

## Preparing for Ramadhan

25 March 2022 / 22 Sha'ban 1443H

أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلٌّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضْلِلُ فَلَا هَادِي لَهُ.

وَأَشْهُدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهُدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسِلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

فِيهَا عِبَادُ اللَّهِ، إِتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَأُوصِيْكُمْ وَإِيَّاهُ يَتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، فَقَدْ فَارَ 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.

Allah the Almighty said in the Quran in Chapter 10 (*Surah Yunus*) verse (ayat) 58:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

قُلْ بِفَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَبِرَحْمَتِهِ فِيذَلِكَ فَلَيَفْرَحُوا هُوَ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا



يَجْمَعُونَ

Which means: “Say [Prophet], ‘In Allah’s grace and mercy let them rejoice; these are better than all they accumulate.’”

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

We are in the final days of *Sha’ban* (the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic calendar). Soon we will meet the month of *Ramadhan*. May Allah the Almighty give us the opportunity to experience this month that is full of blessings.

اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَشَعْبَانَ وَبَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ

Which means: “O Allah, bless us in *Rajab* (the 7<sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic calendar) and *Sha’ban* and bring us to *Ramadhan* (the 9<sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic calendar).”

We must make early preparations to welcome the arrival of *Ramadhan*. The practice of the Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) and his companions in preparing for *Ramadhan* should be an example for us. They did not welcome *Ramadhan* by thinking about preparing delicious food or drinks, but instead, they increased their worship in the month of *Sha’ban*. Ibn Rajab al-Hanbali said, “The pious predecessors (the first three generations of Muslims) would increase their Quran recitation in the month of *Sha’ban* so that when *Ramadhan* came, they would be at ease to recite more of the words of Allah (the Quran).

## **Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

We must express our joy when the month of *Ramadhan* arrives because it is a month filled with the blessings of Allah the Almighty and His forgiveness. We should rejoice because the month of *Ramadhan* is a month in which the gates of the Heaven are opened, the gates of Hell are closed and the devil is shackled. All sensible people must be waiting for these moments because we, who are wallowing in sin, are really hoping for the forgiveness and mercy of Allah the Almighty. We should rejoice with the arrival of *Ramadhan* because the Prophet (PBUH) said in a *Hadith* which what narrated by Imam Muslim:

مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبٍ

**Which means:** “He who fasts during *Ramadhan* with faith and seeking his reward from Allah will have his past sins forgiven; ...”

## **Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

Seize the coming of *Ramadhan* by relating stories about the glory of this month to family members, neighbors and friends. Give away books, pamphlets and messages about the benefits of the month of *Ramadhan* through the convenience of social media so that everyone will continue glorifying this month.

Be determined to fill the month of *Ramadhan* with obedience to Allah the Almighty as much as possible. Perform *taraweeh* (a special prayer performed in the month of *Ramadhan*) in congregation, read the Quran more frequently (at least one chapter a day), recite *dhikr* (the

remembrance of Allah), increase charity and other acts of worship. Let us ponder upon our actions so that we do not repeat past mistakes because we should be concerned if we complete the month of *Ramadhan* and Allah the Almighty has not forgiven our sins. Take heed of the Prophet's (PBUH) warning in the *Hadith* which was narrated by Ibn Hibban:

إِنَّ جِبْرِيلَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ أَتَانِي فَقَالَ مَنْ أَدْرَكَ شَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ فَلَمْ يُغْفِرْ لَهُ  
فَمَا تَفْعَلَ فَدَخَلَ النَّارَ فَأَبْعَدَهُ اللَّهُ قُلْ آمِينَ . فَقُلْتُ آمِينَ

**Which means:** Jibreel (angel Gabriel) appeared before me and said, “Woe to him who found the blessed month of *Ramadhan* and let it pass by without gaining forgiveness”, Upon that I said, “Ameen”.

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَنِ الرَّجِيمِ  
  
إِنَّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْقَنِينِ  
وَالْقَنِينَاتِ وَالصَّدِيقِينَ وَالصَّدِيقَاتِ وَالصَّابِرِينَ وَالصَّابِرَاتِ  
وَالخَشِيعِينَ وَالخَشِيعَاتِ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقِينَ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقَاتِ  
وَالصَّاهِئِينَ وَالصَّاهِئَاتِ وَالْحَفِظِينَ فُرُوجَهُمْ وَالْحَفِظَاتِ  
وَالذَّكَرِينَ اللَّهُ كَثِيرًا وَالذَّكَرَاتِ أَعَدَ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةً  
وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْءَانِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ  
مِنَ الآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاقُتُهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ  
السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي  
وَلَكُمْ، وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ،  
فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.