

**STEADFAST IN PRACTICING THE SUNNAH**

21 October 2016AD / 20 Muharram 1438H

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنُسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ
 أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يُضِلَّهُ فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ وِليًا مُرْشِدًا.
 أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ
 عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ دَعَا بِدَعْوَتِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.
 أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ.
 أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَذِكْرًا ﴿١١﴾

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

Living in a finite world is surely incomparable in value to the eternal life of the Hereafter. What is the point of being a great and successful person in this world if in the Hereafter we are dragged and thrown into Hell, where the punishment would be painful beyond belief. Strengthen the conviction within ourselves, with the drive and determination to perform all that has been commanded by Allah SWT and to avoid all that He has prohibited. May the firmness of conviction embodied within us assure our safety and success in this world and in the hereafter.

On this blessed Friday, the *khatib* would like to invite the congregation to jointly reflect upon a sermon entitled, "**Steadfast in Practicing the Sunnah**".

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,



Indeed, the arrival of Rasulullah SAW was the greatest gift of Allah SWT upon mankind. There is no better role model to follow than him. We should emulate his personality, character and mannerisms in our daily life. It is true that there are many leaders in this world whom we can idolise, but do they all have the quality of character and personality like him? Of course, the answer is *no*. Even in the book entitled "**100 Most Influential Persons in History**" written by Michael H. Hart, the Prophet Muhammad SAW has been placed at the number one position. This clearly shows that Rasulullah SAW is the best and most special person among all human beings. Not only was he able to change people, but he was also able to change the world after his death.

Therefore, let us strive to emulate the way of life of Rasulullah SAW by practicing what he had carried out and performed in his life, in terms of worship, manners or even Islamic attitude, in order to achieve the pleasures and graces of Allah SWT. This coincides with the words of Allah SWT in Surah Al-Ahzab verse 21:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ لِّمَن كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا ﴿٢١﴾

Which means: "You have indeed, in the Messenger of Allah, a beautiful pattern (of conduct) for any one whose hope is in the graces and blessings of Allah and the Final Day, and who engages much in the Praise of Allah."

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

Among the most favoured deeds, or *Sunnah*, of Rasulullah SAW is the *Tahajjud* prayers. It is one of the voluntary prayers performed by Rasulullah SAW that we are very much encouraged to perform. This prayer is performed with a minimum of 2 *rakaats*, or more than 2 *rakaats* if able to.

Come, let us constantly perform the *Tahajjud* prayers, up to the point that we will regret not performing it. Sacrifice some sleep at night in order to be awarded a high position and to receive priceless rewards from Allah SWT, as mentioned in Surah Al-Isra' verse 79:



وَمِنَ اللَّيْلِ فَتَهَجَّدْ بِهِ، نَافِلَةً لَّكَ عَسَىٰ أَن يَبْعَثَكَ رَبُّكَ مَقَامًا مَّحْمُودًا ﴿٧٨﴾

Which means: “And pray in the small hours of the morning: (it would be) an additional prayer (or spiritual profit) for you: soon will your Lord raise you to a Station of Praise and Glory!”

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

Rasulullah SAW also performed the voluntary *Dhuha* prayer as a daily practice in his life. It is performed from the time the sun has risen to a certain height, until just before the time for Zuhur prayers. It can be performed two, four, six, eight or twelve *rakaats* according to the will of each individual.

The *Dhuha* prayer does not necessarily have to take place in the mosque or mussola. We can perform it in the office or at work before starting the day’s work. It only takes 5 minutes to perform and will not interfere with the productivity of our work. Furthermore, the *Dhuha* prayer has a remarkably good virtue, as told in the hadith Qudsi recorded by Imam Abu Daud rahimahullah and narrated by Nu’aym bin Hammar RA, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:

يَقُولُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ: يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ، لَا تُعْجِزْنِي مِنْ أَرْبَعِ رَكَعَاتٍ فِي أَوَّلِ نَهَارِكَ، أَكْفِكَ آخِرَهُ

Which means: “Allah SWT said: ‘Sons of Adam, do not fail in performing four rak`ahs in the beginning of the day (the time of *Dhuha*) as it will be sufficient for the latter part of the day.’”

