



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Remembering The Prophet s.a.w. – Appreciating The

Meaning of Love and Blessings

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، الَّذِي بَعَثَ مُحَمَّدًا بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا
وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا
شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ
وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، صَلَاةً
وَسَلَامًا دَائِمِينَ مُتَلَازِمِينَ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ،
إِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيْ وَنَفْسِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Blessed Friday jemaah,

Let us unite our hearts as we strive together to boost our taqwa to Allah s.w.t. by obeying all of His commands and abstaining from His prohibitions. May Allah s.w.t. grant us firmness in our faith, Amin.

Beloved jemaah,

Among the noble traits of a servant of Allah s.w.t. to Him is a sense of gratitude or syukur. This includes being grateful for all that Allah has blessed us with. And it is undeniable that among

the greatest blessings bestowed from Allah upon us is the birth of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. Our beloved messenger was sent to us to bring the light of faith and hope to the world, amid social problems, the lack of moral values, oppression and injustice.

Jemaah,

It is through Prophet Muhammad s.a.w., that we are able to learn about The Creator and His might. We learned the words of Allah s.w.t. through Rasulullah s.a.w. The Messenger s.a.w. also demonstrated exemplary values and virtues through his character and mannerism. Indeed, Rasulullah s.a.w. was sent to perfect moral character. He was sent at a time when slavery was rampant and humans were seen as a tradable good. However, Nabi s.a.w. taught humankind that a person is a slave only to Allah s.w.t. Rasulullah s.a.w. also uplifted the status of a former slave, Bilal bin Abi Rabah r.a., by asking him to make the first call to prayer; calling out to all to pray to Allah, Lord of the universe.

Subhanallah! Indeed we should be extremely grateful to Allah s.w.t. for this great blessing. We are thankful to Allah s.w.t. for making us among the ummah of His beloved messenger – a Prophet who was always thinking about the welfare of his followers and praying for their success. Allah s.w.t. says in surah At-Taubah verse 128:

لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا
عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ
رَّحِيمٌ

Which means: *“There has certainly come to you a Messenger from among yourselves. Grievous to him is what you suffer; [he is] concerned over you and to the believers is kind and merciful.”*

The love Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. had for his ummah was extraordinary, and beyond any kind of human love. He was even worried if his followers would become too fervent in performing religious rituals. Even though it is strongly encouraged to bring ourselves closer to Allah, Rasulullah s.a.w. feared that this would cause his followers to lose their balance in life. Saidatina Aisyah r.a., his wife, said: *“Verily Rasulullah would leave behind a practice that he liked to perform for fear that others would make it an obligation upon themselves”*. [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Often, Rasulullah s.a.w. was heard saying:

لَوْلَا أَنِّي أَشُقُّ عَلَى أُمَّتِي

Which means: *“Had I not thought it difficult for my ummah ...”*

For example, he would sometimes not clean his teeth with the *siwak* to prevent it from being compulsory for every ablution and prayer. He would also sometimes not pray *Isya'* until the middle of the night because he did not want to make it difficult upon others. He also did not go out to perform *tarawih* in congregation (*jemaah*) every night during Ramadan because he feared it will be made obligatory upon Muslims.

Beloved Friday *jemaah*,

The love that Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. displayed was not simply on the surface. It was a deep kind of love that ran deep in his heart and was not limited by material wealth.

Listen to the example given by Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. in encouraging Muslims to give to charity. It encompasses various aspects and is not limited to money and material goods. Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. said:

تَبَسُّمُكَ فِي وَجْهِ أَخِيكَ لَكَ صَدَقَةٌ، وَأَمْرُكَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَنَهْيُكَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ صَدَقَةٌ، وَإِرْشَادُكَ الرَّجُلَ فِي أَرْضِ الضَّلَالِ لَكَ صَدَقَةٌ، وَبَصْرُكَ لِلرَّجُلِ الرَّدِيءِ الْبَصَرَ لَكَ صَدَقَةٌ، وَإِمَاطَتُكَ الْحَجَرَ وَالشُّوْكَةَ وَالْعَظْمَ عَنِ الطَّرِيقِ لَكَ صَدَقَةٌ، وَإِفْرَاغُكَ مِنْ دَلْوِكَ فِي دَلْوِ أَخِيكَ لَكَ صَدَقَةٌ.

Which means: *“Your smile to your brother is a sadaqah (charitable act) for you. You commanding the right and forbidding the wrong is a sadaqah. You guiding a man in the land of misguidance is a sadaqah for you. You seeing (showing*

the way) for a man with bad eyesight is a sadaqah for you. You removing a stone or thorn or bone from the road is a sadaqah for you. Your emptying your bucket of water into your brother's (empty) bucket is a sadaqah for you." [Hadith reported by At-Tirmizi]

How beautiful this hadith is! The meaning of love that is contained in this hadith is so wide. Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. wanted love to be spread among all of humankind until there weren't anymore people who were in need.

In fact, the love and kindness that we should spread is not limited to just humankind, but also to all of Allah's creations including animals, plants and so on. Rasulullah s.a.w. said: *"If a Muslim plants a tree or sows seeds, and then a bird, or a person or an animal eats from it, it is regarded as a charitable gift (sadaqah) for him."* [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Oh the ummah of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. bear witness to the love he had for us! And reflect upon it, and live by those values of love and mercy. Surely, if we do so, there will be more donors, more people who are passionate about conserving this earth and more people whose lives are shone by mercy and compassion.

Jemaah,

As followers of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. we need to enliven the values of love and kindness that he taught us. Our understanding of the rules of the religion is not complete until we practice good manners in discussing religious issues. This is to ensure that others do not frown upon our religious practices.

Hence, if we truly and sincerely love Prophet Muhammad s.a.w., it will be reflected in our character and actions. Just look at the lives of the Companions r.a. They sacrificed their lives and wealth for Allah and His Rasul. Yet, there was never an ounce of arrogance and pride in them. Instead, they were always so humble and diligent in increasing their good deeds, in the hope of receiving Allah's rewards.

Hence, do not be those who profess love for Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. but does not maintain good relations with others. Do not claim to uphold the sunnah of Rasulullah s.a.w. yet at the same time, we hurt others with our harsh words and actions.

If we truly love Rasulullah s.a.w. and we strive to emulate him, every humankind, and in fact all of Allah's creations, will feel and benefit from our politeness, good manners and good treatment of others. Let's learn from the scholars who have professed their love from Rasulullah s.a.w. through their acts of worship and their manners. The scholars display their love for

Rasulullah s.a.w. by diligently collecting, memorising, studying and explaining the various hadith of Rasulallah s.a.w. Their love for him was not limited to words they utter and the way they dress. Their deep love for Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. was reflected in their commitment to uphold the Quran and Sunnah. It is also firmly built upon deep knowledge and understanding, enlivening the sunnah of Rasulallah s.a.w. in all aspects of one's life – family, community and helping others.

May Allah make us an ummah that truly understands the meaning of love and mercy, and spreads love and blessings to all. Amin Ya Rabbal Alamin.

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ 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.