

PRESS RELEASE

ADDRESS IN ENGLISH READ BY ENCHE SHAARI TADIN,  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE,  
IN HIS CAPACITY AS VICE-CHAIRMAN, OF THE PROPHET  
MOHAMED'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE, AT A TEA  
PARTY, ORGANISED BY THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY OF SINGAPORE  
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE PROPHET MOHAMMED BIRTHDAY AT  
RAFFLES HOTEL, ON THURSDAY 27TH, JUNE, 1968 AT 4.30 P.M.

It gives us great pleasure on behalf of the Muslim Community of Singapore to welcome you all to this tea party in celebration of the birthday of our Prophet Muhammed (may the peace and blessings of Allah be upon Him). We are particularly pleased to welcome the Honourable the Chief Justice and our other non-Muslim distinguished friends for joining us in this celebration today for our religion. Islam, is not a narrow sectarian creed but teaches us to be friendly with all and to respect and honour each other. We believe that God the Creator of the Universe is the God of all of us - He is the Lord of all the world: (Rabul Alamin). Our Prophet Muhammed was sent not for the Muslims alone but as a Mercy for all creations, (Rahmatun - i.e. Alamin). Islam teaches us to respect each other and to honour each other. The Holy Quran says:-

"The Messenger believes in what has been revealed to him from his Lord as do men of faith. Each one of them believes in God, His angels, His revealed books and His messengers. "We make no distinction they say, between one and another of His messengers." (2:285)

In Islam there is effective provision for peace and understanding, as it is not concerned with one race, nation or class but proclaims that mankind is one entity. The Holy Quran says:-

"O mankind! We created you from a single pair of male and female and made you into nations and tribes that you may know each other, not that you may despise one another. Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of God is he who is the most righteous of you. (49:13)

In our relations with our fellow citizens Islam teaches us to do good and treat with kindness and charity. The Holy Quran says:-

"And do good - to parents, orphans, those in need, neighbours who are near, neighbours who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer you meet - for God loves not the arrogant, the vain-glorious nor those who are niggardly or onjoin niggardliness or hide the bounties which God has bestowed on them". (4:36-37).

In international relations Islam advocates the peaceful settlement of disputes with justice but at the same time it condemns aggression. The Holy Quran says:-

"If two parties among the believers fall into a quarrel, make you peace between them; but if one of them transgresses beyond bounds against the other, then fight you all against the one that transgresses until it complies with the Command of God. But if it complies, then make peace between them with justice and be fair, for God loves those who are fair and just." (49:9)

Islam teaches allegiance to truth and righteous cause and not to any community or country. The Holy Prophet is reported to have said: "He is not one of us who sides with his tribe in aggression, and he is not one of us who calls others to help him in tyranny, and he is not one of us who dies while assisting his tribe in injustice. Islam advocates on the other hand that oppression and aggression should be opposed by concerted action. The Holy Quran says:-

"And why should you not fight in the cause of God and of those who being weak, are ill-treated and oppressed." (4:75)

Islam does not countenance arrogance or conceit. The Holy Quran says:-

"And swell not your cheek for pride at men nor walk in insolence through the earth; for God loves not the arrogant boaster." (31:18) and again:-

"If any do seek for glory and power, to God belongs all glory one power, to him mount up all words of purity. It is He who exalts each deed of righteousness. Those that lay plots of evil - for them is a penalty terrible; and the plotting of such will be void of result". (35:10)

The message of Islam is well summarised in the words of the Holy Quran:-

"O you who believe! Stand out firmly for God as witnesses to fair dealing and let not the hatred of others to you make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: that is next to piety; and fear God, for God is well-acquainted with all that you do". (5:8)

It is right that in commemorating the birthday of the Prophet, the Messenger of God, we shall recall some of the teachings which he conveyed from God to mankind.

Let us once again thank you all for accepting our invitation and coming to join with us in celebrating the birthday of our Prophet.