

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ
الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ ...

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى قَرَضَ صِيَامَ رَمَضَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَمَسَّنَتْ لَكُمْ
قِيَامَهُ ...

RAMADAN IS AROUND THE CORNER! ARE WE PREPARED?

Honorable Muslims!

We will have reached Ramadan, the Sultan of the Eleven Months, with the first tarawih prayer the next Sunday. The same night we will wake up for sahur and utter our intention to fast. May endless praise and thanks be to our Lord Almighty (swt), Who has allowed us to reach this blessed month. May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw), who taught us the value of Ramadan. May the month of Ramadan be blessed for all of us. Ramadan Mubarak!

Dear Believers!

Ramadan is the Month of the Qur'an. This month marks the beginning of the revelation of the Holy Qur'an, our divine book, to Prophet Muhammad (saw). Ramadan is the time when the light of the revelation illuminated time, space, and all of humanity. Our Lord (swt) states in the Surah al-Baqarah as follows: "**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 Ramadan calls to recite and understand the Qur'an and integrate its wisdom into our lives.

But do we embody the morals set out in the Qur'an? Do we follow the Quran's guidance and become a person of good character and a good Muslim?

Dear Muslims!

Ramadan is the month of fasting. Fasting is a unique form of worship that nourishes both body and soul, bringing health to one and peace to the other. Fasting serves as a shield against sins and evils. Our Prophet (saw) says, "**When any one of you is fasting on a day, he should neither indulge in obscene language, nor raise the voice. If anyone reviles him or tries to quarrel with him he should say: 'I am fasting.'**"² Ramadan calls to a complete fast, one that purifies us not just physically but also from all forms of evil and sin.

But are we prepared to refrain from fighting, hatred and enmity, from violating the rights of the people and the public, and from all inappropriate things that do not befit a Muslim?

Dear Believers!

Ramadan is the month when helping and solidarity reach its peak. Ramadan is a blessed time when we

transform temporary worldly possessions into lasting rewards for the Hereafter through zakat, sadaqah, and all forms of infaq. Our Lord Almighty (swt) states, "**Whatever you spend in charity, Allah will compensate you for it.**"³ Ramadan invites us to share what we have, be there for the destitute, and bring a smile to the face of the orphan.

But are we prepared to transform our iftar and sahur tables into gatherings of love and generosity with our neighbors, those in need, and the destitute, and be the subject of their supplications through our offerings?

Dear Muslims!

Ramadan is the month when the bonds of brotherhood, unity, and solidarity are strengthened. But how bitter it is that in these days when we feel the excitement of Ramadan al-Sharif, al-Quds is still mournful, Gaza is still crying blood, and persecution continues in East Turkestan. For many Muslims around the world, the peace of sahur and the joy of iftar remain out of reach. Ramadan, the Month of Mercy, calls on us to reach out to our brothers and sisters facing persecution and mobilize all our resources, both material and spiritual, to support them.

But are we truly prepared to take a stronger stand with the oppressed against those who oppress them?

Dear Muslims!

Ramadan is a blessed month that brings abundance of divine blessings to our households, joy to our mosques, and inner peace to our hearts. Each year, Ramadan returns to teach us how to be good servants of our Lord (swt), an ummah as our Prophet Muhammad (saw) would desire, and a source of benefit to humanity. It comes to guide us towards taqwa through fasting, and towards purification from our sins through repentance. It comes not only to mend our brokenness and heal resentments, but also to help us build bridges of love between one another. Ramadan comes for us to strengthen bonds with our parents, spouses and children, relatives and neighbors, and to win their hearts and be the subject of their supplications. It comes for us to perform tarawih prayer together as families in the mosque, join muqabala, and instill the habit of worship in our children. Let us ready our hearts, homes, neighborhoods, and cities for this most blessed guest. So that Ramadan may be pleased with us. So that it allows us to earn the pleasure of our Lord (swt) and purify ourselves from sins.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following hadith of our Prohpet (saw): "**Allah enjoined the fast of Ramadan upon you. And I have made it Sunnah for you to spend its nights in prayer. Whoever fasts it and spends its nights in prayer out of faith and in the hope of reward, he will emerge from his sins as on the day his mother bore him.**"⁴

¹Baqarah, 2/185.

²Bukhari, Sawm, 2.

³Saba, 34/39.

⁴Nasa'i, Siyam, 40.