



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

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DEVELOPING RESILIENCE AS MUSLIMS IN SINGAPORE

الله أكبر × ٩ كالي

الله أكبر مَا تَعَالَتْ أَصْوَاتُ النَّاسِ بِالتَّكْبِيرِ
الله أكبر مَا تَفْتَحَتْ أَبْوَابُ السَّمَاءِ فِي هَذَا الصَّبَاحِ الْكَبِيرِ
الله أكبر مَا تَنَزَّلَتْ عَلَيْنَا رَحْمَةُ الْإِلَهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْقَدِيرِ
الله أكبر مَا تَقَارَبَتْ قُلُوبُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ فِي هَذَا الْيَوْمِ الْمُنِيرِ
الله أكبر ، الله أكبر ، الله أكبر ،

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَ اللهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .
الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَمَدَّ أَوْلِيَاءَهُ بِالتَّوْفِيقِ ، وَأَلْهَمَهُمْ كَلِمَةَ الْحَقِّ
وَالْتَّصَدِيقِ ، وَأَرشَدَهُمْ إِلَى أَوْضَحِ مَحَجَّةٍ وَطَرِيقٍ ، وَجَعَلَهُمْ
بِرَحْمَتِهِ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ وَفَرِيقٍ ، أَحَمَدُهُ عَلَى النِّعْمَةِ الَّتِي بِهَا حَبَانَا ،
وَأَشْكُرُهُ عَلَى الْمِلَّةِ الَّتِي بِهَا هَدَانَا .

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا
عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى
آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ اهْتَدَى بِهَدْيِهِ
أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِي نَفْسِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ
وَطَاعَتِهِ.

Ma'asyiral muslimin wal muslimat,

On this magnificent day, let us express our gratitude and praise to Allah s.w.t. Let us recite the takbir with the deepest humility, glorifying Allah's Oneness. Allah has presented us with endless opportunities to gain His blessings throughout the month of Ramadan. May Allah s.w.t. accept our efforts and good deeds, forgive our sins and mistakes, and answer our prayers throughout Ramadan that we be granted His forgiveness. May He place us among those He mentioned in the Quran in Surah Al-Fajr verses 27-30:

يَأْتِيهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ ﴿٢٧﴾ أَرْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَةً ﴿٢٨﴾
فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي ﴿٢٩﴾ وَاَدْخُلِي جَنَّتِي ﴿٣٠﴾

Which means: “[To the righteous it will be said], “O reassured soul, Return to your Lord, well-pleased and pleasing [to Him], And enter among My [righteous] servants, And enter My Paradise.”

RAMADAN AS A MONTH TO NURTURE IHSAN, NOT TO CAUSE DESTRUCTION

Blessed Jemaah,

Alhamdulillah, the month of Ramadan that has just passed in Singapore was filled with deeds of *ihsan* (compassion) and kindness. Together with our families, we fasted in the day while working and contributing, in our own roles, to the community and nation. Fasting did not weaken nor cause us to neglect our duties. At the same time, we were able to rouse ourselves from sleep to perform the night prayers, whether at home with our families or at the mosques. We witnessed, in this Ramadan, how *ihsan* and kindness were shared with all, and how the community came together to exemplify the spirit of sharing and helping one another.

Alhamdulillah, the holy month has become a symbol of unity and a sign of Allah's blessings and compassion. Not only did we reap its benefits, but such good acts have contributed towards an honouring of our beloved Prophet s.a.w., for he was sent as blessings and compassion to the entire universe. We are grateful for this blessing. We are also thankful to all staff and volunteers who have filled our mosques islandwide with beneficial programmes and events throughout the last Ramadan. Through taqwa and acts of kindness as well as compassion in our family life, we uphold Allah's command as described in Surah An-Nahl verse 90:

❁ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ
وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٩٠﴾

Which means: “Indeed, Allah orders justice and ihsan and giving to relatives, and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded.”

My brothers and sisters,

Unfortunately, in some places, Ramadan is experienced differently – in fact, a stark contrast from what I have just described. It was a Ramadan filled with atrocities, a call to violence and bloodshed, by those who claim to be Muslims. They choose to live Ramadan by killing the innocent. In doing so, they have obviously tarnished the image of Islam. These indiscriminate killings disregarded race, religion or even location. Even the most sacred of locations, such as the land upon which the house of Allah has been built, became their targets.

