

## THE VIRTUES OF RAMADAN

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ،

أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ  
وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَمَنْ  
تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Let us increase our righteousness to Allah the Almighty by doing all that He prescribes and leaving all that He prohibits. May we be blessed by Allah the Almighty in this life and the hereafter.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

The history of fasting had begun before Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was chosen to be a messenger.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 2 (surah al-Baqarah) verse 183:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُنِبَ عَلَيْكُمْ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُنِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ

لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

Which means: *O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous -*

Sayyidatina Maryam, mother of Prophet Isa Alaihissalam had fasted by not talking. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 19 (surah Maryam ) verse 26:

فَكُلِي وَاشْرَبِي وَقَرِّي عَيْنًا فَمَا تَرِينَ مِنَ الْبَشَرِ أَحَدًا فَقُولِي إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لِلرَّحْمَنِ صَوْمًا فَلَنْ

أُكَلِّمَ الْيَوْمَ إِنْسِيًّا ﴿٢٦﴾

Which means: *“So eat and drink and be contented. And if you see from among humanity anyone, say, 'Indeed, I have vowed to the Most Merciful abstention, so I will not speak today to [any] man.' ”*

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Fasting is an act of worship that holds many secrets and great values in the lives of Muslims. Besides suppressing our lusts, it is also a *jihad* (holy war) to restore our subserviency to Allah the Almighty.

It is indeed true when the Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Bukhari, Muslim and Abu Daud:

يَا مَعْشَرَ الشَّبَابِ مَنْ اسْتَطَاعَ مِنْكُمُ الْبَاءَةَ فَلْيَتَزَوَّجْ ، فَإِنَّهُ أَغْضُ لِلْبَصَرِ ، وَأَحْصَنُ  
لِلْفَرْجِ ، وَمَنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَعَلَيْهِ بِالصَّوْمِ فَإِنَّهُ لَهُ وِجَاءٌ

Which means: *O young men, those among you who can support a wife should marry, for it restrains eyes (from casting evil glances) and preserves one from immorality; but he who cannot afford It should observe fast for it is a means of controlling the sexual desire.*

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

The lifestyles in the days of the Companions of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) changed during Ramadan. They performed fasting during the day, and enriched the night with tarawih prayers and recitations of the Qur'an.

Similarly, the Battle of Badar occurred on the 17th of Ramadan in the second year of *hijrah* (migration from Makkah to Madinah). The muslims achieved success. The opening of Makkah City also occurred during Ramadan in the eighth year of *hijrah*.

More interestingly in Ramadan is the special gift from Allah the Almighty in the form of a special night called *Lailatulqadar* (Night of Decree). This is the night that righteous servants crave for during Ramadan. This is a night considered as a night which is better than a thousand months.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Lets us respect the month of Ramadan by increasing our good deeds diligently. Invite our family members to steadfastly congregate to mosques for prayers especially fajr prayer. Recite the al-Quran, dzikir, give charity, and perform 20 rakaats of tarawih prayers as prescribed in the al-Syafie sect.

Allah the Almighty says in chapter 2 (surah al-Baqarah) verse 185:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ

وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۖ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ

فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا

الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَانَكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨٥﴾

Which means: “The month of Ramadhan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey - then an equal number of other days. Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful.”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ  
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ  
قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ،  
وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.