



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

17 November 2017 / 28 Safar 1439H

The Value of Contributing (The story of Uthman 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. grant us prosperity in this world and the Hereafter. Amin.

Beloved Jemaah,

In last week's sermon, we learned that being just trains us to be conscious of our relationship with Allah s.w.t. and His creations. Today, we will learn from another companion of the Prophet s.a.w. whom we should aspire to emulate for

his generosity and contributions to the society he lived in. The companion that I am referring to is Saidina Uthman Bin Affan r.a.

Saidina Uthman r.a. was well-known as someone who was blessed with wealth. However, it did not make him arrogant or stingy. Instead, he was very generous and donated most of his wealth for the betterment of the community.

In a famous narration, it was reported that the city of Madinah was once faced with drought, and upon seeing the dire state of his people, the Prophet s.a.w. immediately said:

مَنْ حَفَرَ رُومَةَ فَلَهُ الْجَنَّةُ

Which means: *“Whoever will (buy and) dig the well of Ruma will be granted paradise,”* [Hadith reported by Imam Bukhari]

Without hesitation, Saidina Uthman r.a. stepped forward and became the first person to contribute money for the construction of the well which proved beneficial for the community to fulfil their religious and daily needs. In another narration, it was reported that Saidina Uthman r.a. donated hundreds of camels and trading goods to the poor and needy in Madinah. Such was the spirit of giving that was displayed by this noble companion of the Prophet s.a.w.

Beloved Jemaah,

Saidina Uthman's contributions were not limited to his wealth; he also would impart his ideas and support the efforts of the Prophet s.a.w. When he was made the leader of the country, he rolled out several initiatives for the benefit of the general public. For example, it was during his leadership that the Quran was compiled and re-written into a book. We continue to benefit from this effort to this very day through the copy which is famously known and recognized as Al-Quran Rasm Uthmani.

Jemaah, from the story of Saidina Uthman, we can conclude that contributing is not only limited to one's wealth or situation. Allah s.w.t. describes the traits of a person who has taqwa in surah Ali 'Imran verse 134:

الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ فِي السَّرَّاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَالْكَبِيرِ وَالصَّغِيرِ
وَالْعَافِينَ عَنِ النَّاسِ وَاللَّهُ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Which means: *“Those who spend [in the cause of Allah] during ease and hardship and who restrain anger and who pardon the people - and Allah loves the doers of good”*

The story of Saidina Uthman r.a. teaches us that contribution is not merely monetary - there are many other platforms through which we can contribute to the community. Allow me to

share several suggestions that we can consider for our shared benefit.

First: Contributing knowledge by educating the community.

In my humble opinion, imparting knowledge and education is amongst the most valuable and lasting form of contribution. It provides support and assistance to people who are faced with hardships by equipping them with solutions. For example, if we find our colleague who lacks the expertise to execute certain tasks whilst we on the other hand are capable and experienced in doing so, then it is good for us to come forward and offer help by sharing tips and knowledge. Or by encouraging them to attend upgrading courses to improve their skill set.

Second: Contributing our time by showing moral support.

Time is extremely precious and valuable. Therefore, by contributing our time towards noble efforts organised by various organisations, our free time would be channelled towards people who are in need of moral support. For example, our time can be spent by visiting the elderly, or those who have lost their loved ones, and even orphans, through registered organisations. The support, attention and love that we share will add joy, purpose and motivation to their lives. It is a means of contribution that will be greatly appreciated because even though it may well be unnoticed and undervalued by others,

Allah s.w.t. is the All Knowing and He recognizes the sincerity in our hearts.

Third: Contributing our energy by volunteering.

If we are unable to contribute through financial donations or creative innovations, we may opt to contribute our energy by volunteering towards noble causes. Organisations such as welfare homes, shelters, humanitarian groups and mosques are always searching for volunteers to help ease the difficulties of others. We can help them by volunteering for their cause, preparing the logistic needs, distributing food, and so on.

Jemaah,

Volunteering our time and energy towards humanitarian and welfare efforts will reap extraordinary rewards. The Prophet s.a.w. mentioned in a Hadith which means: *“Whoever relieves the hardship of a believer in this world, Allah will relieve his hardship on the Day of Resurrection.”* [Hadith reported by Imam Muslim]

It is a positive step towards resolving conflicts brought about by any crisis.

Hence, allow me to share some advice with those who are currently present. There are many parts in this world today that enjoy peace and stability. However, there are also areas which suffer the calamities of war and conflict. It is important for us to

understand that this represents a complex phenomenon. It is not only limited to religion - multiple factors come into play such as power, cultural differences, economic interest, history and much more. These conflicts are not resolved instantaneously with the blink of an eye. Such issues require time - months perhaps even years before a viable and amicable solution can be achieved between different parties who may hold different agendas.

When faced with such conflicts, Islam teaches us two pertinent lessons. **First:** It requires calm and precise planning, coupled with constant efforts towards peace and prosperity, in order to solve the issues at hand.

Second: We need to be objective and not allow our emotions and anger to overcome us. Seek out opportunities to help and to contribute positively. Positive contributions that can then lead to solutions.

May Allah s.w.t. be pleased with our efforts, and may He enrich us with the spirit of contributing so that it will benefit those who are in need. Amin Ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ
الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ 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.