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Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

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The Qur'an Illuminates the Heart, Beautifies the Character

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهٰذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا اَنْ هَدَانَا اللّٰهُ. اَشْهَدُ اَنْ
لَا اِلَهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَاَشْهَدُ اَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلٰى آلِهِ وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِينَ. اَمَّا بَعْدُ،
فَيَا عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اتَّقُوا اللّٰهَ. قَالَ تَعَالٰى فِي التَّنْزِيلِ: يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا اتَّقُوا
اللّٰهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهٖ وَلَا تَمُوْتُنَّ اِلَّا وَاَنْتُمْ مُّسْلِمُوْنَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us observe taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. by fulfilling all His commands and avoiding all His prohibitions. May the taqwa we carry today be a source of joy for us in the Hereafter. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Dear blessed congregation,

Allah s.w.t. describes the **Qur'an**; the **Kalamullah** (Word of Allah), with majestic **attributes**, among them: *nur* (light), *huda* (guidance), *syifa'* (healing) and *tazkirah* (reminder).

These **attributes** prompt us to assess our relationship with the **Qur'an**. Has it truly become the light of our lives, guidance when we make life decisions, healing for our spirit and **hearts**, and a reminder that shapes our character? Or are we still stuck at mere verbal recitation?

Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Muhammad, verse 24:

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَى قُلُوبٍ أَقْفَالُهَا ﴿٢٤﴾

Which means: *“Do they not then reflect upon the **Qur'an**, or are there locks upon their **hearts**?”*

At times, our weaknesses and shortcomings prevent us from internalising and practising **the Qur'an's** teachings as best we can. Therefore, our effort to draw close to the **Qur'an** must go hand in hand with efforts to improve ourselves and purify our **hearts**, so that **Kalamullah** continues to be a torch that lights our lives and beautifies our character.

Dear congregation,

The **Qur'an** invites us to recognise our weaknesses, while also realising the potential for good that Allah has bestowed upon us. Let us reflect on four reminders from the **Qur'an** that guide our efforts to improve ourselves and beautify our character.

First: Being humble

Allah s.w.t. describes the human tendency to feel self-sufficient in Surah al-‘Alaq, verses 6-7, which means: *“Know! Indeed, man transgresses, because he sees himself as self-sufficient”*, and the tendency to argue in Surah al-Kahf, verse 54, which means: *“And man is the most argumentative of all.”*

Brothers, let us approach the **Qur’an** with open **hearts**, ready to accept correction and improve ourselves, even when its guidance challenges our habits or desires.

Second: Training patience

Allah s.w.t. describes man as often hasty in Surah al-Isra’, verse 11, which means: *“...and man is ever hasty,”* and impatient when afflicted with hardship in Surah al-Ma’arij, verses 19-21, which mean: *“Indeed, man was created anxious; when adversity touches him, he is impatient...”*

Dear congregants, internalising the **Qur’an** requires patience. Take time to understand its meaning, reflect on its lessons, and practise it step by step.

Third: Cultivating gratitude

Allah s.w.t. describes the ungrateful nature of man in Surah al-‘Adiyat, verse 6, which means: *“Indeed, man is very ungrateful to his Lord”*, and his excessive love of wealth in Surah al-Fajr, verse 20, which means: *“And you love wealth with immense love.”*

Dear brothers, be grateful for the blessing of the **Qur'an's** guidance by internalising its teachings, and do not let busyness and worldly desires distract us from it.

Fourth: Beautifying character

Allah s.w.t. describes man's stinginess in Surah al-Isra', verse 100, which means: *"Say, 'If you possessed the depositories of the mercy of my Lord, then you would withhold out of fear of spending.' And man has ever been stingy."*

Brothers, let the **Qur'an** be the guide to beautifying our character. It is to be read, understood, and translated into care, generosity and kindness towards fellow human beings.

Dear congregation,

Whatever our weaknesses, let us keep drawing close to **Kalamullah** and improving ourselves by its teachings. May the **Qur'an** become a light that illuminates our **hearts**, guides our steps, and beautifies our character. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ.

Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانْتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمُهْدِيِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقُرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنْهُمْ وَمَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالْمِحْنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَنِ بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ انْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي غَزَاةٍ وَفِي فِلِسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ

عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً،
وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ
يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوا عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَذِكْرُ
اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.