



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Appreciating Allah's Name: As-Salam

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ ضِيَاءً وَالْقَمَرَ نُورًا، وَأَنْزَلَ الْقُرْآنَ
لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ذِكْرًا، أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا
عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ
صَلَاةً وَسَلَامًا دَائِمِينَ إِلَى يَوْمِ تَجِدُ كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَا عَمِلَتْ مُحْضِرًا. أَمَّا
بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday jama'ah,

Let us strive together to increase our iman and taqwa in Allah s.w.t. to the highest level of taqwa by obeying all of His commands, and refraining from all His prohibitions. May we become His servants who are kept under His guidance, and be blessed in this world and the hereafter. Amin.

My dear brothers,

For the past three weeks, the sermons have discussed several beautiful names of Allah s.w.t. for us to model after, and to apply as lessons in our daily lives. It is all aimed at strengthening our believe in Allah s.w.t.

In the last Friday of this month, let us learn to appreciate another of His noble name, As-Salam, which means The Perfection. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Al-Hasyr, verse: 23

هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْمَلِكُ الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلَامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ
الْمُهَيَّمِنُ الْعَزِيزُ الْجَبَّارُ الْمُتَكَبِّرُ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا
يُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٢٣﴾

Meaning: *“He is Allah, other than whom there is no deity, the Sovereign, the Pure, the Perfection, the Bestower of Faith, the Overseer, the Exalted in Might, the Compeller, the Superior. Exalted is Allah above whatever they associate with Him.”*

One of the names contained in the Quranic verse that I have just recited is As-Salam. What is the meaning of this name? As Muslims, we are strongly encouraged to spread the words of As-Salam – by giving and responding to Salam. In fact, the name of our faith is rooted in the word As-Salam. And in the Quran, Allah s.w.t. mentioned that He has named His Paradise as Darussalam. Therefore, what is the meaning of the name?

Imam al-Shaukani translated *As-Salam* as The One who is free from any imperfection and mistakes.

Indeed, God, The Most Exalted, is free of anything that may lessen His Perfection, and from any similarities with His creations. The trait of *As-Salam* is a virtue that depicts God's perfection in every aspect. Everything that Allah s.w.t. has written and set, is perfect. The sustenance that He has bestowed upon one is a gift that has no shortage. His decree, His Qada' and Qadar, contains wisdom and is free of any defects.

Therefore, it is from a believer's deep appreciation of the meaning of the name that will enable him to build his iman and his believe in God. It gives a sense of guidance and strength to a mukmin (believer) to weather the challenges and trials which make up part of one's life.

When one is blessed with ease and comfort, one will not forget oneself and will in fact, be grateful to Allah s.w.t. And one will have full confidence that what God has written for him is best. And the same goes when he is hit by trials. A mukmin will not whine and give up, because he truly understands that what Allah s.w.t. has decreed is the best, and that there is wisdom beyond the trials. There is nothing imperfect in Allah's plans because He is God, free of any imperfections.

Let us reflect upon what Allah s.w.t. says in surah Ali Imran, verse 26:

قُلِ اللَّهُمَّ مَلِكُ الْمَلِكِ تُؤْتِي الْمَلِكَ مِنْ تَشَاءُ وَتَنْزِعُ الْمَلِكَ مِنْ
تَشَاءُ وَتُعِزُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ وَتُذِلُّ مَنْ تَشَاءُ بِيَدِكَ الْخَيْرُ إِنَّكَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ
قَدِيرٌ

Meaning: "Say, "O Allah, Owner of Sovereignty, You give sovereignty to whom You will and You take sovereignty away from whom You will. You honour whom You will and You humble whom You will. In Your hand is [all] good. Indeed, You are over all things competent."

Beloved Brothers,

Besides the meaning of As-Salam that I have explained earlier, the name also means The Provider of Peace for all of His creations. No one can guarantee one's peace except for Allah s.w.t. Therefore, as His servants, we should always seek from Him to be given His protection in this world and the hereafter.

Pay attention to this supplication of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. which he recited after prayers, praying to God for safety. In a hadith narrated by Imam Muslim:

كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِذَا أَنْصَرَفَ مِنْ صَلَاتِهِ اسْتَغْفَرَ ثَلَاثًا وَقَالَ اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ السَّلَامُ
وَمِنْكَ السَّلَامُ تَبَارَكْتَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ.

Meaning: *“Whenever the Messenger of Allah s.w.t. finished his Salat (prayer), he would make istighfar thrice, and said: “O Allah! You are the Bestower of security and security comes from You; Blessed are You. O Possessor of glory and honour.”*

Ma’asyiral Mukminin Rahimakumullah,

The peace that is desired by every servant of Allah can only be attained through two ways. First, to improve our relationship with God. Rasulullah s.a.w. said (which means): *“Be mindful of Allah, and Allah s.w.t. will preserve you.”* [Hadith reported by At-Tirmizi]. This hadith explained that what it means to be mindful of Allah s.w.t., is to guard His commands, and to practise the religion as how He has commanded upon us, and as how we have been guided by Rasulullah s.a.w.

Secondly, for those who desire a peaceful life, it is attained by spreading peace and mercy to others. This is one of the guiding principles upheld by Rasulullah s.a.w. when he first arrived in Madinah after the migration (hijrah). It was narrated by Imam At-Tirmizi, Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. said (meaning): *“O people, spread peace, feed the hungry, and pray at night when people are sleeping and you will enter Paradise in peace.”*

Blessed jama'ah,

Surely, peace on the day of judgement is what we all yearn for. Therefore, it is only fitting that we strive to enliven and spread peace throughout our lives on this earth.

We should hence be sources of goodness and peace, instead of sources of evil. We should become agents and ambassadors of peace in our daily lives. An agent is one who is spreads peace to his acquaintances, rekindles ties of friendship, and asks from God for peace as well as a prosperous life. He strives to spread peace to those around him, and for that, we ask Allah s.w.t. to grant him peace, barakah in his years, and prosperity in this world and the hereafter, insyaAllah.

Hopefully, by believing in His beautiful names, we are able to instil the wisdom and lessons behind these noble attributes in our lives, insyaAllah. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعِنِي 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.