



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Al-Hilm as The Second Pillar of Hikmah

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.

Beloved Friday jemaah,

Let us fill our hearts with taqwa to Allah s.w.t. with the highest level of taqwa. Obey all of His commands and abstain from what Allah has prohibited upon us. May we be granted His forgiveness and be placed among His pious servants. Amin.

Jemaah,

Which person will not feel happy if the Prophet s.a.w tells them that The Creator loves him?

In an advice given by Rasulullah s.a.w to Asyajj ‘Abdil Qays r.a., he said:

إِنَّ فِيكَ خَصْلَتَيْنِ يُحِبُّهُمَا اللَّهُ الْحِلْمُ وَالْأَنَاءُ

Meaning: “Verily in you there are two traits that Allah loves: *Al-Hilm* (gentleness) and *al-Anah* (calmness)”. [Hadith reported by Muslim]

Blessed Friday jemaah,

There are many ways for us to gain Allah’s love. One of it is to adorn ourselves with the two traits that were mentioned earlier: *Al-Hilm* and *Al-Anah*. But what is meant by *Al-Hilm* and *Al-Anah*?

Al-Hilm means being able to control one’s anger, even when one is able to retaliate. *Al-Hilm* also means one is able to always control one’s emotions and actions when faced with a frustrating situation. *Al-Anah* means not being hasty and being calm in doing things.

According to scholars, these two traits reflect a person’s maturity in thinking and the wisdom in his actions, as well as the strength of his spirituality.

Beloved Friday jemaah,

Let us look at how Rasulullah s.a.w. adorned himself with *Al-Hilm*. Saidatina Aisyah r.a. narrated: “A group of Jews came to meet the Prophet s.a.w. and they said; “Assaamu’alaikum (meaning: death be upon you)”. Saidatina Aisyah r.a. said; “I

understood it and said: “Wa’alaikumus Saam wal La’nah (death and the curse of Allah be upon you).” Aisyah r.a. added; “And Rasulallah s.a.w. said: “Be calm oh Aisyah, Allah loves gentleness in every matter.” And I said; “Ya Rasulallah! Did you not hear what they just said?” Rasulallah s.a.w. responded: “And I replied: wa ‘alaykum (and to you too).” [Hadith reported by Al-Bukhari]

Subhanallah! That’s how beautiful the Prophet’s akhlak was! Even though such nasty and rude remarks were thrown at him, he did not reply with anger or harsh words. Instead, he responded with gentleness. The hadith that I just shared shows how Rasulallah s.a.w. had a high level of *Al-Hilm*. Allah s.w.t. says in the Quran:

فِيمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللَّهِ لَئِن لَّمْ يَكُنِ اللَّهُ لِرِجْسِ هَٰؤُلَاءِ نَافِثًا لَّخَبَّرْتَهُمْ إِنْ كَانُوا هَادِيًّا
 مِّنْ حَوْلِكَ فَاَعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ
 فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ ﴿١٥٩﴾

Meaning: “So by mercy from Allah, [O Muhammad], you were lenient with them. And if you had been rude [in speech] and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from you. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them and consult them in the matter. And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah. Indeed, Allah loves those who rely [upon Him].” (Surah Ali ‘Imran verse 159).

Jemaah,

The importance of *Al-Hilm* cannot be denied. Today, we see that many people resort to using harsh and rude words when expressing their opinions, especially on social media platforms such as Facebook. I would thus like to suggest several ways to uphold *Al-Hilm* when we are faced with comments and status updates that we dislike or disagree with.

First, we can respond using kind words and in a gentle manner. Harsh and rude remarks should not be responded to in the same tone. Instead, we should be polite and gentle, as shown by Rasulullah s.a.w. This is in fact a sunnah of the Prophet s.a.w.

Second: We must be calm and think through our responses before taking any actions. Not every situation demands a response. At times, keeping quiet is better than responding or taking any action. This is especially true when responding can lead to more detrimental effects, instead of bringing about the intended benefits.

Blessed Friday jemaah,

A thinker once shared that there was once a young man who was enthusiastic to call others to do good and leave behind bad deeds. One day, he saw a shepherd who was singing to his camels to motivate them to walk. At the same time, the muezzin was making the azan for Maghrib prayers. Hence, the young

man scolded the shepherd but the shepherd simply ignored him. Frustrated, the young man went to a learned man (an alim) to report what had just happened.

The next day, the alim went to the place where the shepherd was. And at that time, the same thing happened – the shepherd was singing to his camels as the azan for Maghrib was made. The alim then spoke to the shepherd, but with kindness and gentleness, and said “My brother, the call for Maghrib prayers has been made. It is best that you hasten to perform your prayers because Allah says:

وَأْمُرْ أَهْلَكَ بِالصَّلَاةِ وَاصْطَبِرْ عَلَيْهَا لَا نَسْأَلُكَ رِزْقًا نَحْنُ نَرْزُقُكَ
وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلتَّقْوَى

Meaning: *“And enjoin prayer upon your family [and people] and be steadfast therein. We ask you not for provision; We provide for you, and the [best] outcome is for [those of] righteousness.”*
[Surah Taha verse 132]

And the shepherd responded, “May Allah reward you with kindness.” And he quickly made his ablution (*wudhu*) and went to the mosque with the pious man.

Jemaah,

Through this story, we learn that both the young man and the alim called upon the shepherd to the same thing, and that is to

perform his prayers. However, the approach that each took was different.

The young man was harsh, scolding and raising his voice to the shepherd. The alim, on the other hand, was gentle and kind in his approach. The approach of the young man did not bring about any good outcomes even though what he said was the truth. On the other hand, the gentle approach of the alim won the heart of the shepherd and led him to perform his prayers.

Thus, we should learn from this story. Realise that at times, our hurdle is not the lack of information or knowledge about the matter, but it is rather due to the lack of appropriateness and sensitivity in our method when advising someone of their mistake. Hence, appreciate hikmah and *Al-Hilm* in both our online and offline interactions. May we be blessed with good akhlak and noble character, and may Allah make it easy for us to adorn ourselves with *Al-Hilm and Al-Anah* in all our actions and speech. And hopefully through this, we would able to gain Allah's love. 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.