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Islamic Religious Council of Singapore

1 Syawal 1445H

**Fostering a Confident and Resilient
Religious Life**

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

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اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كُلَّمَا صَلَّى الْمُصَلِّي وَكَبَّرَ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كُلَّمَا صَامَ الصَّائِمُ وَأَفْطَرَ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كُلَّمَا أَنْعَمَ عَلَى الْمُنْعَمِ فَشَكَرَ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كُلَّمَا ابْتَلَى الْمُتَبَلَّى فَصَبَرَ

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَ لِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي تَفَضَّلَ عَلَيْنَا بِكَرَمِهِ وَإِحْسَانِهِ، وَرَزَقَنَا الصَّبْرَ

وَالِإِحْتِسَابَ بِقُدْرِهِ وَقَضَائِهِ، وَحَفِظَنَا مِنْ جَهْدِ الْبَلَاءِ وَسُوءِ قَضَائِهِ،

وَحَبَّبَ إِلَيْنَا الْإِحْسَانَ إِلَى خَلْقِهِ وَعِيَالِهِ، فَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ رَبِّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَرَبِّ

الْأَرْضِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَلَهُ الْكِبْرِيَاءُ فِي السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ ذُو الْعَرْشِ الْكَرِيمِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، ذُو الْخُلُقِ الْعَظِيمِ، عَزِيزٌ عَلَيْهِ مَا عَنِتُّمْ حَرِيصٌ عَلَيْكُمْ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَؤُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ. اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ الْغُرِّ الْمَيَامِينِ. نَشْهَدُ أَنَّهُ قَدْ أَدَّى الْأَمَانَةَ، وَبَلَغَ الرِّسَالَةَ، وَنَصَحَ الْأُمَّةَ، وَجَاهَدَ فِي اللَّهِ حَقَّ جِهَادِهِ حَتَّى أَتَاهُ الْيَقِينُ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ، أُوصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Dear blessed congregants,

On this joyful morning, we recite the takbir aloud, acknowledging the greatness of Allah s.w.t. We praise Allah s.w.t. expressing our gratitude for His blessings. Allah s.w.t. certainly deserves to be praised at all times. By His abundant blessings and favours we fulfilled our worship in Ramadan. Allah s.w.t. says in the Qur'an:

وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَى مَا هَدَيْتُكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

Which means: *“So that you may complete the prescribed period and proclaim the greatness of Allah for guiding you, and perhaps you will be grateful.”* [Surah al-Baqarah, verse 185].

اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ ، اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ ، اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ ،
اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ وَلِلّٰهِ الْحَمْدُ .

My beloved brothers and sisters,

Time passes swiftly. Once, we eagerly anticipated the arrival of the Ramadan. Now, it has left us. Blessed are those who have successfully breathed in its fragrance, reaped its rewards, and benefited from it.

Ramadan has taught us the value of mercy in life. It has nurtured within us the meaning of goodness, and instilled in us timeless wisdom. It served as a catalyst to build a community of success that is confident, resilient, and empowered.

This is even more crucial in today's fractured world, filled with challenges, conflicts, and unrest. Such conditions, however, will not weaken those who are pious, faithful, and knowledgeable. Instead, these conditions reaffirm our commitment to further improve ourselves and our society. The greater the challenges, the more we intensify our efforts to strengthen ourselves and our community. As Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. said: *"...Hold your ground. If others do good, then you should strive to do even better. However, if they do evil, do not respond with injustice."* [Hadith narrated by Imam Tirmizi].

Remember, my brothers and sisters, we are not of those who only make complaints, condemnation, and unconstructive criticism, without efforts to improve our condition. Allah s.w.t. reminds us in the Qur'an:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّى يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ وَإِذَا أَرَادَ اللَّهُ بِقَوْمٍ سُوءًا فَلَا مَرَدَّ لَهُ وَمَا لَهُمْ مِنْ دُونِهِ مِنْ وَالٍ ﴿١١﴾

Which means: *“Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves. And when Allah intends for a people ill, there is no repelling it. And there is not for them besides Him any protector.”* [Surah al-Ra’ad, verse 11].

Let us reflect on our individual weaknesses. A confident, resilient, and empowered community is built upon three pillars. Firstly, deepening knowledge and understanding of religion. Secondly, nurturing noble morals and values. And thirdly, fostering a culture of contributing towards goodness. Let us contemplate these three pillars.

First: Deepening knowledge and understanding of religion

Following tireless and continuous time, Islamic civilisation was built upon a strong foundation of knowledge. It was built upon the dedication of thought, and the sacrifice of time and energy. As a result, a culture of knowledge and the dissemination of that knowledge developed.

A Muslim community diligently seeks knowledge and contributes to its advancement. After all, the first revelation to Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. was the command for humanity to read. Allah said, *"Read! In the name of your Lord who created."* [Surah al-'Alaq, verse 1] .

In Surah al-Taubah, verse 122, Allah emphasises that while defending the sovereignty of a country is important, this does not justify neglecting the development of a scholarly community and knowledge. Because the power of knowledge is necessary to defend the sovereignty and integrity of a country in the long run.

