

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِنَ الْهُدَى
وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَنْ شَهَدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمِّمْهُ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: إِذَا جَاءَ رَمَضَانُ فَتَعْتَذِّرْ أَبْوَابُ الرَّحْمَةِ، وَتُعْلَقُ أَبْوَابُ جَهَنَّمَ،
وَسُلْسِلَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ

The Companions said: "O Messenger of Allah, not all of us possess the means to feed a fasting person."

Upon this, the Prophet ﷺ said: "Allah grants this reward even to one who provides a fasting person with a single date, or a sip of water, or a taste of milk to break his fast with. It is such a month that its beginning is mercy, its middle is forgiveness, and its end is emancipation from the Hellfire. Whoever lightens the burden of those under his responsibility in this month, Allah will forgive him and free him from Hellfire. Strive to frequently practice four traits in this month: With two of them you will please your Lord, and you are always in need of the other two. The two traits with which you will please your Lord are: 1) Constantly remember the declaration of faith (La ilaha illallah). 2) Seek much repentance and forgiveness from your Lord for your sins. As for the other two traits you cannot do without, they are: Ask Allah for Paradise and seek refuge in Him from the Fire of Hell. Whoever feeds a fasting person in this month, Allah will give him to drink from my Hawd (Basin) such a drink that he will never feel thirsty again until he enters Paradise." (Ibn Khuzaymah)

I conclude my khutbah with a noble verse: "The month of Ramadhan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it..." (Al-Baqarah, 2:185)

Respected Muslims!

The shadow of the sacred month of Ramadan, the sultan of eleven months, has fallen upon us. A month when mercy pours down in torrents, the gates of forgiveness are flung wide open, and hearts are revived with the Noble Qur'an. Insha'Allah, on the night bridging February 18th to 19th, following the Isha prayer, we will perform our first Tarawih prayer; and by rising for Suhoor that night, we will make our intention for the first fast.

Believers!

The topic of today's khutbah will be the famous khutbah in which our Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, addressing his companions on the last day of Sha'ban, described the virtues of the month of Ramadan. In this khutbah, the Messenger of Allah ﷺ advised about the value of Ramadan, the importance of worship and good deeds in this month, patience, sharing, and caring for the needy, and clearly taught us how we should value the sacred month of Ramadan.

In this khutbah, our Prophet ﷺ said: "O people! The shadow of a great and blessed month has fallen upon you. It is a month containing a night better than a thousand months. Allah has made fasting in it obligatory, and spending its nights in worship a voluntary act of worship.

Whoever draws closer to Allah in this month with a virtuous trait, receives the reward of fulfilling an obligatory act at other times. And whoever fulfills an obligatory act in this month, receives a reward equivalent to fulfilling seventy obligatory acts at other times.

This is the month of patience, and the reward for patience is Paradise. This is the month of mutual assistance and solidarity. This is a month in which the believer's provision is blessed and increased.

Whoever provides food for a fasting person to break his fast with, it will be a means of forgiveness for his sins and emancipation of his neck from the Hellfire, and he will receive a reward equal to the fasting person's without any decrease in the latter's reward."