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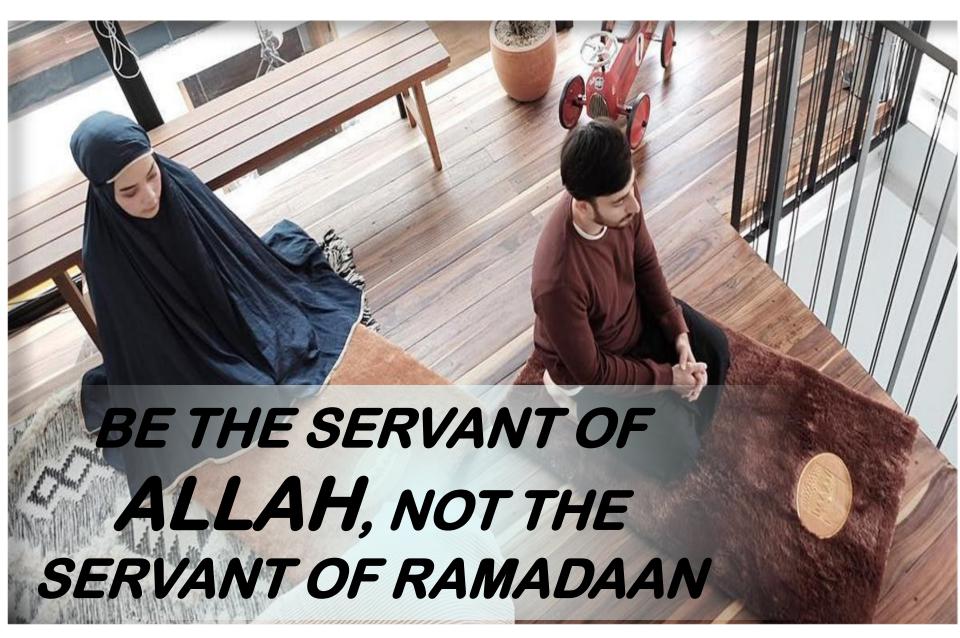
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Let us altogether strive to increase our taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala by performing all of His Commands and avoiding all of His

prohibitions. May our deeds in the previous month of Ramadaan and now in Shawwaal are all accepted by Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala.

The title of the Friday sermon (khutbah) this time is



Today, it has been 16 days since Ramadaan had left us. Are we continuing with those righteous deeds that we used to do in Ramadaan? Or do we perform 'ibaadah (worship) only

for the month of Ramadaan? Righteous deeds are commands from Allah that are to be performed at all times, be it Ramadaan, Shawwaal, or other months.

Verily, Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala loves His servants whom are obedient to Him at all times. Verily, Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala commands us to become servants that only

worship Him Alone at all times. Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala mentions in verse 79 of soorah Aal-'Imraan, as recited earlier in the khutbah, which means:

"Be pious scholars of the Lord (Rabbaaniyyeen) because of what you have taught of the Scripture and because of what you have studied."

The knowledge and fasting that we practiced in the month of Ramadaan had further strengthened us in increasing our 'ibaadah, hastening to seize the rewards, and increase

our love for Allah. The question begs, are we able to maintain the sweetness of 'ibaadah even though the Ramadaan atmosphere has gone? If we truly worship Allah Alone,

then we will be able to maintain these 'ibaadah. We worship solely because it is the decree of Allah and purely seeking His Pleasure, not based on certain times and solely seeking the

virtue of Ramadaan.

Is it befitting for us as the slaves of Allah to take lighty or even abandon **His Commandments** whether in the month of

Ramadaan or other months, such as the command to perform the obligatory prayers. Verily, salaah (prayer) is an ordainment from Allah that develop slaves having taqwa and as

the cause for goodness. Salaah can also maintain the conferment of rahmah (mercy) and love from Allah upon His slaves.

However, if salaah is neglected, then vile and evil acts will spread, which definitely incur calamities in the form of disease outbreak that will be difficult to curb and in the end it becomes the

cause for universal destruction. On the contrary, if the 'ibaadah of salaah is preserved, Allah will grant sound heart, blessed wealth, and healthy body.

Indeed, the fulfillment of Allah's Commands is for one to become a true servant of Allah, and not the servant of Ramadaan. Whatever that have been decreed by Allah, fulfill them with ikhlaas (sincerity)

and honesty. May Allah keep us away from any misfortune, and instead bestow upon us blissfulness, victory, and Paradise. As Allah mentions in verse 30 of soorah Fussilat:

"Indeed, those who have said, "Our Lord is Allah" and then remained on a right course - the angels will descend upon them, [saying], "Do not fear and do not grieve but receive good tidings of Paradise, which you were promised.""

