



Islamic Religious Council of Singapore

Eidulfitri Sermon

24 May 2020M / 1 Syawal 1441H

Success within Sacrifice

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، × ٩ كَالِي

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، مَا تَعَالَتْ أَصْوَاتُ النَّاسِ بِالتَّكْبِيرِ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، مَا تَفْتَحَتْ أَبْوَابُ السَّمَاءِ فِي هَذَا الصَّبَاحِ الْكَبِيرِ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، مَا تَنَزَّلَتْ عَلَيْنَا رَحْمَةُ الْإِلَهِ الْعَلِيِّ الْقَدِيرِ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، مَا تَقَارَبَتْ قُلُوبُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ فِي هَذَا الْيَوْمِ الْمُنِيرِ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ،

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ .

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَمَدَّ أَوْلِيَاءَهُ بِالتَّوْفِيقِ، وَأَلْهَمَهُمْ كَلِمَةَ الْحَقِّ

وَالْتَّصِدِيقِ، وَأَرشَدَهُمْ إِلَى أَوْضَحِ مَحَجَّةٍ وَطَرِيقِ، وَجَعَلَهُمْ

بِرَحْمَتِهِ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ وَفَرِيقِ، أَحْمَدُهُ عَلَى النِّعْمَةِ الَّتِي بِهَا حَبَانَا،

وَأَشْكُرُهُ عَلَى الْمِلَّةِ الَّتِي بِهَا هَدَانَا.

وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ
وَ رَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَ بَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَ عَلَى آلِهِ وَ
صَحْبِهِ وَ مَنْ اهْتَدَى بِهَدْيِهِ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِي نَفْسِي وَ إِيَّاكُمْ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ
وَ طَاعَتِهِ.

Dear beloved and respected Muslims of Singapore,

Allah S.W.T. says in the holy Quran:

قُلْ يَاعِبَادِ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمْ لِلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا
حَسَنَةٌ وَأَرْضُ اللَّهِ وَاسِعَةٌ إِنَّمَا يُوَفَّى الصَّابِرُونَ أَجْرَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ ﴿١٠﴾

Which means: "Say: "O My servants who believe, fear your Lord. Those who do good deeds in this world will be rewarded with goodness, and this earth of Allah is vast. Certainly, those who are patient will be given their reward in full without measure." (Surah Az-Zumar, Verse 10).

Let us glorify and thank Allah S.W.T., the Most Compassionate,
The Most Forgiving:

He who continues to bestow upon us with blessings even as we
face very challenging and uncertain times;

He who continues to grant us good health even as this pandemic causes great pain and suffering:

He who sustains the love between us, even as we are separated from one another.

لَكَ الْحَمْدُ وَ لَكَ الشُّكْرُ وَ لَكَ النَّبَأُ الْحَسَنُ

All praises be to You, all gratitude is due to You, and every worthy praise is accorded to You.

Dear Muslims,

Eidulfitri (1 Syawal) is a day we usually celebrate victory – for our souls have been softened to obey Allah S.W.T., and our hearts nurtured towards compassion, kindness and forgiveness. Joyous are those who have achieved these goals of Ramadan – who have returned to a state of purity (*fitrah*), with God’s forgiveness and blessings. May we be placed among those whom God mentions in the Holy Qur’an:

وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَالرَّسُولَ فَأُولَئِكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِمْ مِنَ
النَّبِيِّينَ وَالصَّادِقِينَ وَالشُّهَدَاءِ وَالصَّالِحِينَ وَحَسُنَ أُولَئِكَ
رَفِيقًا



Which means: “ *Whoever obeys God and the Messenger will be among those whom He has blessed, among the messengers, the truthful, those who bear witness to the truth, and the righteous. And such excellent companions they are!*” (Surah An-Nisa’ verse 69).

This year, and in these unique times, Eidulfitri symbolises much more than just victory. It reminds us of our continued struggle and sacrifice as we play our part to protect lives and keep everyone safe. We struggle with all the swift adjustments we have had to make - to stay at home and worship with our families. Many of us feel the pain and grief of missing our loved ones, and our fellow congregants. Our overwhelming sense of longing is what makes us humans. But our reaction and responses to difficult challenges is what defines us. In these circumstances, we avoid each other not because we don’t like one another, but because we want to protect those we love. This is our sacrifice and our ibadah.

We can only do this if we embrace social responsibility as part of our religious duty. Alhamdulillah, this quality has shone through in our Singapore Muslim community. As our religion teaches us, we can be resilient and patient, and push ourselves together to the very end of this struggle.

Ya Allah Ya Ra'uf - be witness to our longing for Your mosques and our longing for our loved ones. Accept all our sacrifices in preserving the lives and safety of others.

