



**Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura**

**Friday Sermon**

**6 October 2017 / 15 Muharram 1439**

**Make Every Step and Breath an Act of Worship to Allah**

**s.w.t.**

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

**Blessed Friday Jemaah,**

Let us revive our taqwa in Allah s.w.t. Let us strengthen the presence of taqwa in our hearts. A heart that is filled with taqwa is a heart that is enlightened, a heart that is always conscious of Allah s.w.t. at every second and every place.

It is through such actions that will we be able to make our every step and breath as acts of worship to Allah s.w.t. Truly, we were created to worship Allah s.w.t., Allah s.w.t. mentions in the Quran:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ ﴿٥٦﴾

Meaning: “And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me.” [Surah al-Dhāriyāt verse 56]

### **Blessed Jemaah,**

Acts of worship are not confined to the prayer mat, by secluding ourselves in mosques and offering supplications, or only by observing fast on certain days. Although it is true that the aforementioned acts of worship have many merits – which includes satisfying one’s personal spiritual needs – Muslims also have an obligation in this life which supersedes their personal fulfilment. A Muslim is one who spreads mercy and compassion to all: to their families, neighbours, friends, the society they live in, animals, plants, and any creation of Allah s.w.t that he or she interacts with. This is the trait of *Ibād al-Rahmān*; the true servants of God who is The Most Merciful. She walks on this earth and interacts with humankind, animals and all of Allah’s creations, as a source of goodness to all.

There are many Quranic verses and sahih hadiths which define the meaning of a complete faith. It is through these verses and hadiths that we understand that the presence of iman should increase the amount of beneficial acts that we do. A believer is one who positively affects those around him/her – he/she does

not put his/her needs first, nor does he/she undertake any good actions only for his/her own personal gain or satisfaction.

Let us take some time to ponder upon some hadiths of Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. which place emphasis on what I have just mentioned. For example, Rasulullah s.a.w. mentioned in a hadith which means: *“Let him who believes in Allah and the Last Day be generous to his neighbour.”* Or in the hadith *“Let him who believes in Allah and the Last Day be generous to his guest.”* Rasulullah s.a.w. also mentioned in another hadith which means: *“None of you [truly] believes until he loves for his brother that which he loves for himself.”* These hadiths reflect the vastness behind the meaning of iman and worship to Allah s.w.t..

**Therefore Jemaah**, the question which we should be asking ourselves now is: How can we turn every step and breath into acts of worship to Allah s.w.t.? In order to increase our deeds and efforts, we may do so by following these two suggestions:

**First, make the intention for everything that we undertake, we do so for the sake of Allah s.w.t.** A person who works as a janitor, who washes the toilets, sweeps the sidewalks, cleans the building or food court are performing acts of worship to Allah s.w.t. as long as he/she does so because of Allah s.w.t., and as long as he/she is conscious that sustenance gained from his/her own personal efforts is the very best of

sustenance, every step and breath he/she took while performing his/her duties are acts of worship to Allah s.w.t. Rasulullah s.a.w. mentioned in a hadith narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari:

مَا أَكَلَ أَحَدٌ طَعَامًا قَطُّ خَيْرًا مِنْ أَنْ يَأْكُلَ مِنْ عَمَلِ يَدِهِ وَإِنَّ نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ  
دَاوُدَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ كَانَ يَأْكُلُ مِنْ عَمَلِ يَدِهِ

Meaning: “Nobody has ever eaten a better meal than that which one has earned by working with one's own hands. The Prophet of Allah, David (Daud) used to eat from the earnings of his manual labour.”

**Second, every work we perform is for the benefit of all.** A person who works as a cleaning staff will ensure that the cleanliness of the place is well-maintained. Through his/her diligence in carrying out her duties, the hygiene, health and safety of the public is maintained. Removing any harmful objects from the road is also part of iman, so this is indeed a noble job.

A manager who starts his/her day with good intentions, going to work for the sake of Allah s.w.t., in search for halal sustenance, will be motivated to be honest and responsible in his/her actions. He/She will be inspired to give her best to his/her colleagues and stakeholders. His/Her every breath and step is an act of worship to Allah s.w.t. Likewise, a student who seeks

beneficial knowledge to gain Allah's blessing, is indeed in a state of worship to Allah s.w.t. Same goes for a leader who carries out his/her responsibilities for the sake of Allah s.w.t., who is fair and just, and treats those around him/her with kindness. All these people, in their different capacities, will have their every step and breath as an act of worship to Allah s.w.t.

If we truly comprehend the meaning of worshipping Allah s.w.t. we will realise that there is no such thing as a menial job in the sight of Allah s.w.t., nor is there a job that is belittled in the sight of Allah s.w.t. Whether one works as a cleaner, a police officer who maintains peace and order, a manager of a small or multinational enterprise, a leader for the family or state, every job is an act of worship to Allah s.w.t.. Every step we take brings us closer to Allah s.w.t.

We can hence make the choice to either transform our work and daily activities into acts of worship, or simply have them remain as normal, routine tasks. However, I would like to call upon all of us here to turn our every step and breath into acts of worship that can bring us closer to Allah s.w.t. This can be done by ensuring that our intention and efforts are done for the sake of Allah s.w.t. and that they bring benefit to all; from the smallest of actions to the biggest responsibilities.

This also means that we must continuously seek knowledge and improve our skills so that our efforts are aligned with the

commands of Allah s.w.t. Understand what Allah has commanded upon us, and what He has prohibited upon us. Let us hence use this month of Muharram, the first month in the Islamic year, to set new resolutions, renew our efforts, increase our good deeds and improve our relationship with Allah s.w.t. May Allah s.w.t. make us among the true *Ibād al-Rahman*; His true servants. Ameen 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، فَاسْتَغْفِرُودُ فَيَا  
فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.