

**WELCOMING RAMADAN**  
**MARCH 24, 2023 | 2 Ramadan 1444 H**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ

سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

وَأَشْهَدُ 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 أَجْمَعِينَ.



أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

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

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, we will be blessed in this world and in the Hereafter.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Allah the Almighty mentions in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) verse (*ayat*) 183:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

شَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن شَهِدَ  
مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ...

**Which means:** *“It was in the month of Ramadan that the Quran was revealed as guidance for mankind, clear messages giving guidance and distinguishing between right and wrong. So any one of you who is present that month should fast,*

*Alhamdulillah* (all praise is due to Allah), we are grateful to Allah the Almighty for giving us the opportunity to experience the blessed month of *Ramadan* once again. In this month, all the acts of worship that we do are doubled in reward. As Muslims, we should be happy with the arrival of the month of *Ramadan*. The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam an-Nasa'ie:

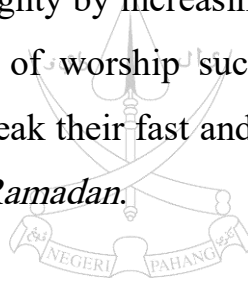
أَتَاكُمْ رَمَضَانُ شَهْرٌ مُّبَارَكٌ فَرَضَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ عَلَيْكُمْ صِيَامَهُ تُفْتَحُ فِيهِ أَبْوَابُ السَّمَاءِ وَتُغْلَقُ فِيهِ

أَبْوَابُ الْجَحِيمِ وَتُغَلُّ فِيهِ مَرَدَّةُ الشَّيَاطِينِ لِلَّهِ فِيهِ لَيْلَةٌ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ مَنْ حُرِمَ خَيْرَهَا فَقَدْ حُرِمَ "

**Which means:** *“There has come to you Ramadan, a blessed month, in which Allah, the Mighty and Sublime, has enjoined you to fast. In it the gates of heavens are opened and the gates of Hell are closed, and every devil is chained up. In it is a night which is better than a thousand months; whoever is deprived of its goodness is indeed deprived.”*

In conjunction with the month of *Ramadan*, which is full of forgiveness and mercy, we should increase our acts of worship by performing 20 units (rak'ahs) of *Taraweeh* prayers in congregation at the mosque following Imam al-Syafie's school of thought. Anyone who is sick can perform it while sitting. It should be noted that the *sunnah* (nonobligatory) prayer is allowed to be performed sitting even without reasons, but the reward is half that of a perfect standing prayer. We should continue to perform it until we finish the prayer with the Imam and not rush to go home after only performing 8 units of *taraweeh* prayer. May our worship this year be better compared to last year.

Remember, the month of *Ramadan* is a time for us to seek blessings and forgiveness from Allah the Almighty by increasing our righteous deeds. Do not get tired or give up on other acts of worship such as increasing alms, especially preparing meals for people to break their fast and finish reciting the 30 chapters of the Qur'an at least once during *Ramadan*.



**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Today is the second day of fasting. So let us fast with patience and sincerity for the sake of Allah the Almighty alone and hope for His forgiveness and blessing. We also hope that our rewards will be doubled, the doors of Heaven will be opened, the doors of Hell will be closed and our lives will be kept away from the temptations of the devil. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Ahmad:

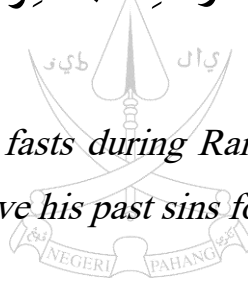
"عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: إِذَا دَخَلَ شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ فَتُحْتَأَبْوَابُ الرَّحْمَةِ وَغُلِقَتْ أَبْوَابُ جَهَنَّمَ وَسُلْسِلَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ."

**Which means:** "When Ramadan begins, the gates of mercy are opened and the gates of Hell are closed, and the devils are chained up."

The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim:

"مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ."

**Which means:** "He who fasts during Ramadan with faith and seeking his reward from Allah will have his past sins forgiven;"



**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Let us consistently pray our five daily prayers in congregation at the mosque throughout the month of *Ramadan* and until the end of our lives. Let us not underestimate the act of performing obligatory prayers in congregation because the Prophet (PBUH) did not pray the obligatory prayers except in congregation. Let us stay away from committing sins and vices no matter how small. May this year's fast make us among the pious people. Allah the Almighty mentions in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) verse (*ayat*) 183:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن  
قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

Which means: “You who believe, fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may be mindful of Allah.”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ  
الآيَاتِ 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.

