



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

9 January 2015 / 18 Rabiulawal 1436

Instilling The Love For Prophet Muhammad s.a.w.

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 together to achieve takwa. Let us increase our efforts to obey all of Allah's commands, and abstain from His prohibitions.

Jemaah,

Allow me to begin the sermon today by sharing a story that depicts the love and care of the Sahabahs r.a toward our beloved Messenger, Prophet Muhammad s.a.w.

In a hadith reported by imam Al-Bukhari, Saidina Umar ibn Al-Khattab once was walking with the Prophet s.a.w, and said: “By Allah, I love you O Prophet of Allah, more than anything else, except for myself” (which meant he loved himself more than Rasulullah s.a.w). And the Prophet s.a.w. replied:

لَا وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ حَتَّى أَكُونَ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكَ مِنْ نَفْسِكَ

Which means: “O Umar, by Allah in whose hands my life lies, your faith will never be complete until you love me more than yourself.”

Saidina Umar thus went to find solitude. After a brief a moment, he returned, and proclaimed to the Prophet: “O Prophet of Allah, now I love you more than myself.” The Prophet replied:

(الآن يا عمر)

Which means: “Now, O Umar”. It was at that moment, when Saidina Umar loved the Prophet over himself, that his faith became complete.

Friday Jemaah,

This story is proof that loving the Prophet s.a.w. is part of our deen (religion). It is part of the faith (iman) of a true believer (mukmin), and a reflection of one’s understanding and appreciation of the religion.

We have often heard the phrase “Love Allah and Love Rasulallah”. However, do we truly understand the meaning of this phrase? What does it encompass? Is loving Rasulallah s.a.w. simply shown by tears (because we miss him) when we hear stories about the Prophet s.a.w.? We should fear for not striving to understand the meaning of loving Rasulallah s.a.w.. We should fear when the verses of love that we recite are simply rhetoric; devoid of any lasting impact in the lives of a mukmin.

Friday Jemaah,

Our love for Rasulallah s.a.w. will become a reality when it is able to leave a lasting impact in our lives, and there are several ways to achieve this.

First: One’s love for Allah and His Messenger should reflect in the actions of a believer. Allah says in the Quran, in surah Ali-Imran verses 31 to 32:

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ
لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٣١﴾ قُلْ أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ
وَالرَّسُولَ ۖ فَإِنْ تَوَلَّوْا فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْكٰفِرِينَ ﴿٣٢﴾

Which means: “Say, [O Muhammad], “If you should love Allah , then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your

sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful." Say, "Obey Allah and the Messenger." But if they turn away - then indeed, Allah does not like the disbelievers."

Therefore, one who professes to love the Prophet s.a.w. would surely try to emulate the Prophet and obey the commands of his Creator. He or she will try to ensure that his or her family life is in line with Islamic principles and values. Are all of the Prophet's teachings adhered to? Are the Islamic obligations carried out in his/her family?

It is obedience to Allah and His messenger that will determine a believer's success in this world and the hereafter. Adhering to the commands of Allah and His messenger will also deem one worthy of Allah's mercy and guidance. Hence Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Ali-Imran, verse 132:

وَأَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْحَمُونَ

Which means: *"And obey Allah and the Messenger that you may obtain mercy."*

It is without doubt that we all strive for Allah's mercy. We hope for His Barakah and the blessings of our family. It is also clear from the verse recited earlier, that we can attain Allah's mercy through full obedience to Him, and His messenger s.a.w.

The second way to attain sincere and pure love for the Prophet s.a.w. is to increase our study and research of the hadith of our Rasulullah s.a.w. We can also attain this love by increasing our selawat upon him.

The hadith of Nabi s.a.w. contains his teachings, his sunnah (prophetic way) and Rasulullah's s.a.w. way of life. One who is in love will naturally want to know everything about his or her beloved. A true believer who claims he loves the Prophet s.a.w. will thus love congregations and gatherings where the hadith of Rasulullah s.a.w are being read and explained.

On that basis, scholars are of the opinion that the best or most praiseworthy gatherings are those where the hadith of the Prophet s.a.w. are read. Such gatherings are not simply beneficial due to the reading and studying of Prophet's hadith; but it has also the merits of making selawat. This is due to the accompanying recitation of '*Sallahu Alaihi Wa Sallam*', everytime the Prophet's name is mentioned.

Jemaah, would it not be a great loss if we, the Prophet's ummah, who inherited what he had left behind, meaning both the Quran and Sunnah, are not able to fully reap their benefits?

Let us start taking steps to appreciate the Sunnah of Rasulullah s.a.w better. Let us read and learn the books of hadith and sirah (history of the Prophet) compiled by our scholars, which

discusses the noble and beautiful traits of our beloved Rasulullah s.a.w.

There are many books that compiled hadith on the Rasulullah's mannerisms. Books of hadith such as '*Riyadhus Shalihin*' written by Imam Nawawi, '*As-Syama'il*' authored by Imam Tirmidzi, Sahih Al-Bukhari and Muslim, and many more are now easily accessible by us. We can then apply the beautiful and noble traits we have learned in our daily lives, truly emulating the Prophet s.a.w. and portraying ourselves as his Ummah. Let us reflect our love for Rasulullah s.a.w. in our actions and behaviour.

May our love for our beloved Prophet s.a.w. be pure and sincere. May this love attain us the blessings of Allah. May we become the ummah of Rasulullah s.a.w. who are able to spread mercy and tighten the bonds of humanity. 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.