



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

4 March 2016 / 24 Jamadilawal 1437H

The Importance of Being Just

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.

Blessed Friday jemaah,

On this blessed day, I would like to begin by sharing a story that happened during the Prophet's time – one that tells us of a trait that we need to understand and emulate.

Once, a companion of Rasulullah s.a.w., by the name of Basyir r.a., gave a present to one of his sons, An-Nu'man r.a. He then met Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. to get his advice on the gift. Rasulullah s.a.w. then asked: *“Were all your children given the same gift?”* Basyir r.a. replied: *“No, Ya Rasulallah”*. And the Prophet said: *“Have takwa in Allah and be just to your children.”*

[Hadith reported by Abu Dawud]

Brothers,

Perhaps some of us may feel that it is not a big deal for a father to only give a present to one of his children without the others. This is because the wealth belongs to the father and the gift will benefit his own child. However, the advice from Rasulullah s.a.w. highlights the importance of being just and fair. Sometimes, without us realising it, parents favour one child over others and this results in hatred, resentment and even vengefulness amongst siblings.

It may also affect the parent-child relationship and may cause the children to feel as if they have been side-lined and are not good enough for the parents. This may affect the child's self-esteem, and may hamper his or her mental and emotional development. Therein lies the wisdom of our Prophet s.a.w. in emphasising the importance of being just, especially within the context of a family. And thus, we find our khatibs reciting every week, verse 90 of surah An-Nahl:

﴿ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ
وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴾

Which means: *“Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct*

and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded.”

Friday jemaah,

Justice demands that we put matters in its rightful place and to honour the accorded rights of every soul. By not upholding justice, we are creating room for cruelty and other oppressive traits to take place. Indeed what Imam Al-Qurthubi said is true when he said that justice is the foundation of human relationships and forms the rudiments of Islamic law. How would we feel if our employers, our spouse, our parents and our leaders are unjust? We will surely be unhappy and angry. But let us ask ourselves this: have we been fair and just to others? Expecting others to be kind to us while we do not act kindly towards them is in itself a form of cruelty and injustice.

Remember brothers, so exalted is the importance of justice that Allah s.w.t. said in a hadith qudsi, which means: *“O My servants! I have forbidden injustice for Myself, so it is forbidden amongst you. So, do not be unjust to each other.”* [Hadith reported by Imam Muslim]

Justice demands that we do what is right, not what we necessarily want or desire. Justice demands that we be courageous and tenacious in upholding the truth. Some might say that we might lose out by being just; but rest assured that

while it may seem like a loss, being just will give us a peace of mind and ensure that we can sleep soundly at night. Why? It is because, justice will strengthen the sense of takwa in our hearts, and takwa in Allah will lead to tranquillity and true happiness. Allah says:

أَعْدِلُوا هُوَ أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿٨﴾

Which means: *“Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do.”*
[Surah Al-Maidah: verse 8]

Perhaps some among us will say, *“I have never acted unjustly”* and thus pays no attention to this matter. Brothers, we should be aware that it is insufficient to observe justice and abstain from cruelty merely in our actions. When Islam commands every believer to act justly, it is demanding justice in every aspect of the believer’s life – his actions, speech, relationships and so on. We are also taught that justice is not limited only towards humans, but also to all of Allah’s creations, and that will be discussed further during the Friday sermons throughout this month.

Let us strive to be virtuous members of the community, upholding good morals and being just in all aspects. May Allah

s.w.t. grant His mercy and forgiveness to our families and us.
Amin Ya Rabbal Alamin.

بَارِكْ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنْ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ 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.