



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermin

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**The Importance of Knowledge: Lessons from the
Contributions of Saidatina Aisyah r.a.**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ ضِيَاءً وَالْقَمَرَ نُورًا، وَأَنْزَلَ الْقُرْآنَ
لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ذِكْرًا، أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ
مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى
آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ صَلَاةً وَسَلَامًا دَائِمِينَ إِلَى يَوْمِ تَجِدُ كُلَّ نَفْسٍ مَّا
عَمِلَتْ مُحْضِرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا
تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Friday jemaah,

I call upon all of us to increase our takwa to Allah s.w.t. with the highest level of takwa, by obeying all of His commands and abstaining from what Allah has prohibited upon us. May we be bestowed with His rahmah and forgiveness.

Blessed jemaah,

Islam places utmost importance on seeking knowledge. In many verses in the Quran Allah calls upon humankind to read and seek knowledge, thus describing how important it is for

Muslims to think and learn. One of the many verses in the Quran about knowledge is the following:

أَمَّنْهُوَ قَنْتٌ ءَانَاءَ اللَّيْلِ سَاجِدًا وَقَائِمًا يَحْذَرُ الْآخِرَةَ وَيَرْجُو رَحْمَةَ رَبِّهِ ۗ قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ إِنَّمَا يَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿٩﴾

Which means: *“Is one who is devoutly obedient during periods of the night, prostrating and standing [in prayer], fearing the Hereafter and hoping for the mercy of his Lord, [like one who does not]? Say, “Are those who know equal to those who do not know?”. Only they will remember [who are] people of understanding”.* [Surah Az-Zumar, verse 9]

Nabi s.a.w. said in a hadith, which means: *“Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim.* [Hadith reported by Ibn Majah and At-Tabrani]

It should be made clear that the obligation to seek knowledge is not only for men but also women. In fact, Islam places much importance on the educating women, because a mother is the first source of knowledge for her children and her lineage.

Saidatina Aisyah *Radhiallahu ‘Anha* is a sterling example of a knowledgeable woman who has left remarkable contributions for the society. Besides the wisdom Allah blessed her with, we can also learn from the roles played by her dear father,

Sayyidina Abu Bakar As-Siddiq r.a. and loving husband, Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. in developing her as a true believer (mukmin) and an educated person.

Friday jemaah,

The noble status of Saidatina Aisyah r.a. in the sight of Allah s.w.t and our beloved messenger, Rasulullah s.a.w. is undeniable. She was among the women whom the community would refer to and seek out after the demise of Nabi s.a.w., because of her in-depth understanding of religious matters and her noble standing in the sight of Rasulullah s.a.w. Her close relationship with the Prophet s.a.w. meant that she was extremely knowledgeable of his actions, speech and movement.

Sheikh Ibnu Sa'ad in his book *Tabaqat*, wrote that one of the many virtues of Saidatina Aisyah r.a. was that among women, she was ahead of other women who narrated hadith of the Prophet s.a.w. According to Ibn Sa'ad, Saidatina Aisyah narrated 2,210 hadith from Rasulullah s.a.w.

Beloved jemaah,

This gives us a picture of the immense contribution of Saidatina Aisyah r.a to Islam. There are many lessons that we can gain from this.

Firstly, the role of parents and family members play in shaping their children's identity, worldview and character (akhlak) cannot be ignored.

Hence, educate your daughters, so that they will in turn become exemplary mothers and educators. Remember, when we raise our daughters and educate them well, it means we are preparing the future generation.

Rasulullah s.a.w., in a hadith, specifically mentioned the excellence of raising and educating daughters well: *“Whoever has three daughters and educates them, cares for them and provides for them, he will enter Paradise”*. The Prophet was then asked: *“Ya Rasulullah, what if he has only two daughters?”* The Prophet s.a.w. answered: *“Yes, even two daughters”*. *Some people are of the opinion that if he was asked about one daughter, the Prophet s.a.w. would have responded, even if he has one daughter*”. [Musnad Ahmad]

Blessed Jemaah,

An educated and knowledgeable Muslim women is an example and guide for the family and the community. Hence, we must ensure that our daughters receive proper, holistic education which encompasses both worldly knowledge and knowledge of the religion. Knowledge (ilm) and faith (iman) are two of the most valuable assets a person can own. It can lead to security and success in this world and the hereafter. With knowledge,

one will be independent and not need to rely on the compassion of others, in order to survive in this world. Iman and takwa are spiritual assets that are most valuable because it can protect the child from evil, be it obvious acts of evil or those that are hidden.

As we all know, a mother is the first school or madrasah for her children. That is why in a hadith, Rasulullah s.a.w. specifically mentioned religion as a main criteria in finding a spouse. Nabi s.a.w. said: *“A woman may be married for four things: her wealth, her lineage, her beauty and her religious commitment. Seek the one who is religiously-committed, and may you prosper.”* [Hadith reported by Imam Bukhari and Muslim]

That is why, the responsibility of molding the younger generation is borne by every parent, through their daughters. If we are able to raise them well, guide them religiously, and instill good values in them, they will then be able to groom the generation after them with those noble values. We should never brush aside the need to educate daughters, and look upon it as something that is unimportant with the excuse that she will “end up in the kitchen”. The way a woman can contribute is not limited by the place, time and period. Just like Saidatina Aisyah, as long as she was still alive, her knowledge and experience was shared with the younger generation.

Friday jemaah,

The second issue that we should realise is that in order to develop a generation that has a deep love for knowledge. We have to implement a successful educational strategy that actually begins from a very young age. Instill in them an unwavering love for Allah, the deep love for Rasulullah and the Quran, insyaAllah the love for knowledge will also be developed. If our children have a strong iman in their hearts, they will grow up with good, sincere values. InsyaAllah he or she will be resilient in the face of the various challenges and hurdles in this life.

As the heads of the family, as a father, husband and brother, we play a crucial role in encouraging our family members to have a love for knowledge and seeking knowledge. As much as we are able to, bring them to Islamic educational events regularly. We can also create a conducive environment at home by having a mini library and a comfortable reading corner. Once in a while, make time for academic discussions and exchange views in a respectful manner about current affairs to build the wisdom and maturity of our family members. This is important in order to produce mature adults who are concerned toward the needs of others, and are smart in navigating life's challenges.

May we be given the strength and wisdom from Allah s.w.t. in executing our Amana as heads of our families. Hopefully, just

as how are with them today, we will be with them again in the hereafter in Allah's paradise. Ameen 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.