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## Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

### Friday Sermon

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### Sincerity – The Hidden Good Deeds

أَخْمَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي هَدَانَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنُهَتِدِي لَوْلَا أَنْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ أَشْهُدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهُدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّداً عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ أَللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِي نَفْسِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمَتَّقُونَ.

**Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,**

Have taqwa and fear Allah s.w.t. with true mindfulness. Obey all His commands and refrain from all that He has forbidden. **Purify** our intentions so that every action is performed solely to attain Allah's pleasure. May Allah s.w.t. cleanse our hearts and deeds from all forms of impurity. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

**Dear respected congregation,**

How do we assess our **sincerity** or *ikhlas*? In this age of advancement, our acts of goodness are often no longer **hidden** from the sight of others – whether in the virtual space or in real

life. Does this mean that it has become more difficult to preserve our **sincerity**?

My dear brothers, Islam emphasises that the very core of this religion lies in **sincerity** towards Allah s.w.t. Allah says in Surah al-Bayyinah, verse 5:

وَمَا أَمْرُوا إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ مُخْلِصِينَ لَهُ الْدِينَ حُنْفَاءَ وَيَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُوا الزَّكُوَةَ  
وَذَلِكَ دِينُ الْقِيَمَةِ ٥

Which means: “And they were not commanded except to worship Allah, being **sincere** to Him in religion, inclining to truth, to establish prayer, and to give zakat. And that is the right faith.”

This verse reminds us that religious life requires **sincerity**. Without **sincerity**, it becomes harder for us to remain **steadfast** on the path of goodness.

**Dear congregation,**

**Sincerity** does not mean that we are completely prohibited from sharing our good deeds. Scholars explain that sharing our good deeds is permissible when the intention is to encourage others towards goodness, and when it is done without ostentation or seeking praise. At the same time, Islam teaches us to strive to **conceal** some of our good deeds, in order to safeguard the purity of our intentions and to cleanse the heart.

This is reflected in an authentic hadith describing a man who gives charity so **discreetly**, that his left hand does not know what his right hand has given. Similarly, the Companion of the Prophet s.a.w., az-Zubair bin al-'Awwam r.a., once advised: “*Whoever among you is able to have a righteous deed that is **hidden**, then let him do so.*” (Reported by Ibn Abi Shaybah)

Therefore, let us reflect: Which of our deeds remain a secret between us and Allah, as a sign of our **sincerity** to Him? Here, let us reflect on two ways in which *ikhlas* or **sincerity** positively shapes the character of a Muslim.

### **First: Sincerity gives clarity of purpose in life**

When a person places the pleasure of al-Khaliq (Allah) as their ultimate goal, they no longer seek recognition from the creation. Reflect upon this: quietly assisting someone in hardship, or a husband and wife managing their household in the stillness of the night, or a child who consistently prays for their parents despite finding it difficult to express their feelings – these become acts of worship that are valuable and feel easy when they are carried out with **sincerity**.

### **Second: Sincerity nurtures steadfastness in goodness**

**Sincerity** guides a Muslim to remain firm despite changing circumstances or human perceptions. Such a person remains open to receiving advice and reflecting upon them. Equally important is exercising wisdom when offering advice, for

**sincerity** in correcting others must be accompanied by compassion or *ihsan*.

A **sincere** Muslim approaches others with mercy and concern. A **sincere** Muslim upholds welfare and justice, not because it is the trending issue of the day, but because they are driven by sound principles and values of faith.

**Dear blessed congregation,**

Let us evaluate our every action. Strive to preserve our *ikhlas* or **sincerity** and adorn ourselves with humility so that we may remain **steadfast** in goodness. May Allah s.w.t. accept all our **efforts**, whether they are known to people or otherwise. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أُقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ  
الْوَحْيِمُ.

## Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمْرَ، وَأَشْهُدُ أَنَّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهُدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسِلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عَبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمْرَ، وَاتَّهُوا عَمَّا كَفَرُوكُمْ عَنْهُ وَزَجَرُ.

أَلَا صَلَوَا وَسِلَمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمْرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذِلِكَ حِينَ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَرِيزِ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلِّوْنَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ إِذَا مَنُوا صَلُوْلَا عَلَيْهِ وَسِلُمُوا تَسْلِيْلَمَا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسِلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَأَرْضَ اللَّهَمَّ عَنِ الْخَلْفَاءِ الرُّشِيدِينَ الْمُهَدِّدِينَ سَادِاتِنَا أَيِّ بُكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيِّ، وَعَنْ بِقِيَةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقَرَائِبِ وَالْتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعْهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بَرْ حُمِّتَكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمَنَاتِ، وَالْمُسِلِمِينَ وَالْمُسِلَّمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفِعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالْوَلَازِلَ وَالْمَحْنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَنْ بَلْدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبَلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ انْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي عَرَّةٍ وَفِي فِلَسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بِدْلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَخُزْنَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمُّهُمْ فَرَجًا، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ اكْتِبْ السَّلَامَ وَالسَّلَامَ وَالْأَمَانَ وَالْأَمَانَ لِلْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ

وَلِلنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتَنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً، وَ قَنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

عَبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعُدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَ يَنْهَا عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يُعَظِّمُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَإِذَا كُرِّوا اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمَ يَدْكُرُكُمْ، وَ اشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدُّكُمْ، وَ اسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَ لَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَ اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.