In coincidence with Teacher's Day that took place on the 16th of May, 2021, today's khutbah will also touch upon the significance for the Muslim ummah to seek and attain knowledge.

In becoming true servants of Allah, it behooves the Muslim ummah to master the knowledge of this world and the Hereafter, so as to produce servants of Allah whom are solid

in 'aqeedah, precise in 'ibaadah, and virtuous in akhlaaq (character). Islam place knowledge as the very essence for life in attaining success in this world and salvation in the Hereafter.

Without knowledge, the Muslim ummah will remain behind and inflicted with all sorts of miseries. Hence, Islam obligates all Muslims to seek knowledge. In today's context,

according to the nation's needs, we are in need of a generation that is knowledgeable in various fields, having firm imaan (belief), and possessing utmost personality like that of a teacher.

In reality, a teacher is one who has knowledge, nobility, and elevated in rank by Allah. Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala explains in verse 11 of soorah al-Mujaadalah:

"Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees. And Allah is Acquainted with what you do."

The hadeeth that mentions the superiority of the knowledgeable servant of Allah is in the narration of Abu ad-Dardaa' radiyAllaahu 'anh, where the Prophet said:

"The superiority of the learned man over the devout is like that of the moon, on the night when it is full, over the rest of the stars."

(Abu Dawood)

The story of Prophet Moosa and Prophet Khidr 'alayhim as-salaam recorded in al-Qur'an through Soorah al-Kahf, verses 66 until 82, depicts the excellence of knowledge of a teacher

and the beauty in akhlaaq of a student. Therefore, exemplify the true 'ageedah, istiqaamah (steadfastness) in 'ibaadah, and excellent akhlaaq from amongst the Prophets, scholars,

and righteous teachers, in becoming true servant of Allah at all times. May Allah bestow rahmah upon all of us with overflowing blessings of happiness and security in this world and the Hereafter.

To end the khutbah today, let us internalize its lessons in serving as a guide for us all. Among them are the following:

1. The Muslim ummah must become servants of Allah that worships and prays to Allah Alone at all times.

2. The Muslim ummah must perform 'ibaadah with ikhlaas purely seeking Allah's Pleasure, not because of time preference or virtue of a particular deed.

3. The Muslim ummah must have knowledge and noble akhlaaq in becoming true slaves of Allah, just like the Prophets, scholars, and righteous teachers.

4. The Muslim ummah must always supplicate especially after the obligatory prayers, in remaining faithful and performing righteous deeds, with the du'aa (supplication) that Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala mentions in verse 8 of soorah Aal-'Imraan:

"Our Lord, let not our hearts deviate after You have guided us and grant us from Yourself mercy. Indeed, You are the Bestower."

(Soorah Aal-'Imraan 3:8)

THE SECOND KHUTBAH

Once more, I would like to remind all of us to always have the tagwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala by guarding ourselves and our families from abominable deeds and disobedience against

Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala. At the same time, we will continue to pray so that our country will always remain blessed and protected from all forms of threat, as well as contagions from the Covid-19

pandemic. For that, let us graciously accept the government's recommendation by registering ourselves through the MySejahtera application in order to obtain vaccine shots that have been

authorized by the Ministry of Health Malaysia.

May we become among the slaves of Allah that are patient while enduring all diseases

afflicted, and disciplined in adhering to the Standard **Operating Procedures (SOP)** and the new normal practices in overcoming the Covid-19 pandemic, for the sake of our own safety and the community.

Let us altogether increase our salawaat upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad as Allah has commanded:

O Allah, You are the Lord that is All Mighty, we are grateful to You for having bestowed upon us rahmah and blessings upon this state that continues to prosper and progress, and that its residents remain united,

under the auspices and leadership of our Ruler as the Head of Islamic affairs in this state.

O Allah, make us among Your slaves whom are always exalting Your Word and Religion. Keep us away from groups and those that like to criticize, curse, and insult Your Religion.

O Allah, grant us guidance in performing the five obligatory prayers in congregation, fulfilling zakaat through Selangor Zakaat Board (LZS), and give away our wealth and endowment (waqf) through

Perbadanan Wakaf Selangor (Selangor Endowment Corporation) and Tabung Infak Jariah Umat Islam Selangor (TIJARI, Selangor Continuous Charity for Muslims Fund),

and to the orphans through Darul Ehsan Islamic Foundation (YIDE).

