

Islamic Religious Council of Singapore Friday Khutbah 26 July 2019 / 23 Zulkaedah 1440H Being Conscious of the Hereafter

اَخْمُدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ، وَأَمَرَنَا بِالتَّقْوَى وَالْخُلُقِ الْكُويمِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَالْخُلُقِ الْكَرِيمِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى فَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللهِ، إِتَّقُوا اللهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ، وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Blessed Friday congregation,

Let us strengthen and increase our faith and taqwa in Allah s.w.t. One can only attain success in this world and the hereafter with these two important qualities: faith and taqwa.

Beloved brothers,

The qualities of iman and taqwa are not invariable – they change from time to time, and it is hence critical to guard them. One of

the best ways to do this is to be in constant remembrance of the Day of Judgement. Reminding ourselves of the hereafter makes us more aware of our actions and speech. When we come to the realisation that not a single one of our deeds escapes the angels' records, and that every action will be brought to account and witnessed by all of humankind on the Mahsyar, we would surely be more afraid of committing transgressions towards Allah s.w.t.

My brothers,

Allah s.w.t. describes the profoundly grim reality of the Hellfire with the intention of evoking fear in our hearts from doing evil deeds, committing sins and transgressing. Let us listen to verses 39-44 of Surah Ar-Rahman, where Allah s.w.t. tells us:

Meaning: "Then on that day none will be asked about his sin among men or jinn. So which of the favours of your Lord would you deny? The criminals will be known by their marks, and they will be seized by the forelocks and the feet. So which of the favours of your Lord would you deny? This is Hell, which the criminals deny. They will go around between it and scalding water (heated to the utmost degree)."

My dear brothers,

Look at how Allah depicts the state of affairs in the hereafter! They who have sinned will be held accountable for their actions and there will be no debating in front of Allah s.w.t.

On that day, our mouths will be sealed, but our limbs and senses will speak. They will be witnesses in front of Allah to the deeds of their owners. Allah s.w.t. says:

Meaning: "Until, when they reach it, their hearing and their eyes and their skins will testify against them of what they used to do. And they will say to their skins: "Why have you testified against us?" They will say: "We were made to speak by Allah, who has made everything speak; and He created you the first time, and to Him you are returned." (Surah Fussilat, verse 20-21).

Subhanallah. This is a reminder from Allah s.w.t. to reflect and evaluate ourselves and our deeds. Have we fulfilled our

obligations towards Allah? Have we fulfilled our prayers, zakat and all of what He has commanded us to do? Have we carried out our responsibilities as His servants? Brothers, let us also question ourselves if we have wronged the people around us. Our children, our spouses, our parents – have we satisfied their rights?

Brothers, we all wish for our affairs in the hereafter to be easy. We yearn for Allah's forgiveness and grace. We all hope to be among those whose faces beam with joy and those who would be so proud when receiving their book of deeds, that they show it off to others. These are those mentioned by Allah in the Quran:

Meaning: "So as for he who is given his record in his right hand, he will say, "Here, read my record! Indeed, I was certain that I would be meeting my account." So he will be in a pleasant life." (Surah Al-Haqqah, verse 19-21)

This happiness that we wish to have in the hereafter – it all begins with good deeds here in this world.

My brothers,

Islam teaches us that one of the deeds that qualifies us to receive Allah's mercy on the Day of Judgement is helping to ease others' affairs. The Prophet s.a.w. said: "...whosoever fulfils his brother's needs, Allah will fulfil his needs; if one relieves a Muslim of his troubles, Allah will relieve his troubles on the Day of Resurrection; and if anyone covers up a Muslim (i.e. his sins), Allah will cover him up (i.e. his sins) on the Resurrection Day". (Al-Bukhari)

Brothers! Let us strive together so that we may live a life of contentment, joy and pleasure in the hereafter. Let us be among those who receive their book of deeds with pride, by guarding our actions and speech, as well as increasing our good deeds.

We ask Allah to preserve and strengthen our iman and taqwa through our good deeds and grant us an easy reckoning in the hereafter. Amin ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

بَارَكَ الله لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ، أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمِ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ اللهَ الْمُطْيِمِ نَى وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا اللهَ اللهَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِيْنَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِمِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِيْنَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِمِيْنَ.