



Islamic Religious Council of Singapore

Friday Khutbah

18 January 2019 / 12 Jamadilawal 1440

**Achieving Enlightenment in Life Through Iman, Taqwa &
Knowledge**

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ الْفُرْقَانَ وَ أَيْدِ النَّاسِ بِالْحِكْمَةِ وَ الْبَيَانَ،
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ شَهِدَ لِنَفْسِهِ
الْوَحْدَانِيَّةَ وَ الْإِحْسَانَ وَ شَهِدَ بِهِمَا مَلَائِكَتُهُ وَ الثَّقَلَانِ، وَأَشْهَدُ
أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَ الرِّضْوَانِ ،
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَ عَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ
تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ وَلَا
تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday Congregation,

Let us increase our taqwa in Allah s.w.t. by abiding His commands and abstaining from His prohibitions. Let us equip ourselves with true understanding of faith. May we be among His servants who are sincere and true in our devotion.

My Beloved Brothers,

God-consciousness (takwa) and faith (iman) are key elements that illuminate our hearts. They help us distinguish right from wrong, and nourish our souls with righteousness and compassion. They guide us towards peace and harmony, and make us better individuals who achieve success in this world and the hereafter. Takwa and faith equip us with the potential to purge negativity from our hearts, and replace hate with graciousness and compassion. Our Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. possessed these qualities, as described in the Quran in surah Ali 'Imran verse 159:

فِيمَا رَحْمَةً مِّنَ اللَّهِ لَئِن لَّمْ يَكُنِ اللَّهُ غَفُورًا رَّحِيمًا
مِنْ حَوْلِكَ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْأَمْرِ فَإِذَا عَزَمْتَ
فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِينَ ﴿١٥٩﴾

Which means: “So by mercy from Allah (O Muhammad), you were lenient with them. And if you had been rude (in speech) and harsh in heart, they would have disbanded from about you. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them and consult them in the matter. And when you have decided, then rely upon Allah. Indeed, Allah loves those who rely (upon Him).”

The Prophet s.a.w. also instructed us to always treat others with kindness. Rasulullah once mentioned: *“Make things easy for people, and do not cause them difficulty, and give good tidings to them, and do not repulse them.”* [Hadith reported by Bukhari and Muslim]

Such has been the advice and teachings of Islam, which emphasize on the presence of takwa in our hearts. We should therefore strive to uphold these teachings throughout our entire lives. Just as how a flower wilts if it is planted in a dry and barren land, such too would be the state of our takwa if it is planted in a heart that is shadowed with mischief and ignorance for religious knowledge. By adhering to religious knowledge that is in line with the teachings of the Quran and the values brought upon by the Prophet s.a.w., we will achieve a tranquil heart that is full of takwa. This is because, our understanding and practice of religion is influenced by the knowledge we acquire. Imam Ibn Sirin once said:

إن هذا العلم دين، فانظروا ممن تأخذون دينكم.

Which means: *“Indeed, this religion is built upon knowledge, so be careful from whom you acquire that knowledge.”* [Sahih Muslim]

Brothers,

Our world today is riddled with uncertainties and we are constantly faced with new challenges. This reality often times leaves us bewildered, confused and disturbed.

Hence, the community is in need of the guidance from teachers who are adept and insightful. An adept teacher is capable of tackling the community's queries regarding religion – whether they are core or peripheral issues. An insightful teacher is capable of nurturing the community's thinking, character and spirituality by helping people to understand the wisdom behind religious rulings. A teacher who is both adept and insightful is one who practices what he preaches, is responsible in delivering knowledge, and is dedicated in building a society based on knowledge. This requires religious teachers to improve and upgrade their skillsets and methods from time to time.

This is the reason why the Asatizah Recognition Scheme (ARS) was made mandatory for all local asatizah. It is to help ensure that religious education is carried out responsibly and compatible with the reality of our daily lives. In addition to this, religious teachers often exchange opinions and if needed, choose the most appropriate approach to apply Islamic teachings in our community in Singapore.

For example, issues which have been discussed by past scholars such as the categorisation of lands to Muslim territories and lands of war, or the issue of electing a leader and the likes. All of these issues have been discussed in detail by scholars, they each have a specific context and background which are important in order to grasp a thorough understanding of the subject. Without a proper understanding of these issues, it will lead us to further confusion and disarray.

What worries us even more, is the fact that these concepts have been exploited by radical and extremist groups in order to justify their skewed opinions. By spreading ideas which call for violence and commotion, not only will it spread confusion amongst our youths, it will also cause the world to have bad misconceptions towards Islam.

May Allah s.w.t. grant us beneficial knowledge and a tranquil heart that is full of takwa in Allah. May Allah s.w.t. bless us with guidance to practise the knowledge that He has bestowed us. 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.