



Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura

Eiduladha Sermon

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Transformation Requires Sacrifice

الله أَكْبَرُ 9x

الله أَكْبَرُ، مَا تَقَرَّبَ الْعَبْدُ بِقُرْبَانٍ.

الله أَكْبَرُ، مَا رَغِبَ الْعَابِدُونَ فِي الْعُفْرَانِ.

الله أَكْبَرُ، مَا حَمِدَهُ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجَانُ.

الله أَكْبَرُ، مَا جَرَتِ الْكَوَاكِبُ بِحُسْبَانٍ.

الله أَكْبَرُ، اللهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللهُ أَكْبَرُ.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَاللهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللهُ أَكْبَرُ وَاللهُ الْحَمْدُ.

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ هَذَا الشَّهْرَ وَجَعَلَ عِبَادَةَ الْحَجِّ وَعِيدَ

الْأَضْحَى مِنْ شَعَائِرِ اللهِ وَإِحْيَاءَهَا مِنْ تَقْوَى الْقُلُوبِ. أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا

إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ

وَرَسُولَهُ الْمَبْعُوثُ رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى

سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللهِ، اتَّقُوا اللهُ، وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللهِ، فَقَدْ

فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Jema'ah, today, Muslims around the world are reciting the takbir, tahmid, tasbih and tahlil. We are fortunate to be included amongst them as we recite these supplications that seek to soften our hearts and souls. We praise Allah s.w.t. and sincerely acknowledge His greatness for the abundance of blessings which He has bestowed upon us. We serve and obey only Allah, and do not associate Him with anyone or anything.

This is also the moment where millions of our brothers and sisters will perform their haj or pilgrimage, reciting the talbiah and responding to Allah's call. May Allah s.w.t. grant them spiritual and physical strengths, to enable them to attain haj *mabrur*. And may Allah s.w.t. accept all our acts of worship, including the sacrificial rites (Qurban) that will be performed later. Amin ya Rabbal alamin.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

Blessed Jemaah,

Allah s.w.t. has bestowed upon us countless blessings – He has granted us joy and happiness as we celebrate the festival of Eiduladha. However, despite the festivities, we are aware that as human beings, we will continue to face trials and tribulations. Such is the reality of life in this world. In fact, life

itself is a form of test for us in our bid to attain Allah's love and blessings. Allah s.w.t. mentions in Surah al-Mulk verses 1 and 2:

تَبْرَكَ الَّذِي بِيَدِهِ الْمُلْكُ وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ ﴿١﴾
الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ
الْغَفُورُ ﴿٢﴾

Meaning: *“Blessed is He in whose hand is dominion, and He is over all things competent - [He] who created death and life to test you [as to] which of you is best in deed - and He is the Exalted in Might, the Forgiving.”*

Islam has taught us that the best way to deal with life's challenges is to strive our best in achieving what is best for our lives and those around us. We are taught to work hard, and that sacrifices are needed in order to bring about changes and improve the situation we are in. We are taught to understand that success does not come easy –it is only attained through perseverance and sacrifices. Those who understand this, are those who truly comprehend what Allah s.w.t has mentioned in surah Ar-Ra'ad verse 11:

إِنِّ اللَّهَ لَا يُغَيِّرُ مَا بِقَوْمٍ حَتَّىٰ يُغَيِّرُوا مَا بِأَنْفُسِهِمْ ۗ

Meaning: *“Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves.”*

Blessed Jemaah,

Today’s sermon will recall a part of the history or *sirah* of Rasulullah s.a.w., for us to reflect on and draw inspiration from.

Prior to Rasulullah’s hijrah to Madinah, most of his time was dedicated to spreading the message of Islam and making da’wah. This was predominantly so during the haj period. His efforts were full of struggles which demanded great sacrifices.

