

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا تَوْبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَّصُوحًا عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ
أَن يُكَفِّرَ عَنْكُم سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيُدْخِلَكُم جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا
الْأَنْهَارُ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
اللَّهُمَّ أَعِنَّا عَلَى شُكْرِكَ وَذِكْرِكَ وَحُسْنِ عِبَادَتِكَ.

CLIMATE OF MERCY AND FORGIVENESS: THREE HOLY MONTHS

Honorable Muslims!

Our hearts will once again find tranquility with the gentle breezes of the season of mercy. The three holy months are approaching once again, bringing joy to the hearts of believers. Once again, this year, the long-awaited reunion is drawing near. The barakah of the month of Rajab, the mercy of Sha'ban, and the forgiveness of Ramadan have already begun to manifest their presence from now. We recite the supplication that our Prophet (saw) taught us: **“O Allah! Help me remember You, to be grateful to You, and to worship You in an excellent manner.”**¹

Dear Believers!

On the night that connects next Thursday to Friday we will reach the month of Rajab, which is the first of the three holy months, insha Allah. We will welcome these blessed months with Laylat al-Ragha'ib. We will remember once again that our desire should be directed only to Allah (swt) and His Messenger (saw).

Endless praise be to our Almighty Lord (swt) for graciously bringing us closer to these exceptional months. Salat and salam be to our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw), who taught us how to observe these blessed days, as well as his family and companions. May the Night of Ragha'ib and the three holy months be blessed for all of us.

Dear Muslims!

The three holy months are a climate of mercy and forgiveness when Allah the Almighty showers the believers with blessings and favors. It is a blessed period of time when we reflect upon our purpose of creation over and over again and review our covenant of servitude. The three holy months provide us with the opportunity to purify our minds and hearts, which we sometimes taint by greed and avarice. It serves as a reminder for us to seek refuge in Allah (swt) with

our entire being, and to earnestly repent for our mistakes and sins. Our Almighty Lord's (swt) call in this regard is very clear: **“O believers! Turn to Allah in sincere repentance, so your Lord may absolve you of your sins and admit you into Gardens, under which rivers flow...”**²

Dear Believers!

Our Lord's (swt) door of mercy and forgiveness is always wide open. So, let us seize the three holy months as an opportunity to enter through that door with faith, worship, and good morals. The grace and favor of Allah (swt) are upon the believers. Therefore, let us increase our acts of charity and benevolence, and extend care to the victimized, the oppressed, and the needy. Our Lord's (swt) mercy and compassion encompass all existence. Therefore, let us put aside hatred, envy and enmity, and strengthen our bonds of love and brotherhood.

Dear Muslims!

According to our great religion, Islam, worship and devotion are not limited to certain days and nights. Every moment is valuable in the pursuit of earning the pleasure of our Lord (swt). Allah the Almighty states, **“وَاعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ”** **“Worship your Lord until the inevitable comes your way.”**³ So, let us live a life full of faith, ikhlas, sincerity and taqwa in order to attain the bliss of both this world and the Hereafter. Let us endeavor to illuminate our hearts, dimmed by worldliness and selfishness, through acts of worship. Let us seek forgiveness from our Lord (swt) for our mistakes and sins through our Tawbah Nasuh (genuine repentance). Let us persist in our noble stance to bring an end to oppression and violence in various parts of the world, particularly in Palestine, and strive to bring smiles to the faces of the oppressed.

Dear Believers!

Almost a century ago, tens of thousands of our heroic forefathers marched towards martyrdom on the Allahuekber Mountains in defense of homeland and sacred values. I commemorate with mercy and gratitude all our martyrs who sacrificed their lives for our independence and future, especially the martyrs of Sarikamiş. May Allah the Almighty render our heavenly homeland, every inch of which has been kneaded with the blood of our martyrs, enduring, and may Allah bring happiness to our great nation, the beacon of hope for the oppressed and the victimized.

¹ Ibn Hanbal, II, 299.

² Tahrir, 66/8.

³ Hijr, 15/99.