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Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura
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The Trials of Maintaining Ties

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَفَقُّ مَنْ شَاءَ لِمَكَارِمِ الْأَخْلَاقِ، وَهَدَاهُمْ لِمَا فِيهِ فَلَاحُهُمْ يَوْمَ
الْمَسَاقِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، الْمَلِكُ الْخَلَّاقُ،
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ أَفْضَلُ الْبَشَرِ عَلَى الْإِطْلَاقِ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ
وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ
الْتِمَاقِ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، قَالَ اللَّهُ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ: يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ
وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us continually uphold our taqwa; consciousness of Allah s.w.t. by carrying out His commands and refraining from His prohibitions. May we be granted the shade of Allah on the Day of the Hereafter. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Blessed congregation,

In line with Syawal, the month of visiting one another and strengthening **silaturahmi**; the **ties** of kinship, this khutbah

seeks to focus on this noble practice and the challenges that come with it.

Dear brothers,

We have left behind the blessed month of Ramadan. We move forward carrying with us the noble values that we cultivated throughout the month. Now, we have entered the month of Syawal, a month adorned with warm greetings, gatherings that strengthen **silaturahmi**, and the expression of love and affection.

However, in reality, **relationships** between people are not always easy or pleasant. At times they are calm and harmonious, but at other times they are tested with tension and misunderstandings. Let us be conscious that maintaining **silaturahmi** is a trust that comes with significant trials. What is the basis for what I am saying?

Observe the guidance of the Prophet s.a.w. which shows that maintaining **silaturahmi** does not occur only in times of peace and ease. Rather, it must continue to flourish even when those **relationships** are tested.

The Prophet s.a.w. said that which means: *“The one who maintains **silaturahmi** is not merely the one who reciprocates good with good, but rather the one who restores those **ties** when they have been severed.”* (Bukhari)

Blessed congregation,

The trials of maintaining **silaturahmi** test: 1) excellence in character (*ihсан*), 2) patience, and 3) our ability to **forgive** — three positive values that were strongly nurtured in us during the madrasah of Ramadan. However, what are the obstacles that often prevent us from practising them? Arrogance and ego!

Arrogance and ego can lead a person to feel more noble and more important than others. Moreover, Allah explains in Surah Luqman, verse 18, that this trait is blameworthy and detested by Him:

وَلَا تُصَعِّرْ خَدَّكَ لِلنَّاسِ وَلَا تَمْشِ فِي الْأَرْضِ مَرَحًا إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ فَخُورٍ ﴿١٨﴾

Which means: “*And do not turn your nose up to people (in boastfulness), nor walk pridefully upon the earth. Surely Allah does not like whoever is arrogant, boastful.*”

In addition, arrogance and ego are obstacles to the process of repairing **relationships**. The presence of arrogance and ego allow misunderstandings, hurt feelings, and resentment to persist, eventually straining **relationships** that were once good and full of love.

By taking guidance from the hadith of the Prophet s.a.w. mentioned earlier, and by accepting the reality that every human

relationship will surely be tested, today's khutbah invites us to reflect on three steps in preserving **silaturahmi** when **relationships** are put to the test.

Firstly: Being mindful of the subtle seeds of ego and arrogance that creep into the heart.

Both these traits often arise quietly without us realising it — frequently driven by the believe that we are always right, finding it challenging to seek **forgiveness**, and looking down on others or harbouring negative assumptions towards them.

In truth, when we choose to listen rather than argue, to prioritise **forgiveness** over retaliation, and to humble ourselves for the sake of harmony, we are choosing to embody the character beloved to Allah.

Secondly: Always choosing the path of reconciliation.

It is easy to distance ourselves and wait for the other party to take the first step toward reconciliation. However, this can worsen the situation. Taking the initiative — whether by offering a greeting, sending a text message, or sincerely **apologising** — requires courage, sincerity, and above all, dampening of one's ego. It reflects maturity and a sincere desire to attain the pleasure of Allah. It must be remembered that the purpose of reconciliation is not to determine who is right or wrong, but to restore **relationships** and preserve **silaturahmi** for the sake of Allah's pleasure.

Third: Understanding that every relationship is a trust and a source of blessings (*barakah*).

Every individual, whether parents, children, siblings, spouses, friends, or neighbours, enters our lives by the decree of Allah. Each of them has rights over the other, and among those rights is kind and compassionate treatment, which in reality reflects a person's faith. When we nurture these **relationships** with the guidance of faith, along with patience, love, and *ihsan*; *excellence*, Allah places **blessings** within them.

On the other hand, when we neglect this trust, we risk not only losing the **relationship**, but also the **blessings (*barakah*)** that come with it. Therefore, preserve our **relationships** in the best way possible, for through them we draw closer to Allah by fulfilling what He has commanded.

Dear congregation,

Syawal is still with us. Let us take this blessed month as an opportunity to strengthen our **relationships** and reinforce our **silaturahmi**. Extend a hand in greeting, ask about one another's well-being, make a call, seek **forgiveness**, and be ready to **forgive**.

May Allah s.w.t. preserve the sweetness of the **relationships** we enjoy today, grant us gentleness and humility when we face strained **relationships**, and make every **relationship** we

cherish a source of **blessings** and reward in this world and the Hereafter. 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. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانْتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَى 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 آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارِضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمُهَدِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقُرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا رَحِيمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالرُّلَازِلَ وَالْمِحْنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَنِ بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ أَنْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي عَزَّةٍ وَفِي فِلِسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ عَامَّةً، يَا رَحِيمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزْرَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمَّهُمْ فَرَجًا، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ اكْتُبِ السَّلَامَ وَالسَّلَامَ وَالْأَمْنَ وَالْأَمَانَ لِلْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ

وَلِلنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الآخِرَةِ 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، وَلَا تَكْفُرْ
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.