



**Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura**

**Friday Sermon**

**10 November 2017 / 21 Safar 1439H**

**Holding on to the value of Justice (The story of Umar r.a.)**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْخَبِيرِ الْحَكِيمِ ، أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ  
الْقَوِيُّ الْمَتِينُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ صَادِقُ  
الْوَعْدِ الْأَمِينِ ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ  
وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ اتَّبَعَهُ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ .  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ ، أُوصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ ، فَقَدْ  
فَازَ مَنْ اتَّقَى وَخَابَ مَنْ عَصَى .

**Blessed Friday Jemaah,**

Let us increase our taqwa in Allah s.w.t. by fulfilling His commands and abstaining from His prohibitions. May Allah s.w.t. find pleasure in our deeds and efforts, and may Allah s.w.t. grant us prosperity in this life and the hereafter, amin.

**Beloved Jemaah,**

Allow me to begin today's sermon by calling upon everyone to extend our gratitude to Allah s.w.t. for blessing us with the religion of Islam, the religion which is pure, the religion which acts as a comprehensive guide for every Muslim. Islam does

not merely teach us about what is halal (permissible) and haram (forbidden), but it also gives emphasis on the importance of enriching ourselves with righteous values. Let us reflect upon a verse from the Quran in surah An-Nahl verse 90, which is often recited by the khatib at the end of every sermon, Allah s.w.t. mentions:

❁ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ  
وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ  
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٩٠﴾

Meaning: *“Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded.”*

**Jemaah,**

Among the values that were mentioned in the aforementioned verse and which we should instil in ourselves is that of justice. In fact, in this verse, being just is mentioned together with the value of compassion or ihsan, as well as other good deeds such as providing for the family. This points to the importance of values in Islam. Justice has a broad definition. From a linguistic perspective, it is defined as placing something in its rightful

place. As such, justice instils honesty and teaches one to act and think wisely and responsibly.

We can better appreciate the value of justice by observing the life of the renowned companion of our Prophet s.a.w., Saidina Umar ibn Al-Khattab r.a. The stories of Umar r.a. and his leadership traits, paints a picture of a believer (mukmin) who pays attention to all aspects of justice in his life and in his engagements.

**Jemaah,**

From the stories of Saidina Umar r.a., We are able to conclude that being just can be divided into four categories:

**First and foremost: Being just to Allah s.w.t.**

Jemaah, Allah s.w.t. is The Almighty Creator. It is He who is responsible for creation itself, and it is He who bestows us sustenance for life. Thus, as servants of Allah s.w.t., it is only fitting that we be just to Allah s.w.t by worshipping Him alone and accept that there is no God but Allah s.w.t. We place our hopes and aspirations to Allah s.w.t. We seek and ask only from Allah s.w.t. We obey His commands and abstain from His prohibitions. A believer who upholds justice should first ask himself if he has fulfilled the rights and obligations due to Allah s.w.t.? Saidina Umar r.a., despite being busy managing and

administrating the state, would always put aside time to worship and humble himself to Allah s.w.t.

### **Second: Being just to ourselves.**

Being just is not limited to the service of others, but also to ourselves, by ensuring that our rights and needs are met. As such, it is pertinent that we be just to ourselves first before acting upon others. This means that we should not give in to our desires, and to guard ourselves from anything that can harm our physical, mental and spiritual health. For example, we should refrain from eating too much or indulging in entertainment to the point that we neglect Allah's commands such as missing our prayers and so on.

### **Third: Being just to others.**

Saidina Umar r.a. was a good example of such. In a famous narration, it was said that Saidina Umar once walked around in the middle of the night when he heard a child crying. When he asked the mother of the child why the child was crying, the woman – who did not know who Umar r.a. was – informed him that her child was hungry. Poverty led them to suffer from famine, and in order to calm her children, the mother had to boil some rocks to give her her children the impression that she was cooking. Upon seeing that, Saidina Umar's tears flowed down his cheeks as he understood the burden of responsibility and trust that he shouldered as a leader. He rushed to Baitul Mal to

collect food supplies and carried the food supplies himself. Even though the load was very heavy, he did not permit assistance from anyone. He then proceeded to cook for the family and ensured that they would never again go to bed hungry.

That is the value that we need to instil in our lives. Being just shapes a person's character which guard's others and himself from difficulties. It will also make us individuals who are conscious in fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted upon us – as members of the family or members of the workforce. A person who upholds justice will always be meticulous prior to making any decision.

### **Beloved Jemaah,**

The value of being just which was exemplified by Saidina Umar r.a. should not be limited to fellow Muslims. Before he liberated the city of Al-Quds and despite having the upper hand, Saidina Umar r.a. did not use any force or violence upon the residents of the city but instead, he guaranteed that every resident will be free to practise their religion safely. Such is the wisdom that serves as a lesson when we engage with others.

### **Fourth: Being just to all other creatures.**

Jemaah, the last category is to be just to all that Allah s.w.t. has entrusted upon us, such as the environment and other natural resources. Misusing the earth's resources and polluting the

environment are not traits of a believer. In fact, a Mukmin will be proactive in ensuring that he does justice to the environment. For example, he will not waste water and electricity, and will recycle products that can be recycled.

Jemaah, these are the four areas of being just which we should pay heed to. Being just is a trait that is commanded in Islam, it is a value that will bring about prosperity for all. Let us uphold this value with hopes that we attain Allah's s.w.t. pleasure. As Rasulullah s.a.w. mentions in hadith which means: *"Verily, those who were just will be in the presence of Allah upon pulpits of light, near the right side of the Merciful, the Exalted, which are those who practiced justice in their rulings and with their families and the tasks which were entrusted upon them."* [Hadith recorded by Imam Muslim]

May Allah s.w.t. continue to protect us, and enliven the value justice within ourselves and our families, so that we may fulfil His commands. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارَكَ اللهُ 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 اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ  
الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا  
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.