

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ قَالُوا رَبُّنَا اللَّهُ ثُمَّ اسْتَقَامُوا فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ
وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْجَنَّةِ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا
جَزَاءً بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ أَحَبَّ الْعَمَلِ إِلَيَّ اللَّهُ أَدَوْمُهُ وَإِنْ قَلَّ.

TURNING LIFE INTO RAMADAN

Honorable Muslims!

Our Exalted Lord has bestowed upon us two eids on the same day this year. As we experience the first day of the Eid al-Fitr, we believers are gathered together, praise be to Allah, to perform the Friday prayer.

Dear Believers!

The Ramadan al-Sharif was a school in which we attained many material and spiritual merits. During this blessed month, our mosques overflowed with congregation and our hearts with affection. Beneath our domes, where the takbirs and salawats were raised, we all together experienced the joy of being the ummah of the Prophet Muhammad. We were blessed through sahur. Through fasting, we purified our souls. With the Noble Qur'an, we illuminated our hearts. Through the tarawih and tahajjud prayers, we brought peace to our nights. With our zakat and fitrah, we experienced the joy of sharing and helping one another. We took account of the past and sought forgiveness from Allah the Almighty for our mistakes and sins.

Esteemed Muslims!

The path to being a servant with whom Allah the Almighty is pleased, and a Muslim with whom people are satisfied, is possible by turning life into Ramadan. Turning life into Ramadan is achieved by striving to recite the Holy Qur'an and by endeavoring to be a believer in the manner that it commands.

Turning life into Ramadan is achieved by placing the remembrance of our Lord upon our tongues and in our hearts, and by performing our prayers, which are the greatest form of remembrance. In accordance with the noble hadith, “Whoever fasts the Ramadan fast and then adds six days from the month of Shawwal, it is as if he has fasted the entire year,”¹ it is also achieved by fasting during the month of Shawwal in which we are now.

Honorable Believers!

Turning life into Ramadan is achieved by caring for the needy and the orphans and by striving to make goodness prevail upon the earth throughout the year. It is achieved by equipping ourselves with insight and discernment against those who wish to surround us with a ring of fire, and by maintaining unity and solidarity.

Turning life into Ramadan is achieved by blessing our trade with halal earnings. It is achieved by establishing love and mercy within our families and justice and fairness in social life. In short, turning life into Ramadan means living a life in which we guard our hands, our chastity, and our tongues. Our Exalted Lord gives the following glad tidings to those who live such a life: “Surely those who say, ‘Our Lord is Allah,’ and then remain steadfast—there will be no fear for them, nor will they grieve. It is they who will be the residents of Paradise, staying there forever, as a reward for what they used to do.”²

Noble Muslims!

Let us not forget this matter: the education received in the school of Ramadan attains its true meaning when it is carried over into an entire lifetime. We conclude this week's khutbah with the following response of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) to the person who asked, “Which deed is most beloved to Allah?”: “The deeds most pleasing to Allah are those which are done continuously, even if they are small.”³

¹ Muslim, Siyam, 204.

² Ahqaf, 46/13,14.

³ Muslim, Musafirin, 216.

