



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

16 January 2015 / 25 Rabiulawal 1436

**Appreciating the value of humankind in
the sight of Allah and Rasul: Al-ithar**

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 عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ
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 practice what is good, and leave behind what is bad. Strive to attain the level of iman and takwa of the Companions (sahabah) r.a. May Allah shower barakah in our efforts.

Jemaah,

Allah s.w.t says in surah Al-Insan, verses 8-11:

وَيُطْعَمُونَ أَلطَّعَامَ عَلَىٰ حُبِّهِ مِسْكِينًا وَيَتِيمًا
 وَأَسِيرًا ﴿٨٠﴾ إِنَّمَا نُطْعِمُكُمْ لِوَجْهِ اللَّهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنْكُمْ
 جَزَاءً وَلَا شُكُورًا ﴿٨١﴾ إِنَّا نَخَافُ مِنْ رَبِّنَا يَوْمًا
 عَبُوسًا قَمْطَرِيرًا ﴿٨٢﴾ فَوَقَّعَهُمُ اللَّهُ شَرَّ ذَٰلِكَ الْيَوْمِ
 وَلَقَّيْنَهُمْ نَصْرَةً وَسُرُورًا ﴿٨٣﴾

Which means: “And they feed, for the love of Allah, the indigent, the orphan, and the captive,- (Saying),”We feed you for the sake of Allah alone: no reward do we desire from you, nor thanks. We only fear a Day of distressful Wrath from the side of our Lord.” But Allah will deliver them from the evil of that Day, and will shed over them a Light of Beauty and (blissful) Joy.”

If we reflect upon the Quranic verses above, Allah s.w.t. is telling us of a particular trait of good akhlak and noble character that goes beyond just wanting to give. It is the trait of His servants who willingly give although they are in need of help themselves. Such people give and offer help despite their own conditions.. This trait is known as ‘Al-ithar’ – it is the trait of one who is selfless and is willing to sacrifice his personal needs.

My brothers, it is this trait that differentiates one who gets a place in the highest Paradise – Jannatul Firdaus – from the other dwellers of Paradise. This is the trait that proves one's true love for Allah s.w.t., The Most Generous and The Most Loving. By practicing the quality of *Al-ithar*, being generous and loving of Allah's other creations, one is connecting oneself to Allah and bringing oneself closer to the Almighty.

Beloved Jemaah,

Just look at the example of Rasulullah s.a.w. who would not turn down requests. If he was, for some reason, unable to meet the request, the Prophet s.a.w. would find others who could help instead. Rasulullah s.a.w. also taught his companions and family members to assist those in need, and not to be selfish.

In a story reported by Imam Al-Bukhari, once Abu Hurairah r.a. complained of hunger to the Prophet s.a.w. and the Prophet s.a.w. asked Abu Hurairah to follow him home. When they were there, Abu Hurairah found a container filled with milk that was given by someone to the Prophet s.a.w. Rasulullah s.a.w. then asked Abu Hurairah to distribute the milk to the men of the platform (*suffah*) who were *fakir* and *miskin* (poor and needy). Abu Hurairah was initially reluctant to do so because he himself was hungry, and felt that he was more deserving of the milk. However, because he wanted to obey the Prophet s.a.w., Abu Hurairah r.a. quickly distributed the milk to the *Ashabus Suffah*. After all the *Ashabus Suffah* were done drinking the milk, Nabi

s.a.w. then gave the container to Abu Hurairah, and it was with Allah's grace that it was still filled with milk! So Abu Hurairah r.a. drank from the container until he himself felt full. And only after that did Rasulullah s.a.w. drink the milk from the container.

Friday Jemaah,

The story that I have related earlier depicts the beauty of the akhlak of Rasulullah s.a.w. with his companions. This noble act of showing kindness to others should not only be limited to those we know, but from the story shared earlier, there should also be a motivation to be kind to strangers.

Nabi s.a.w. did not just practice the trait of *Al-ithar*, but also taught his sahabah and other followers to do the same – which is to uphold the value of *Al-ithar* and not be selfish.

In addition, Rasulullah s.a.w. displayed this trait of '*Al-ithar*' not just to Muslims, but also those who were hostile toward him; this thus softened the hearts of those who were against Islam to embrace it and receive Allah's guidance, and they became friends with Rasulullah s.a.w. In a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim, *Rasulullah s.a.w. was said to have once gave out livestock between two mountains to a particular man. The man returned to his tribe and said: "Verily Muhammad gave like a person who was not afraid of being in poverty."*

Subhanallah, how beautiful is the akhlak of Rasulullah s.a.w. Just look at how he taught us to be '*Rahmatan lil alamin*' which means being a blessing to all. How he valued every person!

I myself reflect deeply upon this hadith. It is a reminder of the greatness of Allah's rahmah upon His servants. A reminder of the vast opportunity He has given every one of His servants to seek His forgiveness, and gain a place in Paradise that promises utmost beauty beyond one's imagination with all that Allah has created in Paradise. Indeed Allah is the Most Loving, for even the smallest of deeds can be the reason one receives His forgiveness and rahmah. Even though a person was once hostile to Rasulullah s.a.w. he would still willingly give in abundance to that person, therein reflecting the value of every soul in the sight of Allah and His messenger.

Beloved Friday Jemaah,

Do we not desire Allah's protection on the Day of Judgement? Do we not want to be gathered among the dwellers of the highest Paradise, Firdaus? How can we instil the quality of '*Al-ithar*' and thus, attain the level of ihsan (compassion) and rahmah (mercy) as displayed by Rasulullah s.a.w. and the Sahabat?

First: We can attain '*Al-ithar*' by cleansing our hearts of any bad or evil feelings, as done by the Anbiya, Sahabat, and the Solihin. They did not downplay any bad deeds as merely "minor

sins". They rid their hearts of evil feelings so that it will not spread like a plague. Once we have purified our hearts, then it will become the source of all kindness and good actions.

Second: Start by carrying out charitable acts that may seem small, for these could be the acts that will earn us a place in Paradise, insyaAllah. Even if we feel these acts are trivial, but if they are done with utmost sincerity, they will be important in the sight of Allah s.w.t.

Let us be the source of kindness for all. May Allah s.w.t. grant our hearts unity to practice Islam as taught by Rasulullah s.a.w. and practiced by the Sahabah r.a. And may Allah grant us taufiq to emulate the akhlak of our beloved Rasulullah s.a.w. insyallah, Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

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.