



**Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura**

**Friday Sermon**

**24 November 2017 / 5 Rabiulawal 1439H**

**Consultation & Consent are the Foundation of A Strong  
and Prosperous Society**

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

**Blessed Friday Jemaah,**

I would like to call upon myself, and all of us here today, to increase our taqwa in Allah s.w.t. For it is taqwa that shields a believer (mukmin) from evil. May Allah s.w.t. grant us iman and

the strength to remain consistent on the path of taqwa, inshaAllah.

### **Blessed Jemaah,**

We are now in the noble month of Rabiul Awal. The month in which we honour the birth of our beloved Prophet, Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. We express our happiness and gratitude to Allah s.w.t. for the blessings of iman and Islam. We express our thankfulness to Allah s.w.t. for honouring to be part of the ummah of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. Therefore in conjunction with the celebration of maulidurrasul, I would like to call upon everyone here to reflect upon an important trait that we can learn from the leadership of Rasulullah s.a.w., a trait which was mirrored by his noble companions including his son-in-law, Saidina Ali ibn Abi Talib r.a. The trait that I am referring to is *musyawarah* or seeking consultation and opinions from others.

### **Jemaah,**

One of the foundations of an integrated and prosperous Muslim community is the principle of *syura* or consultation, and agreement. This principle was laid down by the Prophet s.a.w himself. Even though he was a Messenger of Allah, and received guidance and revelation from Allah s.w.t., the Prophet s.a.w.

would still conduct consultations with his companions. This is because the benefits of *syura* persist until the hereafter. Allah s.w.t. has promised increased and lasting merits for those who uphold *syura* in all their matters. Allah s.w.t. mentions in Surah al-Syura, verse 38:

وَالَّذِينَ اسْتَجَابُوا لِرَبِّهِمْ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَمْرُهُمْ شُورَىٰ بَيْنَهُمْ وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ يُنْفِقُونَ

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Which means: *“And those who have responded to their lord and established prayer and whose affair is [determined by] consultation among themselves, and from what We have provided them, they spend.”*

Rasulullah s.a.w. communicated to his companions on the value and principle of *syura*. No one person attributes all wisdom and knowledge to himself. If Rasulullah s.a.w. himself upheld the principle of *syura*, what then does it say for the rest of us? Regardless how smart, clever and knowledgeable a person may be, it is the combination of experience, wisdom and knowledge that unites the community, and prevents a dictatorship of opinions. It strengthens the community and boosts the spirit of

togetherness in any action undertaken for the benefit of the general public.

As such, let us ponder upon the culture of leadership and community life during the time of the companions as they strived to emulate our beloved Prophet s.a.w. They often held consultation sessions in order to achieve optimum results. And despite having different opinions, each consultative session would see them agreeing upon a decision that was necessary, even during times of need and times of crisis. One example that we can look back upon is that of Saidina Ali r.a. and how he was always striving to offer his views and perspective for solutions on issues that affected the community.

In fact, during the leadership of Saidina Umar ibn Al-Khattab, it was reported that he often sought Saidina Ali's opinions, especially so when he was faced with major issues. For example, Saidina Umar waited for Saidina Ali's view as to whether he should go to the city of Quds. Although his army had successfully surrounded the city, the people and leader of Quds would only hand over the keys to the city under the condition that they surrendered it to the Muslim leader himself, who at that time was Amirul Mukminin was Umar ibn al-Khattab, who resided in

Madinah. Some of the Muslims were worried that it was a ruse by the people of Quds. However, Saidina Ali ibn Abi Talib encouraged Saidina Umar to proceed to Baitul Maqdis, as he was confident of the judgement of the companions who were in Quds as they understood the situation on the ground better. Upon hearing Saidina Ali's views, Amirul Mukminin Umar accepted peace and proceeded to Baitul Maqdis to accept the keys to the city of Quds. He entered Baitul Maqdis peacefully and received a warm welcome from the people of Quds.

Jemaah, this is a profound example of barakah in decision making through means of consultation.

### **Respected Jemaah,**

The value of consultation also has its roots in the history of the community in this region. The principle of consultation and seeking consent has always been a basic principle and ethos of the community within the Malay world which stems from the spirit of cooperation or "*gotong-royong*." In fact, the words "*musyawarah and muafakat*" or consultation and consent, are closely linked just like two sides of the same coin. This can be seen in various idioms and words of wisdom from the Malay language. Malay customs hold that "The house is a place of customs, a place where consultation is held; a place for rest from

near and afar.” [or in Malay, *Rumahnya tempat beradat; tempat berunding bermuafakat; tempat berhenti jauh dan dekat.*”] In an environment where there is consultation and consent, there exists no such thing as minority or majority, prominent or weak opinions, rich or poor. In fact, every person is given the space and opportunity to voice his or her opinion, in order to achieve mutual consent.

These are amongst the words of wisdom found in the Malay language, words that the community should hold on to as the foundation towards building a united and prosperous society. The combination of these two sources of principles and history; the principles and history of Islam and the customs of the Malay world, should be a pillar of strength for Muslims in this region, inshaAllah.

Let us work together to uphold the ethos of consultation and seeking consent in order to develop a community of excellence, inshaAllah. Let us enhance this trait in ourselves, and instil it in our interactions with our families. Educate our children to appreciate the value of consultation and seeking opinions. In fact, if we are bestowed with the responsibilities of a leader, let us then never ignore these values for they were important traits

in the leadership of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. as well as his companions and the generation of Muslims that followed.

May Allah s.w.t. grant us barakah in our lives so that we are able to contribute to the religion, country and community. 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.