



**Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura**

**Friday Sermon**

**24 June 2016 / 19 Ramadan 1437**

**Enlivening the Last Nights of Ramadan**

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.

Respected Friday Jemaah,

Let us extend our gratitude to Allah s.w.t. for the opportunity to reap the barakah of Ramadan that He has blessed us with. May Allah s.w.t. grant us a long life, and help us to strengthen the takwa and iman in our hearts. Amin Ya Rabbal 'alamin.

Beloved Jemaah,

It feels like it was only yesterday that we felt a strong yearning to usher in the blessed month of Ramadan. And suddenly

today, Ramadan is almost leaving us. Whether we realise it or otherwise, we will soon be left with only the last ten nights of Ramadan. This means that we have to increase our efforts to reap the many opportunities presented in this month – from seeking for forgiveness and cleansing ourselves of our past sins and mistakes.

In the final ten nights of Ramadan, there is one very special night that is described by Allah s.w.t. as a night that is better than 1,000 months, and it is called *Lailatul Qadar*. Allah s.w.t. says in surah Al-Qadr:

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ﴿١﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ﴿٢﴾  
لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ﴿٣﴾ نَزَّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا  
بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ﴿٤﴾ سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ ﴿٥﴾

Which means: *“Indeed, We sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Decree. And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree? The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. Peace it is until the emergence of dawn.”*

Subhanallah! Just imagine that! How great is the reward from Allah s.w.t. for those who succeed in gaining the merits of that night. Acts of worship on the Night of Qadr is better than 1,000

months, which is equivalent to about 83 years. We do not know if we will be able to live that long, and yet, our sins and mistakes may have accumulated as high as the mountains. Hence, do not waste any opportunity to seek Allah's forgiveness and earn His mercy, especially in this blessed month of Ramadan. Nabi s.a.w once said:

وَمَنْ قَامَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

Which means: *“Whoever stands in prayer on the night of Qadr in a state of belief and seeking rewards, his past sins will be forgiven”*. [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari]

Jemaah,

It is never too late to return to Allah s.w.t. and to turn over a new leaf. We can start by making a commitment to ourselves that we will strive to be a better person today than we were yesterday; and that tomorrow will be better than today. And no matter what we do, let us continue to improve our bond with Allah s.w.t.

No matter how busy with are with work and other commitments in life, we need to realise that the sustenance (rizq) that we gain belongs to Allah and is a gift from Him. Let us strive to ensure that we are always close to Allah s.w.t. and that Allah s.w.t. is also close to us. We should know that the path towards Allah s.w.t. is straight and clear. When we feel in our hearts, the

desire to return to Him and to seek repentance from Him, then that very moment is when our journey to bring ourselves closer to Allah begins. In a hadith Qudsi, Allah s.w.t. says:

وَإِنْ تَقَرَّبَ إِلَيَّ ذِرَاعًا تَقَرَّبْتُ إِلَيْهِ بَاعًا ، وَإِنْ أَتَانِي يَمْشِي أَتَيْتُهُ هَرْوَلَةً

Which means: “Whoever draws near Me an arm's length, I will draw near him a fathom's length. And whoever comes to Me walking, I will go to him running.” [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Hence, plant the intention to improve our relationship with Allah s.w.t., especially in these last ten nights of Ramadan. Do not forgo the golden opportunity to seek Lailatul Qadar. Let us increase our acts of worship and good deeds in the last ten nights, and let us strive to attain the night where mercy and forgiveness are bestowed upon every servant who spends it in worship and prayer.

Jemaah,

We do not know if this is our last Ramadan in this world. We do not know if we, or our families, will be able to fast, pray terawih and pray together in the next Ramadan. Hence, just as how we are excited with Eidulfitri preparations, we should be more excited and diligent to reap the merits of Lailatul Qadr and Ramadan. Emulate the practice of Rasulullah s.a.w., who would wake his family members to perform acts of worship together

and seek the blessed night. [Hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

Friday Jemaah,

Besides striving for spiritual cleansing, we should also leverage on Ramadan to cleanse our wealth by paying zakat, to help the poor and needy. Remember that the wealth that we have actually belongs to Allah s.w.t. and is a gift from Him. Allah has commanded upon us that when the wealth meets the haul (period) and nisab amount, then it is obligatory upon us to pay zakat. Know that paying zakat is one of the ways to earn Allah's barakah in our rizq and wealth.

Let us strengthen our souls with iman, fill our hearts with takwa, and increase our supplication in the last days of this blessed month. May Allah s.w.t. grant us the opportunity in this Ramadan to cleanse our souls and our wealth, so that it may bring us peace and prosperity in this world and the hereafter. Amin Ya Rabbal Alamin.

Ya Allah, The Owner of Lailatul Qadr, grant us and our families the merits of this blessed night. Raise our standing and that of our families in Your sight.

Ya Rahim Ya Lathif, if this is the last Ramadan for us, do not let us leave this month unless you have forgiven all of our sins and

mistakes. If this Ramadan is the last for us to be with our families, let us be together in Your Paradise.

Ya Halim Ya Adhim, keep in our hearts the love for you, and the yearning to meet You and Ramadan. Make us among those who are consistent (istiqamah) in doing good deeds and acts of worship even when Ramadan has left us. Enliven our hearts with iman as we have kept it alive these nights in the month of Ramadan. 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.