Having knowledge also means deepening our understanding and practice of religion in our lives. Today, we are easily distracted by snippets of religious information on social media. We argue that we understand. We then confuse with true understanding. It is not wrong in listening to good advice, regardless of the platform or its source. However, we must continue to diligently seek profound religious knowledge. It is a shield against confusion and extremism in our understanding and practice of religion.

Therefore, cherish the knowledge that Allah s.w.t. has bestowed upon us. Beneficial knowledge knows no bounds. We must work hard, as a society, to possess knowledge and life skills that would allow us to remain relevant in making meaningful contributions to humanity.

Second: Possessing good manners and a noble character

The Prophet s.a.w., was sent to perfect *makarimul akhlak* (noble character). Noble characters and good manners are closely linked to the growth of civilisation, regardless of race, religion, and background. In times when people easily insult or even oppress anyone considered different, noble characters are even more pressing.

A true believer should show care and concern for the people, and display kindness and mercy to all. A noble character and good manners will also give us the strength to navigate through difficult times with wisdom and understanding. Imam Shafi'i once advised in his poetry:

وَلَا تَجْزَعْ لِحَادِثَةِ اللَّيَالِي ... فَمَا لِحَوَادِثِ الدُّنْيَا بَقَاءُ
وَكُنْ رَجُلًا عَلَى الْأَهْوَالِ جَلَدًا ... وَشِيَمَتِكَ السَّمَاحَةُ وَالْوَفَاءُ

Which means: *"Do not be saddened by the calamities that occur, for such events will not last forever. Be someone who bravely faces difficult days, whose attitude is that of tolerance and steadfastness."*

Third: A culture of contributing and being a source of goodness

The Prophet s.a.w. said which means: *"A Mukmin is similar to a date palm tree; whichever part you take from it, it is sure to be of benefit."* [Hadith narrated by Imam Al-Tabrani]. Like a tree that provides protection to others, and contributes meaningfully to the

world, so is a Muslim. This is the character of a confident, resilient, and empowered Muslim.

Alhamdulillah, we are proud to observe the contributive spirit of Singaporeans. We unite in providing humanitarian aid in Gaza, facilitated by the RLAF organization. This spirit of mutual solidarity and togetherness has aided those in need. Similarly, our hospitality towards migrant workers who contribute to nation building, and various other communal activities.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

Brothers and sisters,

Mercy pervades all of these. The charity given, the foods shared during iftar and sahur, the smiles exchanged, ensuring public safety while we worship – all of these stems from compassionate souls.

This is the spirit of the Shari'ah that forms the core of our religious life. Consider the wise words of Ibnul Qayyim al-Jawziyyah: *"So every matter that deviates from justice to injustice, from mercy to its opposite, from benefit to harm, from wisdom to futility, it is not from the Shari'ah."*

Yesterday's trials have not ended. The challenges of tomorrow will continue to come. They may be even more complex.

However, we must continue to navigate life with faith and perseverance. We create opportunities out of the challenges we face. Allah describes His beloved servants (*awliya'*) with two main characteristics in navigating this life. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Yunus, verse 62:

أَلَا إِنَّ أَوْلِيَاءَ اللَّهِ لَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ ﴿٦٢﴾

Which means: *"There will certainly be no fear for the close servants of Allah, nor will they grieve."*

The scholars of *tafsir* summed up the meaning of this verse by stating: *"They are not worried about whatever trials they may encounter tomorrow. They navigate through them with full faith. They also do not feel sad (nor regretful) about the trials they faced yesterday, even though those trials have left scars of hardship within them."*

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اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

Brothers and sisters,

May Ramadan have rejuvenated our spirituality, so that we may become Allah's beloved servants. Let us continue to strengthen our faith and nurture wisdom within ourselves, so that we may be granted the Almighty's mercy. May the victories we achieve

today amount to a conclusive victory for all humanity on this earth.

Ya Allah, Ya Fattah, Ya ‘Alim,

We implore You, You who grants our wishes. We ask, You give. We sin, You forgive. To You, we complain, and You are the One who provides assistance.

Ya Allah, Ya ‘Afuwwun, Ya Ghafur,

You are Most Knowledgeable of our situation. You understand our requests completely. Grant us grace, so we may rectify our flaws. Make us among Your servants who attain purity, achieve success, and have our deeds accepted, on this noble morning.

Ya Allah, Ya Qawi, Ya Matin,

Restore safety and security to our fellow beings who are in distress and agony. Place tranquillity and steadfastness in their hearts and ours, so we may face challenges with resilience. Grant them and us peace and well-being. Free them and us from any hardship and difficulty. Amin Ya Rabbal ‘Alamin.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

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

الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

Second Sermon

الله أكبر 7 X

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 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 وَ بَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمُهْدِيِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقَرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنْ مَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ اذْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالْمِحْنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَنِ بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ انصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي غَزَّةٍ وَفِي فَلِسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ

عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزْنَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمَّهُمْ
فَرَجًا، 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.