



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Friday Sermon

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Upholding The Virtue of Amanah (The Story of Abu Bakar)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْغَنِيِّ الْحَمِيدِ وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَهُوَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيدٌ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ بِالرَّحْمَةِ وَالْقَوْلِ السَّدِيدِ، اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلِّمْ وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا كَثِيرًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday Jemaah,

I would like to remind myself and all who are present here today to increase our taqwa in Allah s.w.t. Let us obey all of His commands, and abstain from His prohibitions. May Allah s.w.t. find pleasure in our deeds and efforts, and may Allah s.w.t. grant us residence in His paradise, Amin.

Beloved Jemaah,

Allah s.w.t. has promised paradise to all of His servants who uphold the virtue of amanah. Allah s.w.t. mentioned in surah Al-Mukminun verses 8 -11:

وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ لِأَمْنَتِهِمْ وَعَهْدِهِمْ رَاعُونَ ﴿٨﴾ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ عَلَى صَلَاتِهِمْ يُحَافِظُونَ ﴿٩﴾
 أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْوَارِثُونَ ﴿١٠﴾ الَّذِينَ يَرِثُونَ الْفِرْدَوْسَ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿١١﴾

Which means: “And they who are to their trusts and their promises attentive. And they who carefully maintain their prayers - Those are the inheritors. Who will inherit al-Firdaus. They will abide therein eternally.”

In explaining these verses, Imam Ibn Kathir mentioned in his tafsir that those who have been promised paradise are: “(Those whom) when entrusted with an amanah, would never betray it; they would honour the right entitled to the rightful individual, and if they were to make an oath or promise, they would surely fulfil it.”

Jemaah,

The virtue of amanah is one of the most important traits that was emphasised by Rasulullah s.a.w. and which he instilled in the hearts of the Companions (Sahabah). This has been made evident when we observe the character of his best companion, Saidina Abu Bakar r.a., who upheld the virtue of amanah, trustworthiness and honesty in all his words and actions. As such he was given the title of As-Siddiq, which means: The Truthful.

After the passing of Rasulullah s.a.w., Saidina Abu Bakar r.a. was appointed to lead the Muslims. He said: “Verily I have been

appointed when I am not the best among you. If I am in the right, assist me, and if I am in the wrong, correct me” [the book of Al-Bid ayah wa An-Nihayah].

Subhanallah, What a heartfelt speech by Saidina Abu Bakar r.a.! It thoroughly reflects the teachings and guidance he received under the tutelage of Rasulullah s.a.w. He (r.a.) deeply understood the meaning of undertaking the responsibility of being a leader. Abu Bakar r.a. also taught us that an amanah in any given position or posting is not just an honour nor is it an entitlement, but more importantly, it is a responsibility that needs to be executed with diligence.

Jemaah,

The story of Saidina Abu Bakar r.a. which I have shared should serve as a prime lesson and example for us to emulate in our lives. If the companions of the Prophet s.a.w., whose resilience in faith have been proven on countless occasions, uphold the virtue of amanah with such diligence, it is then essential that we – who are faced with the trials and tribulations of the modern day – strive to do the same. Hence, in this short time, allow me to share several guidelines with hopes that it may help us to instil amanah in our daily lives.

First: Be honest in whatever situation we are in, wherever we are, at all times.

Human nature causes us to value honesty and resent falsehoods. Such too, is the teaching in Islam, where honesty is a measure of one's faith. Islam is a religion that advocates one to always speak the truth, in times of ease or hardships, in richness or poverty.

As such, it is unwise for us Muslims to utter and commit falsehood in our daily activities. For example, when we are given time off for Friday prayers by our employer, let us ensure that we leave and return to work on time, and let us not misuse the trust that has been given to us. Being trustworthy will only bring goodness at all times and in all situations.

Second: Do not misuse the authority Allah s.w.t. has granted us.

A Muslim should always view the position which has been given to him as a responsibility which has to be undertaken with due diligence. It must never be seen as a privilege which makes him superior to the people around him. A father should not neglect his family, a husband must never oppress his wife, and an employer should not burden his staff beyond his or her abilities.

Arrogance and boastfulness are not the traits that should ever exist in any leader. And this has been clearly exemplified by Saidina Abu Bakar r.a., who remained humble and open to ideas and suggestions. This is indeed the character of a trustworthy leader.

Mawlana Abul Hassan Ali an-Nadwi, a scholar from India once said: *“A strong iman will protect a person from betraying the trust that has been given to him, whether he is alone or in public.”*

Third: Fulfilling the rights of Allah s.w.t. and the rights of fellow humans.

As we strive to develop ourselves and our careers, we should not neglect the rights which are due to Allah s.w.t. and to our fellow human brothers and sisters. The blessings which Allah s.w.t. has bestowed upon us are in fact an amanah. When we fulfil the rights of others through actions such as paying off debts, fulfilling our promises and ensuring proper treatment for others, we are facilitating them with their affairs. And when we ease the affairs of others, Allah s.w.t. will always be by our side, as mentioned in a hadith of our beloved Prophet s.a.w., that was narrated by Imam Muslim:

وَاللَّهُ فِي عَوْنِ الْعَبْدِ مَا كَانَ الْعَبْدُ فِي عَوْنِ أَخِيهِ

Meaning: *“Allah will always help His servants as long as he helps his brothers”.*

Therefore, those bestowed with wealth are entrusted to help those in need. Those who are able, should contribute and support those who have been oppressed. It is through such

behaviour do Muslims continue to prosper as ambassadors of goodwill.

May Allah s.w.t. empower us with amanah towards His religion and the sunnah of Rasulullah s.a.w. May we always embody amanah in all our interactions with others. May we be placed among His servants who will inherit the paradise of Al-Firdaus. 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.