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Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

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The Importance of Learning the Sirah

أَخْمَدَ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ فَسَوْىٰ، وَقَدَرَ فَهَدَىٰ، وَأَسْعَدَ وَأَشْقَىٰ، وَأَضَلَّ بِحُكْمِتِهِ
وَهَدَىٰ. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ الْعِلَّىٰ الْأَعْلَىٰ، وَأَشْهَدُ
أَنَّ مُحَمَّداً عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ الْبَنِيُّ الْمُصْطَفَىٰ، وَالْأَرْسَلُ الْمُجَتَبَىٰ، وَعَلَىٰ أَهْلِهِ
وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ اهْتَدَىٰ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ، وَلَا تُؤْتُنَّ
إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us nurture taqwa or God-consciousness in our hearts. Let us exemplify this taqwa in the way we think, our intentions, words, actions, and reactions. And let us consistently dedicate our time to learning the noble ***Sirah*** and sunnah of the Prophet s.a.w., for in it are timeless lessons and **guidance** for all of mankind.

Dear blessed congregation,

Can we long for someone whom we have never met? And is it possible for a person who has never seen us to express such deep longing for us?

The answer is: yes, my dear brothers. For that is exactly what our beloved Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. once expressed about us – the believers from the later generations. The Prophet s.a.w. said:

وَدْدُتْ أَعْنَى قَدْ رَأَيْتُ إِخْوَانَنَا

Which means: “*I wish that I could have seen my brothers.*” His companions then asked, “*Are we not your brothers, O Rasulullah?*” He replied, “*Rather, you are my companions, and my brothers are those who have not yet come (they have not met me).*” (An-Nasa’i)

Such was the expression of the Messenger of Allah s.a.w., reflecting his deep longing for his Ummah – those whom he never met in person, yet whose hearts are filled with faith and love for his **teachings**.

Dear brothers,

This is the Messenger of Allah s.a.w. – our teacher and our **guide**. Through his **guidance**, he purifies hearts, illuminates souls with the **teachings** of the Qur'an, and shows us the path of faith and wisdom.

Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Aal-‘Imran, verse 164:

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ بَعَثَ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْ أَنفُسِهِمْ
 يَتَلَوُ عَلَيْهِمْ عَالِيَّتِهِ وَيُزَكِّيْهِمْ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ
 وَإِنْ كَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ لَفِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ

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Which means: “*Allah has surely conferred favour on the believers when He raised in their midst a Messenger from among themselves who recites to them His verses and makes them pure and teaches them the Book and wisdom, while earlier, they were in open error.*”

Therefore, let us ask ourselves: do we truly love the Messenger of Allah s.a.w.? Have we studied the **Sirah**, the life journey of the Prophet s.a.w., and strived to follow his **teachings** and Sunnah?

Dear brothers, this blessed month of Rajab carries many lessons from the significant events in the **Sirah** of the Prophet. Among them is the event of Isra’ and Mi’raj – the journey of the Prophet s.a.w. across the heavens and the earth of Allah.

As we set our intentions and nurture our spirituality in preparation for the month of Ramadan, the sermon today invites us all to draw **guidance** from the **Sirah** of the Prophet, which holds several key benefits:

First: The Sirah of the Prophet s.a.w. is a vast tradition that encourages reflection and deep understanding.

From the story of Bilal bin Rabah r.a., whose faith remained steadfast despite persecution for believing in Allah and His Messenger, to the profound lessons of friendship and loyalty exemplified by Abu Bakr as-Siddiq r.a. alongside the Prophet s.a.w.,

These events invite us to reflect on our own life journeys: how do we respond to trials? Do we inherit even a fraction of Bilal's steadfastness in faith, or Abu Bakr's love and loyalty? Surely, there are many opportunities for us to benefit from the examples preserved in the tradition of the **Sirah**.

Second: The Sirah is a guide to the highest moral character for all of humanity.

The **character** of Rasulullah s.a.w. represents the pinnacle of human excellence. He acted with complete compassion, prioritised forgiveness, stood firm in the face of injustice, and led his companions with care and kindness. This is the **character** of a true leader, and each of us here is a leader – beginning with leading our own hearts toward the pleasure of Allah s.w.t.

Dear blessed congregation,

Respond to the longing of the Prophet s.a.w. for us. Rasulullah s.a.w. deeply loves his Ummah. Amid the busyness of life and our personal commitments, make time to know and study his life, so that our own lives may be **guided** by his example and wisdom.

May this help us nurture our spirituality as we prepare for the month of Ramadan, and may we one day be reunited with the beloved Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. in the Hereafter. Amin ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِيَ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلِكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الْوَحْيُمُ.

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 بِذِلِّكَ 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 وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بِقَيْةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقَرَابَةِ وَالْتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعْهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بَرْ حُمَّتَكَ 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، وَهَمْهُمْ 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 يُعَطِّكُمْ، وَ لَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَ اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.