Keywords: Get to know Respect Harmony

## Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura Friday Sermon 18 July 2025 / 22 Muharram 1447H <u>Hijrah – A Gateway to Communal Unity</u>

إِنَّ الحُمْدَ لِلَهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِيْنُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللهُ فَلاَ مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضْلِلْ فَلاَ هَادِى لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لاَ إِلَهَ إِلاَّ اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لاَ شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِيْنَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ ٱللهِ، ٱتَقُوا ٱللهُ. قَالَ تَعَالَى فِي التَّنْزِيْلَ: يَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمنُوا اتَقُوا اللهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَ إِلاً وَانَتُهُ مُسْلِمُونَ.

### Dear congregation blessed by Allah,

Let us adorn ourselves with taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. — taqwa that guides the heart to obey all His commands and abstain from His prohibitions. May this taqwa be a light in times of darkness and bring goodness into our lives. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

#### Dear brothers,

Why did Allah create human beings differently? Why were we not made into a single, uniform nation?

The answer to this question lies in verse 13 of Surah Al-Hujurat:

يَنَأَيُّهَا ٱلنَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَكُم مِّن ذَكَرٍ وَأُنثَى وَجَعَلُ شُعُوبَا وَقَبَآبٍلَ لِتَعَارَفُوَٓ اإِنَّ أَحْرَمَكُمْ عِندَ ٱللَّهِ أَن إِنَّ ٱللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ٢

Which means: "O mankind! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes <u>so that you</u> <u>may **know** one another</u>. Verily, the most honourable of you in the sight of Allah is the one who harbours the most taqwa. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware."

#### Honoured congregants,

Allah instructs us to build relationships based on justice and **harmony**, rooted in taqwa — not merely in race, language, skin colour, or lineage. This divine lesson was beautifully manifested in the *Hijrah* (migration) of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. to the city of Madinah. It marked the beginning of a new society composed of diverse tribes and communities, united in heart, mutual **respect**, and **harmony**.

In Madinah, the Prophet s.a.w. established brotherhood between the *Muhajirin* and the *Ansar*. He also enacted the Constitution of Madinah — a pact that safeguarded the rights of all residents, including non-Muslims, allowing them to live in peace and free from oppression. This is clear proof that Islam upholds the principles of equality, unity, and **harmony** across religions and ethnicities.

The Prophet s.a.w. once said:

Which means: "Indeed, Allah has removed from you the arrogance of Jahiliyyah (age of ignorance) and its pride in ancestry. You are either a pious believer or a wretched sinner. You are all descendants of Adam, and Adam was created from soil." (Narrated by Abi Daud)

#### Dear Friday congregation,

Let us reflect on two key lessons from the *Hijrah* that are highly relevant for us today:

# First: Viewing differences as pathways of love, not gaps of hatred.

Dear brothers, our differences in appearance, race, and background are all set by Allahs decree. They are not errors — rather, they are a test for us to see how just, compassionate, and loving we can be toward one another.

Allah says in Surah Al-Hujurat, verse 11, which means: "O you who believe! <u>Let not some men ridicule others</u> — it may be that those ridiculed are better than them. Nor let women ridicule other

women — they too may be better than them. <u>Do not defame one</u> <u>another, nor call each other by offensive nicknames.</u> How evil is the name of wickedness after faith. And whoever does not repent — they are the wrongdoers."

Brothers, we learn from this verse that Allah s.w.t. strictly forbids all forms of mockery, ridicule, and verbal abuse. Nobility is not merely measured by lineage or looks, but by faith and taqwa which reside in one's heart.

Indeed, belittling others only fuels hatred, disturbs **harmony**, and weakens unity. In contrast, Islam calls us to humility, mutual understanding, and **respectful** speech.

#### Second: Let our words unite, not divide.

In a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim, the Prophet s.a.w. once rebuked Abu Dzar r.a. for degrading another person with a racially offensive term:

Which means: "Indeed, you are a man still affected by the ignorance of Jahiliyyah."

Imagine — if our Prophet Muhammad s.a.w., the most noble of men, blessed with miracles and divine guidance, rejected all forms of racial and ethnic discrimination, then who are we, whose place in Paradise is not guaranteed, to act superior to others and utter words that bring others down?

True Islam teaches us to **know** each other, not to insult. It calls us to **respect**, not to hate. It elevates those who are mindful of Allah — those who submit to His magnificence, follow His commands, and avoid His prohibitions.

Our tongues are a divine gift and trust from the Almighty. Let us use them wisely. Speak words that uplift and unite. Treat one another with **respect** and kindness, for therein lies the seeds of **harmony**. Injustice and cruelty towards one another not only degrade our humanity, but also lead us to sin in the sight of Allah.

#### Honoured congregation,

The Prophet's efforts in uniting the *Muhajirin* and the *Ansar*, and establishing peaceful relations with non-Muslim communities after the Hijrah, clearly show that Islam is a light that guides toward brotherhood, justice, and **harmony**.

Islam calls for a society that cultivates love amid diversity. In this world, we are entrusted to be bearers of mercy and callers to justice — not only among fellow Muslims, but to all of humanity, without exception.

May Allah s.w.t. make us a people who sow peace, build bonds of brotherhood regardless of differences, and may His mercy

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accompany us in this world and the hereafter. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أَقُوْلُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ العَظِيْمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْم.

#### Second Sermon

الحَمْدُ للهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَن لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ الله، اِتَّقُوا اللهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَاكُم عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَال في كِتَابِهِ العَزِيزِ: إِنَّ اللهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلُفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ المَهْدِيِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَن بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالقَرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعَهُم وَفِيهِم بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الأَحْيَاءِ مِنهُم وَالأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا البَلَاءَ وَالوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالمِحَنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَن بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ البُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ العَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ انْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِيْنَ فِي غَزَّة وَفِي فِلِسْطِينَ وَفِيْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاجِمِينَ. اَللَّهُمَّ بَدِلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزْغَمُ فَرَحًا، وَهُمَّهُمْ فَرَجًا، يَا رَبَّ العَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ اكْتُبِ السِّلْمَ وَالسَّلَامَ وَالأَمْوَانِ لِلْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ وَلِلنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً، وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللهِ، إِنَّ اللهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالعَدْلِ وَالإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي القُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ الفَحْشَاءِ وَالمُنكَرِ وَالبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَاذكُرُوا اللهَ العَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِن فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُم، وَلَذِكْرُ اللهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.