



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Humility in Performing Good Deeds

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

Blessed Friday jemaah,

Let us boost our taqwa to Allah s.w.t., renew our resolution to heed all of Allah's commands and abstain from His prohibitions. Hopefully by doing so our character and manners will be beautified and our belief in Him will be strengthened.

My dear jemaah,

Last week's sermon discussed on acts of worship that we often perform, such as praying in congregation and giving to charity, can help us to strengthen our humility. Hence, a person who

guards his acts of worship is essentially training and educating himself to be a servant of Allah who is humble and strives to be sincere in his acts of worship, performing them solely for the sake of Allah s.w.t. Allah says in the Quran:

وَمَا أُمِرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الدِّينَ حُنَفَاءَ وَيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ
وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقَيِّمَةِ ۝

Which means: *“And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, [being] sincere to Him in religion, inclining to truth, and to establish prayer and to give zakah. And that is the correct religion.”* [Surah Al-Bayyinah: 5]

Friday jemaah,

Let me share a story narrated by Imam an-Nasai’ie and Imam al-Baihaqi; may it serve as a lesson for us all. Rasulullah s.a.w. was sitting with the Companions, and he said: *“a youth who is a dweller of Paradise will come to you now.”* Rasulullah repeated the sentence for three consecutive days with the hope of attracting the interest of the companions. And every time he uttered those words, a young man, whose physique was rather ordinary, would come.

On the third day, ‘Abdullah bin ‘Amru bin al-‘Ash could not contain his curiosity any further, and so he felt compelled to find out why is the young man promised paradise by Rasulullah. He

then secretly met up with the youth and asked to stay with him for a few days.

After three nights, ‘Abdullah was still not convinced that the man was promised paradise, as he felt that the man’s deeds were nothing extraordinary. He observed that the man did not do much tahajjud prayers in the wee hours of the night, nor was he always making zikr in the day. After the third day, ‘Abdullah confessed to the man that his intention of staying at his place was to learn from him the traits of a dweller of Paradise as mentioned by Rasulullah s.a.w. And so the young man replied: *“There is nothing to me except what you have seen.”* Hearing as such, ‘Abdullah went away feeling disappointed. Then the youth called him again and said: *“There is nothing to me except what you have seen. But I try to ensure that I do not cheat anyone, and I do not have jealousy (hasad) over what Allah has blessed upon others.”*

Hearing as such, ‘Abdullah spontaneously replied: *“These are the traits that you have successfully instilled in you while we have yet been able to do so.”*

Blessed jemaah,

This story depicts the importance of humility in the deeds that we perform. A person may seem ordinary, but only Allah s.w.t. knows his real status in the eyes of Allah. We may be deceived

by what is displayed outwardly, but Allah is All-Knowing on what is made seen and hidden by each individual. Hence, we should never judge others based on what we see. What we should be doing instead is to pray for the best for them in our shared journey of seeking Allah's pleasure and blessings.

The story of the young man also gives an insight on the beauty of his character. Although he had been promised a place in paradise, he was still humble in replying that there was nothing special about his deeds. That is the true nature of a person who is humble and sincere.

Beloved Friday jemaah,

Let us reflect upon the hadith of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. which highlights the importance of being humble in performing good deeds. Rasulullah s.a.w. said, which means: *"... Verily there is no God but Allah, among you there are those who perform the deeds of the dwellers of paradise that the distance between him and Paradise is only a cubit, and then what has been ordained by Allah surpasses, and he starts doing deeds of the people of the (Hell) Fire and enters the (Hell) Fire. And among you there are those who perform the deeds of the people of Hell that the distance between him and Hell is only a cubit, and then what has been ordained by Allah surpasses, and so he starts doing deeds characteristic of the people of*

Paradise and enters Paradise.” [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari]

Jemaah,

Despite the many acts of worship and good deeds that we have performed, there is no guarantee that we will remain as so until the end. We will never know if we might slip and pass away in the state of committing sins. *Nauzubillah.*

If we cannot guarantee our own state of iman, then who are we to look down upon others and judge them for the mistakes they make? Who are we to dismiss their deeds and make light of it? They may change and become far better people that we have and ever will be.

We must assume the best of Allah, and that He will not dismiss the good deeds of His servants. At the same time, every mukmin must continue to seek Allah’s mercy and help because only Allah The All-Knowing is aware of how everything will end.

May Allah also make us among those who always supplicate for one another in striving to gain Allah’s pleasure in this world and the hereafter. Amin Ya Rabbal ‘Alamin.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ 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.