



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

1 July 2016 / 26 Ramadan 1437

Hoping For Allah's Acceptance

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الْفُرْقَانَ وَ أَيْدِ النَّاسِ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَ الْبَيَانَ،
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ شَهِدَ لِنَفْسِهِ
الْوَحْدَانِيَّةَ وَ الْإِحْسَانَ وَ شَهِدَ بِهِمَا مَلَائِكَتُهُ وَ الثَّقَلَانِ، وَأَشْهَدُ
أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَ الرِّضْوَانِ ،
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَ عَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ
تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا
تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday jemaah,

Let us increase our taqwa in Allah s.w.t. by obeying His commands and abstaining from all of His prohibitions. May Allah accept all the acts of worship and good deeds that we have done throughout Ramadan insyallah. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Respected jemaah,

Today is the last Friday of this blessed month. Next week, we will be welcoming the month of Syawal. Time is indeed moving fast. Only God knows if we will be given the blessed opportunity to experience Ramadan again. Hence jemaah, let us this opportunity to reflect upon our deeds throughout this Ramadan.

My brothers and sisters,

Among the traits and attitudes of a true believer (mukmin) is a deep appreciation for all of Allah's blessings. Among the most valuable blessings from Allah s.w.t. to His servant is age and time. Thus, Allah s.w.t. reminds us repeatedly in the Quran about the importance and significance of time in His sight. Allah says:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ خِلْفَةً لِّمَنۢ أَرَادَ أَن يَذَّكَّرَ أَوْ أَرَادَ

شُكْرًا ﴿٦٢﴾

Meaning: *“And it is He who has made the night and the day in succession for whoever desires to remember or desires gratitude.”* [Surah Al-Furqan verse 62]

There are repeated reminders in the Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet s.a.w. on the value of time and age, and how these gifts will not last forever. And this is also why there are constant reminders that death is definite. These are not meant to scare us; instead, it is meant to shape our character and our souls to

be believers of strong religious resilience, who constantly strive to be the best and to contribute to the best of our abilities with the time given to us by God. Nabi s.a.w. said:

"إِذَا مَاتَ ابْنُ آدَمَ انْقَطَعَ عَمَلُهُ إِلَّا مِنْ ثَلَاثٍ: صَدَقَةٍ جَارِيَةٍ ، أَوْ عِلْمٍ يُنْتَفَعُ بِهِ، أَوْ وَلَدٍ صَالِحٍ يَدْعُو لَهُ".

Meaning: *"When the son of Adam dies no further reward is recorded for his actions, with three exceptions: charity whose benefit is continuous, knowledge from which benefit continues to be reaped, or the supplication of a righteous son (for him)."*

[Hadith reported by Imam Muslim]

Jemaah, it is possible that we may have misunderstood the main crux of this hadith. We may think that the hadith is merely reminding us about death. However, the true meaning of the hadith is to remind us how we Muslims should make good use of our time in this temporary world. It aims to remind us that with every breath that we take and whatever time we are left with, we should strive to do good deeds that will have a lasting effect. There are many ways to achieve this. These include giving donations to charity, teaching and sharing the knowledge that we have, and raising our children with the right values to be faithful Muslims who will continue to uphold noble Islamic traditions.

This is the essence of Islamic teachings; that every Muslim must learn to appreciate the time that Allah s.w.t. has bestowed upon him. He should also be one who strives to bring about positive changes throughout his life. The more one remembers of the realities of life and the impending death, the more one will make every effort to ensure that the opportunities given by Allah are not put to waste.

Friday jemaah,

Take a moment to reflect how we have spent this Ramadan. Do we feel that we have given our very best this Ramadan? Have we succeeded in training ourselves to control our desires, to control our hearts and other parts of our body from committing sins and misdeeds? What about our acts of worship? Do we feel closer to Allah s.w.t. now that we have fasted for almost a month? Or do we feel the same – no increase in the state of our iman nor the desire to do more good deeds? If we used to not feel the need to help those in need, then are we now more sensitive and aware of their condition and are motivated to continue to do good deeds beyond Ramadan?

Subhanallah! What a loss! What a loss! What a loss! For those whom Ramadan has failed to leave any effect in their lives. Ramadan came and left, and yet he is still in the same state as he was in. No change in himself, and no forgiveness from God. How could this have happened? Perhaps because he has failed

to appreciate the blessings of the month of Ramadan, which a precious gift from Allah. Or perhaps, he arrogantly believes that he will definitely live till the next Ramadan.

Blessed Jemaah, increase making istighfar to Allah s.w.t in these last days and last moments of Ramadan. If there are any shortcomings in our deeds, we should strive even harder in these last days of Ramadan to seek Allah's forgiveness and mercy. Al-Hassan Al-Basri once said: *"Increase our istighfar to Allah, because we do not know when exactly He will shower His mercy upon us"*.

Respected jemaah,

Even if we feel that we have fulfilled Allah's command to perform good deeds throughout Ramadan, each and every mukmin seeks Allah's acceptance of his deeds. There is no guarantee that our deeds will be accepted by Allah, until the moment we meet Him. Allah says, regarding the manner (adab) of a mukmin with his Lord:

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْتُونَ مَاءًا تَوْأَقًا لِقُلُوبِهِمْ وَجِلَّةً أُنْفُسِهِمْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ رَاغِبُونَ ﴿٦٠﴾

Meaning: *"And they who give what they give while their hearts are fearful because they will be returning to their Lord "*. [Surah Al-Mukminun verse 60]

This is a trait and akhlak of a mukmin towards his Lord. He does not allow for any room within himself to feel even a hint of arrogance and pride towards Allah s.w.t., and bows in complete submission to Him. We perform good deeds, and at the same time we rely completely on Allah s.w.t. when we do good deeds. We pray to Allah that He will accept all of our acts of worship, our terawih prayers, our fasting and all the good deeds we have performed throughout this month, and for the coming years, inshaAllah.

May Allah s.w.t. accept all of our deeds. And may Allah place us and our families among those who are bestowed with His mercy, given His maghfirah and released from the clutches of hellfire. 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.