



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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“Allah’s Mercy Encompasses All Creations”

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,

Have takwa in Allah s.w.t. Obey all of His commands and abstain from what Allah has prohibited upon us. May we continuously obtain guidance from Allah. Amin.

Jemaah,

If we were to study every surah in the Al-Quran, we will notice that every surah starts with *Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim*, which is also known as Basmalah, except surah At-Taubah.

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim means: *“In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent and the Most Merciful”*

From the many names or traits of Allah, the ones mentioned in the Basmalah are Ar-Rahman and Ar-Rahim. What is the significance behind this? What is meant by Ar-Rahman and Ar-Rahim?

According to some scholars of tafsir, Ar-Rahman and Ar-Rahim are chosen to explain Allah’s traits (sifat) in Basmalah because these are His most dominant traits. Both traits come from the same root word, which is Rahmah. Ar-Rahman reflects the endless mercy from Allah upon all of His creations, whereas Ar-Rahim explains how Allah has a specific trait of mercy that is exclusive to Him.

Blessed Friday Jemaah!

Allah’s Rahmah has many meanings. It includes Allah’s care that He showers upon us, His guidance and hidayah, His blessings so that one remains on the true path, rewards and Paradise. These will definitely inspire a servant to be grateful to Allah for the blessings and mercy showered upon him. With Allah’s endless mercy, even those who do not believe in Allah are not deprived of His blessings. Rasulullah s.a.w explained how wide and extensive Allah’s rahmah is: *“Allah Azza wa Jalla has divided mercy into 100 parts, and He retained with Him 99*

parts, and sent down to earth one part. Through this one part creatures deal with one another with compassion, so much so that an animal lifts its hoof over its young lest it should hurt it.”
[Hadith reported by Imam Muslim]

Blessed Jemaah,

Among Allah’s mercy and love to us is showering us with all the blessings of this life, without asking for a single cent as a repayment. We all know the high cost that we have to pay when we fall sick and are admitted to the hospital. Have we thus not taken a moment to realise that Allah has given most of us good health, yet He has not asked for any payment for the health He has bestowed upon us! If we were asked to pay, we would not be able to afford to do so!

Allah’s mercy upon His servants is endless and cannot be counted. As He has mentioned in surah Al-A’raf, verse 156:

❁ وَأَكْتُبُ لَنَا فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ إِنَّا هُدْنَا
إِلَيْكَ قَالَ عَذَابِي أُصِيبُ بِهِ مَنْ أَشَاءُ وَرَحْمَتِي وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ
شَيْءٍ فَسَأَكْتُبُهَا لِلَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ
بِآيَاتِنَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿١٥٦﴾

Meaning: “And decree for us in this world [that which is] good and [also] in the Hereafter; indeed, we have turned back to You.” [Allah] said, “My punishment - I afflict with it whom I will,

but My mercy encompasses all things.” So I will decree it [especially] for those who fear Me and give zakah and those who believe in Our verses”.

The verse that was just recited explains how Allah decrees His mercy upon those who are deserving of it. Specifically, they are people who are filled with takwa, people who pay their zakat, and those who believe in His signs.

And among the traits of those who are filled with takwa are that they will fulfil three responsibilities wherever they are. It begins with preserving the teachings of religion, spreading the universal values and principles of Islam, and always upholding good akhlak when interacting with other humankind. This is taken from the advice of our beloved Rasulullah s.a.w. in a hadith reported by Abu Dzar and Muadz bin Jabal, Rasulullah s.a.w. said:

اتق الله حيثما كنت، وأتبع السيئة الحسنة تمحها،

وخالق الناس بخلق حسن

Meaning: *“Be conscious of Allah wherever you are. Follow the bad deed with a good one to erase it, and engage others with beautiful character.”* [Hadith reported by Imam At-Tarmidzi]

Jemaah,

As we are about celebrate our 51st National Day, we should be grateful to Allah for all the blessings He has granted us and blessed our country with. Alhamdulillah, we have thus far been safe from the chaos and fighting that some countries are experiencing. As a sign of our gratitude to Allah for the peace He has bestowed our country with, we should strive to continue to uphold this peace and reject any extreme and rigid ideas that do not positively contribute to the harmonious interracial and interfaith fabric of our nation.

Singaporeans have enjoyed many years of peace and prosperity, and as Muslims, the Prophet's advice should be part and parcel of our way of life, and we should embrace it spiritually and physically. Guided by the sunnah of Rasulullah s.a.w. that was shared earlier, and the deep sense of gratitude we have towards Allah, as Singaporean Muslims, we must always be ready and willing to contribute to the country's prosperity and harmony. A good Muslim understands that there is no conflict between being a strong believer and a good citizen. A Muslim's identity is not limited to fulfilling and obeying the rules of Syara' that are only outwardly in nature, or only focusing on individual rights. In fact, a good Muslim is also a good citizen who supports universal principles and values.

May Allah always shower His mercy and love upon all of His servants who love to do good and spread kindness to others, as well as to avoid all kinds of conflict, enmity and hostility among humankind. Amin.

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.