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Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

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Filial Piety: A Divine Command

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِهٰذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنَهْتَدِيَ لَوْلَا اَنْ هَدَانَا اللّٰهُ، وَاشْهَدُ
اَنْ لَا اِلَهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَاشْهَدُ اَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى اٰلِهِ وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِينَ. اَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا
عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اَوْصِيْ نَفْسِيْ وَاَيُّكُمْ بِتَقْوٰى اللّٰهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us increase our taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. by fulfilling all His commands and avoiding all His prohibitions. Let us become the children who are a source of rewards for our **parents**, and let us nurture children who will become sources of reward for us. May Allah gather all whom we love and cherish in His Paradise. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Dear blessed congregation,

Among the greatest commands that Allah s.w.t. has given us after commanding us to worship Him alone, is the command to honour and do good to our **parents**. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah al-Isra', verse 23:

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا

Which means: “And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you honour your **parents**.”

Subhanallah, the fact that Allah mentions filial **piety** — *birrul-walidayn* immediately after commanding us to worship Him alone shows the immense weight and importance of filial **piety** in Islam.

My beloved brothers,

While we may understand how important filial **piety** is, the question remains — how do we actually practise it in our busy, fast-paced lives today, especially when we're facing unprecedented challenges, such as economic pressures and social changes which previous generations may never have had to navigate?

Allah s.w.t. guides us in Surah al-Isra', verse 24:

وَأَخْفِضْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذُّلِّ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا ﴿٢٤﴾

Which means: “And lower to them the wing of **humility** out of **mercy** and say, ‘My Lord, have **mercy** upon them as they brought me up (when I was) small.”

This single verse serves as a cross-generational guide to navigating filial **piety**. Allah, the Most Merciful, shows us the way

to be *soleh* or righteous offspring who are dutiful to our **parents**. Please heed the following three takeaways from the verse:

Firstly: Treating our parents with humility

We must remember that our **parents** grew up in a different time with different experiences. This can create gaps in knowledge, especially with technology and modern systems.

Concepts that are familiar to us, such as booking appointments through apps or identifying scam messages and calls, may be new or confusing to many, including our **parents**. **Humility**, then, becomes an essential act of love: we guide them patiently, and assist them with kindness, without showing any frustration or belittling their understanding.

Secondly: Looking at our parents with compassion and mercy

Allah s.w.t. commands us to *lower the wing of **humility** out of **mercy***. Hence, **mercy** is fundamental in our act of **humility** toward our **parents**.

Brothers, Singapore is one of the countries with the fastest ageing population, and our **parents** are part of this reality. As they age, many face health challenges, while others experience loneliness as their children become busy with careers and families of their own. Here, **mercy** calls us to be present — to

accompany them to medical appointments, and to give them our time, attention, and warmth.

Should disagreements arise, **mercy** guides our tone and reminds us that respect must never be lost. Remember, their love and sacrifices deserve to be met with **compassion**, and they deserve to be seen with **mercy**.

Thirdly: Offering supplications for our parents

Allah Himself teaches us the beautiful supplication or *du'a* that we may offer for our **parents**:

رَبِّ اَرْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا

Which means: *“My Lord, have **mercy** upon them as they brought me up when I was small.”*

My dear brothers,

Inherent in this supplication is the phrase *“as they brought me up when I was small,”* which reminds us of all the care, sacrifices, **compassion, mercy**, love, kindness, and patience our **parents** showed us during our childhood.

They stayed awake through sleepless nights, tended to our every need, and often put aside their own comfort for our sake. They celebrated our joys, and were deeply affected by our sadnesses. They bore our mistakes with utmost patience, and prayed silently for our success and wellbeing.

Truly, the very least we can do is to turn to Allah s.w.t. and make supplication for them.

Blessed congregation,

We may have had disagreements with our **parents** or caused them hurt, whether knowingly or unknowingly.

As such, we must always remember that no matter what happens between us and our **parents**, at the end of the day, they are the ones whose hearts overflowed with joy at our birth, whose smiles brightened our earliest memories, and whose love and sacrifices shaped the people we have become. So let us strive to honour them and become devoted children by practising true filial **piety** in our words, actions, and prayers.

May Allah s.w.t. bless our **parents** with **mercy**, forgiveness, and endless reward for all that they have done for us. May He grant them good health, long life, and happiness, and may He make us among the children who honour, respect, and care for them sincerely. 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 نَهَاكُمْ عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْغَزِيرِ: 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 الْمُهْدِيِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرُ وَعُثْمَانُ وَعَلِيٌّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقُرَابَةِ 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. اللَّهُمَّ أَنْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعِفِينَ فِي عَرَّةٍ وَفِي فَلَسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزْنَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمَّهُمْ فَرَجًا، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ اكْتُبِ السَّلَامَ وَالسَّلَامَ وَالْأَمْنَ وَالْأَمَانَ

لِلْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ وَلِلنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ. 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، وَاشْكُرُوا عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَذِكْرُ
اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.