



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Khutbah Jumaat

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Developing Humility Through Acts of Rituals

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا
وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ
وَصَفِيُّ اللَّهِ مِنْ خَلْقِهِ وَحَبِيبُهُ إِمَامُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَسَيِّدُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ اللَّهُمَّ
صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ
مُسْلِمُونَ

Beloved Friday Congregation,

Let us increase our taqwa in Allah s.w.t. Let us renew our commitment to obey all that is commanded by Allah s.w.t. and abstain from what He has prohibited. Hopefully this renewed commitment will serve to better our demeanour and personality, and serve to also strengthen our faith in Allah s.w.t.

Beloved jemaah,

The previous khutbah had discussed on the importance of humility in improving our relationship with God and others. This week, I would like to ask us to reflect on how our daily ritual acts, can also play a crucial role in helping to ensure that we do not succumb to our pride and ego. In fact, if done right, these rituals can ignite the drive to constantly strive for goodness and self-improvement.

My dear brothers, when we really contemplate on the rituals that we perform daily, we will realise that these acts can actually inspire humility, and eliminate pride and selfishness.

One of these rituals is our solat or prayers. For example, at the point when we raise both our hands to make takbir, that is when we have to temporarily leave behind all our assets, our social status, our career, skills and expertise. This is because this is the moment when we have to face the ultimate Possessor or Al-Maalik, and our every move - physical and spiritual - is in deep appreciation of this recitation:

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Which means: Say, *“Indeed, my prayer, my rites of sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah , Lord of the worlds.”* [Al-An’am, verse 162]

Another instance is when we are prostrating; this is when our body falls to the ground in humility, while we utter these words:

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْأَعْلَىٰ وَبِحَمْدِهِ

Which means: *“Glory be to my Lord who is the Most Highest and in all His praises”*.

My brothers,

Let us thus increase our gratitude towards Allah. When we receive a blessing, an appreciation or a compliment, let us not forget to recite (*hadza min fadhli Robbi*) or (*masya Allah la quwwata illa billah*).

All of these which I have mentioned above serve to remind us to not be boastful, and to remember that all blessings and praises belong to Allah s.w.t. who is Ar-Razzaaq.

Beloved jemaah,

In addition to humility to God, we are also taught to humble ourselves to our parents. This is to remind us to not be forgetful of their sacrifices and affection towards us. We need to be a person who is always grateful to the goodness extended to us, so that we realise that we are dependent on others. This would make us more appreciative of their kindness and assistance.

The Prophet s.a.w. said in a hadith:

“Whoever is not grateful to people, is not grateful to Allah.”

[Hadith narrated by Ahmad]

This hadith hence serves as a reminder to us that we are weak and are in constant need of others in order to live comfortably. It also reminds us that we were once helpless and weak, but Allah has blessed us with a family and parents who showered us with their love. They took care of us, attended to us and raised us. So let us not forget to always make du'a for them after our every prayer:

رَبِّ اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا

Which means: *“O Allah, please forgive my sins and the sins of my parents, and have mercy upon them, like how they were towards me when they were nurturing me during my childhood.”*

Hence, when we are now capable of being independent, let us not let be insolent and boastful. Help those who are in need, just like how Allah had offered us assistance and facilitation when we needed it the most. And it is for this reason too, that Allah has taught us to give alms and pay zakat, so that we share our blessings and the surpluses that Allah has bestowed upon us.

Jemaah,

Just as how we have been reminded to always be thankful of Allah's blessings, I would also like to remind us that we have now entered the month of Rejab. It is one of the 4 noble months in Islam, also known as the months of 'haram'. Hence let us take this opportunity to increase our good deeds and acts of devotion to Allah s.w.t. Rejab also means that we are nearing the month of Ramadan, so let us develop the excitement and fervour to intensify our ibadah and to be in service to those who need us. May Allah accept all our good deeds, and may we be given the opportunity to meet with the month of Ramadan. 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.