

NEW YEAR'S REFLECTIONS
26 DECEMBER 2025 / 5 RAJAB 1447H

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
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 أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،
فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِيكُمْ 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,

In a few days, the year 2025 will come to an end. In Islam, the calendar that is used for determining worship is known as the *Hijri* calendar. Since the beginning of the creation of the heavens and the Earth, Allah has determined the number of months in a year to establish the time for worship. Allah the Almighty mentions in the Quran in Chapter 9 (*Surah At-Tawbah*) verse (ayat) 36:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ

Which means: “Allah decrees that there are twelve months- ordained in Allah’s Book on the Day when He created the heavens and earth-...”

While the *Hijri* calendar is calculated based on the phases of the moon, the Gregorian calendar is determined based on the movement of the sun. Also known as the *Shamsi* calendar, this calendar is used to determine the seasons to manage life, farming activities and migration. Both calendars are signs of the greatness of Allah. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 10 (*Surah Yunus*) Verse (*ayat*) 5:

هُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الشَّمْسَ ضِيَاءً وَالْقَمَرَ نُورًا وَقَدَرَهُ مَنَازِلَ لِتَعْلَمُوا عَدَدَ السِّنِينَ وَالْحِسَابَ مَا خَلَقَ اللَّهُ ذَلِكَ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ يُفَصِّلُ الْآيَاتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَعْلَمُونَ ٥

Which means: *“It is He who made the sun a shining radiance and the moon a light, determining phases for it so that you might know the number of years and how to calculate time. Allah did not create all these without a true purpose; He explains His signs to those who understand.”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Indeed, the arrival of a new year means that we are getting older. As we approach the year 2026, let us reflect on our deeds throughout 2025.

The end the year is also the best time to reflect on our contributions to our religion and country. Let us look at how the previous generations spent their lives and left their hometowns to spread Islam to every corner of the world. Great people like *Saidina* Abu Ayyub Al-Ansari (may Allah be pleased with him), made his house a stopping place for the Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) when the latter migrated to Medina but Abu Ayyub died in distant Turkey. Also look at *Saidina* Qutham bin Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him), the cousin of the Prophet (PBUH) who is the closest in appearance to him and who died in far away Uzbekistan. They spent their lives traveling to preach the religion of Islam.

We must reflect on our deeds because we will be questioned before Allah the Almighty regarding the various blessings entrusted to us. In a *hadith* narrated by Imam At-Tirmizi, the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: *“The feet of the slave of Allah shall not move [on the Day of Judgement] until he is asked about four things: about his life and what he did, about his knowledge and what he did with it, about his wealth and how he earned it and what he spent it on, and about his body and how he used it.”*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Planning and resolving to be a better person in the future is among the things that are encouraged as the new year approaches. Allah the Almighty created death and life with the aim of finding who is the best among humans. Good humans will be grateful for the blessings of the time that Allah has given them by not delaying good deeds.

For example, if during this year we neglected the welfare of our poor and needy neighbors, then make a resolution in conjunction with this new year to become more generous and concerned about community affairs. If before we were less affectionate with family members, then make a resolution to be friendlier with them next year. If before we spent a lot of time on the phone watching immoral things, playing games or spreading fake news, slander and malicious comments, then make this new year a starting point to stop these worthless actions.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Concluding today's *khutbah* (sermon), let us be grateful for the blessings of the past and the future, resolve to become better human beings and contribute to our religion and nation. Remember the reminder from the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) about how many people take the blessings of time and health for granted. Avoid excessive entertainment and immorality to start the new year. Do not follow Western culture that is negligent. Instead, pray that Allah the Almighty grants prosperity to the entire *ummah* (community).

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَالْعَصْرِ (1) إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ (2) إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَّصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَّصَوْا
بِالصَّبْرِ (3)

Which means: “By the declining day, man is [deep] in loss, except for those who believe, do good deeds, urge one another to the truth, and urge one another to steadfastness.” (Quran [Al-Asr] 103:1-3)

بَارِكْ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَانِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.