Based on the hadith above, the voluntary *Dhuha* prayers is likened to a key that will open the eagerly awaited door of sustenance. Therefore, let us make the *Dhuha* prayers a daily practice in order for the sustenance we receive be increased with the permission of Allah SWT.

**Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,**

Rasulullah SAW was also fond of voluntary fasting. One of the voluntary fasts practiced by Rasulallah SAW was the Three (3) Day fast performed every thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth day of every Hijri month. This is also known as the White Days Fast (*Yaum al-Bidh*). Rasulallah SAW had also fast on Mondays and Thursdays, on the day of *Arafah* (which is on 9th of ZulHijjah), on the day of *Ashura* (which is on 10th of Muharram) and Six Days in Shawwal.

Indeed, there are many hadith that explains the advantages of voluntary fasts mentioned above. Among the hadiths that explain the virtues of fasting three days in each month, is the hadith recorded by Imam Al-Bukhari and narrated by 'Abdullah bin' Amr bin Al-Aas, where Rasulallah SAW was reported to have said:

صَوْمُ ثَلَاثَةِ أَيَّامٍ صَوْمُ الدَّهْرِ كُلِّهِ

Which means: “Whoever fasts three days every month it is as if he had fast all his life.

Such is the reward to be gained by those who fast as practiced by Rasulallah SAW. Therefore, let us train ourselves to perform voluntary fasting in order to obtain as many rewards as possible from Allah SWT.

Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,

Be aware that Rasulallah SAW also emphasized on the practice of asking for forgiveness through *istighfar* on a daily basis. Although Rasulallah SAW was a man above any wrongdoing and safeguarded from committing any sin or error, he still made the practice of asking for forgiveness a routine in his daily life. This is based on the hadith recorded by Imam Al-Bukhari and narrated by Abu Hurairah Rahimahullah RA where Rasulallah SAW was reported to have said:

وَاللَّهِ إِنِّي لَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ فِي الْيَوْمِ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ سَبْعِينَ مَرَّةً.



Which means: "I swear by Allah that I seek Allah's Pardon and turn to Him in repentance more than seventy times a day."

As normal human beings who cannot escape from committing sins and wrongdoings, we must continuously seek forgiveness from Allah SWT, as taught by Rasulallah SAW. Indeed, the door of forgiveness and mercy of Allah SWT is always open for His servants who are repentant.

To conclude today's sermon, the *khatib* would like to invite the congregation to reflect upon the following as a guide for us all:

First: Practice and perform the *Sunnah* of Rasulallah SAW throughout our lives.

Second: *Tahajjud* and *Dhuha* prayers as well as fasting are among the *Sunnah* that must be adopted and practiced in order to receive mercy and love from Allah SWT.

Third: The *Sunnah* of asking for forgiveness through *Istighfar* every day is a practice that puts us in the graces and mercy of Allah SWT.

As stated by Allah SWT in Surah Al-Ahzab, verses 45-46:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ
يَا أَيُّهَا النَّبِيُّ إِنَّا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ شَاهِدًا وَمُبَشِّرًا وَنَذِيرًا ﴿٤٥﴾ وَدَاعِيًا إِلَى اللَّهِ بِإِذْنِهِ وَسِرَاجًا مُنِيرًا





Which means: “O Prophet! Truly We have sent you as a Witness, a Bearer of Glad Tidings, and Warning (to those who are unrepentant), And as one who invites to Allah's (grace) by His leave, and as a lamp that spreads light.”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنَّا وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.