Let us be reminded that those who commit these heinous crimes have been described by Rasulullah s.a.w. in a hadith which means: “There will emerge among you people whom would belittle your prayer when compared to their prayer, your fasting compared to their fasting, and your deeds compared to

theirs. They will recite the Quran but it will not reach beyond their throats. They will leave the religion just as an arrow leave its game.” [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari]

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

Muslimin and Muslimat,

That is the reality of our religious life today; that there are two faces of Islam seen by the world, reflected from the practices of Muslims. The first is the image of Islam as a religion that promotes peace, moderation and prosperity. The other is the image of Islam that propagates radicalism and extremism, and calls upon its followers to violence and discord. This is not only confusing, especially for the younger generation, in fact, it leads to widespread misconceptions regarding Islam. It is true what the Prophet s.a.w. had foretold in a hadith reported by Imam At-Tirmidzi that to uphold the true teachings of Islam that bring benefit to others is like holding on to a piece of burning coal. Confronted with this negative portrayal of Islam, we cannot simply bury our heads in the sand and choose to do nothing about it.

We have to build our confidence and resilience to remain on the guided path. We must choose the path as shown by Rasulullah s.a.w. And one of the key principles of practicing Islam is highlighted by Rasulullah s.a.w. in his hadith: *“The religion is easy, and no one complicates his religion except that he will fail*

to practice it (properly). Therefore correct your religious practise, practise moderation (do not be extreme) and convey glad tidings”. [Hadith reported by Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

When moderation is lost in our religious practice, we lose its balance too. Without balance, we will fail to understand and practise Islam comprehensively. Upholding this balance is important, especially because there are problematic ideas masked as religious teachings, which may cause us to veer off the guided path if we are not careful.

Today, we have seen negative influences in the world which may sow the seeds of hatred and cause division and disunity in the religious harmony of our country. They promote an exclusive understanding and practice of religion, and they reject diversity and differences in opinion, going against the grain of the diverse nature of humankind. Further, there are radical ideas that promote rigidity and extremist religious behaviours. For example, there are ideas that seek to instill doubts in Muslims that they cannot live in the modern world. They claim that one cannot practice Islam properly if one is to live in a secular country like Singapore. Hence, there are calls by radical groups such as ISIS to migrate to their territories which they claim constitute an “Islamic state”. This idea has poisoned the minds of some youths and influenced them to join these radical groups.

DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING AND PRACTICE OF ISLAM SUITED FOR SINGAPORE'S CONTEXT

Therefore brothers and sisters, we have to be constantly vigilant and be on our guard, and at the same time, work toward increasing our knowledge and understanding, as taught by our beloved religion. It is knowledge that will motivate us to challenge these militant, rigid and exclusive views. We thus ask, are these the true teachings of Islam? Is it true that living in this country is against Islamic teachings? Would our faith and religion be compromised if we live in a more challenging context?

Blessed jemaah, the principles of Islam teach us to develop confidence to continue contributing to development, and to spread kindness wherever we are. This is our identity, and a principle we need to uphold as Muslims. This value was manifested by Prophet Yusuf a.s. – he contributed to the development of Egypt even though the King and a majority of its people were non-Muslims. Likewise, the Prophet's companions who lived as a minority in Habsyah contributed to the harmony of their land. These and many other examples prove that living as a minority is not against Islam.

Brothers and sisters,

In the light of complex issues such as radical ideologies and diverse lifestyles that pose a challenge to one's faith, we ought to always stay alert and not take things for granted. We have to

continue to develop an understanding of Islam that commensurates with the needs and the context of our community. It is an understanding that recognises the diversity of our Islamic tradition. It is an understanding that is guided by Islamic principles, and empowers our community to have an in-depth perspective on complex issues.

We need to continue inculcating an understanding of Islam that produces Muslims with a positive mind-set with the desire to develop good families, and thereafter, a resilient community. We need to have an understanding of Islam that will motivate us to become a community that is spiritually robust, morally guided and successful in various academic and professional fields. We need to uphold an understanding of Islam in line with the conduct and manners of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w.

Upon these principles, the earlier generations – our forefathers and pioneers – contributed towards the development of the Muslim community and country. They built mosques, conducted dakwah activities as well as charity work, and laid the foundations to ensure that we are able to continue to practice Islam in an organised and productive way. They were confident that we can live our lives as Muslims in Singapore. They lived in harmony with their neighbours helping and respecting one another. Today, we benefit from the fruits of their labour and their undying spirit of giving and sharing, and we are now able to enjoy religious harmony in this beloved country. We see such

constructive religious life especially during Ramadan, proof that the Singapore Muslim community can be a community that radiates blessings to all. Is this not in line with Islamic teachings?

