



**Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura**

**Friday Sermon**

**2 January 2015 / 11 Rabiulawal 1436**

**Following The Sunnah Of The Prophet Of Mercy**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، الَّذِي بَعَثَ مُحَمَّدًا بَشِيرًا وَنَذِيرًا  
وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا  
شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ  
وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، صَلَاةً  
وَسَلَامًا دَائِمِينَ مُتَلَازِمِينَ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ،  
إِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيْ وَنَفْسِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

In order to ensure that humankind is always God-conscious (taqwa) of Allah, we are taught to always be grateful of the bounty of blessings from Allah. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Ibrahim, verse 5:

وَلَقَدْ أَرْسَلْنَا مُوسَىٰ بِآيَاتِنَا أَنْ أَخْرِجْ قَوْمَكَ  
مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَذَكِّرْهُمْ بِأَيَّامِ اللَّهِ  
إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِّكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ شَكُورٍ ﴿٥٠﴾


Which means: “We sent Moses with Our signs (and the command). Bring out thy people from the depths of darkness into light, and teach them to remember the Days of Allah. Verily in this there are Signs for such as are firmly patient and constant,- grateful and appreciative.”

This verse reminds us of the need to remember special days whereby Allah s.w.t. has blessed us with His nikmat. And among these days is the day of the birth of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. The birth of our beloved, the noble Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. is in itself a blessing for all and a sign of the greatness of Allah s.w.t. to His creations.

This is because, the birth of Rasulullah s.a.w. ensured the continuation of the Prophetic message to humankind, and we have all felt and are still experiencing the blessing and mercy of a religion that guides us and protects us from destruction in this world and the hereafter.

Hence, we find in a hadith reported by Imam Muslim, when Rasulullah s.a.w. was asked by a companion (sahabat) regarding his habit of fasting on Mondays, the Prophet s.a.w. said: *“On that day I was born and on that day the first revelation was sent to me.”*

It is in this spirit that whenever Rabiul Awal arrives, we show our gratitude to Allah s.w.t. for blessing us with Rasulullah s.a.w. Allah s.w.t. describes the Prophet s.a.w. in Surah Al-Anbiya, verse 107:

 وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

Which means: *“And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.”*

Friday Jemaah,

The verse that was just read highlights two important lessons.

**First**, this verse underscores the fact that in practicing, understanding and instilling Islam in our lives, there is a need to colour it with the virtue of rahmah (mercy). This verse firmly states that Rasulullah s.a.w. is a sign of Allah’s mercy and as Muslims, we have the obligation to ensure that we enliven this value through our interactions with other people as well as Allah’s other creations.

**The second lesson from the verse** is related to the fact that the message of Islam is founded on the basis of mercy for all. This value is not one that is limited in nature. Imam At-Tabard, in his tafseer, is of the opinion that the word “*Lil ‘alamin*” (for all) encompasses both Muslims and non-Muslims. Hence, anyone on the face of this earth, and any other being created by Allah s.w.t., has the right to receive this mercy. Islam, which is a mercy from Allah s.w.t. needs to be explained and its blessings must be felt by both Muslims and non-Muslims.

This mercy, jemaah, can be seen in many events that happened during the time of Rasulullah s.a.w. and how our beloved messenger treated his friends as well as those that were hostile toward him.

In a story reported by Imam Muslim from Mu’awiyah bin Al-Hakam As-Sulami: *“While I was praying with the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him), a man in the company sneezed. I said: Yarhamukallah (Allah have mercy on you) ! The people stared at me with disapproving looks, so I said: Woe be upon me, why is it that you stare at me ? They began to strike their hands on their thighs, and when I saw them urging me to observe silence (I became angry) but I said nothing. When the Messenger of Allah (may peace be upon him) had said the prayer (and I declare that neither before him nor after him have I seen a leader who gave better instruction than he for whom I would give my father and mother as*

*ransom).I swear that he did not scold, beat or revile me but said: Talking to persons is not fitting during the prayer, for it consists of glorifying Allah, declaring his Greatness. and recitation of the Qur'an or words to that effect.*

Imam An-Nawawi is of the opinion that this hadith shows the excellence of the akhlak (character) of Nabi s.a.w. as a mercy for all. He displayed gentleness to those who did not know any better. His politeness and his affection toward his ummah stood out in every aspect of the Prophet's life.

