



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

3 June 2016 / 27 Syaaban 1437H

Ramadan: The Month for Building

Spiritual Resilience

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 تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday jemaah,

Let us be grateful to Allah for all of His blessings upon us. Ask from Him to grant us barakah in our age, to grant us good health to enable us to be servants of takwa. May we be His servants who are able to fulfill His commands and abstain from His prohibitions.

Jemaah,

In just a matter of days, we will be welcoming the month of Ramadan; the month of barakah, rewards and forgiveness. It is a month that is aimed at nurturing our takwa, awakening our

spirit of worship and heightening our iman which may have faded after Ramadan left last year. This is in line with what Allah s.w.t. says in surah Al-Baqarah verse 183:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى
الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

Which means: “ O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous.”

Jemaah,

With the start of Ramadan, we will also start an act of worship that is very special as it is not made compulsory in the other months – and that is the act of fasting. From the moment we start fasting, we are in a strategic position to increase our rank in Allah’s sight. Those who fast are in a position that is very much endeared by Allah s.w.t. Rasulullah s.a.w. said: “*The breath of a fasting person is sweeter to Allah on the Day of Judgment than the fragrance of musk*”. [Hadith reported Imam Al-Bukhari]

This Hadith reminds us that His love for us increases due to our efforts in disciplining ourselves from the luxuries and daily comfort.

And for that as well, the Prophet s.a.w made a promise to all those who fast in his Hadith: “*Verily for those who are fasting, at*

the point where he is breaking his fast, there is one doa (supplication) that is not rejected.” [Hadith reported by Al-Hakim and Al-Tabrani]. Fasting is a beautiful time for us as we are in a state praised by Allah s.w.t. Hence, do not waste it with acts that can decrease our standing in the sight of Allah, and our closeness to Allah.

While we are fasting and desiring Allah’s paradise, do not do anything that may cause us to trip and fall upon reaching the doors of Paradise. Many among us fast but we neglect the seemingly small matters that might seem unimportant but actually have a important consequences. For example, we fast but we continue to gossip, or worse, spread negative things about others – on social media, WhatsApp and so on. Remember a hadith of Rasulullah s.a.w. reported by Imam Muslim: *“A person who backbites will not enter Paradise”*. In another hadith also reported by Imam Muslim, Nabi s.a.w. asked: *“Do you know what is gossiping?”* Rasulullah then explained: *“gossiping is saying something that is not liked (about) your brother”*. The companion then asked: *“What if its true?”*. Rasulullah replied firmly: *“If its true then it is a gossip and if it is proven untrue then it is a huge lie!”*.

Hence Jemaah, as Ramadan approaches, let us moisten our tongues with selawat and zikir. Let our eyes be cooled by the verses of Quran, which we might not have been reading

regularly the past year. At night, try to perform terawih prayers and tahajjud prayers. Keep ourselves busy doing good deeds and focus on bringing ourselves closer to Allah s.w.t. This is because, when our stomachs are empty and our bodies are resting from having to digest food, our hearts and minds can concentrate better when performing acts of worship. For example, we will be more focused during solat. While making zikir, our hearts will be able to feel and embrace the words we recite and be softened by those words. These are the advantages of fasting and we should seize them while we can.

Efforts to seek the night of lailatul qadr and Allah's forgiveness do not begin only in the last ten nights but from the beginning of Ramadan. What we seek from Allah is the nikmat of Paradise which beyond what this world can offer. What we ask from Him is His very generous forgiveness, for all our sins and countless mistakes. Hence we should not be calculative with Allah, waiting only until the last ten nights to bring ourselves closer to Him. Allah awaits us, dear brothers and sisters. He wants us to seek from Him so that He can fulfill our doa. Remember what He says in surah Ali Imran verses 133-134, which means: *"And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and a garden as wide as the heavens and earth, prepared for the righteous. Who spend [in the cause of Allah] during ease and hardship and who restrain anger and who pardon the people - and Allah loves the doers of good"*.

Jemaah,

Before we step into the blessed month of Ramadan, strive to forgive others of their mistakes. Hopefully, by doing so, Allah will forgive our mistakes to Him. Take this opportunity to rekindle our familial relations which we have taken for granted as we welcome this Ramadan. Strengthen ties with our family, neighbours and friends. Hopefully by doing so, Allah will make our relationship with Him closer.

Jemaah,

Ramadan is not the month for us to indulge in laziness and physical inactivity, rather, it is a month of diligence and enthusiasm. If we are willing to work hard for the luxuries of this temporary world, then what is holding us back from giving our all for the eternal hereafter? Allah is giving us ample opportunities to redeem 'bonus points' and the multifold rewards and privileges in this Ramadan. So let us waste no effort in seizing them. We pray fervently that we do not end up among those who are mentioned by Rasulullah s.a.w. Rasulullah s.a.w had said: *"A person will be at a loss if Ramadan comes to him and leaves him before he is forgiven"*. [Hadith reported by Imam At-Tirmidzi]

May Allah bring us to meet Ramadan and make us among those who are able to earn the merits of the blessed month, 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.