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Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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'Ibadur-Rahman: Humility and Patience

ٱلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ ٱلَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهٰذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا أَنْ هَدَانَا ٱللّٰه. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا ٱللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. ٱللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ ٱللَّهِ، ٱتَّقُوا ٱللَّهَ. قَالَ تَعَالَى فِي التَّنْزِيل: يَـٰٓأَيُّهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ ٱتَّقُواْ ٱللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِۦ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنتُم مُّسْلِمُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

As servants of Allah, the Most Gracious, let us value His mercy by obeying His commands and avoiding His prohibitions. May Allah s.w.t. make us His servants whose faith remains firm and steadfast. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

My beloved brothers,

From today until the end of the year, the Friday sermon will present a series of tadabbur (reflection) khutbahs, focusing on the attributes of the **'Ibadur-Rahman**.

My brothers, Allah s.w.t. gives a group of His chosen servants the title "**'Ibadur-Rahman**" (the Servants of the Most Gracious). Allah s.w.t. describes their attributes and character so that they may inspire us, and so that we may strive together to emulate them.

In the first verse of this series, verse 63 of Surah Al-Furqan, Allah s.w.t. says:

وَعِبَادُ ٱلرَّحۡمَٰنِ ٱلَّذِينَ يَمۡشُونَ عَلَى ٱلۡأَرۡضِ هَوۡنٗا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ ٱلۡجَٰهِلُونَ قَالُواْ سَلَٰمٗا ٦٣

Meaning: *"And the **'Ibadur-Rahman** are those who walk on the earth with **humility**, and when the ignorant address them (with words they dislike), they say 'salam' (words that ease tension)."*

Notice, dear congregation, *why does Allah focus on the manner of their walk?*

Perhaps because Allah s.w.t. wants to teach us that the **'Ibadur-Rahman** constantly seek His pleasure, even through trivial daily routines, or things regarded as small, and the way one walks is among the clearest examples of this.

The next question: *how does one walk in a manner which begets Allah's pleasure?* The answer lies in the first attribute mentioned in the verse: **humility**. Reflect again, there are so many stories of those who lacked **humility** and rejected the truth outright.

Abu Jahl rejected the call of Rasulullah s.a.w., not because he did not know the truth, but because his arrogance and love of status prevented him from humbling himself before the Prophet s.a.w.

Likewise, Iblis refused to prostrate (as a sign of honour) to Prophet Adam a.s. because he felt himself to be more noble.

Dear congregation,

Allah s.w.t. then mentions the second attribute of the **'Ibadur-Rahman**: *"and when the ignorant address them (with words they dislike), they say 'salam' (words that ease tension)."*

Notice how Allah s.w.t. informs us of something that will certainly occur as we walk on this earth of Allah: we will meet all kinds of people. Naturally, not everyone behaves well in public. So how do we react? Is it right for us to walk with **humility**, yet at the same time repay evil in kind? Certainly not!

That is why Allah s.w.t. urges us to respond in a way that calms the situation when facing negative energy.

Dear congregants, the message is actually more than just a good reaction. To respond to wrongdoing with a good reaction requires maturity of thought, wisdom, **patience** and the ability to control one's emotions. This is the challenge of every human being. Perhaps this is why the **'Ibadur-Rahman** are so special in Allah's sight.

Brothers, ego often drives people to repay evil with evil. But the **patience** of the **'Ibadur-Rahman** enables them to face the trials of life, while wisdom enables them to assess a situation more carefully.

The **'Ibadur-Rahman** do not see those who differ from them, in opinion or in personality, as enemies to be defeated. It is enough for them to set aside the demands of the ego and give a response that dissolves tension. Remember the guidance of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w., which means:

"The strong are not those who can wrestle. Rather, the strong are those who can control themselves when angry." (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Honoured congregation,

Humility arises from the awareness that greatness and honour belong to Allah, and that we are only His small servants.

Life is beyond our power and knowledge. Provision follows the will of the One God. So how can we feel superior when nothing we have is anything more than a mere loan? Allah s.w.t. reminds us in Surah An-Nahl, verse 53, which means: *“And whatever blessing you have, it comes from Allah...”*

So let us show the **humility** and **patience** that are born from reflecting on the verses recited earlier. May Allah s.w.t. make us among the **'Ibadur-Rahman** whom He loves, whose presence

brings peace and whose character reflects the mercy of Allah, the Most Gracious. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أَقُوْلُ قَوْلِي هَذا 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 فِي 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 الخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ المَهْدِيِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَن بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالقَرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعَهُم وَفِيهِم بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالمُسْلِمِينَ وَالمُسْلِمَاتِ، الأَحْيَاءِ مِنهُم وَالأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا البَلَاءَ وَالوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالمِحَنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَن بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ البُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ العَالَمِينَ. اَللَّهُمَّ انْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا اْلمُسْتَضْعَفِيْنَ فِي غَزَّة وَفِي فِلِسْطِينَ وَفِيْ كُلِّ مَكَانٍ

عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. 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.