



**Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura**  
**Friday Sermon**  
**19 April 2019 / 13 Syaaban 1440H**

**Responsibility Towards Both Parents**

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ، وَأَمَرَنَا  
بِالتَّقْوَى وَالْخُلُقِ الْكَرِيمِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا  
شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ  
صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ، وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا  
وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

**Blessed Friday Jemaah,**

Let us increase our taqwa in Allah s.w.t by obeying all His commands and abstaining from His prohibitions. May Allah s.w.t. continue to have mercy upon us and our parents. Amin.

## **My beloved brothers,**

Surely each of us yearns for God's blessings. We perform various acts of worship throughout the day and night; we obey His commands and avoid what He has prohibited upon us, with a sincere hope that He will be pleased with us, and that we will earn His forgiveness.

There are multiple ways and deeds that one can take to attain God's blessings. However, in today's sermon, let us focus on a hadith of Prophet s.a.w that contains his guidance in the effort to achieve God's blessings.

In a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim, Rasulullah s.a.w. said, meaning: *"May he be disgraced, may he be disgraced, may he be disgraced."* The Prophet s.a.w was then asked: *"Who?"* He s.a.w replied, *"The person whose parents, or any one of them, attain old age during his lifetime, and he does not earn Paradise!"*

## **Jemaah,**

Subhanallah! Just look at how the individual is regarded by Rasulullah s.a.w. as someone who is disgraced! When Allah s.w.t has bestowed upon a person the responsibility to care for their elderly parents, it is a golden opportunity to be of service, increase rewards, and multiply one's good deeds. Therefore,

one who cares for their parents is the most fortunate individual. It is an opportunity to multiply one's good deeds that will serve as an investment for the hereafter. It is akin to reserving a place in Allah's eternal Paradise.

The emphasis on this is so strong such that in the noble Quran, after Allah s.w.t. affirms the importance of believing in God, the issue that is immediately highlighted is to be of service to your parents. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah al-Isra' verse 23:

﴿ وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ  
عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أُفٍّ وَلَا  
نَهْرَهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا ﴾

Meaning: “And your Lord has decreed that you not worship except Him, and to parents, good treatment. Whether one or both of them reach old age [while] with you, say not to them [so much as], “uff,” and do not repel them but speak to them a noble word.”

**My dear brothers,**

Taking care of our parents, especially elderly parents indeed requires commitment and patience. It is because the way of life as ordained by Allah s.w.t. is such that He will slowly take back

the blessings that He has granted upon a person as the person reaches old age. A healthy body, sharpness of mind, and other forms of ease that Allah s.w.t. has blessed a person with, will slowly be taken away at old age. Those who are now in their silver years will require more support and assistance. Let us recall a hadith of Rasulullah s.a.w:

كُلُّكُمْ رَاعٍ وَكُلُّكُمْ مَسْئُولٌ عَنْ رَعِيَّتِهِ

Meaning: “Every one of you is a caretaker and is responsible for his flock.” [Hadith reported by Bukhari and Muslim].

The word (رَاعٍ) in this hadith carries several meanings, including “caretaker”. The Prophet s.a.w. emphasised in this hadith that every individual has to play his/her role in being responsible for those under their care.

Therefore, caretaking, or *kafalah* in Arabic, is a basic responsibility in Islam. It includes caring for those under our responsibility such as our children, wife, and so on, and more importantly, our elderly parents.

It requires patience and resilience. Especially towards those who are unwell, whether they are suffering from chronic physical illnesses or their mental capacity is beginning to weaken. For example, dementia. According to a study by the Institute of Mental Health (IMH), in Singapore, one in every ten

people aged 60 and above, have dementia. The number of dementia patients is estimated to increase to 103,000 people in 2030.

It is a given that caring for those with special needs requires special knowledge and skill set. In fact, we would need to seek expert opinion if we want to try and slow down the symptoms experienced by our loved ones. At the same time, this will help to ease some pressure on the caretaker.

This shows that children, as well as other family members, must play a more pro-active role in caring for the welfare of their parents, especially in their golden years. A sense of shared responsibility among all family members can ease our roles as caregivers to our elderly parents, if we work together to fulfil our duties towards our parents, the family unit will continue to be in harmony.

There is a Malay proverb that we often hear, and we should pay more attention to it, “If a mother or a father can raise ten children, why can’t ten children care for a mother and a father.” Every effort that we take to treat our parents well will insyallah serve as good deeds and a form of investment for us in the hereafter.

We ask Allah s.w.t. to ease our affairs in being of service to our parents and caring for them, and may Allah s.w.t always have

mercy upon both our parents in this world and the hereafter,  
amin.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ  
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ  
الْعَلِيمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ  
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا  
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.