



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Fulfilling Obligations After Returning from Haj

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ ضِيَاءً وَالْقَمَرَ نُورًا، وَأَنْزَلَ الْقُرْآنَ
لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ذِكْرًا، أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ
مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى
آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ صَلَاةً وَسَلَامًا دَائِمِينَ إِلَى يَوْمِ تَجِدُ كُلَّ نَفْسٍ مَّا
عَمِلَتْ مُحْضَرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا
تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

Let us strive to increase our takwa to Allah s.w.t., by obeying His commands and abstaining from His prohibitions. May this sense of takwa help us attain happiness and everlasting prosperity.

Dear Friday congregants,

Hajj this year has already been completed. Some of the pilgrims have returned to their respective countries, while others are still making preparations to return home. That was also how it was for our beloved messenger, Rasulullah s.a.w, who performed *Hajjatul Wada'* with tens of thousands other Muslims in the

tenth year after hijrah. Right after completing his Haj, Rasulullah swiftly returned to Madinah on the 14th of Zulhijjah.

Beloved Jemaah,

The holy land of Makkah is the one location on Allah's earth that is most beloved to Rasulullah s.a.w. it was his homeland, and the place where he was born. it was where the Prophet s.a.w. was raised with so much love, surrounded by his relatives and friends who became his extended family. It was also in Makkah that Rasulullah met Khadijah r.a and was blessed with children from his marriage to her.

Makkah is not only home to the Kaabah built by Prophet Ibrahim and his son, Prophet Ismail *alaihimassalam*. But Makkah is also where Rasulullah was bestowed his prophethood when he received the first revelation, and started to call upon others to believe in Allah. Hence, Makkah has a special place in Rasulullah's heart. Let us reflect upon the solemn words of Rasulullah s.a.w. when he was leaving Makkah to migrate to Madinah:

مَا أَطْيَبَكَ مِنْ بَلَدٍ وَأَحَبَّكَ إِلَيَّ وَلَوْلَا أَنَّ قَوْمِي أَخْرَجُونِي مِنْكَ مَا
سَكَنْتُ غَيْرَكَ

Which means: *"You (Makkah) are the best city, and the city that is most beloved to me. If your people did not expel me, I would*

not have departed from you". [Hadith reported by Imam At-Tirmizi]

That is how deep Rasulullah's love toward his birthplace, Makkah, was. However we also find that Rasulullah s.a.w. quickly returned to Madinah after performing Hajj in the tenth year of the hijrah. In fact, not only did he not linger in Makkah, but he also did not stay longer than the required length of his haj. Right after the third day of Tasyriq, Rasulullah s.a.w. returned to Madinah the day after.

Did he not miss Makkah, after migrating for ten years? Had his love for his homeland fade? Not at all.

The Prophet's love for Makkah was still alive in his heart. However, to continue his mission to call to the way of Islam was more important than to heed his heart and his feelings. Fulfilling his promise and oath to the people of Madinah was more important than to dwell on sentimental memories.

This can be seen during the re-opening of Makkah or Fathu Makkah, two years before. After Rasulullah successfully entered Makkah, the companions who originated from Madinah (known as the people of Ansar) were worried that Rasulullah s.a.w. would not want to return to Madinah. They understood very well the depth of Rasulullah's love for Makkah. The

Prophet s.a.w was aware of their concern. Hence, he gathered them and proclaimed to them:

كَلَّا إِنِّي عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ هَاجَرْتُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَإِلَيْكُمْ وَالْمَحْيَا
مَحْيَاكُمْ وَالْمَمَاتُ مَمَاتُكُمْ

Which means: *“Not at all (I will not return to Makkah)! Verily I am a servant of Allah and His Messenger. I migrated toward Allah and moved to your city. I live with you. And I will die from among you.”* The Ansars cried with joy when they heard his response. [Hadith reported by Imam Muslim].

That is the level of commitment of Rasulullah s.a.w toward his companions from among the Ansar, who have pledged to defend the Prophet s.a.w. when they first invited him to migrate to Madinah. The Ansars put their wealth and lives at stake for Rasulullah s.a.w.

Rasulullah truly appreciated all kindness that were extended to him. This is more so in the case of the vital and noble sacrifices that the Ansars had made for his sake. He kept his promise of remaining with the people of Ansar in Madinah, despite the strong desire to return to his homeland, Makkah.

Indeed that was how honourable Rasulullah was. this event offers many lessons for us to learn and apply in our lives. Firstly; the prosperity of his ummah meant everything to our beloved messenger. Allah says in Surah al-Taubah verse 128:

لَقَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مِّنْ أَنفُسِكُمْ عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا
عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَءُوفٌ رَّحِيمٌ ﴿١٢٨﴾

Which means: *“There has certainly come to you a Messenger from among yourselves. Grievous to him is what you suffer; [he is] concerned over you and to the believers is kind and merciful.”*

Secondly: Carrying out our obligations and honouring our promises are more important than following our heart and emotions. Feelings and emotions should not hinder one from fighting for a cause. The heart of a mukmin cannot indulge too much on past memories and sentiments such that it is left weak without the ability and resilience to face future challenges. On the contrary, a Muslim’s actions should not be guided solely by emotions because that will cloud his judgment and lead him to make hasty decisions which will only result in destruction and harm. In advocating change and improving our lives, Muslims are taught to act wisely, guided by knowledge, good manners and clear principles.

Thirdly: The nobility and purity of Makkah will not overshadow the nobility and rights of the believers. In fact, the honour of a Muslim is more important than the holiness of Kaabah, which is the kiblah for every Muslim in their prayers. It was reported that Rasulullah once faced the Kaabah and said: *“Greetings upon you, oh Kaabah. How great you are, and how great is your honour. But the honour of a mukmin is greater in the sight of*

Allah. Allah has prohibited only one (the right from being destroyed) upon you, whereas Allah has prohibited a mukmin from three things; his life, his wealth and bad opinions of him". (Reported al-Bahaqy).

Subhanallah! That was how Rasulullah showed that the rights of a believer is more important than that of Makkah, and protecting the honour of a believer is greater than the holiness of Kaabah.

My Brothers, we are again shocked by news of the arrest of two Muslim youths who aspire to join ISIS terrorist movement, which we know will only lead to more killing and destruction of human life. Hence, those who are motivated to join in battles that will lead to destruction and bloodshed among Muslims, think again. In fact, think it through many times over, so that you will not be trapped in an act that is deemed as heinous in the eyes of Allah s.w.t..

Let us pray that we be called among the ummah of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w who understand and appreciate the sacrifice and the love Rasulullah had for his companions and his ummah. May Allah grant us the strength to be a community that is courageous and confident to move ahead, and not a community that is weakened by emotions nor one which is confused due to emotion and rash actions.

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.