



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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The Role Of Muslims In Development

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْمَلِكِ الْحَقِّ الْمُبِينِ الَّذِي أَبَانَ لِعِبَادِهِ مِنْ آيَاتِهِ مَا
بِهِ عِبْرَةٌ لِلْمُعْتَبِرِينَ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ
لَهُ إِلَهَ الْأَوَّلِينَ وَالْآخِرِينَ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ
وَرَسُولَهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا
مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا . أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا
عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Respected Friday Jemaah,

All praises be to Allah for the blessing of iman and peace that we enjoy. Let us do our best to ensure we guard our taqwa to Allah s.w.t. Hopefully with the blessing of taqwa, Allah s.w.t. will shower upon us more mercy and serenity in our lives.

My brothers,

The past few weeks, we have been reminded that among the spiritual values that we desire are those that will make us more confident to face the various challenges in this modern world, and at the same time bring about a sense of tranquillity in us.

This will help us to manage life's pressures and improve our relationship with other people. In addition to that, a strong sense of spirituality and taqwa will motivate a Muslim to continue to grow and develop as encouraged by the religion in various areas of life: at the levels of individual, family, community and nation.

Beloved jemaah,

We should be grateful that we live in an environment that supports and nurtures such development. In a peaceful environment, with stability and progress in many sectors, we are able to develop the community and at the same time, contribute to nation building.

Alhamdulillah, we have been able to raise our families and fulfil our religious life well. But this does not mean we do not face any challenges or problems. We cannot deny that there are still many areas that need to be improved, which require the community to come together and work hand in hand, so that we can make strides in achieving excellence not just in this world, but the hereafter. However, as we work toward achieving excellence we need to bear in mind the need for wisdom or hikmah in planning our steps to ensure we will attain an outcome that is positive and beneficial for the entire community.

As discussed in previous sermons, problems and challenges should not be seen as impediments that weaken our confidence

and erode our spirit of Islam. Just look at the life of Rasulullah s.a.w., where the Prophet, despite facing strong opposition in Makkah, did not immediately wish to leave his city of birth. When he left Makkah, Rasulullah s.a.w. said, as reported by Imam At-Tirmidzi and Ibnu Hibban in his sahih: *“There is no city better than, and which I love more (than Makkah), if not for my people chasing me out of you, I would not live anywhere else.”*

This is indeed the firm confidence of a believer (mukmin), who continues to strive to display kindness through his actions with wisdom and prudence, until finally, people begin to appreciate his existence and respect his views. With a strong sense of spirituality, we are confident that we can continue to contribute to the harmony and development of our country, without disregarding the commands of Allah and His Messenger.

There are two principles that will help us to achieve these objectives. The first and main principle is to express gratitude for all the blessings bestowed upon us by doing more welfare and charity work for the community.

Imam Al-Ghazali once gave a beautiful illustration on the nature of gratitude. A person who is truly grateful is similar to a person who, upon receiving a horse from his king, is so happy that the king is attentive to his wants, that he immediately uses the horse to serve the king in order to attain a special position in the eyes of the king. This is the nature of gratitude, said Imam al-

Ghazali. That is, when we receive a blessing from Allah s.w.t., no matter in what form, we utilise it to serve others and to do good, which will eventually lead us to be granted the pleasure and love of Allah s.w.t.

For example, the gift of health can be used to perform acts of worship and kindness. The blessing of wealth and talent can be used to help people in need. All these with the hope that Allah s.w.t. will look at us and raise our standing in His sight.

The second principle, my dear Brothers, is to always be wise in making the best choice, taking into account all considerations and challenges that may arise in the complex issues we face in today's context. Our instincts may naturally make us more inclined to choices that can achieve instant results, but sometimes haste does not yield the best outcomes. In life, success does not happen overnight. There is no short and easy way to attain success. Let us reflect upon what Allah s.w.t. says in surah Fussilat verse 34-35:

وَلَا تَسْتَوِ الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي
يُبْغِضُكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ ﴿٣٤﴾ وَمَا يُلْقِيهَا إِلَّا الَّذِينَ
صَبَرُوا وَمَا يُلْقِيهَا إِلَّا ذُو حِظٍّ عَظِيمٍ ﴿٣٥﴾

Which means: *“And not equal are the good deed and the bad. Repel [evil] by that [deed] which is better; and thereupon the one whom between you and him is enmity [will become] as*

though he was a devoted friend. But none is granted it except those who are patient, and none is granted it except one having a great portion [of good].”

Beloved jemaah,

Let us remind ourselves of this guideline that Allah s.w.t. has provided us in achieving goodness. When we apply it in the context of living in a community, it means we have to increase cooperation and mobilise our efforts toward more acts of kindness. Ensure that we leverage on the peaceful and harmonious living that we are blessed with in Singapore, to further enhance our spirituality and iman. Make use of this peaceful environment to portray the beauty of Islam and its people, through kind interactions and the spirit of helping those in need. Ensure that our children continue to progress in this country’s excellent educational system. Equipped with a strong sense of Islamic spirituality and skills to succeed in life, they will grow to become contributing Muslims who radiate blessings to all. That is how we can show our gratitude to Allah s.w.t. for the blessings that He has showered upon us. Our hope is that we will be deemed worthy to receive Allah’s mercy and forgiveness, as recorded in the Quran in Surah Saba verse 15:

بَلَدَةٌ طَيِّبَةٌ وَرَبٌّ غَفُورٌ

Which means: “A good land [have you], and a forgiving Lord.”

Hopefully, as people of faith and taqwa which invoke us to always be kind and benefit humankind, our country will continue to prosper with the blessings of harmony and peace , in line with what Allah s.w.t. says in the Noble Quran in Surah Al-‘Araf verse 96:

وَلَوْ أَنَّ أَهْلَ الْقُرَىٰءِ آمَنُوا وَاتَّقَوْا لَفَتَحْنَا عَلَيْهِم بَرَكَاتٍ مِّنَ
السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَلَٰكِن كَذَّبُوا فَأَخَذْنَاهُم بِمَا كَانُوا يَكْسِبُونَ ﴿٩٦﴾

Which means: “And if only the people of the cities had believed and feared Allah, we would have opened upon them blessings from the heaven and the earth; but they denied [the messengers], so we seized them for what they were earning.”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ
الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.