



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Understanding 'Proactive Rahmah'

أَلْحَمْدُ 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 مُخَضَّرًا. أَمَّا
بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday congregation,

Let us increase our taqwa in Allah s.w.t. by abiding all His commands and refraining from His prohibitions. May the deeds we carry out in this world bring us benefit in the hereafter. Amin.

My beloved brothers,

The word “rahmah” is a term that is often heard. When we see members of our community facing social issues and challenges, or when we find our relatives facing difficult situations, our immediate reaction would be to offer them help and support - be it in the form of monetary aid, moral backing or any other means of assistance.

The impulse to help is a natural instinct imbedded in humans. As Muslims, we believe that all forms of good assistance will be recorded and rewarded in the hereafter. It is also a reflection of Allah s.w.t.'s ‘rahmah’ (compassion) towards His creations.

Nevertheless, my brothers, I believe the ‘rahmah’ that exists within each and every one of us can be enhanced even further. This is because the pinnacle of ‘rahmah’ will only become apparent when we begin to take initiatives to create opportunities for others to perform good deeds.

In other words, such an individual would not only wait for the opportunity to help, but he will also strive to create that opportunity for others too. This is what I would call ‘proactive rahmah’. Let us ponder upon the words of our Messenger s.a.w. which means: *“Whoever invite others towards good deeds, verily, he shall have receive equal rewards as those*

who followed him, without any slightest decrease in reward.”
[Hadith narrated by Imam Muslim]

This hadith encourages us all to take the initiative and spread ‘rahmah’. Just as how Allah s.w.t. encourages us to compete in doing good deeds. Allah s.w.t. mentions in Surah Ali Imran, verse 133:

وَسَارِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا
السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ ﴿١٣٣﴾

Which means: “*And be quick in the race for forgiveness from your Lord and for a garden whose width is that (of the whole) of the heavens and of the earth, prepared for the righteous.*”

My brothers,

In this blessed moment, allow me to share several principles that will serve as guidelines to describe several features of ‘proactive rahmah’ in short summative pointers:

The first principle: To have a strong resolution in taking initiative.

Performing good deeds must be an initiative that we proactively take. We should not wait for a problem to surface or imitate others in doing such acts. Our religion teaches us to be

proactive and to strive for the greater good. Rasulullah s.a.w. reminded us in a hadith, as narrated by Imam At-Tirmidzi:

لَا تَكُونُوا إِمْعَةً تَقُولُونَ إِنْ أَحْسَنَ النَّاسُ أَحْسَنًا وَإِنْ ظَلَمُوا ظَلَمْنَا وَلَكِنْ
وَطِنُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ إِنْ أَحْسَنَ النَّاسُ أَنْ تُحْسِنُوا وَإِنْ أَسَاءُوا فَلَا تَظْلِمُوا

Which means: *“Do not be the one who follows (trend) and says: ‘if others do good, so shall I. But if others do bad, so shall I follow too’. But instead, strengthen your resolution! If others do good, so shall you, but if others do bad, so (disassociate yourself from their bad nature) do not perform injustice.”*

Let us ponder upon the wisdom of our Prophet’s message. Can we imagine, how life would be, if people around us stop doing good deeds? Does that mean we no longer have the opportunity to perform any better deeds? Surely not! A Muslim has to have a strong resolution to accompany his every act. Wherever and whenever an opportunity arises, he will immediately act. A strong resolution which is built upon sincere intention, will never be easily swayed nor influenced.

The second principle: Focus more on what needs to be done rather than seeking people’s acknowledgement.

Every effort that we undertake and the outcome that follows, should not be based on other peoples’ perceptions. Look at how the Prophets and Messengers of Allah s.w.t. strived to

spread goodness. Allah s.w.t. mentioned in Surah Al Syu'ara, verse 109; in narrating the conversation between Prophet Nuh a.s. and his community:

﴿١٠٩﴾ وَمَا أَسْأَلُكُمْ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ أَجْرٍ إِنْ أَجْرِيَ إِلَّا عَلَى رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Which means: *“No reward do I ask of you for it; my reward is only from the Lord of the Worlds.”*

A believer will always make Allah s.w.t. as his ultimate reference. In doing so, his heart will always be at peace to offer help to anyone in need.

The last principle: To maximize benefit out of every effort.

Let us ponder upon the words of Rasulullah s.a.w., as narrated by Imam Muslim, which means: *“When a man dies, his deeds come to an end except for three things: Sadaqah Jariyah (ceaseless charity); knowledge which is beneficial; or a virtuous descendant who prays for him.”*

The acts that were mentioned by Rasulullah s.a.w. are among several efforts that offer long-term benefit. Knowledge, for example, will enrich and equip future generations with important life skills in order to achieve prosperity with nature and society. Charity, will lighten burden and open doors of opportunities for those in need. Whereas, children who have

been taught the virtue of 'rahmah', will ensure the continuity of 'rahmah' by practicing its principles and sharing it with others.

My beloved brothers,

These are some of the features of 'proactive rahmah' that we should display to society. These are the principles that we introduce to our children. And this is how we ensure that our presence will leave a positive impact on others.

Let us display acts of 'rahmah' by being proactive. Let us join hands to help others who are in need. Let us conduct self-propelled initiatives for the benefit of the community. May Allah s.w.t. accept all our efforts. 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.