



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Iman And The Call To Contemplate

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي شَرَعَ لِلنَّاسِ مَا فِيهِ مَصْلَحَتُهُمْ فَأَمَرَهُمْ بِكُلِّ مَا فِيهِ نَفْعُهُمْ وَنَهَاهُمْ عَنِ كُلِّ مَا يَضُرُّهُمْ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ الَّذِي أَعَزَّهُمْ بِهِ بَعْدَ الذَّلَّةِ وَجَمَعَهُمْ بِهِ بَعْدَ الْفُرْقَةِ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى عَبْدِكَ وَرَسُولِكَ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَهْلِ النَّجْدَةِ وَالشَّهَامَةِ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَيْثُ مَا كُنْتُمْ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَعْلَمُ سِرَّكُمْ وَعَلَانِيَتَكُمْ.

Beloved Friday Congregation,

Let us strive to increase our taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. by carrying out His commandments and staying away from His prohibitions. May Allah s.w.t. place us amongst those who are blessed with great iman and taqwa.

My brothers,

Time and again, week after week, we have been reminded to have faith and taqwa in Allah s.w.t. at every moment and in all

circumstances. This is a reminder that is one of the conditions of a Friday sermon that needs to be conveyed, for the exclusion of this reminder the khutbah is flawed, and could even be invalidated.

However, my dear brothers, what do we mean by ‘iman’? What are the requirements of one who wants to possess iman?

It is important for us to strive to achieve a thorough understanding of this question, especially in this period of time – a period where we are witnessing the revivalism of religious awareness within a modern society. And this revivalism applies to both Islamic and non-Islamic communities. Without a proper understanding on what ‘iman’ is, it will result in a plethora of different views and understandings. While some of these views might be perceived as part of the religion, fact of the matter is they are not even close to that.

Jemaah,

If we were to look at the Quran, we would discover that many of its verses speak of God’s creations – like the magnificence of the creation of the heavens and earth. In the chapter of Al-Mulk verses 3-4, God has said:

الَّذِي خَلَقَ سَبْعَ سَمَوَاتٍ طِبَاقًا ۗ مَا تَرَىٰ فِي خَلْقِ
 الرَّحْمَنِ مِن تَفَوُّتٍ ۗ فَارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ هَلْ تَرَىٰ مِن
 فُطُورٍ ۗ ثُمَّ ارْجِعِ الْبَصَرَ كَرَّتَيْنِ يَنقَلِبْ إِلَيْكَ الْبَصَرُ
 خَاسِئًا وَهُوَ حَسِيرٌ ۗ

Which means: *“(And He) Who has created the seven heavens one above another; you can see no fault in the creations of the Most Beneficent. Then look again: “Can you see any cracks?” Then look again and yet again, your sight will return to you in a state of humiliation and worn out”.*

The question is hence this – what is the wisdom behind Allah’s explanations on His creations in the Quran? Well, in addition to it being a testimony to Allah’s powers, these verses are meant to call upon us to contemplate and appreciate Allah’s creations. This is because iman requires for the one who seeks to possess it to engage in a thinking process, and then to appreciate. It is not achieved by blindly following without giving much thought and without seeking for proper guidance.

Let us observe the verses in the Quran that call for humankind to think and to exercise their intelligence. Allah has reminded us several times:

أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ
أَفَلَا تَتَفَكَّرُونَ

Which mean: *“Do you not think?”* and *“Do you not deliberate?”*

Such verses should motivate humankind to constantly think and exercise their intelligence in order to achieve to a level of appreciation for what they believe in, and in weighing the options for a particular issue.

My dear brothers,

In taking into account the Quranic spirit of thinking and contemplating, there are a few guidelines for a Mukmin in dealing with the many adversities in life.

Firstly: A Mukmin or a believer must constantly analyse and appreciate. Islam encourages its followers to study and deliberate on the religious knowledge that they acquire, especially if the source of this knowledge is from the internet. Is the information acquired authentic and acceptable? What is the basis for this? Is this the correct interpretation for this particular verse? What is its status of authenticity before the scholars?

Asking such important questions is a trait of a Mukmin who truly strives to appreciate and to learn more about his or her religion.

My brothers,

The second issue that we need to take note of is the wisdom that a mukmin must strive to possess. If we were to study the Prophetic hadith, we will discover that there are hadith which describe a mukmin as a wise individual. For example, there is a hadith that says that a mukmin will not fall in the same hole twice [Hadith narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari]

This hence reflects that a mukmin should be wise and intellectually sharp, as a proof of their iman which require for them to think and deliberate. A true mukmin is hence not one to repeat a mistake he/she has committed before.

This hadith, and many others, demonstrate that a true mukmin is one who is able to think and to make sound judgments and considerations. He/she will not do something hastily. He/she will not get flustered and agitated when faced with challenges. Such challenges are part and parcel of life. What is important is for us to strive to achieve a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the issues and challenges.

Thirdly: In understanding religion, one can only do so with knowledge. To have a good grasp of religion, one must strive to acquire a comprehensive religious knowledge. And this would

undeniably require time and energy for individuals who would want to delve into understanding the religion by learning about the verses of the Quran and the hadith of the Prophet s.a.w. It is a duty for all mukmin to learn more about his or her religion, in order to understand the Quran better. Remember, brothers, one of the questions that will be posed to us as we lie down in our graves would be: *“Who is your imam?”* [Hadith narrated by Ad-Dailami]

Hence, for those who, in their lifetime, have strived to enliven the Quran; appreciate its teachings and to learn more of its contents, they are the ones who will answer: *“My imam is the Quran”*.

Therefore, let us take this opportunity, as we are nearing the month of Ramadan, to work on our recitations of the Quran, and to attend religious classes offered by mosques nationwide and also by private institutions. Let us pray that these efforts of ours will be blessed by Allah and may He then bless us with the guidance to continuously learn the Quran and to appreciate its teachings. And may we all be blessed with a resilient faith and iman – one that would motivate us to think and contemplate, and that would heighten our appreciation of our religion inshaAllah. 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.