



"LIVING HARMONIOUSLY WITHIN A PLURAL SOCIETY."

In conjunction with the noble day of Friday, I remind myself and fellow blessed congregation to strive our utmost in increasing

له الرحمر الرحيـ

our taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala by fulfilling all of His **Commands and avoiding** all of His prohibitions. May Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala bless our lives with ni'mah (bounties),

tawfeeq (aid), and hidaayah (guidance) that is everlasting, and that we attain salvation in this world and the Hereafter.

Today, I would like to invite fellow audience to internalize upon a *khutbah* (sermon) titled

"LIVING HARMONIOUSLY WITHIN A PLURAL SOCIETY."

Before proceeding with the khutbah, I would like to remind fellow audience upon the reminder of Rasulullah difference that we are to give our full undivided attention to the khutbah that is being delivered.

Let us not speak and indulge in idle matters, including using our mobile phone while the khateeb is delivering the khutbah.

Verily, the diversity of ethnicity and way of life, difference in opinion, and cultural clash amongst mankind is from the fitrah (natural disposition) of the creation of mankind itself. Such diversity must

be governed and administered in an intelligent manner. This is the great challenge in which the failure to preserve such diversity leads to conflict and war.

Diversity in ethnicity and culture is actually important for the wellbeing of this earth. When they are combined with the spirit of mutually aiding one another, tolerance, and sacrificing for the nation's success, then human lives will remain peaceful and prosperous.

Therefore, Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala* reminds us to live on

earth with harmony, helping and respectful of one another, and celebrating diversity. **Islam prohibits mankind** to distinguish one another based on race, lineage, and skin color.

On the contrary, Islam evaluates one's nobility based on the level of imaan (faith) and taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala. This is clearly mentioned in al-Qur'an in verse 13 of **Soorah al-Hujuraat:**

"O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another.

Indeed, the most noble of you in the Sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted."

This verse explains that even though a Muslim may hail from various ethnicity, the reality is that they are all one ummah (nation), equal and brethren, firmly tied by the bond of tawheed

(monotheism) that is sacred and significant in the Sight of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala without diminishing one's ethnic identity by a tiny bit. This was proven when Sayyidina Abu Bakr

as-Siddeeq who is from the Arabs, Bilaal bin **Rabah from the** Abyssinians, Salman al-Faarisi from the Persians, and Suhayb from the **Romans were all united** as one Muslim ummah

that is upright due to their *imaan* and Islam.

Indeed, diversity in ethnicity and nation amongst mankind is not an obstacle in living

united. Islam affirms that differences are a reality that is waajib (obligatory) to be accepted and viewed in a positive light. **Every creation of Allah** Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala has its own

hikmah (wisdom) and benefit. What is important is that ethnic diversity and cultural differences must be dealt with intelligently and with wisdom, consistent with human nature that is in

need of each other.

Considering the human fitrah with cultural variety and ethnic diversity, Islam has outlined several ways to accelerate unity and relationship. Among them:

First: We must identify the commonalities and guard the limits of dispute whenever there arise differences. For example, all nations love mutual aiding of one another, preserving one's honor,

and friendliness. So, let us trigger such environment for it can unite the hearts of mankind and create harmony.

Second: We must become individuals that initiate the culture of smiling and spreading salaam (greeting) to anyone that we encounter. It is a special kalimah (words) that is to be disseminated

and spread according to Islamic teachings, which loves peace and harmony. Such was the advice of to the end of the prophet of the to the Ansaar and Muhaajireen, when he is first arrived in Madeenah, as mentioned

by 'Abdullah bin Salaam *radiyAllaahu 'anh*, stating:

"When the Rasulullah (Weild) arrived in al-Madeenah, the people came out to meet him.

It was said that Rasululah (and) had arrived, so I went among the people to get a look at him. When I gazed upon the face of the Messenger of Allah,

I knew that this face was not the face of a liar. The first thing that he spoke about was that he said: 'O you people! Spread the salaam, feed (others),

and perform salaah while the people are sleeping; you will enter Paradise with (the greeting of) salaam.""

(at-Tirmidhi)

It must be known that a diverse society is nothing new within the Muslim world. A plural society has existed for many centuries. It cannot be denied factually that mankind lived in peace

when ruled by a just ruler on earth. Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala firmly asserted that harmony can only exist when the nation's **leadership is committed** to uphold justice and

equality that are espoused within Islamic teachings. Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala mentions in verse 8 of Soorah al-Maa'idah:

"O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being

just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do."

Based on this verse, it is very clear that upholding justice is greatly demanded in Islam. **Justice that is meant is** not equality as espoused by the West, but justice according to Islam is

granting rights upon those deserving of it.

Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala has commanded us to be compassionate and

humane upon those that are weak and in need of assistance.

To end the *khutbah* this time, I would like to implore and invite the

entire Muslim ummah to internalize upon the following lessons so as to serve as quidance in our lives:

1. The Muslim ummah must have certainty that the creation of different nations and ethnicities truly manifests the greatness of Allah, for us to know one another.

2. The Muslim ummah must remain respectful of one another though living amongst diverse ethnicity in attaining harmonious living.

3. It is waajib upon the Muslim ummah to strive in spreading the truthfulness and justice of Islam to all walks of life that are comprised of various ethnicities and nations.

"And We have not sent you except comprehensively to mankind as a bringer of good tidings and a warner. But most of the people do not know." (Sabaa' 34:28)





Once again, I would like to remind all of us to always have the taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala and diligently indulge in righteous deeds, as well as manifesting the akhlaag of Rasulullah



Furthermore, let us always increase our salawaat and salaam upon our Prophet Muhammad مَالتَّالِيَّهِ. 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 barakah upon this state, which continues to remain advanced and prosperous, with its residents



united 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, and protect us from teachings that are outside the fold of Islam such as Qadiyaani



and deviant teachings such as Shee'ah. O Allah, Ya Rahmaan, Ya Raheem, unite our hearts, bestow upon us rizq with blessings, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, protect us from calamities. O Allah,



bestow upon us guidance in performing the five daily prayers in congregation, fulfilling zakaat through Lembaga Zakat Selangor (Selangor Zakaat Board), making waqf and infaaq of our



wealth to Perbadanan Wakaf Negeri Selangor (Selangor Waqf Corporation), and Tabung Amanah Pembangunan Islam **Selangor** (Islamic Development **Trust Fund of Selangor).**

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