

PREPARING TO WELCOME *RAMADAN*

13 FEBRUARY 2026 | 25 SHA'BAN 1447H

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْقَائِلِ : يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ
أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.
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 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 less than a week we will be welcoming the arrival of the blessed month of *Ramadan*. During the time of the Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]), the companions eagerly awaited the arrival of this month because it was full of advantages and privileges that are not found in other months.

Let us consider what we need to prepare before the arrival of the month of *Ramadan*. The main priority is *qada* fasting, which is making up for missed fasts. It is obligatory to make up for the number of fasts that have been missed in the previous *Ramadan*. The obligation to pay off this debt of fasting is explained in the Quran in Chapter 2 (*Surah Al-Baqarah*) Verse (*ayat*) 184:

أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ فَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْكُمْ مَّرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ وَعَلَى الَّذِينَ يُطِيقُونَهُ فِدْيَةٌ طَعَامُ
مَسْكِينٍ فَمَنْ تَطَوَّعَ خَيْرًا فَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لَّهُ وَأَنْ تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

Which means: “Fast for a specific number of days, but if one of you is ill, or on a journey, on other days later. For those who can fast only with extreme difficulty, there is a way to compensate - feed a needy person. But if anyone does good of his own accord, it is better for him, and fasting is better for you, if only you knew.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Before entering the month of *Ramadan*, we must correct our intentions and resolve to worship earnestly during the month.

Our heart must be cleansed from all negative attitudes towards Allah the Almighty and fellow humans. Let us start repenting for the sins we have committed as the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Muslim:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ تَوْبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ، فَإِنِّي أَتُوبُ فِي الْيَوْمِ إِلَيْهِ مِائَةَ مَرَّةٍ

Which means: “O people, seek repentance from Allah. Verily, I seek repentance from Him a hundred times a day.”

Ibn Rajab Al-Hanbali emphasized the importance of repenting before entering the month of *Ramadan* by saying, “*how can someone expect forgiveness in Ramadan when he has not cleansed his sins before that?*”

Likewise, avoid committing vile acts towards others such as being envious, holding grudges, hating others, being prejudiced, being hot-tempered, etc. We should settle disputes with fellow humans by apologizing for past wrongdoings and paying debts to others if any.

We need to develop noble character and control our behavior as *Ramadan* approaches. We must avoid wasting time on useless and sinful things such as visiting places of sin and watching forbidden things. We must avoid using foul language, backbiting and slandering. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Al-Baihaqi:

لَيْسَ الصِّيَامُ مِنَ الْأَكْلِ وَالشُّرْبِ فَقَطُ إِنَّمَا الصِّيَامُ مِنَ اللَّغْوِ وَالرَّفَثِ

Which means: “*Fasting is not merely abstaining from food and drink. Rather, fasting includes abstaining from vain talk and immorality.*”

In addition, we also need to prepare ourselves with knowledge to understand the rules of fasting. We should attend religious classes at mosques or study centers and do additional reading to understand these rules.

Fitting with its nickname, the ‘Month of Worship’, let us prepare ourselves from now by performing acts of worship such as voluntary fasting,

observing *I'tikaf* at the mosque, praying *Tahajjud*, reciting *dhikr* (remembering Allah), reading the Quran, etc.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As a conclusion of today's *khutbah* (sermon), there are several things we need to take note of and implement to welcome the arrival of the holy month of *Ramadan*:

First, correct our intentions and resolve to increase our acts of worship during the month of *Ramadan*.

Second, if there are any fasts that we missed before, make them up immediately. Make sure that our family members have made up their fasts.

Third, repent and ask for forgiveness from Allah the Almighty. May we enter the month of *Ramadan* with a pure and clean heart.

Fourth, let us increase our knowledge about fasting so that we can do it with knowledge.

Let us all increase our prayers so that Allah the Almighty may prolong our lives and grant us health so that we can be physically and mentally prepared to perform worship in the month of *Ramadan* this year. Increase our prayers as recommended in a *hadith* narrated by Imam Ahmad:

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَشَعْبَانَ، وَبَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَمَضَانَ

Which means: “O Allah, bless us in Rajab and Sha’ban and bring us to Ramadan.”

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ
يُرْشَدُونَ

Which means: “[Prophet], if My servants ask you about Me, I am near. I respond to those who call Me, so let them obey Me, and believe in Me, so that they may be guided.” (Al-Baqarah 2:186)

بَارِكَ 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، وَلِسَانِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ
وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.