



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

8 April 2016 / 30 Jamadilakhir 1437H

Humility Is an Islamic Virtue

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْغَنِيِّ الْحَمِيدِ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولَهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَالْقَوْلِ السَّدِيدِ، اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ 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. through our speech, actions and deeds. Avoid all that He has prohibited upon us, to the best of our abilities. May we be placed among His servants who receive His forgiveness, Amin.

Allah s.w.t. says in Surah al-Isra' verse 37:

وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّكَ لَنْ تَخْرِقَ الْأَرْضَ وَلَنْ تَبْلُغَ الْجِبَالَ
طُولًا



Which means: *“And do not walk upon the earth exultantly. Indeed, you will never tear the earth [apart], and you will never reach the mountains in height.”*

Beloved Friday jemaah,

Last week’s sermon called upon us to be humble in seeking knowledge. Humility or *tawadhu’* is a noble character that is placed highly in the sight of Allah. It is one of the traits emphasised by the Quran and Sunnah of the Prophet s.a.w. This is because humility is the key to the cleansing of the heart and the beautification of one’s akhlak, as well as the foundation in keeping good relations with Allah s.w.t. and with fellow humankind. It reminds us of our status as mere servants, of the importance of comradeship, how we are forever dependent on our Creator and also His other creations.

Jemaah,

Without humility, arrogance and ego will overcome us and this will harm ourselves and others. In fact, humility is the key towards avoiding animosity and oppression among humankind. Disputes occur because of arrogance and disrespect towards others. Feeling that we can never go wrong and are better than others will only flame the fire of enmity and hostility. Just look around us. If we have friends who are arrogant and proud, we will notice that they will refuse to listen and accept the advice of others, even if they are in the wrong. Such an attitude will not

only harm them, but others as well. For example, accidents at the workplace sometimes occur because of the arrogance of some colleagues who refuse to adhere strictly to safety rules and guidelines.

Blessed jemaah,

This is only an example of the physical impact that can occur due to arrogance. Arrogance can affect our spirituality as well, and is the reason one may find one's self tripping at the door of Paradise. An example is a person who is still arrogant toward Allah and refuses to heed His commands despite the fact that Allah s.w.t has bestowed upon him health, wealth, family and a peaceful life. Yet, he forgets that he is a mere servant and refuses to prostrate to Allah in gratitude for all of the blessings showered upon him, and he refuses to pay a small portion of his wealth yearly for zakat. He does not only refuse to obey Allah's commands, but also commits sin by transgressing His boundaries.

Jemaah,

Perhaps there are those among us who are already more diligent in their acts of worship and are nodding their head in agreement as they listen to the scenarios I have just presented. However, as a reminder first and foremost to myself, and those who have already been enlightened about the religion, let us not feel proud and arrogant with the fact that we have

embraced the religion and have applied it in our lives. Let us never feel that we are better than others. This is because when syaitan is not able to stop us from worshipping Allah, he will trick us with our piety. How does he do so? Syaitan will encourage us to feel proud of our piety and whisper to us that we are better than others.

Syaitan will also make us feel that we are nobler than others. This will then affect how we interact and engage others. Among the signs of pride and arrogance is that we will speak in a tone and language that denigrate others. When we see others committing a mistake or a sin, we will be hard and harsh on them, criticising and even embarrassing them publicly on social media and so on. When in actual fact, if we were to think about it, we were once like them too. In fact, we were probably worse off than they are now. Or it could be that we are actually still in the same condition that we were, only that now we are externally more religious.

Remember what our beloved messenger Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. had once said: *“No one who has the weight of a seed of arrogance in his heart will enter Paradise.”* Someone said, *“But a man loves to have beautiful clothes and shoes.”* The Prophet said, *“Verily, Allah is beautiful and He loves beauty. Arrogance means rejecting the truth and looking down on people.”* [Hadith reported by Imam Muslim]

Thus, we should constantly reflect upon ourselves and look deep into our hearts. Think about our actions toward Allah s.w.t. as well as our actions toward others; watch our words on social media, and seek the advice and honest evaluation from those closest to us.

Beloved Friday jemaah,

Humility is the key not just in being well-liked and accepted by others, but also to gain Allah's pleasure. A humble person will be more easily welcomed by others and this will open doors to more opportunities to do good. By being tawadhu' we will be employees and colleagues who are open to criticisms, and even actively asking for them in order to improve ourselves. It will also make one a head of family that is more beloved to his family because we are able to seek forgiveness easily when we are in the wrong and improve the situation, which an arrogant and egoistic person is unwilling to do.

Hopefully through these efforts of humbling ourselves, Allah s.w.t. will raise our standing in His sight. May Allah grant us the strength to educate and guard the humility of our hearts until it opens the doors of goodness for us in this world and the hereafter. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ 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.