This is the Islam that we have inherited in Singapore, and this is the Islam that we want to pass on to our children. We need to have the confidence and courage to preserve our way of leading our religious life. And we need to remain steadfast and withstand the negative influences that call for regression and destruction.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

ENGAGING OUR YOUTH

Dear brothers

Youths are our hope and the future of Islam in Singapore. Our dear youths, it is through you that we hope that the teachings of Islam will be honoured and respected by humankind. Thus it is pertinent that you ensure that you receive good Islamic education from learned teachers who are trusted and accredited. Not teachers who encourage disunity, arrogance or easily accuse and label others as misguided or kafir. In fact, these are the sort of teachers that you should avoid, especially if you listen to lectures or read materials online. Islam teaches us to radiate blessings, and not to judge others. Imam Ibn Sirrin

once said: *“Verily knowledge is religion, so be mindful of where you seek religion from”*. [Sahih Muslim]

We recognise that as youths, you will undergo changes in life, and accordingly, you will have many questions, whether these are related to your religion, or the emotional challenges that you go through, or any others. Whatever it is, do not hesitate to approach your parents, teachers or religious teachers in Singapore.

For parents, you would also need to play your part and always be guided by compassion in reaching out to the young. Understand their challenges and their thinking. If you find them doing the wrong things, approach them wisely and speak to them with compassion.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

Ya Allah, Ya Rahman Ya Rahim, we depend only upon You, Ya Allah. We are weak without you, Ya Allah, so strengthen us. We have committed sins, Ya Rahman, please forgive us. To whom shall we turn if not to You. You are The One, The Almighty. The One who is Most Forgiving of our mistakes. Gaze upon us, Ya Allah, with Your Rahmah.

Please accept all our deeds and worship, Ya Allah. Grant us and our families a blessed life, so that we may obey You. Let

this victory be meaningful. One filled with Your love and Your pleasure. Ya Allah, The Most Forgiving and Most Merciful, Ramadan came and went, but we are still here hoping for Your guidance. We seek Your redha (pleasure), we seek Your love.

Guide us to become a community that as we become more religious we would radiate more blessings to all. Guide us, Ya Allah, to become ambassadors of Islam who will raise the image of Islam and protect the sanctity of the religion. Grant us an understanding of Islam as how You deem it should be. Lead us to the understanding of Islam that will shape us and our families to become among those who are honoured among humankind and in Your sight.

Protect us from any form of deviance and ignorance, protect our families from any evil and suffering, and grant our community to be a successful, peaceful prosperous community.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

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.

Second Sermon

17 July 2015 / 1 Syawal 1436

الله أكبر 7x

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَعَادَ الْأَعْيَادَ وَكَرَّرَ. أَحْمَدُهُ سُبْحَانَهُ أَنْ
خَلَقَ وَصَوَّرَ. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ،
شَهَادَةً يَثْقُلُ بِهِ الْمِيزَانُ فِي الْمَحْشَرِ. اللَّهُمَّ فَصِّلْ وَسَلِّمْ
عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ الْفَاتِرِينَ بِالشَّرَفِ
الْأَفْخَرِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا
وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

وَصَلُّوا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ عَلَى رَسُولِ الْهُدَى وَخَيْرِ الْوَرَى فَقَدْ
أَمَرَكُمْ بِذَلِكَ الْمَوْلَى جَلَّ وَعَلَا حَيْثُ قَالَ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ
يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا
تَسْلِيمًا.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى رَسُولِكَ الْمُجْتَبَى وَنَبِيِّكَ الْمُصْطَفَى
سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ أَفْضَلِ الْخَلْقِ وَخَيْرِ الْوَرَى. وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ
أَهْلِ الصِّدْقِ وَالْوَفَى.

اللَّهُمَّ وَارِضَ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ
وَعَلِي، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقَرَابَةِ أَجْمَعِينَ وَتَابِعِيهِمْ إِلَى
يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ
الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ إِنَّكَ قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبُ الدَّعَوَاتِ وَغَافِرُ
الذُّنُوبِ وَالْخَطِيئَاتِ. رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا
وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ. رَبَّنَا لَا تُرِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ
هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ. رَبَّنَا
آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.
وَأَدْخِلْنَا الْجَنَّةَ مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ. يَا اللَّهُ يَا عَزِيزُ يَا غَفَّارُ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ، وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى
وَيَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ،
فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوا لَهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ
مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.