“HEADING TOWARDS AL-BARZAKH”

Dear blessed Muslims,

Let us altogether strive to increase our taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta’ala with full certainty and sincerity. Let us fulfill all of the commands of Allah and avoid all of His prohibitions. May we all become among the muttaqoon, whom attains the blessings and pleasure of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta’ala in this world and the Hereafter.

On this noble day that is full of blessings, let us fully focus and divert our attention to a khutbah titled “HEADING TOWARDS AL-BARZAKH.”

As an ummah having belief and subscribing to al-Qur’an al-Hadeeth, as well as the ‘aqeedah of Ahl as-Sunnah wal-Jamaa’ah, it is waajib (obligatory) for us to have belief that life, death, and life after death will surely take place. Every human being will definitely experience them. Whether young or old, our age is not a question, for we will all die eventually. No matter how healthy a person is, no matter how much authority one may have, human beings will die and leave this mortal world. When death or the time of death has arrived, it will occur no matter where one may be. This is as it was stated by Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta’ala in verse 78 of soorah an-Nisaa’:

أيَّمَّا يَأْتُوكُمْ يُدْرِكْكُمُ الْمَوْتُ وَلَوْ كَتَمْنِى فِي بُروْجٍ مُشْيَدَةٍ...

"Wherever you may be, death will overtake you, even if you should be within towers of lofty construction..."

Dear respected Muslims,

When the soul is separated from the body or when death occurs, it marks the transition from the worldly life to the life of al-barzakh or life in the grave. It is the realm that is between the life of the world and the Hereafter, before we are resurrected and gathered at al-Mahshaar. The realm of al-barzakh is also the first stage from among the stages of the Hereafter. This is as mentioned in the hadeeth of ‘Uthmaan ibn ‘Affaan radiyAllaahu ‘anh where Rasulullah ﷺ said:

1 al-Jumu’ah 62:8
"Indeed the grave is the first stage among the stages of the Hereafter. So if one is saved from it, then what comes after it is easier than it. And if one is not saved from it, then what comes after it is worse than it."

(at-Tirmidhi)

Know that when the body is placed in the grave, two angels, namely Munkar and Nakeer, will appear and ask several questions. This is the first trial that is known as fitnah al-qabr or the trial of the grave. Whoever succeeds in this trial will attain its bounties, and whoever fails will earn the punishment of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta’ala. This is what is known as the bounties and punishments of the grave.

From various narrations of Rasulullah ﷺ collected by Imaams al-Bukhaari, Muslim, at-Tirmidhi, and Abu Dawood, among the bounties in the life of the grave are:

1. Carpets from Paradise are laid out.
2. Given clothes from Paradise.
3. The gates leading to Paradise are opened.
4. Beautiful scent of musk from Paradise.
5. The grave is expanded by 70 cubits.
6. Light illuminating the grave.
7. Sound asleep until the Day of Resurrection.

And among the punishments of the grave are:

1. Carpets from Hellfire are laid out.
2. Given clothes from Hellfire.
3. The gates leading to Hellfire are opened.
4. Filled with intense heat of Hellfire.
5. Beaten between the two ears.
6. Squeezed by the earth until the ribs are crushed.

Dear blessed audience,

Verily, the bounties in the grave are for those that are obedient to Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta’ala, while the punishments of the grave are for those who disobeyed Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta’ala, and it will all remain until the Last Day.

This was explained in the hadeeth of ibn ‘Umar radhiAllaahu ‘anhumaa where Rasulullah ﷺ said:

“When anyone of you dies, he is shown his place both in the morning and in the evening. If he is one of the people of Paradise; he is shown his place in it, and if he is from the people of the Hell-Fire; he is shown his place therein. Then it is said to him, ‘This is your place till Allah resurrect you on the Day of Resurrection.’”

(al-Bukhaari)
Dear blessed audience,

Whatever the case may be, the delights and punishments in the realm of *al-barzakh* or the grave will surely happen, and every one of us will certainly experience it. Therefore, we as believers must have full certainty upon its truth and begin preparing with preparations that will aid us in attaining the bounties of the grave, as well as avoiding its punishments. We must increase our righteous deeds, for it is among the things that will remain with us in the grave.

In the *hadeeth* of Anas bin Maalik *radiyAllaahu ‘anh*, Rasulullah *peace and tranquility be upon him* said:

“When carried to his grave, a dead person is followed by three, two of which return (after his burial) and one remains with him: his relative, his property, and his deeds follow him; relatives and his property return while his deeds remain with him.”

*(al-Bukhaari)*

Among the righteous deeds that can aid one in gaining the delights of the grave are: *sadaqah jaariyah* (continuous charity), knowledge that is beneficial, and supplications from righteous offspring. This is as mentioned in the *hadeeth* of Abu Hurayrah *radiyAllaahu ‘anh* where Rasulullah *peace and tranquility be upon him* stated:

“When a person dies, his deeds come to an end, except for three: A continuous charity, knowledge by which people derive benefit, and a pious son who supplicates for him.”

*(Muslim)*

Respected Muslims,

Righteous deeds that can help in warding off the punishments of the grave are: obligatory prayers, fasting, *zakaat*, and good deeds performed. These deeds will serve as fortress and savior for the deceased from the punishments of the grave.

Hence, take heed and hasten to perform righteous deeds as provisions to accompany us to the life of *al-barzakh*, for death can occur at any time, regardless during our young or old age, whether we are healthy or sick, at times of ease or difficulty, no matter where we are. Therefore, let us not become heedless and procrastinate in increasing our *‘ibaadah* (worship).

It is only befitting that we increase the realization and penitence within our soul that we will all die and dwell in *al-barzakh* or the grave. Take heed upon the events that had occurred upon our deceased colleagues and brethren as a reminder, lesson, and conviction for us to hasten in preparing ourselves and accumulate adequate righteous deeds as provision in facing death which is imminent. Be aware that the realm of *al-barzakh* always remains with its gates wide open, awaiting and welcoming our arrival.
“The Fire, they are exposed to it morning and evening. And the Day the Hour appears [it will be said], “Make the people of Pharaoh enter the severest punishment.””

(Ghaafir 40:46)
THE SECOND KHUTBAH

Dear blessed audience,

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 ﷺ. 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 especially in the state of Selangor, 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 deviant teachings such as Shee’ah, Qadiyaani, and other teachings deemed as deviating from Islamic teachings or contradicting the creed of Ahl as-Sunnah wal-Jamaa’ah. O Allah, open up our hearts in performing the five daily prayers, 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).

ربيّنا هبّ لنا من أزوّجنا وذرّينتنا فرّة أُعَيْنِ وأجَعِلْنا لِلطُّقيِّينِ إِمَامًا. رُبِّيّنا أَءِتَانَا في أَلْدُنَا حَسْنَةً وِفِي أَلْجُرَةِ حَسْنَةً وَقِفْنَا عَذَابَ الْمَتْنَارِ،

غُفِّرَ لَنَا اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ لَا مَّعْدُودًا وَلَا حَسَنًا إِنَّا ذَيَّ النَّقُورِ وِيْنَعِي عِنْ النَّفْحَاةَ،

وَالْمَنَصِّرِ وَالْبَيْنِيّ يَغْطَكُمُ عِلْمُكُمْ تَذَكَّرُوهُ،

فَأَذْكُوْلا اللَّهُ الْغَفِّرُ، يَذَكُّرُكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعْمَتِهِ، يَرَّدُكُمْ، وَاسْتَلْوُهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ، يَغْطَكُمْ وَلَدُّكُمْ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرْ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنِعُونَ.

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