



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Eiduladha Sermon

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Appreciating The Value Of Sacrifice

الله أَكْبَرُ 9x

الله أَكْبَرُ، مَا تَقَرَّبَ الْعَبْدُ بِقُرْبَانٍ.

الله أَكْبَرُ، مَا رَغِبَ الْعَابِدُونَ فِي الْغُفْرَانِ.

الله أَكْبَرُ، مَا حَمِدَهُ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجَانُ.

الله أَكْبَرُ، مَا جَرَتْ الْكَوَاكِبُ بِحُسْبَانٍ.

الله أَكْبَرُ، اللهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللهُ أَكْبَرُ.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَاللهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللهُ أَكْبَرُ وَاللهُ الْحَمْدُ.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ هَذَا الشَّهْرَ وَجَعَلَ عِبَادَةَ الْحَجِّ وَعِيدَ

الْأَضْحَى مِنْ شَعَائِرِ اللهِ وَإِحْيَاءَهَا مِنْ تَقْوَى الْقُلُوبِ. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا

إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ

وَرَسُولُهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى

سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللهِ، اتَّقُوا اللهُ، وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللهِ، فَقَدْ

فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Blessed Friday jemaah,

On this blessed morning, I would like to humbly call upon my brothers and sisters in faith, to extend our gratitude and appreciation to Allah s.w.t. It is with His love and compassion that we will be blessed with the ni'mah of faith and life. Let us pray that Allah will accept the deeds by our brothers and sisters who are performing their hajj ritual. May they remain healthy and safe, and may they return home in a state of purity and a peace of mind. And we make prayers too, that Allah will accept all our deeds that we did in these early days of Zulhijjah. May we be granted forgiveness and His blessings, amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

Beloved jemaah,

The month of Zulhijjah is a reminder to the greatness of hajj. It is the peak of ni'mah for the souls who come to congregate in Baitullah and the holy Kaabah. Since it was built by Prophet Ibrahim a.s. and his son, kaabah has continued to remain the focus of a very symbolic Islamic ritual up till today. The holy ritual of hajj is completed by performing several rituals – from performing the tawaf at baitullah, to the gathering in Arafah. If we were to observe carefully, the rituals that make up the hajj are not meaningless and insignificant. Hajj is a journey that teaches us humility when standing before Allah s.w.t. It is a

highly spiritual journey for those who want to build their relationship with Allah, and it is a ritual that forces us to be aware and sensitive of our interactions and dealings with other humans.

The congregation at Arafah is a very special aspect of hajj – men and women, rich or poor congregate with only their most basic clothings without any adornments or expensive accessories. It serves to remind us that all our worldly possessions are nothing in the eyes of Allah; not our riches, our status, race nor lineage. What matters in His eyes are our taqwa, the purity of our hearts, our determination to perform ibadah and our zeal to spread goodness. It serves to remind us that no matter how impressive we are on this earth, we will all eventually return to Him with only a few shrouds of fabric wrapped around our body that will disintegrate with time. We will leave everything that we possess, or our possessions will leave us. Allah has mentioned in Surah As-Shu'ara verse 88 and 89:

يَوْمَ لَا يَنْفَعُ مَالٌ وَلَا بَنُونَ ﴿٨٨﴾ إِلَّا مَنْ أَتَى اللَّهَ بِقَلْبٍ سَلِيمٍ ﴿٨٩﴾

Which means: *“The day on which property will not avail, nor sons, Except him who comes to Allah with a heart free (from evil)”*.

My dear jemaah,

Humility of the heart and soul will invite Allah's forgiveness. It is akin to a fertile field that will bear fruits of goodness, humanity and love in the hearts of Muslimin. That is why the Prophet s.a.w. told us that: *"Whoever performs Hajj and does not have sexual relations (during ihram) or commit any evil, will go back (free of) sin like a newborn child."* [Hadith narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

That is how, my dear jemaah, the Prophet s.a.w. had emphasised that the condition of completing hajj is also dependent on how we observe our dealings and interactions with other humans. This thus reminds us that in improving our relationship with Allah, we will also need to improve and work on our relationships with others.

