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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**?

Firstly: 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.

Secondly: Practising tawakal – effort anchored in faith

Patience in Islam does not mean that we simply fold our arms and wait for help when facing **trials**. Rather, it requires diligent **effort**, accompanied by supplication and hope in Allah. This is the essence of *tawakal* — combining sincere **effort** with **faith**.

When we fall sick, we seek treatment and take steps to monitor our health. When we face conflicts within our family or at the workplace, we strive to resolve them wisely. When our children encounter **challenges** in their studies, we guide them with care and continue to pray for them. When our parents reach old age and require attention, we embrace this opportunity for a heavenly reward by caring for them with kindness and devotion, leaving the outcome to Allah.

We continue to exert our **effort**, and at the same time, our hearts remain **certain** that Allah is All-Powerful over the results.

Thirdly: 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 كَاهَكُمْ عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

Dear blessed congregation,

Recently, our brothers and sisters in Pakistan and Afghanistan have been tested with natural disasters – floods and earthquakes that have caused destruction, affected millions of people, and claimed many lives.

In response to this call of humanity and *ihsan*, mosques in Singapore today are holding a fundraising drive to be channelled to the affected communities. This effort is coordinated by the Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation, and will run until the 2nd of October.

Let us respond to this call. May the small contribution we extend bring relief to those in need, and may Allah s.w.t. shower us with His mercy, protect our families, and grant us endless rewards.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ: 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 وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ
وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقُرَآئَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنْ 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 يَأْمُرُ 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.