That is also how we, as the ummah of the Prophet of Mercy, should be. We need to constantly remember that for us to be someone who brings mercy to others, we need to have positive thoughts about others. Do not view others with prejudice and hatred, for that will affect how we treat them. Even if they have made mistakes, for us to be able to correct them, we need to approach them sincerely and with a heart full of hope, so that they will remain in goodness, and not to feel superior towards them.

One's failure to pay attention to this aspect of mercy in one's daily life will be reflected in one's actions and approach. If we are sincere in helping others improve their situation, and are not personally motivated by arrogance and pride, then we will not embarrass them nor make them a laughing stock or use harsh words against them.

In the hadith I shared earlier, we learnt how Rasulullah s.a.w. did not take a harsh approach or used harsh words to help a companion realise his mistake, despite it being a very obvious mistake. If someone else today were to make such a glaring mistake, chances are he will be publicly shamed by others.

Beloved jemaah,

The story I shared earlier was also a reminder that if we wish to be a mercy to all, we must hope that others will also feel the blessings from Allah s.w.t. We need to have the desire to bring hope and positive changes to others, just as what the Prophet s.a.w. wished for his ummah. We should not let the feelings of mercy in us be overcome by jealousy and selfishness, to the extent that we feel we are the only ones who deserve to enjoy the blessings and goodness. A heart filled with mercy will never be at ease upon seeing others incurring Allah's wrath. A heart filled with mercy will not be at ease on learning of others who are facing hardships.

Indeed, this is how the heart of a mukmin should be- it is a heart that emulates the character of our beloved Rasulullah s.a.w. – concerned about religious matters and concerned about those believers and those who have yet to accept the faith. Nabi s.a.w. was not pleased to see his ummah in a state whereby they have not gained Allah's pleasure.

Let us reflect upon the extent of Rasulullah's love for us in a hadith reported by Imam Muslim. Once, Nabi s.a.w. was reciting Quranic verses about Nabi Ibrahim a.s. (which means): *"My Lord, indeed they have led astray many among the people. So whoever follows me - then he is of me; and whoever disobeys me - indeed, You are [yet] Forgiving and Merciful."* (Surah Ibrahim: 36). Nabi 'Isa a.s. also said (which means): *"If You should punish them - indeed they are Your servants; but if You forgive them - indeed it is You who is the Exalted in Might, the Wise"* (Surah al-Ma'idah: 118). And then Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. raised both his hands and made doa: *"Oh Allah, my people, my people."* And he cried. Allah s.w.t. said: *"Oh Jibril go to Muhammad s.a.w. and ask him what is making him cry?"*. And so Jibril a.s. met the Prophet s.a.w. and asked him as such. Rasulullah s.a.w. told him about what he had recited earlier. And Allah said: *"Oh Jibril, go to Muhammad s.a.w. and tell him 'Verily We (Allah) will surely make you pleased (redha) with the state of your ummah, and We will not make you sad."* It is because of the doa of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. that Allah has promised the happiness and protection of the believers and those who uphold the teachings spread by Prophet Muhammad s.a.w.

Friday Jemaah,

The doa (supplication) that I shared earlier came from Rasulullah's heart, and it was filled with hope, mercy and goodness. Thus, if we are truly believers and wish to uphold the

sunnah of Nabi Muhammad s.a.w. then we should fill our hearts with love and mercy. Free our hearts from prejudice, hatred and arrogance, and have an open mind. Do not let selfishness overcome us. Strengthen our resolve that as we usher in the month of Rabiulawal, we will be his followers who are dedicated in upholding his sunnah, we will be more determined to increase our knowledge of our beloved Messenger of Allah by reading his hadith and the history of the Prophet s.a.w. We should ensure that whatever events we attend during this season of maulid, we should be more determined to be an ummah that is a blessing to all (*rahmatan lil 'alamin*). Radiate blessings, contribute in goodness and be kind to all around us, no matter their race or religion. Ensure that we are an ummah that has more good deeds and our existence is beneficial to others, and that it can be felt and not merely given lip service.

Ya Allah Ya *Arhamar Rahimin*, light our hearts with the light of the noble Quran, guide us with the sunnah of Your Prophet, adorn us with his good character, keep us on the guided path as shown by Rasulullah, make ourselves and the community among those who spread mercy and goodness. Protect us from the disease of hatred. Free us from jealousy and allow us to receive the syafaat of the Prophet s.a.w. on the Day of Judgement and place us with him. 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.