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

Dear Muslims,

As we live through this crisis, we have learnt a lot about ourselves and our community. Our homes have been transformed into a work place, a classroom or many classrooms for some families, a place of worship and a place to rest. We therefore learnt that we have it in us to be that bit more patient and resilient to overcome the most challenging circumstances in life. So too is our religious life – when some said we should only fear God, not the virus, our community rejected such ideas as a distortion of our faith because it categorically says no to anything that causes danger and harm to human lives. Our faith in Allah means we are responsible human beings. Our fear in Allah means we are not reckless and we will not place anyone in the path of harm, because that is what Allah S.W.T. tells us to do.

This is the religion that we understand and practice. When our mosques were closed, the community understood the reasons.

Yes, we are deeply affected and saddened by this – but the community has chosen not to mull in sorrow but to rise up instead to find other ways of doing good. Yes, the mosque is a major door of goodness and unity, but our community found other equally meaningful ways of doing good. Many turned to online religious classes, and continued to give generously to those in need, especially our frontline medical workers for their break fast meals, and our migrant workers for their daily needs. Mosque leaders, religious teachers and volunteers have worked exceptionally hard to support the spiritual needs of our community.

We had a choice. The virus could have weakened and fractured our togetherness. But we opted as one community to respond positively. We become stronger when we care and look out for each other. When we strive to open doors of goodness, Allah S.W.T. will continue to open the doors of His mercy.

لَكَ الْحَمْدُ وَ لَكَ الشُّكْرُ وَ لَكَ النَّبَاءُ الْحَسَنَ

All praises be to you O Allah – who has united our hearts in facing this test. All Greatness is due unto You, O Allah, for opening many doors of goodness for us.

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

Dear Muslims,

Our ability to adjust and adapt, to be nimble and flexible, is critical to our survival and success. Because life is a constant test.

Allah S.W.T. says in His book:

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ
وَالْأَنْفُسِ وَالْثَّمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٥٥﴾

Which means: “Surely We will test you with a bit of fear and hunger, and loss in wealth and lives and fruits, but give good tidings to those who are patient.” (Surah al-Baqarah Verse 155)

Allah also says:

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا ءَامَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ ﴿٢﴾
وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ ۗ فَلْيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلْيَعْلَمَنَّ
الْكَاذِبِينَ ﴿٣﴾

Which means: *“Do people think that they will be left to say that “We believe” and they will not be tried? Indeed We have tested those before them. And Allah will make evident those who are truthful, and He will surely make evident the liars.”* (Surah al-‘Ankabut Verses 2-3).

This ability to adapt and to stay positive is all the more important now because life may never look the same when pandemics become more common. Today is a good example. Usually, after this sermon, we will visit our parents and relatives. But we know our nation’s fight to contain COVID-19 is not over by any means. Any kind of physical meeting still exposes us to the risk of COVID-19 transmission. I am certain that all of us want to protect our parents and elderly. Let us not lose the forest for the trees – let us not lose them forever or risk their safety because we want to see them today and right now. So for the time being, we have to adapt in the ways we maintain our good relations (*silaturrahmi*) with our families. This does not end nor weaken because we cannot visit them. Pick up our phones or use video calls through Skype or Zoom or Whatsapp, wish them well on this day and seek their forgiveness. And when you put down the phone or end your call, recite a prayer for them.

The Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. said in a hadith reported by Abu ad-Darda’:

مَنْ دَعَا لِأَخِيهِ بِظَهْرِ الْغَيْبِ، قَالَ الْمَلَكُ الْمُوَكَّلُ بِهِ: آمِينَ، وَلَكَ بِمِثْلِ

Which means: “He who supplicates (doa) for his brother in his absence will certainly be answered. The angel who has been appointed for this task says “Amin” – and you too will get what you ask for your brother.” (Hadith reported by Imam Muslim).

Let us continue with our exemplary conduct and responsible attitude, and not risk compromising the good efforts we have done thus far.

Dear Muslims,

The implications of a pandemic like COVID-19 on our religious life are even more serious and prolonged. We do not have a choice but to adjust quickly. The more we are prepared to accept change and make adjustments, the better the likelihood of us continuing our religious practices well. Alhamdulillah, soon we can return to our mosques. There will be new norms and limitations, but let us continue to be thankful and support our mosque leaders fully in carrying out all the measures. This is important so that we can worship safely and responsibly, so that the measures can be gradually eased over time.

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

Dear Muslims,

This pandemic offers us a moment of pause, reflection and introspection – especially on our priorities and what truly matter in life.

What has kept us strong is our faith - faith in a compassionate and merciful God, the all-knowing with His infinite knowledge and wisdom.

Allah S.W.T. says in the Quran, which means “*And no soul knows what it will earn tomorrow, and no soul knows where it will die. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing and Acquainted.*” (Surah Luqman, verse 34)

Everywhere we look now, we see one thing – our weaknesses and uncertainty as human beings.

We can and should try our best to cope with this crisis, but we still do not know if it will be enough. Faith makes us humble as we stand small before the greatness of God. We must continue to remain strongly connected to Him, even as the sweet fragrance of Ramadan fades away, and even as the crisis passes.