SECOND SERMON

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَبِإِيَّاسِ الصَّالِحِينَ، وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ، وَلَا عُدْوَانَ إِلَّا عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ، وَالصَّلَاةُ
وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى إِمَامِ الْمُرْسَلِينَ، وَقُدُورَةِ النَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ
بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، الْمَلِكُ الْحَقُّ الْمُبِينُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا
مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، صَادِقُ الْوَعْدِ الْأَمِينِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَكُونُوا مَعَ الصَّادِقِينَ، وَحَافِظُوا عَلَى الطَّاعَةِ
وَحُضُورِ الْجُمُعَةِ مَعَ الْمُصَلِّينَ. وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى أَمْرُهُ بِأَمْرٍ بَدَأَ فِيهِ
بِنَفْسِهِ وَتَنَّى بِمَلَائِكَتِهِ الْمُقَرَّبِينَ. فَقَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى مُخْبِرًا وَآمِرًا بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ :

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا



اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى
آلِ سَيِّدِنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى
سَيِّدِنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا إِبْرَاهِيمَ فِي الْعَالَمِينَ إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مُجِيدٌ.



وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْأَرْبَعَةِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيًّا،
وَعَنْ أَزْوَاجِ نَبِيِّنَا الْمُطَهَّرَاتِ وَعَنْ أَهْلِ بَيْتِهِ وَقَرَابَتِهِ وَسَائِرِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ وَمَنْ
تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. وَارْضَ عَنَّا بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ
أَنْزِلِ الرَّحْمَةَ عَلَى السَّلَاطِينِ الْكِرَامِ وَوَلَاةِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ الْعِظَامِ الَّذِينَ قَضَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَبِهِ
كَانُوا يَعْدِلُونَ، وَخُصُوصًا عَلَى سِرِّي قُدُوكَ بِكَيْنِدَا يَغْ دَفَرْتَوَانِ اِكُوغِ الْمُعْتَصِمِ بِاللَّهِ
مُحِبِّ الدِّينِ تَوَانِكُو الْحَاجِّ عَبْدُ الْحَلِيمِ مُعْظَمُ شَاهِ ابْنِ الْمَرْحُومِ سُلْطَانِ بَدَلِي شَاهِ،
وَعَلَى سِرِّي قُدُوكَ بِكَيْنِدَا رَاجِ فَرْمَايسُورِي اِكُوغِ تَوَانِكُو حَاجِهِ حَمِينِهِ.

اللَّهُمَّ أَطْلُ عُمْرَهُمَا مُصْلِحِينَ لِلْمُؤَدِّينَ وَالرَّعِيَّةِ وَالْبِلَادِ، وَبَلِّغْ مَقَاصِدَهُمَا لِطَرِيقِ
الْهُدَى وَالرَّشَادِ. اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ مَالِيزِيَا وَسَائِرَ بِلَادِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ طَيْبَةً آمِنَةً مُطْمَئِنَّةً رَاحِيَةً،
يَا رُؤُوفُ بِالْعِبَادِ.

اللَّهُمَّ أَنْصِرْ مَنْ نَصَرَ الدِّينَ، وَأَخْذُلْ مَنْ خَذَلَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَأَعْلِ كَلِمَتَكَ إِلَى يَوْمِ
الدِّينِ، وَدَمِّرْ أَعْدَاءَكَ أَعْدَاءَ الدِّينِ.

O, Allah, You are the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful, we are thankful for all the favours and blessings that You have bestowed upon us, grant to us and to our leaders guidance and direction, strengthen the unity among us, join our hearts to act in Your way, facilitate all our affairs, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, invigorate our souls with good morals, lead us to the path which You approve of, strengthen our faith when



faced with all forms of trials and tests from You, preserve the peace, security and tranquillity of our nation Malaysia, especially the area of our Federal Territories. Protect us from any form of upheaval, turmoil and chaos.

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ. رَبَّنَا
آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.
عِبَادَ اللَّهِ،

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَايَ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ
وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٩٠﴾

فَاذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُواهُ عَلَىٰ نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ
وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.