

## EMBRACE RAMADAN

28 FEBRUARY 2025 | 29 SHAABAN 1446H

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

أَشْهَدُ 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، اِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأَوْصِيكُمْ 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,**

Whether we realize it or not, the much-awaited month of *Ramadan* is coming again. Believers know that it is a blessing from Allah the Almighty to His servants and it is understood that *Ramadan* is the month that is filled with rewards from Allah the Almighty. Therefore, it is up to us whether to welcome the month of *Ramadan* this time by glorifying it or letting it pass by.

*Ramadan* is a month of *tarbiah*; a month that teaches every Muslim to return to devotion to Allah the Almighty. Fasting, for example, is not just about refraining from hunger and thirst, but it also educates the eyes to refrain from looking at forbidden things, the ears from listening to gossip, the tongue from slandering and insulting, the hands from committing sins, the genitals from committing

disobedience and the feet from stepping towards evil and wrongdoing. Fasting also educates us to be kind and to carry out religious obligations with sincerity.

Hopefully, in this *Ramadan* we will achieve the true goal of fasting, which is piety. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) Verse (*ayat*) 183:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

**Which means:** “*O believers! Fasting is prescribed for you—as it was for those before you—so perhaps you will become mindful of Allah*”.

Many pious believers prayed for *Ramadan* to be filled with various righteous practices. Among their prayers were:

اللَّهُمَّ سَلِّمْ لِي رَمَضَانَ، وَسَلِّمْ رَمَضَانَ لِي، وَتَسَلِّمْهُ مِنِّي مُنْقَبِلًا

**Which means:** “*O Allah! Preserve me until Ramadan, safeguard Ramadan for me and accept it from me (receive my deeds with acceptance).*”

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

In this month, Allah the Almighty presents a golden opportunity for believers to gain double rewards and unlocks the doors of forgiveness to accept repentance from His servants. In a *hadith* narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari and Muslim from Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him), the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said:

إِذَا جَاءَ رَمَضَانُ فَتُفْتَحُ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ وَتُغْلَقُ أَبْوَابُ النَّارِ وَتُصَفَّدَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ.

**Which means:** “When Ramadan comes the gates of the Garden are opened and the gates of the Fire are locked, and the shayatin (satans) are chained.”

This *hadith* describes the special nature of the month of *Ramadan* and how vast the opportunities are to gain rewards and forgiveness from Allah the Almighty.

From a health perspective, fasting is the best method to protect the body from various diseases. Dr. Hisyam Ibrahim Al-Khatib in his book ‘*Al-Wafi Fi Al-Tib*’ explains that fasting gives the organs in the body an opportunity to repair the digestive system. It is also an effective cure for chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and high blood sugar. This is how great the wisdom of Allah the Almighty is in obligating His servants to fast. Apart from being able to increase faith and piety, it is also beneficial to the body.

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Some preparations that must be made in welcoming the month of *Ramadan* include:

**First: Mental preparation.**

Every Muslim is obliged to gain knowledge about worship, especially the worship that is prescribed in the month of *Ramadan*, either by learning from a teacher or through reading books. Knowledge is very important because it ensures that a person’s worship is valid in the eyes of Allah the Almighty. With knowledge, a person can also know the advantages of worship in the month of *Ramadan* and the *rukhsah* (concessions) that are allowed in that worship.

### **Second: Spiritual preparation.**

This preparation involves soul purification by *istighfar* (seeking forgiveness), reading the Quran, *salawat* (sending salutations to the Prophet), *qiamullail* (extra night prayers), practicing *i'tikaf*, etc. This is important because it will make it easier for a person to continue his spiritual practices during the month of *Ramadan*. We must also renew our intention and resolve not to waste time during *Ramadan* because good intentions and increased determination can be a source of strength and steadfastness to seize the maximum reward provided by Allah the Almighty in this month.

### **Third: Physical preparation.**

To perform worship during the month of *Ramadan*, the body must be in a healthy state and able to perform worship even when hungry and thirsty. That is why fasting is not only limited to the month of *Ramadan*, but is also recommended in other months.

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

The conclusions that can be drawn from today's *khutbah*(sermon) are:

**First:** Allah the Almighty opens up ample opportunities to His servants to gain multiple rewards and receive forgiveness in the month of *Ramadan*.

**Second:** True believers will seize the golden opportunity to do good deeds during the month of *Ramadan* which is filled with blessings, forgiveness and various rewards.

**Third:** Prepare yourself with ample knowledge and spiritual and physical strength to achieve perfection in worship during the month of *Ramadan*.

May this *Ramadan* be a turning point for us, our families and our community (*ummah*) in which we become better Muslims and remain steadfast. Let us pray together that it will be made easy for us to do good deeds during this month.

Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 16 (*Surah An-Nahl*) Verse (*ayat*) 97:

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِّنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أُنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّهٗ حَيٰوةً طَيِّبَةًۭ وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

**Which means:** “Whoever does good, whether male or female, and is a believer, We will surely bless them with a good life, and We will certainly reward them according to the best of their deeds.”

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ 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 إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.