



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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The Akhlak and Ethics of a Muslim in Facing Challenges in

Today's Modern World

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا
وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ
وَصَفِيُّ اللَّهِ مِنْ خَلْقِهِ وَحَبِيبُهُ إِمَامُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَسَيِّدُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ 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

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

On this glorious Friday, let us strive together to increase our taqwa to Allah s.w.t. Let us pray that He grant us a steadfast heart and spirituality to continue to obey all of His commands and leave behind what Allah has prohibited upon us, in today's modern world that is full of challenges.

Beloved Jemaah,

Last week, we were reminded of how a strong sense of spirituality will help us face the challenges of living in today's modern world. A strong spirituality is one that enables a believer (mukmin) to be confident in fulfilling their religious duties wisely and responsibly. A confidence that is based on spirituality will lead to a serene heart that will help one to face and overcome the stresses of life in today's modern world. This is crucial because the environment today is such that one faces many forms of hurdles that lead to stress – not just for us but also in our relationship with others.

Recently we have been shocked by the news about an elderly woman who was abused by her own child. Alhamdulillah, we have seen that the Singapore community, including the Muslim community here, have spoken out against the actions and have deemed it as wrongful. Indeed, such actions do not reflect the akhlak (manners) of a mukmin and is against what the Prophet s.a.w. taught us.

Jemaah,

Sometimes we become extremely stressed out by many factors including the various demands of life, our busy daily jobs, managing the household, or even the demands of studying. Without a calm and peaceful heart, we will become easily agitated and tend to lose our patience when faced with a difficult situation to the point that we may forget that it is our

obligation as the ummah of Rasulullah s.a.w. to uphold noble traits in all circumstances.

Jemaah, let us not be among those who forget the obligation to be kind to others, especially to our parents and family members simply because we are too tired from work or we are facing difficult problems. Be fair and do not take it out on our family members who are in need of our love, care and concern. No matter how tired we are, or how difficult the problem that we are facing, our parents, spouse and children deserve to be treated with love and not with violence or neglect.

Blessed Jemaah,

In overcoming the challenges of this post-modern world, the noble values taught by Rasulullah s.a.w. should serve as a guide and for us to emulate. Among the values that our beloved Prophet s.a.w. emphasised is being polite in our interactions with others, especially towards both our parents. Respecting and caring for them are our obligations as a child. Do not hurt their feelings, do not be rough toward them and do not abuse them; whether through our speech or actions. We must also not neglect them.

Allah s.w.t. calls upon us to not be harsh toward our parents. Allah says in Surah Al-Isra' verse 23:

﴿ وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ
عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا آفٍ وَلَا
نَهْرَهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا ﴾

Which means: “And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [so much as], "uff," and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word.”

Imagine Jemaah, if the word “Uff” cannot be uttered to our parents, including our in-laws, how grave the punishment is when we do more than that? For example being rude, shouting at them and raising our voice at them. No matter what their mistakes are, we do not have the right to abuse them. If there is something that we do not agree with them, then try to discuss nicely and politely. Any grievances should be discussed with kindness with them. At the same time, parents must create a culture of open communication with their children so that children are able to discuss and share their thoughts honestly and openly, and politely. This will ensure the good relationship is maintained.

Honourable Jemaah,

Besides being kind to our family members, we are also called upon to fulfil our obligations to the community. We live within a society and no man is an island. Hence, we need to maintain good manners and ethics at all times. Disagreements that occur in public due to petty issues such as parking spaces, seats in public transport and so on. Living in a community means we need to give and take, be considerate and help one another. We must ensure that we do not do carry out irresponsible actions that can disturb our neighbours. Such actions include making noise to the extent that it disturbs our neighbours, littering, and leaving our belongings messily along the corridor of the flat and making it difficult for our neighbours to pass.

These are just some examples of the norms of community living, which demands that we uphold good ethics and akhlak in interacting with others. Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. said, which means: *“A believer who mixes with people and tolerates their abuse is better than one who neither mixes with people nor tolerates their abuse”*. [Hadith reported by At-Tirmizi and Ibn Majah]

May Allah grant our hearts serenity and bestow upon us beautiful manners. May Allah protect our relationship with our family in happiness and goodness. 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.