



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

1 April 2016 / 23 Jamadilakhir 1437H

Being Humble in Knowledge

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْغَنِيِّ الْحَمِيدِ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ
لَهُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَرَسُولُهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَالْقَوْلِ السَّدِيدِ، اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا
مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ
اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

Let us lower ourselves in humility. Seek from Allah s.w.t. a true sense of takwa. Ask for strength from the Almighty, so that we can fulfill all of His commands and abstain from His prohibitions. May Allah accept our prayers. Amin Ya Rabbal 'alamin.

Jemaah,

Today, I would like to implore all of you to reflect upon the story of Prophet Musa a.s. and Prophet Khidir a.s., which is found in Surah al-Kahfi. The story is about Prophet Musa a.s. who was asked to learn from Prophet Khidir a.s. Do we know the reason behind the command?

It was reported by Ubayy bin Ka'ab from Rasulullah s.a.w. that one day, when Prophet Musa a.s. was with the Israelites, a man came to him and asked: Do you know anyone who is more pious than you? Prophet Musa replied: There is no one. Allah s.w.t. then revealed to him: "Verily, our slave Khidir (is more pious than you)". Prophet Musa a.s. then resolved to meet him and learn from him. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah al-Kahfi verses 65 to 69:

فَوَجَدَا عَبْدًا مِّنْ عِبَادِنَا آتَيْنَاهُ رَحْمَةً مِّنْ عِنْدِنَا وَعَلَّمْنَاهُ مِمَّا لَدُنَّا عِلْمًا ﴿٦٥﴾
 قَالَ لَهُ مُوسَىٰ هَلْ أَتَّبِعُكَ عَلَىٰ أَنْ تُعَلِّمَ مِن مَّا عَلَّمْتَ رُشْدًا ﴿٦٦﴾
 قَالَ إِنَّكَ لَنْ تَسْتَطِيعَ مَعِيَ صَبْرًا ﴿٦٧﴾ وَكَيْفَ تَصْبِرُ عَلَىٰ مَا لَمْ تُحِطْ بِهِ خُبْرًا ﴿٦٨﴾
 قَالَ سَتَجِدُنِي إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ صَابِرًا وَلَا أَعْصِي لَكَ أَمْرًا ﴿٦٩﴾

Which means: "And they found a servant from among Our servants to whom we had given mercy from us and had taught him from Us a [certain] knowledge. Musa said to him, "May I follow you on [the condition] that you teach me from what you have been taught of sound judgement?" He said, "Indeed, with me you will never be able to have patience. And how can you have patience for what you do not encompass in knowledge?" [Musa] said, "You will find me, if Allah wills, patient, and I will not disobey you in [any] order."

Subhanallah! That is how Allah s.w.t. has shaped the character of His messengers, and that was how committed they are to adorn themselves with the best of character.

This story tells us that no matter how knowledgeable and learned we think we are, Allah s.w.t. knows even more for He is the All-Knowing, and that human's knowledge is limited. Thus, Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Yusuf verse 76, which means: *“We raise in degrees whom We will, but over every possessor of knowledge is one [more] knowing.”*

Jemaah, never forget that it is Allah s.w.t. who is the Owner of everything in the heavens and the earth, and the Owner of all the knowledge in our hearts and minds. In fact, Allah did not allow for even a tinge of arrogance to take root in the heart of Prophet Musa a.s. He was a messenger of Allah who had successfully overcome all sorts of trials and challenges, called his people to the path of Allah and saved them by leading them against Allah's enemy. Despite all these achievements, Allah s.w.t. continued to remind him to not be arrogant and proud of the knowledge and skills he has been blessed with. If that was the case for a Prophet of Allah, then all the more we – these humble servants of Allah – think highly of ourselves. We are full of weaknesses, sins and mistakes. Are we qualified to even feel proud of the knowledge that we have, which really is nothing compared to Allah's knowledge or that of His prophets?

Definitely not at all. So let us learn to be tawadhu', humble and never allow ourselves to feel that we know everything and only our opinions are right.

Jemaah,

Besides that, observe how Prophet Musa a.s. reacted upon knowing that there is another servant of Allah who is more learned than him. Did he become angry that Allah s.w.t. bestowed upon another person more knowledge than him? Not at all. He did not question the man's knowledge, and he did not deny it. He did not even debate and argue to try to prove that his knowledge is superior.

In fact, he even eagerly asked Allah s.w.t: "tell me how I can meet this servant of Allah to learn from him." And he asked with such diligence, humility and sincerity, because he truly wanted to learn and seek more experience.

MasyaAllah, how beautiful is his character. Despite being a Prophet of Allah, he never felt that his knowledge was sufficient and he did not stop seeking and learning when he was told that there was someone else who knew what he did not know. His diligence is evidence of his deep realisation of Allah's might and his own weakness as a servant of God. This is the true humility that we need to instil in ourselves.

Blessed Jemaah, there are many aspects of humility that should be observed by every believer. It begins with humility toward Allah s.w.t., humility toward other mankind, and so on. We will be discussing more on this topic throughout this month. Hopefully by doing so, we can motivate ourselves to instil such noble traits in our daily lives, insyallah.

Beloved Jemaah,

Let us emulate Prophet Musa a.s. in his humility in seeking knowledge. Do not feel arrogant of the little that we know, even if we feel that we have known a lot. Avoid feeling that our knowledge is sufficient and we do not need to learn from others. Instil in our hearts the intention to follow the footsteps of Prophet Musa a.s. in diligently collecting the gems of knowledge from others who are more pious and learned. May our good deeds in the Hereafter be accepted when we meet with the One Who is All-Knowing, and our one and only Creator, Allah s.w.t. Amin Ya Rabbal Alamin.

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ 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 اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.