

## WELCOME RAMADAN (AHLAN WASAHLAN RAMADAN)

29 Syaaban 1443H/1 April 2022

أَحْمَدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ  
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ  
وَرَسُولَهُ.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.  
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

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 Him in this life and the hereafter.

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

In a few days, all Muslims will celebrate the arrival of the glorious month of Ramadan and in this month, Muslims will perform fasting for a month long as required of them. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 2 (surah al Baqarah) verse 183:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

يَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ 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.”*

Let us welcome this special guest (i.e. Ramadan) with gratitude, and congratulate the Muslims with feelings of blessing for the arrival of Ramadan. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Imam Ahmad:

أَتَاكُمْ رَمَضَانُ سَيِّدُ الشُّهُورِ فَمَرْحَبًا بِهِ وَأَهْلًا

**Which means:** *“The month of Ramadan, the chief of all months, has come to you, so welcome it.”*

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Let us honor this glorious month. The act of eating and drinking in public can dishonour this glorious month. Do not eat without valid reasons in public.

Intentionally canceling fast without valid reasons is haram and sinful. It is not the same if replaced by qada' fasting. The Prophet (pbuh) said in a hadith narrated by Ibn Huzaimah from Abu Hurairah:

مَنْ أَفْطَرَ يَوْمًا مِنْ رَمَضَانَ مِنْ غَيْرِ عُدْرٍ وَلَا مَرَضٍ لَمْ يَقْضِهِ صَوْمَ الدَّهْرِ وَإِنْ صَامَهُ

**Which means:** *“Whoever breaks the fast of Ramadan without having a legitimate excuse or being ill, he cannot make up for that day, even if he were to undertake a perpetual fast.”*

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Let us liven up the nights of Ramadan by performing the voluntary terawih prayer. This is the only worship that is special and long-awaited in conjunction with the coming of this glorious month.

Terawih prayer is *Sunat Muakkad* (voluntary act of worship), which is a prayer that is very much demanded to be performed. Although it is legal to do this prayer alone, Imam Abu Hanifah, Imam al Syafie and his companions for example Imam Ahmad, opined that terawih prayer is more important to be done in congregation in mosques.

In the Syafie school, we are required to perform 20 rakaat for terawih prayers with ten salams, that is, five times terawih (rest) after every four rakaat, ending with three rakaat of witr prayers. This law is based on the hadith narrated by al-Baihaqi from Saidina Ali Radiallahu anhu that the qiyam of Ramadan is twenty rakaat. This is the practice performed in the mosque of Mecca al-Mukarramah. Therefore, we must complete the terawih prayer according to our school of twenty rakaat with three rakaat of witr because this is the month that is encouraged for us to increase our worship to Allah the Almighty. For those who are not able to perform the voluntary terawih prayer standing, it is permissible for them to perform the prayer while sitting.

The twenty rakaat are considered small when compared to other schools such as the Hanafi sect and his companions. As narrated by al Aswad bin Yazid, they do forty rakaat with seven witr. While the Maliki school did thirty six rakaat with nine breaks and once they performed two hundred rakaat during the time of Sayyidina Ali Radhiallahu anhu .

**Dear brothers and sisters,**

Let us perform fasting in the month of Ramadan this year more perfectly. Invite family members, children, neighbors and friends to go to the mosques or surau in congregation to enliven the nights of Ramadan. May Allah the Almighty give His guidance to us and that we will be human beings who are always grateful. Allah the Almighty says in chapter 14 (surah Ibrahim) verse 7:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَإِذْ تَأَذَّنَ رَبُّكُمْ لَئِن شَكَرْتُمْ لَأَزِيدَنَّكُمْ وَلَئِن كَفَرْتُمْ إِنَّ

عَذَابِي لَشَدِيدٌ ﴿٧﴾

*Which means: “And remember when your Lord proclaimed, ‘If you are grateful, I will certainly give you more. But if you are ungrateful, surely My punishment is severe.’”*

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.

