



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

9 September 2016 / 7 Zulhijjah 1437H

Sabr- The Ticket to Paradise

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا
وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ
وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ
وَصَفِيُّ اللَّهِ مِنْ خَلْقِهِ وَحَبِيبُهُ إِمَامُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَسَيِّدُ الْمُرْسَلِينَ 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,

Let us strive to have taqwa in Allah s.w.t. Obey all of His commands and abstain from His prohibitions. Hopefully by having patience in fulfilling our obligations, we will be rewarded with a place in Allah's paradise in the hereafter. Amin.

Jemaah, last week's sermon discussed on the virtue of sabr, which is a special trait that Allah bestows upon His servants. Islam demands us to have sabr or patience. The patience

exemplified by Rasulullah s.a.w and the other prophets is the best form of patience that we should strive to emulate as we face life's trials and challenges.

According to the opinion of some scholars (Ulama), there are four forms of sabr that a person should have in facing the trials of life: (i) sabr in obeying Allah, (ii) sabr in leaving behind sins, (iii) sabr in facing unfortunate incidents, (iv) and sabr in being criticised and being hurled with vulgarities. The last form of sabr is the most difficult, and yet it was emulated by the Prophets and Messengers, especially Saidina Muhammad s.a.w.

Friday Jemaah,

We should understand that developing sabr is not something optional. In other words, it is a necessity for a person to have sabr in order to boost one's level of morality and spirituality. It is a need, as explained in the Quran, because every soul will be tested by Allah s.w.t. Allah says:

إِنَّا خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ نُطْفَةٍ أَمْشَاجٍ نَبْتَلِيهِ فَجَعَلْنَاهُ سَمِيعًا
بَصِيرًا ۝٢

Meaning: “*Verily We created Man from a drop of mingled sperm, in order to try him: So We gave him (the gifts), of Hearing and Sight.*” [Surah Al-Insan 76:2]

From this verse, we understand that Allah will test us through His commands and prohibitions. However, Allah has also equipped us with senses and the resources we need to overcome these challenges, and to meet the commands and obligations with sabr and wisdom.

The tests and trials in life present opportunities to humankind to prove their confidence in Allah s.w.t. and to decide if they are worthy of Allah's rewards and praises. Allah s.w.t. says surah Al-Ankabut verses 2 and 3:

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا ءَامَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ ﴿٢﴾
وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ
الْكَاذِبِينَ ﴿٣﴾

Meaning: *“Do men think that they will be left alone on saying, “We believe”, and that they will not be tested? But We have certainly tried those before them, and Allah will surely make evident those who are truthful, and He will surely make evident the liars.”*

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

As we move closer to Eid Al-Adha, let us recall and reflect upon the example of Prophet Ibrahim a.s and his patience in fulfilling Allah's commands. He did not hesitate to fulfil Allah's orders, all in a bid to prove his obedience to Allah. Allah describes in the Quran:

❁ وَإِذِ ابْتَلَىٰ إِبْرَاهِيمَ رَبُّهُ بِكَلِمَاتٍ فَأَتَمَّهُنَّ قَالَ إِنِّي جَاعِلُكَ لِلنَّاسِ إِمَامًا

قَالَ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي قَالَ لَا يَنَالُ عَهْدِي الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿١٢٤﴾

Meaning: “And [mention, O Muhammad], when Abraham was tried by his Lord with commands and he fulfilled them. [Allah] said, "Indeed, I will make you a leader for the people." [Abraham] said, "And of my descendants?" [Allah] said, "My covenant does not include the wrongdoers." [Surah Al-Baqarah 2:124]

Jemaah,

If we were to study known books of tafsir – such as Tafsir Al-Quran Al-Azim by Imam Ibn Katsir – scholars of tafsir, in discussing the verse that has just been read, will detail the major challenges faced by Prophet Ibrahim a.s. This includes building and cleaning the Ka’abah, facing the King of Nimrod and engaging him in a dialogue about the oneness of Allah, showing resilience despite being thrown into flames, being commanded to sacrifice his beloved son Ismail a.s, and so on.

Prophet Ibrahim a.s. withstood all of these challenges with steadfastness and sabr, and he fulfilled all of Allah’s commands to the best of his abilities.

Jemaah,

Let us all reflect upon ourselves and be remorseful over our shortcomings. We have yet to be tested by Allah with tests as challenging as those faced by the Prophets and the companions. In fact, we would not be able to bear the burden of such tests. However, we can strive to emulate the sabr shown by the Prophets and Messengers of Allah, by educating and training ourselves to have sabr when we are obeying Allah's commands, or when we are tested with a tragedy. Patience is highly valued by Allah, and we need to consistently develop it in ourselves. And it is that kind of sabr that will place us among Allah's slaves who are honest and will be the dwellers of Allah's eternal Paradise. This adheres to what Allah s.w.t. says in the Quran:

إِنَّمَا يُوفَى الصَّابِرُونَ أَجْرَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ ﴿١٠﴾

Meaning: *“Those who patiently persevere will truly receive a reward without measure.”*

When facing a test, remind ourselves that this is the path undertaken by those whom Allah loves. Remember, Allah does not test a person beyond what he can bear. Hopefully by having such a mindset, we will be more resilient and resolute in facing challenges. A positive attitude will help us to be calmer at finding solutions to the tests and trials of life.

Beloved Friday Jemaah,

Alhamdulillah, we are now in one of the blessed first ten days of Zulhijjah. Among the special deeds that we can perform is to fast on the ninth of Zulhijjah, which is this Sunday. Scholars have agreed that fasting on that day is the best fast throughout the first ten days on Zulhijjah. This is evidenced by the hadith of Rasulullah s.a.w:

صِيَامُ يَوْمِ عَرَفَةَ أَحْتَسِبُ عَلَى اللَّهِ أَنْ يُكَفِّرَ السَّنَةَ الَّتِي قَبْلَهُ وَالسَّنَةَ الَّتِي بَعْدَهُ

Meaning: *“Fasting on the day of Arafah expiates the sins of the previous year and of the coming year.”* [Hadith recorded by Imam Muslim]

May Allah grant us the guidance to perform good deeds during these blessed days. Let us not forget to make doa to Allah, so that He would ease the affairs of all our relatives, friends, and all Muslims who are performing their haj in Mecca. May they be given haj mabrur and may we be given the opportunity to be Allah’s guests in time to come. Amin Ya Rabbal Alamin.

بَارَكَ اللهُ 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 اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.