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Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Resilience Amid Hardship

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ الَّذِي اَرْسَلَ رَسُوْلَهُ بِالْهُدٰى وَدِيْنِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلٰى الدِّيْنِ كُلِّهِ
وَكَفٰى بِاللّٰهِ شَهِيدًا. اَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ، وَاشْهَدُ اَنَّ
نَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُوْلُهُ. اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى اٰلِهِ
وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِيْنَ. اَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اتَّقُوا اللّٰهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ
اِلَّا وَاَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُوْنَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us increase our taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. by obeying all His commands and avoiding all His prohibitions. Let every joy and every **trial** be a means to draw closer to Him. May Allah grant us the strength to remain steadfast upon His path. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Dear blessed congregation,

Have we ever faced a heavy **trial**, or witnessed the hardship of others, and a thought arises in our hearts, questioning: “*Why does Allah allow this to happen?*”.

As believers, we affirm that every **trial** comes from Allah. **Trials** are part of the nature of life, and every human being will surely be **tested**. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah al-Baqarah, verse 155:

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ
الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالثَّمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٥٥﴾

Which means: “We will surely **test** you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in wealth or lives or the fruits (of your toil), and give glad tidings to those who **patiently** persevere.”

Dear brothers,

Indeed, at times, a **trial** serves as *kaffarah* – a form of expiation of sins from Allah s.w.t. However, this does not mean that every **trial** we face is a punishment, nor should it be seen as a form of humiliation.

The proof lies within the fact that the Prophets themselves were **tested** and endured great hardships in life. Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. was oppressed and driven out by his own people in Makkah. Prophet Ya‘qub a.s. was **tested** with the loss of his beloved child. While Prophet Ayyub a.s. was afflicted with illness for many years, in addition to the loss of his wealth and family.

But how did they respond? The Prophets – whom we should take as our role models – faced those **trials** with صَبْرٌ جَمِيلٌ (*sobrun*

jamil); a beautiful **patience**; one without complaint, and filled with hope in Allah s.w.t.

From these examples, we can conclude that a believer (*Mukmin*) does not fall into despair when faced with crises and life's **challenges**. A believer holds firmly to the **faith** he has professed, and once again refines his understanding of the essence of **patience**.

Dear blessed congregation,

How can our **faith** help shape a better perspective when facing life's **trials**?

First: Perceiving trials as a means to draw closer to Allah

For a believer, a **trial** is a sign of Allah's love for His servant. Imam Al-'Izz ibn Abdussalam in his book *Al-Fitan wal Balaya*, explains that there are many wisdoms behind every calamity or affliction, including:

- To remind us of our weakness as humans
- To cultivate our dependence on Allah
- To shape a heart that is sincere, humble, and free from arrogance
- To make us grateful for our well-being which Allah has long granted

Thus, a **trial** is not a sign that Allah despises us. Rather, it is a reminder and an invitation to return and draw nearer to Him.

Second: Seeing everything that happens as good for the believer

This is the essence of the words of Rasulullah s.a.w. in a hadith narrated by Muslim, which means:

*“How amazing is the condition of a believer. All of his affairs are good, and this applies only to the believer. If he receives a blessing and he is grateful, then there is good for him in it. If he is afflicted with a **trial** and he is **patient**, then there is also good for him in it.”*

How beautiful is the Islamic perspective — whether in hardship or ease, both bring goodness as long as we face them with gratitude and **patience**.

Respected Friday congregants,

Even today, humanity continues to face crises and **challenges** — whether in matters of health, income, family, or social pressures. These **trials** remind us of how weak humans are without the help of Allah.

However, if we face them with **faith**, **patience**, and *tawakal*, these **trials** can transform into opportunities: opportunities to strengthen the heart, ignite the light of **faith**, and spread compassion and support to others. May Allah s.w.t. make us His servants whose **faith** remains steadfast in both hardship and ease.

Ya Allah Ya Rahmān, grant us **certainty** that makes the **trials** of this world feel light upon us. Ya Rahīm, do not place any **trial** upon our matters of **faith**. Ya Mujīb, improve our affairs and accept our supplications. 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.

Dear blessed congregation,

In life, whether at the individual, family, or community level, we will surely face **trials** that are at times bitter and difficult to bear – sometimes so severe that emotions may overwhelm the guidance of **faith**. These **trials** may come in the form of insults or injustices, whether spoken or acted upon. They may be done deliberately, out of stubborn hearts, or out of ignorance. Such was the case faced by several of our mosques recently, when they received items that violated the sanctity of Allah's House.

Whatever the intent or reason behind such actions, only Allah s.w.t. knows. As Muslims who remain steadfast and principled upon the teachings of the Prophet s.a.w., we hold firmly to the conviction that our beloved Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. brought forth a message of mercy and well-being in all matters.

The Prophet s.a.w. taught us to continue embodying noble conduct even when confronted by those who seek to harm us – by forgiveness and spreading goodness.

This is the mission of the ummah of Muhammad s.a.w.: that if such acts are intended to undermine the peace and harmony of our community and nation, know that they will only strengthen our spirit and resolve to uphold peace and harmony, in line with Prophetic guidance. And if there are those who seek to damage relations between religions and people, let it be clear that we must never equate the deeds of one person, or a small group, with an entire race or religion.

Therefore, my dear brothers, let us close our ranks and strengthen our unity. Let such incidents serve as reminders for us to safeguard our cohesion. Let us preserve harmony between one another. Let them be proof that the teachings of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. remain firmly rooted in our hearts, even though we have never met him in person. And refrain from sharing information which are uncertain, so that we do not worsen the situation and fall to the deception of Shaytan, who constantly awaits our downfall.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْغَرِيزِ: 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 الْمُهَدِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرُ وَعُثْمَانُ
وَعَلِيٌّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقُرَآئَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعَهُمْ
وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ
وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالْمَحَنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ
مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَنِ بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ.
رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً، وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

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