



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Rasulullah s.a.w - Spreading Mercy To All

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 increase our takwa to Allah s.w.t. Let us strive to fulfil all of Allah's commands and abstain from what He has prohibited upon us. Let us also appreciate and enliven the sunnah of Rasulullah s.a.w. Hopefully by doing so, we will be servants of Allah who are successful in this world and the hereafter, insyallah.

Jemaah,

The sermons delivered throughout this month have reminded us of the noble qualities of Rasulullah s.a.w in his interactions

and engagements with others. This includes his good manners, politeness and prudence; and how Rasulullah s.a.w. observed the aspect of mercy in his daily life and engagements. I think we've all heard this verse from Surah Al-Anbiya many times:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

Which means: *“And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.”* [21:107]

For us to be able to truly understand the mercy that Rasulullah s.a.w. displayed, and to understand our relationship with the Prophet s.a.w. the question that we need to ask is: What is meant by “mercy to the worlds”?

Friday jemaah,

As a noble person, Rasulullah s.a.w. displayed his mercy through the sincerity of his good character displayed not just in his relationships with other humankind, but also with other creatures around him.

How beautiful it is – that every creature that has interacted with Rasulullah s.a.w. was able to enjoy the mercy and affection extended by the Prophet s.a.w.

As mentioned in a hadith reported by Imam Ahmad and At-Tirmizi: After Rasulullah s.a.w. moved to Madinah, whenever he

wanted to give a sermon he would lean against a tree branch until the companions (Sahabah) built him a mimbar (pulpit). When Rasulullah s.a.w. went up the mimbar to deliver the sermon, he heard cries coming from inside the masjid. It turned out that the tree branch was crying because it missed the Prophet s.a.w. and so Rasulullah s.a.w. stepped down from the mimbar and stroked the tree branch, consoling it until it was quiet.

This story, dear jemaah, emphasises the point that every creation that has interacted with Rasulullah s.a.w. was impacted by his mercy and affection. There are many more stories that tell us of how Prophet s.a.w. spread mercy and was compassionate to all creations; be it humankind, the environment or animals. And the mercy and affection he displayed left a lasting impact on each and every single one of them.

Let us reflect upon hadiths that are related to conserving the environment and nature at all times, even during times of conflict. Rasulullah s.a.w. prohibited the unnecessary cutting of trees and plants even during wartime.

And it is because of his character of being merciful and compassionate in every matter that Rasulullah s.a.w. prohibited the sahabah from wasting natural resources, even when used for worship such as making wudhu (ablution).

Once, when Rasulullah s.a.w. saw his companion, Sa'ad r.a. making wudhu using more water than he needed, Rasulullah s.a.w. said to him: *“Why this wastage?”* Sa`ad replied *“Is there wastage in wudu also?”* The Prophet said, *“Yes, even if you are at a flowing river.”*

This hadith tells us that Rasulullah s.a.w was very concerned about conserving the environment and that a mukmin (true believer) should not waste what Allah s.w.t. has blessed him with. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Al-Isra' verse 27:

إِنَّ الْمُبَذِّرِينَ كَانُوا إِخْوَانَ الشَّيْطَانِ ط وَكَانَ الشَّيْطَانُ
لِرَبِّهِ كَفُورًا

Which means: *“Indeed, the wasteful are brothers of the devils, and ever has Satan been to his Lord ungrateful.”*

Beloved jemaah,

In relation to spreading mercy and being compassionate to all, let us reflect upon several lessons from Rasulullah s.a.w. regarding the rights of every living creature.

In a hadith reported by Imam Abu Dawud, once when Rasulullah s.a.w. entered the farm owned by a sahabah, he saw two camels there. The camel suddenly cried when it saw Rasulullah s.a.w. Rasulullah then said: *“Who is the owner of*

this camel?” At that moment, a young man came and said, “It is mine, O Messenger of Allah.” Rasulallah s.a.w. then said, “Do you not fear Allah? Verily it (the camel) complained to me that you left it hungry and forced it to work continuously.”

Imagine the emphasis Rasulallah s.a.w. placed on mercy, that even when it comes to the slaughter of animals, we are given ethical guidelines that must be adhered to. For example, we are reminded to be compassionate when it comes to slaughtering the animal. Rasulallah s.a.w. once saw a man who placed his leg at the sheep’s neck and then he sharpened his knife while the animal saw it. Rasulallah s.a.w. then said:

أَتُرِيدُ أَنْ تُمِيتَهَا مَوْتَيْنِ هَلَّا حَدَّدْتَ شَفْرَتَكَ قَبْلَ أَنْ تُضَجِعَهَا

Which means: “*Why didn’t you sharpen (the knife) before this? Do you plan to slaughter it twice?*” [Hadith reported by Imam At-Tabrani]

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

After hearing the various hadiths and stories of the Prophet s.a.w. we have been given a comprehensive picture of what “*mercy to the worlds*” entail. Thus, as the ummah of Rasulallah s.a.w. we should strive to bring mercy to all those around us by doing good to all, emulating the life and character of Rasulallah s.a.w. In fact, just like Rasulallah s.a.w., a person should not be merciful only to his or her family members, but also to his or her neighbours and to all humankind. In fact the nature of being

merciful for a Muslim is comprehensive and encompasses various aspects of one's daily life.

May Allah s.w.t. grant us taufiq and inayah to emulate Rasulullah s.a.w. and to enliven his sunnah, 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
فُوزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.