  
where the Prophet صلى الله  
عليه وسلم  
said:

***“When Allah wishes good for anyone, He bestows upon him the fiqh (comprehension) of the religion.”***

***(al-Bukhaari and Muslim)***

**As such, the basic understanding that must be developed is the comprehension of religious affairs, for religion is the core of life. Therefore, reading is one of the essential and**

**significant steps in  
increasing the level of  
religious  
comprehension that  
must be imbued within  
the life of the Muslim  
*ummah.***



To end this *khutbah*, I would like to outline several important matters to be acted upon by all of us, namely:

**1. The Muslim *ummah* must have full certainty that al-Qur'an is the true guidance for life and it must be read at all times.**

**2. The Muslim *ummah* should embrace the habit of reading as part of its culture in life.**

**3. The Muslim *ummah* must increase its reading upon beneficial materials so as to solidify the level of knowledge upon individuals and the *ummah*.**

***“Read! In the Name  
of your Lord, Who  
has created (all that  
exists) - created man  
from a clot. Read!  
And your Lord is the***

***Most Generous, Who  
has taught (the  
writing) by the pen.  
Taught man that  
which he knew not.”***

***(al-‘Alaq 96:1-5)***



***THE SECOND  
KHUTBAH***



**Once again, I would like to remind all of us to always have the *taqwa* of Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* and realize that Islam teaches us to remain moderate in every actions and**





**deeds. As Muslims, we are to manifest noble *akhlaaq*, having utmost personality and attitude for Rasulullah ﷺ was sent to perfect *akhlaaq* and as mercy for the entire mankind and the worlds. Therefore, let us**



**always increase our *salawaat*  
and *salaam* upon our Prophet  
Muhammad صلى الله  
عليه وسلم . Allah  
*Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala*  
mentions:**



***“Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.” (al-Ahzaab 33:56)***



**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*, as an advanced state,**



**prosperous and providing welfare, under the auspices and leadership of our Ruler as the Head of Islamic affairs in this state.**



**Hence, we sincerely beseech  
You, O Allah, strengthen our  
*imaan* and creed according to  
that of *Ahl as-Sunnah wal-  
Jamaa'ah*, accept our righteous  
deeds, cultivate our soul with  
good mannerisms, unite our**



**hearts, bestow upon us *rizq* with blessings, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, protect us from disasters and save us from teachings that are outside the fold of Islam such as *Qadiyaani*, deviant teachings such as**



***Shee'ah*, and other teachings deemed as deviating from Islamic teachings or contradicting the creed of *Ahl as-Sunnah wal-Jamaa'ah*. 0 Allah, open up our hearts in performing the five daily**





**prayers, fulfilling *zakaat*  
through the Selangor *Zakaat*  
Board, making *waqf* and *infaaq*  
of our wealth to Selangor *Waqf*  
Corporation and Islamic  
Development Trust Fund of  
Selangor.**



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