What this crisis has reminded us too is the sanctity of human life. Human life is a sacred gift – we should never treat it any lesser. One loss is a loss too many. To see many who have succumbed to the virus breaks our heart. To see others suffer is a tragedy. And

this is why we cannot appreciate enough the efforts of all healthworkers who sacrifice their safety to save the lives of others. The least we can do is not to add to their risks and burden. We must stay safe, and ensure that everyone around us also remain safe, as part of our care and concern for our healthworkers.

This crisis also reminds us that our lives are meaningful because we have our family, our loves ones and our community. So treasure them and tell them we love and appreciate them. We will not have them with us forever. Do not neglect them when we can already leave our homes and get busy with our work.

Finally, this crisis forces us to rethink our habits and choices. For the sake of our children and future generations, we need to pursue a path of sustainability and think of the long-term consequences of all our actions, habits and choices. The environment, of which we are its stewards, is reeling from our inhibited zeal to over-consume, upsetting the natural balance God has put in place. Let us adopt moderation in all our habits and not leave behind a world that has become dangerous for our future generations.

Let us walk in the footsteps of our beloved Prophet Muhammad S.A.W. whose life was never for a moment, easy nor comfortable. It was full of challenges and difficulties. He was always tested, physically, spiritually, emotionally – within his own family, his

companions, his community. Yet, the Prophet S.A.W. never once blamed God, nor felt defeated. He picked himself up everytime, and inspired all around him to stay positive and remain committed to the path of goodness. He truly believed in God's promise – "and whoever fears God – He will make for him a way out" (Surah At-Talaq verse 2) and "Allah bring ease after hardship" (Surah At-Talaq verse 7). So we too, should place our trust in Allah S.W.T. that He will bring about ease and help us. Ameen.

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

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.

Second Sermon

1 Syawal 1441H

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 بِهِ الْمِيزَانَ 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
أَمَرَكَ 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.

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

اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ الْحَمْدُ كَمَا يَنْبَغِي لِجَلَالِ وَجْهِكَ الْكَرِيمِ وَلِعَظِيمِ سُلْطَانِكَ، اللَّهُمَّ
إِنَّا بِبَابِكَ وَاقِفُونَ، وَبِرَحْمَتِكَ مُعَلِّقُونَ، وَبِكَرَمِكَ طَامِعُونَ، وَلِعَفْوِكَ قَاصِدُونَ،
وَلِرِضَاكَ رَاجِعُونَ، فَلَا تَحْرِمْنَا مِنْ حُبِّكَ وَعَفْوِكَ وَرِضَاكَ.

اللَّهُمَّ ارْحَمْ ضَعْفَنَا، وَفَرِّجْ هَمَّنَا، وَنَفِّسْ كَرْبَنَا، يَا إِلَهَ الْعَالَمِينَ.

إِلَهَنَا مَا تَفَضَّلْتَ بِهِ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ عَلَيْنَا فَتَمِّمَهُ، وَمَا وَهَبْتَ لَنَا مِنْ كَرَمِكَ فَلَا
تَسْلُبْهُ، وَمَا سَتَرْتَهُ عَلَيْنَا بِحِلْمِكَ فَلَا تَكْشِفْهُ، وَمَا عَلِمْتَهُ مِنْ سُوءٍ مِنَّا فَاعْفِرْهُ،
إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

اللَّهُمَّ اصْرِفْ عَنَّا الْوَبَاءَ وَالْبَلَاءَ وَقِنَا شَرَّ الدَّاءِ، بِلُطْفِكَ وَرَحْمَتِكَ، إِنَّكَ عَلَي
كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ.

Ya Allah, Ya Sami', Ya 'Alim,

Only You know of our pain. Only You see the tears of our grief.
Only You hear the cries of our hearts and souls. Only You see our
fears and weaknesses.

Ya Allah, Ya Rahman, Ya Rahim,

On this beautiful morning, we raise our hands and stand before You
in all humility and weakness – We ask You to look at each of us
with Your mercy and forgiveness. Bless our parents, our spouse,
our children with Your care and forgiveness. Protect them from all
harm and danger. Grant our elderly safety and health.

Ya Allah, Ya Latif, Ya Khabir,

Ramadan came and went – but the doors of Your mercy, your
forgiveness and kindness remain open. We ask You to continue to
guide us and help us stay on the right path. Your blessings are
countless, yet we forget them and we become blind to them once
we face difficulties. Please make us your grateful servants. Grant
us patience in all that we do.

Ya Allah, Ya Hayyu, Ya Qayyum,

Protect our community, our society and our nation. Help us to stay united and preserve the love for each other in our hearts. Grant us strength and perserverance to overcome every difficulty and challenge. We seek Your sympathy and help.

وَصَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَىٰ آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَسَلَّمَ،

وَالْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