



Islamic Religious Council of Singapore

Friday Khutbah

6 September 2019 / 6 Muharram 1441H

Developing The Potential of Our Youth

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الْمُحَرَّمَ مِنَ الْأَشْهُرِ الْحُرْمِ تَذْكِيرًا لِحُرْمَتِهِ لِمَنْ
تَابَ إِلَيْهِ وَأَنَابَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ الْكَرِيمُ الْوَهَّابُ،
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ الَّذِي اصْطَفَاهُ وَأَنْزَلَ عَلَيْهِ
الْكِتَابَ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ
صَلَاةً نَنَالُ بِهَا شَفَاعَتَهُ يَوْمَ الْحَشْرِ وَالْحِسَابِ.

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

Blessed Friday congregation,

Let us continue to increase our taqwa in Allah s.w.t. Let us fulfil our obligations towards Him and abstain from all His prohibitions. May Allah guide us to the path of those whom He favours. Amin.

My brothers in faith,

The passage of age is a process that every human being will undergo. Such is the disposition Allah has set us upon. Every adult has once experienced adolescence, and did you know that teens have a special place in the sight of Allah s.w.t. and His Prophet s.a.w.? In a hadith reported by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim, the Prophet mentioned seven groups of people whom will be given shade on the Day of Judgement. Among them are the teens who spend their youth worshipping Allah s.w.t. and obeying Him.

Subhanallah! Such is the status of the youth in Islam. The youths of today are the torchbearers of tomorrow. They share the same responsibility that Allah has given to all human beings. Thus, today's khutbah will impart some advice as to how to guide our youth, in order to help them fulfil those responsibilities.

Brothers,

The first advice is a message to our youths whom we love dearly. Strive to build a strong foundation based on iman and 'amal (faith and deeds) before anything else.

Observe the following verse, in which Allah s.w.t. tells us the story of seven young men who retreated to a cave in order to preserve their steadfastness in their faith. Despite living in a society which persecuted them for their religious beliefs, they

persevered, and were hence saved and protected by Allah. Allah s.w.t. tells us in Surah Al-Kahfi, verse 13:

تَعْنُ نَقُصُّ عَلَيْكَ نَبَأَهُم بِالْحَقِّ إِنَّهُمْ فِتْيَةٌ آمَنُوا بِرَبِّهِمْ وَزِدْنَاهُمْ هُدًى ﴿١٣﴾

Meaning: *“It is We who relate to you, [O Muhammad], their story in truth. Indeed, they were youths who believed in their Lord, and We increased them in guidance.”*

Allah describes them as believers, and He helped them by virtue of their firm belief.

This story teaches us that we must build a strong foundation – a foundation built upon spiritual and religious enrichment. Our youths, if we give them proper guidance, nurture their iman and provide them with an accurate understanding of their beliefs – it will help them to bring about a positive change and shape the future of the Muslim ummah.

So to begin, I urge my young brothers here to be aware of the sources from which you get religious knowledge. This is such an understated yet important trait. Referring to trusted sources ensures that the information we consume transforms into correct beliefs. Make sure to seek religious education through the proper channels, as well as spiritual guidance from those whose only intention is to see you become a better person.

Be wary of people who outwardly display piety, but their presence invokes feelings of contempt, anger and frustration; as though it is very difficult to become a good Muslim. The Prophet s.a.w. taught us moderation, as mentioned in his hadith: *“Beware of excessiveness in religious matters, for those who came before you were doomed due to their excessiveness in religious matters.”* [Hadith reported by Ahmad]

When one makes the decision to learn more about his faith, it should make him a more filial and well-mannered child, a more hardworking student and a more compassionate friend. He will become an individual who gives back to his family and community, and one who invites others to do good. Just imagine the profound impact they could bring about if we include them in our activities at the mosque or community welfare organisations as volunteers. It would foster in them a deep sense of empathy towards the community and a keenness to serve it. It would also be a display of the positivity of these youths and steadfastness in their faith, inspiring them to be an ummah of excellence.

My brothers,

The second advice is for our community to keep them involved in communal activities and give them our trust.

Look at how the Prophet s.a.w. cultivated their potential during his time by putting them in charge of several important tasks

because he had confidence in their ability to perform their duties well. If we read the Sirah of the Prophet s.a.w., we will find that he designated many of his young companions, such as Ali Ibn Abi Talib and Abdullah Ibn Abi Bakr, important roles.

This practice of the Prophet s.a.w. proves to us that our youths possess talents and abilities in many different areas, and this potential should be given the chance to be nurtured and developed. Instead of letting their strengths go to waste, we should give them our trust, encouragement and the opportunity to utilise the skills that they possess – simultaneously improving their ability to contribute to society.

Keep our youths close and treat them with kindness and compassion – by doing so, we will foster a strong relationship with them.

Let us shape their character by instilling in them the best of morals. The Prophet s.a.w. said: *“Verily Allah is pleased with a young person who is not inclined towards sin. (i.e. one who grows up in the obedience of Allah Ta’ala).”* [Hadith reported by Imam Ahmad & At-Tabrani]

Brothers,

My final advice is to recognise and understand the challenges they face.

The youths of today face many challenges. They not only face challenges in their social life, but they are also faced with unique challenges which we may not have experienced during our time.

For instance, the influence of social media is undeniably one of the most pressing issues of today. When one does not manage his time properly, it will be wasted indulging in online activities. This, without a doubt, affects a person's relationships and his ability to communicate and think critically.

Blessed congregation,

On this blessed first Friday of the new Hijri year 1441H, let us all make a resolution to guide our youths as well as improve our relationships with them. We ask Allah s.w.t. to protect us and our families, and to grant us His guidance. Amin.

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، فَاسْتَغْفِرُودُ فَيَا
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.