After the passing of his beloved wife, Khadijah, and his dear uncle, Abu Talib, in the tenth year prophethood, Prophet Muhammad s.a.w went to Taif to call upon the people of Taif to embrace Islam and worship Allah. However, the people of Taif refused to heed his call and rejected him in a harsh and violent manner which forced Rasulullah s.a.w. to return to Makkah. However, this did not dampen his spirit. Instead, during the haj season that year, Rasulullah s.a.w. took the opportunity to make da’wah to the Arab tribes who were performing their pilgrimage in Makkah. He approached some of them directly, out in the open, whereas some he approached discreetly. Despite this, his every move was monitored by the Quraish. In fact, there was a young Quraishi man that would always follow and threaten Rasulullah. He would also intimidate the Arab tribes and influence them not to accept the message spread by Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. Nonetheless, our beloved

Rasulullah s.a.w. did not give up despite the fact that almost none accepted his message.

Rasulullah s.a.w. continued his efforts during the following haj season. Again, he was threatened by the Quraish. However, giving up was not an option for the Prophet. He was focused on his mission and clear on his objectives. He fully believed in Allah's promises and thought only the good of Allah. With Allah's guidance and the barakah of the Prophet's hard work, six young men from Madinah who came to perform their pilgrimage, embraced Islam later that year.

In the twelfth year of prophethood, a group of pilgrims from Madinah came to meet the Prophet s.a.w. during the haj season and pledged their allegiance to him. This marked the beginning of how Islam began to spread in the city of Madinah, even though Rasulallah s.a.w. himself had not stayed there. The following haj season – which was the thirteenth year of prophethood – saw a large group of 70 people from Madinah who came to meet the Prophet s.a.w., essentially paving the way for Rasulallah s.a.w. and his companions to migrate to Madinah until Allah s.w.t. granted success for Islam and all Muslims.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

Blessed Jemaah,

Let us reflect upon some of the gems that we have gained from this sirah of Rasulullah s.a.w.

First, we must always think the best of Allah s.w.t. This will nurture confidence in our ability to lead our lives with guidance from Allah and His Messenger. This is indeed a lesson that we can gain from the story that was shared. The Prophet's resilience in calling people to Allah was deeply rooted in his belief that Allah s.w.t. will never neglect his efforts. He only thought the best of Allah, and he believed that Allah s.w.t. will never ignore the sacrifices of His beloved servants.

By assuming the best in Allah, one will have an optimistic view of life and be positive of what the future holds for them. It will lead a Muslim to place his/her entire trust in Allah s.w.t., knowing with full confidence that Allah will guide his/her affairs. A Muslim is not idle and does not whine nor complain about life. On the other hand, one is inspired to rise and change one's life with conviction. Even if one fails, one will not make it a reason to be disappointed and give up, or to dwell on the failure. In a hadith reported by Abu Daud and Imam Muslim, Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. said: *"None of you should die except in a state of mind (that is) hoping for the best from Allah."*

Second, in improving the community's quality of life, each and every one of us must work together and strive for excellence. We need to cooperate and leverage on the strength of our

potential, instead of getting plugged into unhealthy competition that divides the society.

By committing to cooperate, we can move ahead and progress collectively. Let us enrich and share our knowledge. Let us instil and spread mercy. Let us strengthen the bonds of relationships and seek to deepen these ties. We shall face our challenges together, and reap the benefits as one.

A Muslim is not passive, keeping quiet when something bad happens. This is not what is meant by tawakkal. Tawakkal requires putting in effort before entrusting the matter to Allah. It is not considered tawakkal if one only puts his hope in Allah, but refuses to do anything or put in any effort.

Third, the main factor in improving the lives of the community is to sacrifice in the path of truth. Eiduladha is a reminder for us to be people who embody the spirit of sacrifice. It has been the prime example displayed by the Prophets throughout history.

This concept holds true to this very day, for it is the reality of life on this earth. At times, we may feel burdened with the challenges that we face, to the point where some of us may feel that the world is being unfair towards us, whether globally, regionally or even locally. For example, we may feel that our achievements in our career, finances, education and so on, have not reached the levels that we aimed for, despite the countless efforts that we have put in.

What would thus be an appropriate reaction for Muslims? Is it right for us to simply whine and complain, pushing the blame to others for our conditions and our fate? We tend to blame history, the global political system, and even the supposed evil agendas of our enemies. We spend more of our time finding the fault of others for our predicament, without actually looking for a solution. If we have such an attitude, then we need to quickly snap out of it. Every trial should be seen as an opportunity from Allah to improve our conditions, and to attain Allah's pleasure by working hard and being resilient.

