



**Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura**

**Friday Sermon**

**26 April 2019 / 20 Syaaban 1440H**

**Protecting Your Family from Harm**

الْحَمْدُ 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

**My brothers,**

Let us take full advantage of the blessings of this Friday by increasing our taqwa in Allah s.w.t. Fulfill all of His commands and leave all of His prohibitions. May Allah grant us health and strength to protect our families from evil and wrongdoing. Amin.

## Blessed Friday jama'ah,

The Friday sermons for the past few weeks have been reminding us of our roles in family life. Today, I would like to invite all of you to observe yet another important aspect we need to be mindful of in taking care of our family's welfare. This aspect that I am referring to is our role in protecting our family members from harm. Allah says in Surah At-Tahrim verse 6:

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ  
وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ  
وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٦﴾

Which means: *“O you who believe, protect yourselves and your families from a Fire whose fuel is people and stones, over which are [appointed] angels, harsh and severe (in their treatment); they do not disobey Allah in what He commands them but do what they are commanded.”*

## My beloved brothers,

The verse which I have just quoted reminds us that being a mukmin is not just about being diligent in performing prayers, sunnah fasting, giving sadaqah, going for umrah, and other recommended deeds. A mukmin is also a person who is heedful

of his family, always guiding them and giving his best to protect them from the hellfire.

As a mukmin, we must strive as best as we can to ensure our family members and ourselves are kept far away from any elements that might bring harm and evil upon us.

In fact, one effective way to encourage our family members to do good and abstain from evil is by giving them the right example to follow. If we want our children to practice religion, we must practise it first at home. We cannot teach our children something that we do not do ourselves.

Hopefully, through our consistent and constant acts of positive deeds and through our encouragement and examples, it will be enough to protect our family from negative elements.

### **Brothers,**

Today I would like to touch on an issue that, in my opinion, is very important for us to talk about, as a collective effort on our part to protect our families from its harms. This issue is related to misuse of drugs that we often witness in our society.

According to official statistics, the number of first-time drug abusers continue to form the biggest overall percentage of drug abusers. A huge number of first-time drug abusers are those who are below 30 years old. In other words, these are our youths.

Perhaps curiosity and the eagerness to know and try, as well as peer pressure are the reasons why they are so easily exposed to and influenced by this unsettling trend of drug abuse. This drug abuse influence becomes more complicated when certain individuals think that the use of synthetic drugs like 'ice', inhalants like glue and others will not harm them. They believe that synthetic drug is different from opium and heroin, because synthetic drug is just a stimulant. This is wrong on all accounts.

### **My brothers,**

Know that any kind of acts or behaviour that will lead to harming the soul and/or the life of a person is strictly prohibited in our religion. I would like to assert that any kind of drug abuse is haram. This is because it goes against the principle of protecting the life, the soul and the mind that is highly emphasized in Islam. Drug abuse does not only lead to loss of sanity and mind, but it will also lead to loss of life. Remember Allah's command in Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 195:

وَأَنْفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تُلْقُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ وَأَحْسِنُوا إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ  
الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Meaning: *“And spend in the way of Allah and do not throw yourselves with your own hands into destruction. And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good.”*

This is perfectly in line with the Prophet s.a.w.'s saying which means: *“One must not cause harm or respond to harm with harm.”* [Hadith riwayat Imam Ahmad].

### **My brothers in Islam,**

It is great pity, if a person's youth is not utilized to the optimum. This is a period when a person is at the peak of vigour and enthusiasm. This is the time where a person is driven by the desire to try new and challenging things. According to psychologists, the period of a person's youth is when a person craves for autonomy and independence in his social life.

The stories of youths in the Qur'an and the Prophet's traditions tell us that attention must be given to this important period. This is because during this time, the strength and the confidence of a person is at its highest. If it is not nurtured properly, it will cause a negative effect in the long run. On the other hand, if it is nurtured properly, then we will be able to see the positive effects for a long time to come.

Hence, we simply cannot stand by and do nothing; we must take proactive steps. Because each soul is valuable, each child carries our hope for the future. Therefore, each of us must play our role to supervise and take note of the activities of our family members. We must also guide and encourage our families to be courageous enough to say 'no' to drugs. At the same time, we

must also increase awareness amongst our youths on the dangers and realities of drug abuse.

To the teenagers and youths who are here right now – remember that you are in the golden age of your life. These adolescent years are a crucial stage of life. Take every opportunity of your youth that has been granted to you by Allah s.w.t. to serve Him. Do whatever good deeds that you can which will bring about benefits for you in this life as well as in the hereafter. Grab the chance to be an outstanding student, and try to excel in everything that you do. Serve your country and serve your society around you as best as you possibly can. Reach for the stars. Because in front of you lies a thousand and one possibilities.

May Allah s.w.t. always grant us guidance, and may He also grant us peace in life and fortitude to guide our families to the Right Path. Amin Ya Rabbal Alamin.

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