



**Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura**

**Friday Sermon**

**18 September 2015 / 4 Zulhijjah 1436**

**The Merits Of Zulhijjah**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي مَنَّ عَلَيْنَا أَيَّامًا مَعْلُومَاتٍ، وَأَلْهَمَنَا فِعْلَ  
الْخَيْرَاتِ وَتَرَكَ الْمُنْكَرَاتِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا  
شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ مَنْبَعُ  
الْقُرْبَاتِ وَسَيِّدُ الْمَخْلُوقَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا  
مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا  
الْمُسْلِمُونَ، أُوصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، فَقَدْ فَازَ  
الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

Iman and Taqwa are blessings that only Allah can grant in our hearts. Hence, let us be thankful for these blessings by guarding them and strengthening our taqwa in Allah s.w.t.

Jemaah,

In our bid to guard and strengthen our iman (faith), we cannot distance ourselves from a very important process, which is performing acts of worship (ibadah) and having a deep

understanding of them. We are now in a special month, the month where millions of Haj pilgrims have embarked on their spiritual journey toward the house of Allah. For those who have experienced it, it is a journey filled with sincerity and hope that Allah will accept their Haj. It is also an unforgettable journey. Why is it that this journey can leave such a lasting impact on so many pilgrims? This is because it is an act of worship where one deeply appreciates the objectives of the practice, places utmost hope and dependence on Allah s.w.t. and is focused in this mission. In addition, the pilgrims are aware of the immense reward of performing acts of worship in the Holy Land.

For those of us who are still here, there are many merits in the first ten days of Zulhijjah that we should try to benefit from. Allah s.w.t. says in surah Al-Fajr verses 1-2:

وَالْفَجْرِ ۝١  
وَلَيَالٍ عَشْرٍ ۝٢

Which means: *“By the dawn. And [by] ten nights”*.

Scholars of tafsir have mentioned that these ten nights refer to the first ten days of Zulhijjah. Nabi s.a.w. also stressed the rewards of performing acts of worship in these first ten days, in a hadith: *“There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days (in Zulhijjah). So increase making tahlil, takbir and tahmid”*. [Hadith reported by Imam Ahmad].

Alhamdulillah, we are now in the first ten days of Zulhijjah. Our lives are very short; hence we should grab any opportunity that Allah has given us to reap His rewards. Increase our good deeds; it doesn't matter if it's through donations or by volunteering to help those in need. For those who can afford it, try to perform the sacrifice on Eidul Adha. Besides that, there are several other practices encouraged by Rasulullah s.a.w. and the scholars, for us to enliven these ten days.

**First**, to increase fasting. This is because the Prophet s.a.w. said: *“Anyone who fasts for one day for Allah's sake, Allah will keep his face away from the Hellfire for (a distance covered by a journey of) seventy years”* [Muttafaqun 'Alaih]. If we are unable to fast on most days, then at least on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Zulhijjah or the Day of Arafah. This is because Rasulullah s.a.w. said *“Fasting on the Day of Arafah with the hope of getting Allah's reward will absolve your sins from the previous year and the coming year.”* [Hadith reported by Imam Muslim]

Subhanallah jemaah, fasting on the day of Arafah is so special that Allah will absolve our sins for two years merely by fasting for a day. Hence, we should try to encourage ourselves and our family members to reap this merit together. In fact, Nabi s.a.w. promised that the time when we break our fast is one of the times when one's doa is answered. Hence, increase making doa when fasting during these days.

Besides that, increasing making zikr and remembering Allah s.w.t. Read the Quran as fervently as we did during Ramadan. As Allah s.w.t. says in surah Al-Hajj verse 28:

وَيَذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ فِي أَيَّامٍ مَّعْلُومَاتٍ

Which means: “...and mention the name of Allah on known days...”

Ibn Abbas r.a. explained that the “known days” in this verse refers to the first ten days of Zulhijjah. Thus, scholars strongly encourage that we increase zikir on those days, based on a hadith from Ibnu Umar r.a. “So increase making *tahlil*, *takbir* and *tahmid* on those days”. [Hadith reported by Imam Ahmad]

Friday Jemaah,

Special periods for ibadah, such as the first ten days of Zulhijjah, are golden opportunities for us to improve our shortcomings and seek forgiveness for our sins. Hence, let us **spend more time to perform acts of worship**, take time to reflect upon Allah’s Greatness, the countless blessings He has showered upon us and think of how we have maximise them well. Take time to truly understand the acts of worship that we perform. Ask ourselves, are we ready if it is time for us to return to Allah, and to meet with Him?

Jemaah, we all yearn for Paradise and we wish to be able to enjoy its blessings. However, are we able to be dwellers of

Paradise? Set aside more time for self-reflection in our worship. May Allah s.w.t. accept our deeds. May those deeds protect us and our families from the fire of Allah's hellfire and help us to be among the dwellers of Paradise in the hereafter. May Allah protect all of the Haj pilgrims and bestow upon them Haj mabrur. 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.