

## QUALITY WORSHIP

MARCH 31, 2023 | 09 RAMADAN 1444H

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنْ شُرُوْرِ اَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ

اَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللّٰهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ اللّٰهُ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.

وَأَشْهَدُ اَنْ لَا اِلَهَ اِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ اَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ

وَرَسُوْلُهُ.

اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلٰى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى اٰلِهِ وَاَصْحَابِهِ اَجْمَعِيْنَ.

اَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فَيَا عِبَادَ اللّٰهِ، اِتَّقُوا اللّٰهَ وَاَوْصِيْكُمْ وَاِيَّايْ بِتَقْوٰى اللّٰهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُوْنَ.

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, Allah the Almighty will bless us in this world and in the Hereafter.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

We are indeed grateful to Allah the Almighty for giving us the opportunity to be in the blessed month of *Ramadan*. The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]),

the companions and the *Salafussoleh* (pious predecessors) were very happy when the month of *Ramadan* arrived because the blessings of Allah the Almighty are abundant in this month. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 10 (*Surah Yunus*) verse (*ayat*) 58:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قُلْ بِفَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَبِرَحْمَتِهِ فَبِذَلِكَ فَلْيَفْرَحُوا هُوَ خَيْرٌ مِمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ

**Which means:** *Say [Prophet], 'In Allah's grace and mercy let them rejoice: these are better than all they accumulate.'*

One of the greatest blessings in this month of *Ramadan* is that we are given more rewards by Allah the Almighty when we perform worship as compared to other months. Remember that when we fast, we should take care of our heart, tongue, eyes, ears, etc. by not watching nonbeneficial broadcasts in the social media or television. Instead, we should read Quran, increase our remembrance of Allah (*dhikr*), pray and perform *i'tikaf* (religious retreat) in the mosque. Let us make the most out of the nights of *Ramadan* this year by increasing acts of worship, such as inviting all family members to the mosque to perform 20 units (rak'ats) of *taraweeh* prayers instead of just 8 units in order to receive more reward. Don't let this year's worship be the same as the previous *Ramadan's* without any improvement.

The greatness of Muslims during the time of the Prophet (PBUH) and his companions and the generations after them was due to the sincerity of their

worship up to the point that they were willing to go to war (to protect the religion) in the month of *Ramadan*. Their commitment in worshiping Allah the Almighty in the month of *Ramadan* caused them to become pious people blessed by Allah the Almighty and strengthened the brotherhood among them.

### **Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

The companions were educated by the Prophet (PBUH) until they gained unparalleled strength. Their pious acts of worship caused them to receive help from Allah the Almighty. Among the practices that caused them to receive the help of Allah the Almighty was to enliven the mosque by performing congregational prayers and optional night prayers (*qiamullail*), reading the Qur'an, increasing *dhikr* and giving their wealth in charity for the cause of Islam. Muslim men should pray *taraweeh* and *wit'r* with the imam at the mosque, and not at home. When we come to the mosque, it means we respond to the call of Allah the Almighty. When we give charity and alms, it means we love our fellow Muslims. When we pray, *dhikr* and read the Qur'an, it means that we are getting closer to Allah the Almighty. Ponder upon the benefits of worship in the month of *Ramadan* as the Prophet (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by al-Tirmizi.

ثَلَاثَةٌ لَا تُرَدُّ دَعْوَتُهُمُ الْإِمَامُ الْعَادِلُ وَالصَّائِمُ حِينَ يُفْطِرُ وَدَعْوَةُ الْمَظْلُومِ

**Which means:** “*There are three whose supplications are not turned back: A just ruler, a fasting person until he breaks his fast, and the one who has been wronged...*”

The Prophet (PBUH) also said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam al-Tirmizi which means “*The best charity is in the month of Ramadan*”.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Let us ponder the Prophet’s *hadith* which was narrated by Ibn Hibban:

**Which means:** *Verily, Gabriel came to me and he said: It is a loss for whoever reaches the month of Ramadan but his sins are not forgiven by Allah the Almighty, so say amen. I said amen. ...*

This *hadith* explains that it is a loss for those who could be forgiven by Allah the Almighty in the month of *Ramadan* but do not perform acts of worship to receive the forgiveness and mercy of Allah the Almighty. The Prophet (PBUH) said ‘amen’ which means confirming what was said by the angel Gabriel. So, let us all take advantage of the month of *Ramadan* by following what Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 3 (*Surah Ali Imran*), verse (*ayat*) 133:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَسَارِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ

**Which means:** “*Hurry towards your Lord’s forgiveness and a Garden as wide as the heavens and earth prepared for the righteous*”.

بَارَكَ اللهُ 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 اللهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ  
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ فَيَا فَوْزَ الْمُسْتَغْفِرِينَ وَيَا نَجَاةَ التَّائِبِينَ.

