



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Khutbah Jumaat

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Taking Isra' dan Mi'raj As A Lesson for Believers

In Facing Life Challenges

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْمَلِكِ الْحَقِّ الْمُبِينِ الَّذِي أَبَانَ لِعِبَادِهِ مِنْ آيَاتِهِ مَا
بِهِ عِبْرَةٌ لِلْمُتَعَبِّرِينَ 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 وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا
عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

My beloved Friday Congregation,

On this blessed Friday, let us pray to Allah s.w.t. to let us increase in taqwa and faith in Him. Let us repent to Him and strive to the best of our abilities, to fulfil all of His commandments and to leave all of His prohibitions. There is nothing more that we wish for in this life, but the blessings of Allah s.w.t.

Brothers,

Come the month of Rejab, we are constantly reminded of the Isra' and Mi'raj incident. It is an extraordinary experience that was exclusive to our Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. It gave the Prophet an opportunity to meet Allah s.w.t. in the closest manner possible. This honour was never given to anyone else before the Prophet s.a.w. It hence reminds us of the special position and the high regard that Allah s.w.t. has bestowed upon our Prophet s.a.w. It is thus our honour for being chosen to be the followers and the ummah of Rasulullah s.a.w. May Allah s.w.t. not deprive us of the opportunity to meet and to gather with Rasulullah s.a.w. in the hereafter. Amin ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Jemaah,

Although this incident is a blessing for Rasulullah s.a.w., we must not forget that he s.a.w. had to undergo trials and tribulations before experiencing Isra' and Mi'raj. The Prophet s.a.w. was going through a very great trial from Allah s.w.t. His beloved wife and his uncle, who were both his biggest supporters and protectors, had passed away. In fact, just before that, the Prophet s.a.w. and his tribe were boycotted economically, and they had to live in suffering without access to proper food and drinks. Such was the immense trial and difficulties experienced by Rasulullah s.a.w. before he was able to experience the wonders of Isra' and Mi'raj.

The difficulties and challenges faced by the Prophet s.a.w. before he received the blessed invitation to meet Allah are actually, according to Almarhum Sheikh Dr. Ramadan Buthi, a sunnatullah of life. What is referred to as the sunnatullah here is, whenever there is difficulty, trial and challenge; ease, blessings and comfort will accompany. This is in line with Allah's promise in Surah As-Syarh, verse 5 and 6:

فَإِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ﴿٥﴾ إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا ﴿٦﴾

Which means: *“For indeed, with hardship [there will be] ease. Indeed, with hardship [there will be] ease.”*

My dear brothers, in life, we can never run away from tests and adversities. We will be tested in the luxuries and blessings that we possess. This is Allah's promise in chapter Al-Baqarah, verses 155-156:

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ
 الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ
 ﴿١٥٥﴾ الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا
 إِلَيْهِ رَاغِبُونَ ﴿١٥٦﴾

Which means: *“And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but*

give good tidings to the patient, who, when disaster strikes them, say, "Indeed we belong to Allah , and indeed to Him we will return".

This verse clearly tells us that we will be tried – whether it's in the form of losing our wealth, health, our loved ones and so on. How then, should a believer perceive such challenges and difficulties in his/her life? What is the attitude and the mentality that we need to adopt when facing adversities? Always remember my brothers that Allah will not let our patience and our efforts in overcoming the issues to be in vain. The verses that I have just related to you earlier, is then followed suit by verse 157, which illustrates how those who are patient in facing hardship will be rewarded by Allah s.w.t. with bountiful and endless blessings.

Take heed my brothers, that every trial from Allah serves a good purpose – it reminds us that Allah still wants what is good for us. In a hadith narrated by Imam At-Tirmidzi, Rasulullah s.a.w. had said: *"When Allah loves a group of people, He tests them"*.

Therefore, my brothers, let us not despair when we are faced with hardship, for they serve as a reminder and opportunity for us to remember Allah and get closer to Him. It is natural for us to forget Allah and to take Him for granted when we are surrounded with wealth and comfort, and hence, there are times

that Allah sends us hardship to remind us to come back to Him and to ask Him for help. Hence, be thankful when we are tested, for that is a sign that Allah does not want to allow us to deviate and go astray in our luxuries and comfort.

In fact, it is those whom Allah loves the most would face the most difficult tests. This is understood by the hadith from Rasulullah s.a.w. *“Those whose trials are the hardest are the prophets, followed by those similar, and then by those similar. One is tested according to the degree to his faith. If his faith is strong, his trials will be stronger. And if his faith is weak, then he will be tested accordingly”* [Hadith narrated by Ibn Majah dan At-Tirmidzi]

This hadith hence reminds us that Allah will not test His servants beyond what He knows they are capable of overcoming; and that they will eventually receive a great reward if they patiently and perseveringly strive to overcome it. A Mukmin will thus perceive a trial with optimism, for they believe that it is a God-sent opportunity for them to elevate their status before Him.

Have faith my brothers, that with every trial that we face with patience and resilience, we are in fact one step nearer to Allah and His paradise. The Prophet s.a.w. had said: *“No Muslim will be afflicted with fatigue, pain, fear, sadness, danger and difficulty – even if it is just a prick of a thorn – but that Allah will*

forgive his sins for those pains". [Hadith narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari & Muslim]

Jemaah,

This is the wisdom behind every test and challenge. They provide avenue for our hearts to be softened and to submit ourselves to Allah. People who do not experience challenges would tend to get arrogant and develop less empathy for other people's plight. Hence, although we may now live in comfort, let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Islam, and in humanity, who are now faced with adversities. Let us pray for Allah to give them ease and strength in facing these challenges.

My dear brothers,

All these hadiths that I have related to you earlier, and the lessons that we get from the Isra' and Mi'raj incident, it hence becomes clear to us that among the benefits of faith is that it gives the believer the spiritual strength and positive attitude in facing challenges and tribulations. Faith is what ignites one's spirit and gives one the strength to press on and live for the sake of Allah, until the day one finally returns to meet one's Lord. Always remember the prayers that were taught by Rasulullah s.a.w. when afflicted with adversity:

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ اللَّهُمَّ اجْزِنِي فِي مُصِيبَتِي وَأَخْلِفْ لِي خَيْرًا مِنْهَا

Which means: *"Indeed, all that we possess belong to Allah, and indeed it is to Allah that we shall return. Ya Allah, bless me with*

the merits and rewards out of this suffering, and please replace for me something that is better”. [Muttafaq ‘Alaihi]

May Allah lighten the tests that most of us are currently facing, one way or another. May Allah reward our patience with the reward of paradise when we meet Him later. 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.