We are also reminded that faith hence should lead to the fruition of good values, and rituals are to lead to a pure heart that is adorned with commendable behaviours. If we strive hard to perform our rituals, but we do not work on our morals to become better human beings, then we should really reflect upon ourselves. We worry that these flaws in our heart and intentions will affect our ibadah and our good deeds.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

Beloved Muslimin and Muslimat,

The peak of hajj ritual is the congregation of humans on the Day of Arafah. This is where we will witness humans from all tribes and nationalities congregate to beg for the blessings of the One and Only God. This congregation is not a mere congregation; it calls upon us to reflect on Allah's greatness in creating the diverse humankind. How amazing that humankind originates from a drop of liquid can eventually evolve into humans of different looks, languages, cultures and thinking. In congregating with the millions of other hajj jemaah, we are reminded that diversity of humankind is a will of God and a sign of His greatness. Allah has said in surah Huud, verse 118-119:

وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ لَجَعَلَ النَّاسَ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَلَا يَزَالُونَ مُخْتَلِفِينَ ﴿١١٨﴾
إِلَّا مَنْ رَحِمَ رَبُّكَ وَلِذَلِكَ خَلَقَهُمْ قَدًّا وَتَمَّتْ كَلِمَةُ رَبِّكَ لَأَمْلَأَنَّ
جَهَنَّمَ مِنَ الْجِنَّةِ وَالنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ ﴿١١٩﴾

Which means: *“And if your Lord had pleased He would certainly have made people a single nation, and they shall continue to differ. Except those on whom your Lord has mercy; and for this did He create them; and the word of your Lord is fulfilled: Certainly I will fill hell with the jinn and the men, all together”*.

This verse hence teaches us that differences are hence willed by God. Dr. Taha Jabir Alwani reminded us in his book *Adab Ikhtilaf*, that differences should not lead to disintegration. He advised us that if our differences are not guided by a pure heart

and good morals, then it will lead to disunity if we do not take control of our hatred, vengeance and ego.

Hence it is important that when we are faced with those who differ from us, that we first seek to establish our common grounds. Imagine jemaah, the congregation of those performing hajj of different cultures and races in a limited space like Arafah can definitely lead to misunderstandings and arguments. So how is it that they are able to continue performing ibadah in peace and harmony? This is because they acknowledge the similarities between them, which is to pray the One God, follow the footsteps of the Prophet and to be guided by the Holy Quran. This proves to show that when we focus on the similarities, we will be distanced from doubts and worries of our differences.

Far too often my dear jemaah, we see how the Muslim community always seek to argue amongst ourselves. Sometimes, it seems they enjoy emphasizing on the differences in opinion, the way they dress and so on. They feel that their group and their inclination are the truest in the eyes of God.

Be very wary of such feelings. Syaitan will creep into our hearts and instill the fire of enmity, hatred and pride, with the intention to win over others. Ask for Allah's protection from such feelings. Release ourselves from such thoughts and focus instead on the similarities between us. Such a mentality will serve to

strengthen the relationships between Muslims, and will also educate us to be Muslims who work together amongst ourselves, and also with those who do not share our faith. This is especially when we bear in mind that at the end of the day, we are all Allah s.w.t.'s creations.

Besides focusing on our similarities, we also need to think of how we can come together with those with whom we differ with in doing good and in facing challenges.

Jemaah, it does not matter what our religious inclinations are, or our races; there are rooms and spaces for us to share and work together. No matter how different we are in our thinking, we can remain united in pursuing common grounds like eliminating poverty. We can work together in building the resilience of our youths in facing the social challenges, and to help them who are embroiled in such challenges to improve on themselves and their families.

In fact, beyond that, we can also work together in increasing the community's awareness on the environmental crisis and how we can work on that. These, and many other challenges which we all share as citizens of Singapore and the world, require that we remain united. And this is a lesson that we can learn from the pilgrims in Arafah. One of the reasons why they remain at peace with each other is because they share a common goal,

which is to reap His blessings and to have their hajj ibadah accepted.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

My brothers and sisters,

The differences between us, be it in social, political or religious issues, must always be accompanied by a mutual understanding. If we find that the opinions of a brother is extreme and we cannot agree with him, then have a respectful discussion. Do not succumb follow the footsteps of the keyboard warriors we see too often on the social media platforms. They freely insult and hurl vulgarities at those who disagree with them, and worse, even resort to accuse them, only to run away and hide.

