



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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The Virtues Of Patience

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي نَزَّلَ الْفُرْقَانَ عَلَى عَبْدِهِ لِيَكُونَ لِلْعَالَمِينَ نَذِيرًا،
الَّذِي لَهُ مُلْكُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَخَلَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ فَقَدَرَهُ تَقْدِيرًا،
وَخَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ أَمْشَاجٍ يَبْتَلِيهِ فَجَعَلَهُ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا، ثُمَّ
هَدَاهُ السَّبِيلَ إِمَّا شَاكِرًا وَإِمَّا كَفُورًا. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ
لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا
عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ 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,

On this noble day, I would like to call upon myself and all of you here to increase our taqwa to Allah s.w.t. Realise that He is the Lord of the Universe. So obey Allah's commands and abstain from His prohibitions.

Beloved Jemaah,

All of us yearn for Allah's mercy and forgiveness. We work hard to fulfil our obligations to Allah and to perform acts of worship throughout our lives, with the hope that we will earn Allah's pleasure. May we be successful in heeding Allah's commands.

In the Quran, Allah speaks of a particular trait which is repeated more than 100 times. In fact, Allah s.w.t. states that He is always in the company of those who hold this trait. Do you know what is the trait that I am referring to? It is *Sabr*, or patience. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Ali-'Imran, verse 200:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا أَصْبِرُوا وَصَابِرُوا وَرَابِطُوا وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ
لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ

Meaning: *“O you who have believed, persevere and endure and remain stationed and fear Allah that you may be successful.”*

Friday Jemaah,

Sabr, or patience, is a virtuous characteristic that is strongly encouraged in Islam. It is a special trait given by Allah to humanity to face a life that is full of challenges and trials.

Jemaah,

At times, when we are facing a trial, we begin to question our ability to be patient and to what extent can we survive with patience and resilience. Know that you can endure and

continue to be patient. According to Imam Al-Ghazali, every humankind has the ability to be patient, especially those who are among the believers. This is because strong faith provides strength to the soul of a Mukmin which enables him or her to stay resilient and patient. Allah s.w.t. says in surah Al-Baqarah verses 155-156:

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ
وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالْثَمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٥٥﴾
الَّذِينَ إِذَا أَصَابَتْهُمُ مُصِيبَةٌ قَالُوا إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ ﴿١٥٦﴾

Meaning: *“And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to the patient, Who, when disaster strikes them, say, “Indeed we belong to Allah , and indeed to Him we will return.”*

We have witnessed through the sirah of our beloved Prophet Muhammad s.a.w., how he himself was tested by Allah. Whether through fear, lack of means, and other challenges as reported by Al-Bukhari: *The family of Muhammad never ate to their fill for three successive days throughout His lifetime, until the day he died.* [Hadith recorded by Al-Bukhari]. Rasulullah s.a.w. was also tested with the loss of those whom he loved dearly, including the loss of his beloved son, Ibrahim. The Prophet s.a.w. then said: *“The eyes send their tears and the heart is saddened, but we do not say anything except that*

which pleases our Lord. Indeed, O Ibrahim, we are bereaved by your departure from us.” [Hadith reported by Al-Bukhari]

These stories that I have shared, inspire us to truly understand the importance of having patience in our lives. Just as how our beloved Rasulullah s.a.w as well as the early generations of Muslims faced the trials in their lives with patience, so should we in overcoming the challenges of our time.

Beloved Jemaah,

The blessing of having patience from Allah s.w.t. has enabled us to grow and evolve from one civilisation to another. It is with patience that we continue to learn and undertake research, in order to improve the quality of life. From there, many branches of knowledge are discovered including those that were never thought of by the earlier generations, and the benefits will be reaped by future generations. The Ulama also continuously discuss current issues to help guide our lives, to ensure that religious knowledge continues to be relevant in guiding our lives today.

Friday Jemaah,

It is our turn, today, to continue this legacy by instilling patience in our lives. In my opinion, truly understanding the importance and virtues of patience in today's environment is crucial given current trends where individuals expect their requests to be met

in the shortest time possible. In other words, they demand things, answers and responses fast. Some individuals are trapped in a short-term world or *short-termism*.

For example, when we order food, we want quick service and for the food to be ready in the shortest possible time. Trends that people go crazy over become out-dated and are forgotten within a few months. In fact, this “trend” also affects how some people attain knowledge and information - by using a shortcut method. They want to acquire knowledge fast and they prefer information to be presented in a short but succinct manner. This may result in individuals not being attentive enough in practicing patience to in their lives.

Hence, because of the importance of this topic, the Friday sermons in the coming weeks will discuss it in more detail and will include tips on how we can practice patience in our everyday lives. This includes being patient in seeking knowledge, and to clarify what we read from the Internet. Patience is also important in developing our resilience to tackle the issue of terrorism that is threatening our society today.

Jemaah,

Let us reflect upon this hadith, as we usher in the month of Zulhijjah tonight. Rasulullah s.a.w. said (which means): *“There is no deed that is better in the sight of Allah or more greatly*

rewarded than a good deed done in the (first) ten days of Zulhijjah... [Recorded by Al-Bukhari]

Hence, increase your acts of worship, remembrance and supplications to Allah during these blessed days of Zulhijjah. We ask Allah s.w.t. to grant us patience to worship Him, and may Allah ease all of our affairs.

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.