

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ

مِنَ الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

أَتَاكُمْ رَمَضَانُ شَهْرٌ مُبَارَكٌ، فَرَضَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ عَلَيْكُمْ

صِيَامَهُ، تُفْتَحُ فِيهِ أَبْوَابُ السَّمَاءِ، وَتُغْلَقُ فِيهِ أَبْوَابُ

الْجَحِيمِ ...

THE CLIMATE OF RAMADAN

Honorable Muslims!

The month of Ramadan al-Sharif, the month of mercy and forgiveness, has come upon us. This coming Thursday, we shall observe the first day of this blessed month.

Ramadan al-Sharif comes to us with the Holy Qur'an. As Allah the Almighty has declared, **“Ramadan is the month in which the Qur'an was revealed as a guide for humanity with clear proofs of guidance and the decisive authority.”**¹ Indeed, the Holy Qur'an, our guide in life, illuminates our path. It is a healing for our hearts and a remedy for our afflictions. The Qur'an honors us. It protects us from evil. It adorns us with its morality. It bestows generosity upon us through its bounty. And through its intercession, it admits us into Paradise.

Dear Believers!

Ramadan al-Sharif comes to us with fasting. Fasting brings health to our bodies, tranquility to our souls, and peace to our homes. Fasting disciplines us and draws us nearer to the pleasure of Allah the Almighty. It purifies our hearts from the stains of sin and leads us to taqwa. Concerning this matter, Allah the Almighty declares, **“O believers! Fasting is prescribed for you—as it was for those before you— so perhaps you will become mindful of Allah.”**²

Esteemed Muslims!

Ramadan al-Sharif comes to us with mercy. It reminds us of unity, togetherness, and brotherhood, as well as mutual assistance and solidarity. Ramadan al-Sharif makes us an ummah—with its orphans, its rich

and its poor, its young, its old, and its children. It brings us into close fellowship with our relatives, our neighbors, and our brothers and sisters in need. It contributes to strengthening the love and friendship among us. In a noble hadith, the Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, **“Do not cut off one another, nor desert one another, nor hate one another, nor envy one another. Be, O worshippers of Allah, brothers.”**³

Distinguished Believers!

Ramadan al-Sharif comes to us with blessings. Our pre-dawn hours are illuminated by sahur and tahajjud, in which sins are forgiven. Throughout the day, our hearts attain serenity through the muqabalah of the Qur'an. Our homes are enlivened by iftar tables, the source of intimacy and affection, and our mosques are filled with joy through the tarawih prayers we perform enthusiastically together with our families. Sadaqah, fitrah, and zakat given from the halal earnings we have obtained through the sweat of our brow strengthen our brotherhood.

Noble Muslims!

Just as the months of Rajab and Sha'ban, through Laylat al-Ragha'ib, Laylat al-Mi'raj, and Laylat al-Bara'ah, have prepared us for Ramadan al-Sharif, let us also prepare our homes, our workplaces, our mosques, and our streets for Ramadan al-Sharif. Let us open wide the doors of goodness and draw our hearts closer to one another. Let us reflect the divine messages of the Qur'an in our lives. Let us embrace the wisdom of Ramadan al-Sharif—its beginning mercy, its middle forgiveness, and its end deliverance from the punishment of Hellfire.

On this occasion, we extend our congratulations in advance for Ramadan al-Sharif. We conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (saw): **“There has come to you Ramadan, a blessed month, in which Allah has enjoined you to fast. In it the gates of heaven are opened and the gates of Hell are closed...”**⁴

¹ Baqarah, 2/185.

² Baqarah 2/183.

³ Tirmidhi, Birr wa Sila, 24.

⁴ Nasa'i, Siyam, 5.

