



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

10 July 2015 / 23 Ramadan 1436

**Enlivening The Last Few Nights Of Ramadan**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الْفُرْقَانَ وَ أَيْدِ النَّاسِ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَ الْبَيَانَ،  
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ شَهِدَ لِنَفْسِهِ  
الْوَحْدَانِيَّةَ وَ الْإِحْسَانَ وَ شَهِدَ بِهِمَا مَلَائِكَتُهُ وَ الثَّقَلَانِ، وَأَشْهَدُ  
أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَ الرِّضْوَانِ ،  
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَ عَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ  
تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا  
تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

Today is the last Friday of this Ramadan. Let's ask ourselves: what is the state of our takwa? Have we seen any improvements in our efforts to fulfil all of Allah's commands and abstain from His prohibitions? InshaAllah, we still have several nights of Ramadan left. Let us use the remaining nights to continue to boost our takwa. May we attain Allah's forgiveness and His pleasure.

Honourable jemaah,

We are now in the last ten nights of Ramadan. In one of these nights is the most powerful of all nights, that is Lailatul Qadar or the Night of decree. Allah s.w.t. explains about the miracles of this night in surah Al-Qadar verses 1 to 5:

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ﴿١﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ  
الْقَدْرِ ﴿٢﴾ لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ﴿٣﴾ تَنزِيلُ  
الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالرُّوحِ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ﴿٤﴾  
سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ ﴿٥﴾

Which means: *“Indeed, We sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree. And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree? The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace it is until the emergence of dawn.”*

Subhanallah! Just imagine jemaah, how great the reward from Allah s.w.t. for those who are able to meet the night of decree in a state of worship. It is recorded that deeds performed on that night is better than 1000 months, and that is around 83 years. My friends, there is no guarantee that we will live to that age. Our sins and mistakes are also probably increasing. Hence, do

not forego any opportunity to attain Allah's forgiveness and His rahmah (blessings). Nabi s.a.w said:

وَمَنْ قَامَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

Which means: *“Whoever stands in prayer on the night of decree in a state of iman and seeking their reward, indeed Allah will forgive his previous sins.”* [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari]

However, as we strive in search of the Lailatul Qadar, we should realise that in essence, we are seeking Allah's pleasure. Our diligence in performing acts of worship should not merely be motivated by our desire to meet Lailatul Qadar but that we should instil in ourselves the intention to gain Allah's pleasure. This is because Allah is The Owner of Lailatul Qadar and everything else. Hence when we strive in search of the pleasure of the one who owns Lailatul Qadar, that is Allah, He will reward us with more than the greatness of the night itself. Hopefully with an intention that is not limited and restricted to the last ten nights of Ramadan, we will continue to be diligent in our worship to Allah beyond this blessed month.

Jemaah,

We do not know if this would be our last Ramadan. We also do not know if we and our families would be able to fast, perform terawih as well as other prayers together in the coming Ramadan. Hence just as we are excited in making Eid preparations, we should increase our efforts and excitement

among our family in striving to gain the miracles of Lailatul Qadar and Ramadan. Emulate the practice of Rasulullah s.a.w., where he would wake his family members up to join him in worship in search of this great night, as reported in a hadith by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim

Blessed Friday Jemaah

Let us enliven these last few nights of Ramadan with efforts to deepen and appreciate our relationship with Allah. Make doa with full humility to Allah, asking that He bring us closer to Him and raise our status in His sight, as well as our family's. When we prostrate (make sujud) in prayer, regret over our past mistake. Increase this supplication:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُورٌ كَرِيمٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنَّا

Which means: *“O Allah, You are Most Forgiving, and You love forgiveness; so forgive me.”*

Confide in Allah of our weaknesses, and ask for strength from Him. This is the period filled with the times where our supplication will be heard. Beautify this last stretch with recitation of the Quran, wet our tongues with zikr (remembrance of Allah) and increase the spirit of giving to those who are in need, especially our family members. Today all the mosques nationwide are collecting donations for Club HEAL. The funds collected are meant to help our brothers and sisters who are facing the challenges from mental illnesses. So let us come

forward and give, hopefully by doing so Allah s.w.t. will grant us His barakah toward our efforts throughout Ramadan.

Beloved Jemaah,

As we come to the end of the sermon, let us appreciate and emulate how Rasulullah s.a.w, despite being maksum (free of sins) still increased his acts of worship in the last nights of Ramadan. What more ourselves! Hence, if we have time to make iktikaf at the mosque in the last ten nights, we should try to do so. For those who are busy with work, that is still not an excuse because we should try and find an appropriate time to make iktikaf in Allah's house. It could be performing zuhur prayers at the masjid with the intention of making iktikaf. Or it could be enlivening the last few nights of Ramadan by performing Qiyamulail with our family members at the mosque. Oh Allah, The One who Owns Lailatul Qadar , grant us and our families the rewards of this night. Raise our standing in Your sight.

Ya Rahim Ya Lathif, if this is the last Ramadan for us, do not let us leave it unless You have cleansed us of every sin and mistake. If You have written that this is our last Ramadan with our family, gather us together in Your Paradise in the hereafter. Ya Halim Ya Azhim, keep alive in our hearts the constant yearning to meet You, and to meet the next blessed month of Ramadan. Place us among those who are consistent in performing good deeds and acts of worship even after

Ramadan. Fill our hearts with faith (iman) as we have filled the nights of Ramadan with good deeds and acts of worship. 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.