

Date: 21.04.2023

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

رَبُّ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا فَاعْبُدْهُ وَاصْطَبِرْ

لِعِبَادَتِهِ.

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ أَحَبَّ الْعَمَلِ إِلَيَّ اللَّهُ أَدَوْمُهُ وَإِنْ قَلَّ.

LIVING WITH THE AWARENESS OF RAMADAN

Honorable Muslims!

Today we bid farewell to the beloved guest of our hearts, the holy month of Ramadan. Having offered the mercy and blessings of our Almighty Lord to our hearts, homes and towns, the month of Ramadan has left us once again. Not only its beginning but also its end has been a festival for all believers, for it was such a valuable guest.

Dear Believers!

The month of Ramadan, the sultan of the eleven months, arrived a month ago with a divine breeze of mercy. It has soothed our hearts, which were saddened by disasters, with its blessed atmosphere. It has comforted our bitter hearts with the joy it brought. In this blessed month, we have found inner peace with the recitation of the Qur'an, the source of healing and the guide to salvation. We have adorned ourselves with the garment of piety by making our fasts a shield against sins. We have been blessed with tahajjud prayers and suhoor meals at dawn. We have experienced the joy of breaking our fasts together, hoping for the pleasure of our Lord, at iftar tables where we have sat together. We have reinforced our unity and solidarity through tarawih prayers. We have purified our wealth and experienced the joy of sharing through zakat, sadaqah al-fitr, charity, and good deeds. We have purified ourselves of our sins on the Lailat al-Qadr, which is better than a thousand months. Eventually, we have reached the 'Eid al-Fitr, which is a gift from our Almighty Lord to believers.

Dear Muslims!

We have been trained in the school of Ramadan for a month as well as attaining many blessings in this month's climate of mercy. Benevolence surrounded us all around. Our souls were relieved, and our hearts attained inner peace.

From now on, it is our duty to lead a life with the awareness of Ramadan. It is time to reflect what we have learned from Ramadan on every field of our lives. It is time to turn our lives into Ramadan.

Honorable Believers!

Indeed, servitude to Allah is not reserved to a single night or a single month. Worshiping Allah is the ultimate purpose of life. It is the only way to make this world of ephemerality an eternal paradise. It is stated in the Holy Qur'an as follows: **"He is the Lord of the heavens, and the earth, and everything in between. So worship Him alone, and be steadfast in His worship."**¹ In this verse, our Lord (swt) commands us to serve Him for a lifetime and to have the sense of responsibility that will turn every moment of our lives into worship. Our beloved Prophet (saw) said, **"The acts most pleasing to Allah are those which are done most continuously even if they are small."**²

So, Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Let us preserve our awareness of worship after the Ramadan as well. Let us strengthen and maintain the ties we have established with prayer in Ramadan. Let us make the life-giving messages of the Qur'an, which we have been better internalized in this month, prevail in our lives.

Let the compassion and affection spread around from our hearts filled with mercy in the atmosphere of Ramadan. Let us build bridges of brotherhood throughout the year with the spirit of cooperation, solidarity, and sharing. Let our charity and support bring smiles to the faces of those in need.

Let us make goodness our guiding principle not only during the blessed month of Ramadan but also afterwards. Let us stay away from evil. Let us avoid breaking hearts and causing harm. Let us remember that the true bliss in this world and the Hereafter will belong to the believers who turn their faith into worship and their worship into good character.

I'd like to conclude my khutbah with the following prayer that we learned from our beloved Prophet (saw): **"O Allah! Help me remember You, express gratitude to You, and worship You in the best manner."**³

¹ Maryam, 19/65.

² Abu Dawud, Tawawwu', 27.

³ Ebû Dâvûd, Vitr, 26.