This is not the sunnah taught by Rasulullah s.a.w. What is best is to meet personally and to discuss properly and honestly. This will encourage camaraderie and respect, which might not have been impossible before this. And for that, Allah s.w.t had said in Surah Fusshilat: 34-35:

وَلَا تَسْتَوِي الْحَسَنَةُ وَلَا السَّيِّئَةُ ادْفَعْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ فَإِذَا الَّذِي
بَيْنَكَ وَبَيْنَهُ عَدَاوَةٌ كَأَنَّهُ وَلِيٌّ حَمِيمٌ ﴿٣٤﴾
وَمَا يُلْقِيهَا إِلَّا الَّذِينَ صَبَرُوا وَمَا يُلْقِيهَا إِلَّا ذُو حَظٍّ عَظِيمٍ ﴿٣٥﴾

Which means: *“And not alike are the good and the evil. Repel (evil) with what is best, when lo! he between whom and you was enmity would be as if he were a warm friend. And none are made to receive it but those who are patient, and none are made to receive it but those who have a mighty good fortune”*.

May our appreciation of the hajj ritual this morning will unite our hearts as one community. Let us continue in our efforts to elevate the status of our religion internationally by becoming a community that is spiritually strong, successful in education and our economy. May Allah guide our hearts and minds to always focus on the similarities and lean our hearts to strive together in facing our shared challenges. May Allah elevate the status of Islam with us as the active ambassadors who strive to spread good and services to everyone.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

Come brothers and sisters, on this blessed morning, in this blessed location, let us take the opportunity to make prayers for everyone.

Ya Allah Ya Qawiy Ya Matin,

We beseech you in all humility for your protection; protect our brothers and sisters who are facing conflicts and having to deal with humanity crisis no matter where they are.

Ya Hafiz Ya Muqit, please return safety and peace to our brothers and sisters in humanity who are in a state of worry and depression. Bestow upon them peace and resilience so that they can face the challenges before them. Grant them peace and safety. Free them from trials and difficulties. Ease them of their affairs ya Allah, and please protect their children, their family and their faiths.

Please unite our hearts ya Allah. Fill our hearts with love for You and compassion for Your creations. Adorn us and our families with the morals and values of Your Prophet. Help us in facing Your challenges. Grant us victory when it is time for us to meet You. Please grant our prayers and our hopes, Ya Mujib Ya Rahman Ya Rahim. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارِكْ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ ، وَنَفَعِنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا
فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ 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 .

Second Sermon

24 September 2015 / 10 Zulhijjah 1436

الله أكبر 7x

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَعَادَ الْأَعْيَادَ وَكَرَّرَ. أَحْمَدُهُ سُبْحَانَهُ أَنْ
خَلَقَ وَصَوَّرَ. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ،
شَهَادَةً يَثْقُلُ بِهِ الْمِيزَانُ فِي الْمَحْشَرِ. اللَّهُمَّ فَصِّلْ وَسَلِّمْ
عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ الْفَائِزِينَ بِالشَّرَفِ
الْأَفْخَرِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا
وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

وَصَلُّوا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ عَلَى رَسُولِ الْهُدَى وَخَيْرِ الْوَرَى فَقَدْ
أَمَرَكُمْ بِذَلِكَ الْمَوْلَى جَلَّ وَعَلَا حَيْثُ قَالَ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ
يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا
تَسْلِيمًا.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى رَسُولِكَ الْمُجْتَبَى وَنَبِيِّكَ الْمُصْطَفَى
سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ أَفْضَلِ الْخَلْقِ وَخَيْرِ الْوَرَى. وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ
أَهْلِ الصِّدْقِ وَالْوَفَى.

اللَّهُمَّ وَارِضَ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ
وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقَرَابَةِ أَجْمَعِينَ وَتَابِعِيهِمْ إِلَى
يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ
الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ إِنَّكَ قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبُ الدَّعَوَاتِ وَغَافِرُ
الدُّنُوبِ وَالْخَطِيئَاتِ. رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا
وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ. رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ
هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ. رَبَّنَا
آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.
وَأَدْخِلْنَا الْجَنَّةَ مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ. يَا اللَّهُ يَا عَزِيزُ يَا غَفَّارُ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى
وَيَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ
تَذَكَّرُونَ. فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا عَلَى نِعْمِهِ
يَزِدْكُمْ وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ. وَاللَّهُ
يُعَلِّمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.