

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْعَصْرِ ① إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ ② إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا

وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَّصُوا بِالحَقِّ وَتَوَّصُوا بِالصَّبْرِ ③

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

قَالَ اللَّهُ: يَسُبُّ بَنُو آدَمَ الدَّهْرَ، وَأَنَا الدَّهْرُ، بِيَدِي اللَّيْلُ

وَالنَّهَارُ.

WE CAN TRANSFORM EVERY MOMENT INTO ETERNAL GAIN

Honorable Muslims!

Time is both a great blessing and an important trial created by Allah the Almighty. In fact, the length or brevity of time is related to the emotions we experience. There are moments so precious that they are worth a lifetime; we do not wish for them to pass. And there are times when sorrow surrounds us from all sides, and we wish for them to end quickly. There are moments when our soul is filled with peace and our hearts are uplifted with joy. And there are moments that descend upon us like a nightmare, constricting our hearts. Nevertheless, there are certain times when Allah the Almighty has fully opened the gates of mercy and forgiveness and bestowed them as a gift upon His servants. Indeed, the month of Rajab, which is the first of the Three Sacred Months that we will welcome this coming Sunday, and the Laylat al-Raghaib, which we will observe on the night connecting Thursday to Friday, are gifts from our Exalted Lord to us.

O Young Brother and Sister!

You are living through the most blessed period of the life that has been granted to you. You are among those whom the Prophet Muhammad (saw) mentioned as being under the shade of the Throne on the Day of Judgment, when there will be no other shade.¹ It is in your hands to spend this period of your life either with beneficial deeds that will lead to eternal happiness, or with mistakes that will later bring regret. It is up to you to either bless your time by bringing your forehead to the ground in prostration, or to waste it with intoxicants that cloud your mind and substances that endanger your health. It is in your hands to either spend your days in fasting and attain tranquility, or to turn your life into a prison through fornication and obscenity. It is in your hands to become a neighbor of our Prophet (saw) in the eternal realm through a small act of kindness or by

bringing joy to an orphan. And it is also in your hands to ruin both your own life and the lives of your loved ones through gambling and games of chance that destroy families.

O Mothers and Fathers!

Just like time itself, our children are also entrusted to us. Neglect stands foremost among the reasons that lead them into errors and sins. Our children expect us to value them and to be by their side both in times of ease and in times of hardship. Indeed, the shadow of the days when the rains of mercy will pour down in abundance has fallen upon us, alhamdulillah. The Three Sacred Months and the Kandil nights are a spiritual atmosphere that serve as a door to repentance, a window to hope, and a healing for the heart. Making the most of these blessed times by joining hand in hand and heart to heart with our children, sharing the same table in our homes and the same row in our mosques, will be our greatest gain.

Distinguished Believers!

Our beloved Prophet (saw) conveys to us in a hadith qudsi that our Exalted Lord says: **“The son of Adam abuses time. Yet I am the One Who created time! Night and day are in My hand.”**² Indeed, O my dear brothers and sisters! What is incumbent upon us is to recognize the value of time and to transform each of our moments into eternal gain. It is to spend a lifetime in obedience to our Lord and in the footsteps of our Prophet (saw). It is to be deeply engaged with our guide for life, the Holy Qur’an, and to bring blessings into our homes with its light. It is to strive not for our whims and desires, but for the pleasure of our Lord. It is to leave behind our harmful habits and to protect both ourselves and our children from the torment of Hell.

I extend my congratulations in advance on the arrival of the Three Sacred Months and the Laylat al-Raghaib, and I would like to conclude this Friday’s khutbah with the translation of Surah al-‘Asr, which shows us the ways to transform our fleeting lives into everlasting happiness: **“By the ‘passage of’ time! Surely humanity is in ‘grave’ loss, except those who have faith, do good, and urge each other to the truth, and urge each other to perseverance.”**³

¹ Bukhari, Adhan, 36.

² Bukhari, Adab, 101.

³ ‘Asr, 103/1-3.

