



**Islamic Religious Council of Singapore**

**Friday Khutbah**

**3 December 2021 / 28 Rabiulakhir 1443H**

**Remembering Ar-Raqib, The Observer**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْغَنِيِّ الْحَمِيدِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَالْقَوْلِ السَّيِّدِ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

**Dearest brothers and sisters,**

Let us continue our efforts to elevate our taqwa and faith in Allah (s.w.t.) by obeying all His commands and by abstaining from all His prohibitions. May Allah (s.w.t.) grant us His guidance and love.

**Brothers and sisters,**

As believers, we believe that Allah (s.w.t.) is the creator and Lord of the universe. Everything that happens in our lives – the good and the bad – happens by His will and power.

He is the One who created every being on this earth and perfected its creation. He is All-Knowing and All-Seeing. He is the One to whom belongs the best names.

Allah (s.w.t.) says in surah al-Hasyr verse 24:

هُوَ اللَّهُ الْخَلِيقُ الْبَارِئُ الْمُصَوِّرُ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَىٰ يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ  
الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٢٤﴾

Which means: *“He is Allah, the Creator, the Producer, the Fashioner; to Him belong the best names. Whatever is in the heavens and earth is exalting Him. And He is the Exalted in Might, the Wise.”*

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w.) also mentioned: *“Allah has ninety-nine Names, one-hundred less one; and he who memorized them all by heart will enter Paradise.”* (Hadith narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari)

Therefore, this month’s sermons seek to explore some of His names so that we may take lessons from them, in the hope that we may attain His mercy in this world and the hereafter.

Let us begin by reflecting upon one of Allah’s noble names, Ar-Raqib (The Observer). He says in Surah Al-Maidah verse 117:

مَا قُلْتُ لَهُمْ إِلَّا مَا أَمَرْتَنِي بِهِ أَنِ اعْبُدُوا اللَّهَ رَبِّي وَرَبَّكُمْ وَكُنْتُ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِيدًا مَّا دُمْتُ فِيهِمْ  
فَلَمَّا تَوَفَّيْتَنِي كُنْتُ أَنْتَ الرَّقِيبَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَنْتَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ ﴿١١٧﴾

Meaning: *"I did not say to them except what You commanded me - to worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. And I was a witness over them as long as I was among them; but when You took me up, You were the Observer over them, and You are, over all things, Witness."*

### **Brothers and sisters,**

Reflecting upon Allah's name, Ar-Raqib, evokes within us two things. The first is that it lends a believer motivation, strength, and perseverance despite the challenges he faces. He realises that Allah (s.w.t.) is watching over him at all times, and that there must be a wisdom behind everything that he goes through that might not be immediately comprehensible.

Secondly, getting to know Allah as The Observer should evoke in our hearts taqwa, or god-consciousness. How could it not, when we know He is watching us 24 hours a day?

However, the truth is that we often forget that Allah is watching us, and we act and speak as if He is not aware of our actions. There is no place in the universe where we can hide or conceal our deeds from Allah. Therefore, it is absolutely critical that we as believers instil in our hearts a sense of *Muraqabatullah* – the awareness of Allah's surveillance over every deed, be it public or private.

Allow me to share 2 simple ways to strengthen our conviction in His attributes.

**Firstly: By doing more *Zikr* (remembrance of Allah).**

There are many benefits to doing *zikr*. It not only keeps our hearts attached to Allah (s.w.t.) at all times, but also brings us peace. In addition to that, constant *zikr* with full conviction fosters taqwa within oneself.

**Secondly: Surround ourselves with friends who inspire us to be closer to Allah.**

The importance of choosing the right companionship cannot be understated, as our character is closely tied to that of the people with whom we associate. If the people around us are good people who remind us of Allah, we would be motivated to be like them.

Let us remember the Prophet's advice to us in a hadith, which means: *"A man is on the religion of his friend; so each one of you should consider whom he makes his friend."* (Hadith narrated by Imam Abu Dawud).

A good friend is one who grounds himself in that which is truly good, adheres to the teachings of Islam and follows the commands of Allah (s.w.t.) and His Prophet, as opposed to the one who is only outwardly pious, but whose understanding of religion is skewed.

May Allah (s.w.t.) steer our hearts towards His remembrance, and may He grant us paradise in the hereafter. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَ أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَ لَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ  
الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

**Khutbah Kedua**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ  
وَخَدَهُ 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 نَهَاكُمْ 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 ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا  
تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى  
آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمَهْدِيِّينَ أَبِي بَكْرٍ  
وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقَرَابَةِ  
وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنْهُمْ وَمَعَهُمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا  
أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ  
وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا

الْبَلَاءِ وَالْوَبَاءِ وَالزَّلَازِلِ وَالْمِحَنِّ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ،  
عَنْ 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، فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوا عَلَى نِعَمِهِ  
يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ  
يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.