



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Contributing to peace and prosperity

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 عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا
مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا . أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا
عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Respected Friday Jemaah,

Let us increase our takwa to Allah s.w.t. Renew our resolution to bring ourselves closer to Allah s.w.t, by obeying His commands and avoiding what He has prohibited upon us.

Jemaah,

Humankind are often forgetful, and thus we cannot run away from making mistakes and committing sins. However, I am certain that no matter how many sins we have committed, every one of us here have the desire to be the best believer

(mukmin), the most obedient servant of Allah, and an ummah of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. whom he will be proud of. This noble intention has to be nurtured in order for us to be Muslims who try to be the best Muslim.

Dear jema'ah, who are we referring to as the best Muslim? What does it mean? Who is the best Muslim? Surely he would be someone who does not neglect his acts of worship and maintains his relationship with The Creator. When others are sleeping, he wakes up to make doa and pray to Allah. When others are wasting time on activities that make them negligent, he will use the time and the years that Allah has bestowed upon him, engaging in activities that will earn him Allah's pleasure. However, is this sufficient to make us the best Muslim?

Let us reflect upon the hadith of Rasulullah s.a.w.: *“A believer is friendly and there is no merit for a person who is not friendly. And the best of humankind is one who brings the most benefit to others”* (Hadith reported by Thabrani and Daruqutni).

Beloved jema'ah, this is how complete our religion is. It is a religion that covers all aspects of life. Muslims are not just taught to worship Allah, not just to have good manners (akhlak), but also to give and to spread kindness and benefit those around us.

Let us study what Allah s.w.t. says in the Quran, in surah Al-Taubah, where Allah s.w.t. mentions before ibadah (acts of worship), *“amr Ma'ruf”*. That is, to call others to do good, and

“*nahi mungkar*”, that means to prevent others from doing something bad. Allah says:

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ يَأْمُرُونَ
بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ
وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَيُطِيعُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ أُولَئِكَ سَيَرْحَمُهُمُ
اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ ﴿٧١﴾

Which means: *The believing men and believing women are allies of one another. They enjoin what is right and forbid what is wrong and establish prayer and give zakah and obey Allah and His Messenger. Those - Allah will have mercy upon them. Indeed, Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise.*

Hence, through this verse, it is clear that we are required not to just focus on acts of worship. In fact, in addition to not doing anything that is evil, hurting others and so on, we are also commanded to prevent others from doing evil deeds. In other words, a mukmin must not only have good manners, but he has to also contribute to the social well-being of those around him.

The parable that Rasulullah s.a.w. drew in his hadith: “*A mukmin is like the date palm. Whichever part of the tree that you take, it will benefit you.*” (At-Thabari).

Hence, a Mukmin cannot just enjoy the merits from others, but also strive to bring about benefits to others, and radiate blessings to others.

Blessed Jemaah,

The question that we should think about is: What is our role as Muslims living in a multi-racial and multi-religious country like Singapore? What is the role that we can play?

There are many roles for us as Muslims on this island, including ensuring prosperity and peace for all Singaporeans.

The Quran emphasizes peace. In fact, in the Quran, Allah mentions 789 words, which come from the root word "peace". This proves how peace and prosperity are prioritized by Allah s.w.t.

Pay attention to the doa of Prophet Ibrahim a.s. to Allah s.w.t. for the city of Makkah:

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا بَلَدًا آمِنًا وَارْزُقْ أَهْلَهُ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ مَنْ
ءَامَنَ مِنْهُمْ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ

Which means: " *And [mention] when Abraham said, "My Lord, make this a secure city and provide its people with fruits - whoever of them believes in Allah and the Last Day..."*. [Surah al-Baqarah, verse 126].

Jemaah,

If we reflect upon the contents of this doa, we will find that firstly, Prophet Ibrahim a.s. prayed for peace in the city of Makkah. This is because peace is critical and of utmost importance for people and lives to thrive in any city or country.

I am sure we are all aware of the grave situation and the disaster that has affected many people in other parts of the world. There is no more peace in their country and the war that they are suffering continues with no clear end in sight. Imagine how difficult their situation is, imagine the pain and trauma that they have had to endure ever since there was no more peace in their country, and hence, their lives.

We cannot deny the fact that many factors contributed to the war and their current suffering, made worse by a group of individuals who claim to be Muslims but carry out activities that are unislamic, and in no way represent the teachings of Islam.

In fact, because of the events that have occurred, Muslims in other parts of the world feel the effects as well, as others view them with suspicion and treat them harshly. This is because there are individuals who cannot differentiate between the teachings of Islam and the irresponsible acts of a small group of people who claim to be Muslims.

We are very blessed that here, in Singapore, we have not witnessed worrying incidents. As residents of this country, we do not want our stand on the matter to be questioned or our

safety to be jeopardized. As citizens of this country, we have the right to live and carry out our daily activities in peace. At the same time, we also contribute to efforts to ensure prosperity in this country. In living as a community, we must work together and cooperate to tackle factors that can threaten our peace, prosperity and security.

Jemaah,

The second aspect of the doa of Nabi Ibrahim a.s. is that he asked Allah for the country's prosperity. Prosperity is a blessing from Allah that one should seek and be grateful for.

Islam does not forbid its ummah to strive for economic success. But as Muslims, we need to ensure a balance in everything. While we strive for prosperity and success in this world, we should not forget of the ultimate goal – success in the hereafter. How is our investment for the hereafter? We may own two houses in this world, several cars, countless clothes, shoes and bags, but what about the state of our affairs in the hereafter? How will our family be in the hereafter?

Hence, as believers who enjoy prosperity in a country like Singapore, do not ever forget about striving for prosperity in the hereafter. In fact, as the year comes to an end, we should spend some time reflecting on ourselves.

Beloved jemaah,

As a conclusion to today's sermon, I would like to remind myself and all of you, the importance of being grateful or syukur to Allah s.w.t. for blessing us with peace and prosperity. However, there is no guarantee whatsoever that the peace and prosperity that we currently enjoy will continue forever. We must actively strive to protect the peace and continue in efforts to help the country to prosper.

Let us all make doa to Allah to protect this country, and may Allah grant us strength and the tenacity to strive toward a comprehensive and holistic concept of prosperity.

Ya Allah, protect the peace and prosperity of our country. Grant us the love for the akhirah, love toward You and Your Messenger, Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. Raise us in the hereafter as an ummah that You are Pleased with. Raise us in the hereafter, Ya Rahman, to be among those whom You love and care for, to be among the prophets, the companions, the Salihin and Salihat. Ya Allah, let us meet with our beloved Rasulullah s.a.w. and help us to become an ummah that can emulate the Prophet s.a.w. and make him proud of us. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارَكَ اللهُ 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 اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.