



Islamic Religious Council of Singapore

Friday Khutbah

22 March 2019 / 15 Rejab 1440H

Valuing the Gift of Harmony

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 عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ، اللَّهُمَّ
صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ، وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا
وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

Dear Brothers in Islam,

Let us heighten our taqwa towards Allah. Let us obey Allah as He should be followed, and leave all that He has prohibited. We ask Allah s.w.t. to bestow His blessings unto us and grant our souls tranquillity, our minds peace, and our lives protection and harmony. Amin.

Blessed Friday Jama'ah,

The Prophet s.a.w. once said:

مَنْ أَصْبَحَ مِنْكُمْ آمِنًا فِي سِرْبِهِ مُعَافَى فِي جَسَدِهِ عِنْدَهُ قُوَّةٌ يَوْمَهُ فَكَأَنَّمَا حِيزَتْ لَهُ الدُّنْيَا

Meaning: *“Whosoever begins the day secure among his family and in good health, possessing provision for his day, it is as though he possesses the whole world.”* [At-Tirmizi]

Allah s.w.t. has bestowed upon us countless blessings, not all of which we acknowledge and are grateful for. In the hadith mentioned earlier, our beloved Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. reminds us of two of blessings; namely the gift of harmony and peace. These are two gifts whose importance and value we seldom realise and recognise until they are taken away from us. Would we be able to live our lives normally if the peace we currently enjoy is threatened? Could we enjoy the company of our families, raise our children, or even worship Allah s.w.t. without worry?

Our religion places great emphasis on peace and harmony. The Quran mentions the word ‘peace’ and derivatives 789 times. Among these instances is a supplication recited by Prophet Abraham a.s. asking for the security of Makkah – a supplication which we would do to emulate:

وَإِذْ قَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ رَبِّ اجْعَلْ هَذَا بَلَدًا آمِنًا وَارْزُقْ أَهْلَهُ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ مَنْ

ءَامَنَ مِنْهُمْ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ

Meaning: “And (remember) when Abraham said: My Lord! Make this a secure city and provide its people with fruits – whoever of them believes in Allah and the Last Day...”
[Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 126].

Imam Ar-Razi in his book, Tafsir al-Kabir, states that some scholars were asked: which is better; health, or peace and security? They all said the latter because it is security and peace that enables us to take better care of our physical health and our mental and emotional wellbeing. What use is a healthy body if we live in perpetual fear as a result of war and chaos?

My Brothers,

Humanity has accomplished so much together. Our lives have been significantly enriched through advancements in the fields of technology. We are becoming more educated. However, does this mean that, as society we have all truly recognised the value of peace and security? On the contrary, there are a handful of people out there who seek to demolish unity. They yearn for the spilling of blood and

are intent on disrupting harmony among people of different races and religions. These people - have no regard whatsoever for the sanctity of life, nor respect for places of worship or even religion. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Al-Maidah, verse 32 which means: “... *whosoever kills a soul – unless for a soul, or for corruption done in the land – it is as if he had slain humankind entirely. Moreover, whosoever saves one life; it is as if he had saved humankind entirely.*”

For the past week, everyone who values harmony and the sanctity of life and is in deep grief over the horrific act of terrorism which occurred recently in Christchurch, New Zealand. The incident happened in a setting just like ours, in this very moment, where people were gathered peacefully in a masjid to perform their Friday prayers. The violent act of one man, whose heart was filled with hatred, claimed the lives of fifty innocent people. We ask Allah s.w.t. to shower those who were killed in the incident with His Rahmah, and that He accepts them as martyrs.

May the wounded be healed, and may the Christchurch and New Zealand community be granted strength and resilience in this challenging time. May Allah s.w.t. also protect us, our families and our nation from such an incident.

Let us also be thankful towards Allah s.w.t. for the majority who incline towards peace and goodwill. They have shown

solidarity; standing with Muslims all across the globe. In Singapore, representatives of various faiths, as well as New Zealand expatriates in Singapore have visited our mosques in an expression of unity. In other parts of the world, citizens stood to watch outside mosques while Muslims performed their Friday prayers. The tragedy in New Zealand has proved that those of us who value peace and harmony indeed possess the potential to overcome hatred and disharmony, and the strength to extinguish the flames of vengeance and anger.

A heart nourished by the Quran shall only know good. It does not feel hatred towards people, however great their transgressions towards us. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah As-Syura, verse 40:

وَجَزَاءُ سَيِّئَةٍ سَيِّئَةٌ مِّثْلُهَا ۗ فَمَنْ عَفَا وَأَصْلَحَ فَأَجْرُهُ
عَلَى اللَّهِ إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٤٠﴾

Meaning: “*And the retribution for an evil act is an evil one like it, but whoever pardons and makes reconciliation – his reward is [due] from Allah. Indeed, He does not like wrongdoers.*”

The beauty of the Christchurch incident is that, the families of many of the victims have expressed their forgiveness

towards the individual who murdered their loved ones. Subhanallah! This, my dear brothers, is the epitome of unity and harmony, and this further strengthens our conviction that those who are guided by Allah s.w.t. are capable of projecting only mercy and goodness onto the world. Extending forgiveness to those who have hurt us is far more powerful than any bullet, and mightier than any bomb. It is a force which enables us to remain calm and peaceful, even when our hearts are overcome with anguish and anger.

Brothers,

Let this tragedy not be in vain. Let it remind us of the horror that will befall us should we allow intolerant and hateful views to breed. It is our duty as a Muslim ummah to purify, preserve and protect our hearts and minds. It is our responsibility not to leave room for hatred and hostility towards those who are different from us.

Let us continue our Singaporean tradition of peace and harmony. Let us continue extending the Rahmah of Muhammad s.a.w. to the whole of humanity. Let us become faithful followers of Sayidina Muhammad s.a.w. who touch the hearts of those around us.

O, Allah! We ask security, peace and harmony for this world that You have created for us. Protect us, our country and our brothers in humanity from all forms of evil. O, Allah! We implore You to replace chaos with tranquillity, hostility with peace, and fear with security. O, Allah! Lastly, we ask you to assemble us all in the Abode of Tranquillity and Peace (Darul Aman and Darussalam) in Your Paradise, the day we return unto You. 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.