

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَكُلُوا مِمَّا رَزَقَكُمُ اللَّهُ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي أَنْتُمْ بِهِ  
مُؤْمِنُونَ .

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَا أَكَلَ أَحَدٌ طَعَامًا قَطُّ خَيْرًا مِنْ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ مِنْ عَمَلِ يَدِهِ.

## HALAL EARNING AND SWEAT OF THE BROW Honorable Muslims!

One day, one of Prophet Muhammad's poor companions from Madinah whom he helped many times went to him again. Nothing except a piece of cloth and a glass had he at his home. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) asked him to bring them to him. Later, he sold them to somebody there at two dirhams. Then he advised his companion, **"Buy food with one of the dirhams and hand it to your family, and buy an axe, go gather firewood and sell it."** The poor companion heeded his advice, and for many days thereafter he gathered and sold firewood. With the money he earned, he was able to buy a few pieces of clothings and some food for his family. Now he was able to stand on his own feet and earn his family's livelihood. Seeing this, Prophet Muhammad said, **"This is better for you than that begging should come as a spot on your face on the Day of Judgment."**<sup>1</sup>

### Dear Believers!

Islam disapproves laziness, irresponsibility, and unearned income. It wants all people to earn by putting in efforts and by the sweat of the brow. This is referred to in the following hadith of Prophet Muhammad, **"No person has eaten better food than that which was bought from the wages which his own hands toiled."**<sup>2</sup>

### Dear Muslims!

Islam invites us to halal and clean blessings of Allah (swt). It commands us to avoid from what is haram and evil. It directs us to what is halal in eating, drinking, dressing, shopping, working, in short, all spheres of life. This is because halal and haram denote the boundaries set out by Allah the Almighty (hudud Allah). Respecting these boundaries make people peaceful in this world and happy in the Hereafter.

Islam forbids all unlawful and illegitimate means of earning that disregard the principles of law and morals, and disrupt the unity and order of

the society. In this regard, one day the Prophet Muhammad (saw) was passing by a heap of wheat for sale in the Madinah market, he thrust his hand in that heap and his fingers got moistened, and thereupon he warned the seller, **"Why did you not place the drenched part of the heap over the others so that the people could see it? He who deceives us is not one of us."**<sup>3</sup>

### Dear Believers!

It is stated in the Holy Qur'an, **"And eat of what Allah has provided for you [which is] lawful and good. And fear Allah, in whom you are believers."**<sup>4</sup> Muslims are committed to Allah (swt) by heart. They obey the commandments of Him (swt). They stay away from His prohibitions. They earn their livelihood through legitimate means. They regard their job as something entrusted to them with heavy responsibility. They know that they can obtain abundance of divine blessings through halal earning. The prescription of salvation for human is being contented with halal. The only turn to be taken through haram is towards frustration.

### Dear Muslims!

Unfortunately, shortcut and effortless earning is shown as a success today. However, supposing that one makes profit by ignoring the rights of others and causing damage to the public property is actually a loss. It never complies with our faith to obtain unlawful income through deceiving other people. What falls upon Muslims is to be contented with the income earned by the sweat of the brow and work hard to earn their livelihood through halal means. Effort is from Muslims and sustenance is from Allah (swt). He never leaves unanswered any effort put in to obtain His consent.

### Honorable Believers!

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) says, **20 People! Fear Allah and ask for your livelihood from Him beautifully. No person will die without getting what Allah has provided for them. Then, fear Allah and ask for your livelihood from Him beautifully. Take what is halal, and leave what is haram."**<sup>5</sup>

Let us heed this advice of the Messenger of Allah (saw) and want halal livelihood from Allah (swt). Let us earn through halal means and spend in halal ways, and be moderate in our spending. Let us not forget that a portion of food earned by the sweat of the brow will bring peace to our homes and barakah to our lives.

<sup>1</sup> Abu Dawud, Zakat, 26.

<sup>2</sup> Bukhari, Buyu', 15.

<sup>3</sup> Muslim, Iman, 164.

<sup>4</sup> Ma'idah, 5/88.

<sup>5</sup> Ibn Majah, Tijarah, 2.