There are also those who become excited and are driven to make changes and improvements when faced with challenges. Sadly, they are too hasty in their efforts, and neglect important Islamic values and teachings. In fact, there are those who do not respect the law or the rules of living in a society, and cause destruction and long-term negative effects. They want to change the world in the blink of an eye. Everyone is forced to agree with them, and heed their views and opinions. Jemaah, if this attitude exists within us, then we need to stop it.

We need to embrace moderation for the benefit of all. Rasulullah s.a.w. is our example. He did not simply raise his hands and supplicate to overcome challenges, and condemn others. Neither did he overcome his struggles simply by having a strong will, without planning carefully.

If one is unwilling to make sacrifices, then one cannot attain prosperity and success in this life and the hereafter. Allah s.w.t. says in surah al-Maidah verse 35:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَابْتَغُوا إِلَيْهِ الْوَسِيلَةَ
وَجَاهِدُوا فِي سَبِيلِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٣٥﴾

Meaning: “O you who have believed, fear Allah and seek the means [of nearness] to Him and strive in His cause that you may succeed.”

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ ،
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

Blessed Jemaah,

Let us strengthen our unity and the ties of humanity on the basis of iman, goodness and love. Abstain from matters that can cause divisions and hostility among us. May Allah s.w.t grant us His guidance in raising Muslims as those who bring peace and prosperity to all around them.

Ya Rahman Ya Rahim. Forgive our sins, whether they are discreet or obvious. Help us to remember You, ya Allah, to be grateful to You for the blessings that You have showered upon us, and make us among Your servants who are pious.

Ya ‘Alim Ya Hakim. Increase our knowledge so that we will be closer to You. Grant us the benefits and merits from the

knowledge that You have taught us. Instil in us noble traits, and protect us from having evil traits. 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.

SECOND SERMON

الله أكبر 7x

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَعَادَ الْأَعْيَادَ وَكَرَّرَ. أَحْمَدُهُ سُبْحَانَهُ أَنْ
خَلَقَ وَصَوَّرَ. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ،
شَهَادَةً يَثْقُلُ بِهَا الْمِيزَانُ فِي الْمَحْشَرِ. اللَّهُمَّ فَصِّلْ وَسَلِّمْ
عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ الْفَائِزِينَ بِالشَّرَفِ
الْأَفْخَرِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا
وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

وَصَلُّوا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ عَلَى رَسُولِ الْهُدَى وَخَيْرِ الْوَرَى فَقَدْ
أَمَرَكُمْ بِذَلِكَ الْمَوْلَى جَلَّ وَعَلَا حَيْثُ قَالَ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ
يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ، يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا
تَسْلِيمًا.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى رَسُولِكَ الْمُجْتَبَى وَنَبِيِّكَ الْمُصْطَفَى
سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ أَفْضَلِ الْخَلْقِ وَخَيْرِ الْوَرَى. وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ
أَهْلِ الصِّدْقِ وَالْوَفَى.

اللَّهُمَّ وَارِضَ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ
وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقَرَابَةِ أَجْمَعِينَ وَتَابِعِيهِمْ إِلَى
يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ
الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ إِنَّكَ قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبُ الدَّعَوَاتِ وَغَافِرُ
الذُّنُوبِ وَالْخَطِيئَاتِ. رَبَّنَا ظَلَمْنَا أَنْفُسَنَا وَإِنْ لَمْ تَغْفِرْ لَنَا
وَتَرْحَمْنَا لَنَكُونَنَّ مِنَ الْخَاسِرِينَ. رَبَّنَا لَا تَرِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ
هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ. رَبَّنَا
آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.
وَأَدْخِلْنَا الْجَنَّةَ مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ. يَا اللَّهُ يَا عَزِيزُ يَا غَفَّارُ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى
وَيَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ
تَذَكَّرُونَ. فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ وَاشْكُرُوا عَلَى نِعْمِهِ
يَزِدْكُمْ وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ. وَاللَّهُ
يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.