

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَعِبَادُ الرَّحْمَنِ الَّذِينَ يَمْشُونَ عَلَى الْأَرْضِ هَوْنًا وَإِذَا خَاطَبَهُمُ الْجَاهِلُونَ
قَالُوا سَلَامًا ﴿٦٣﴾ وَالَّذِينَ يَبِيتُونَ لِرَبِّهِمْ سُجَّدًا وَقِيَامًا ﴿٦٤﴾ وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ
رَبَّنَا اصْرِفْ عَنَّا عَذَابَ جَهَنَّمَ إِنَّ عَذَابَهَا كَانَ غَرَامًا ﴿٦٥﴾ إِنَّهَا سَاءَتْ
مُسْتَقَرًّا وَمُقَامًا

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ : أَكْمَلُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِيمَانًا أَحْسَنُهُمْ خُلُقًا

Respected Muslims!

Ramadan is a sacred month that disciplines the self, purifies the heart, and prepares the believer for good character and righteous deeds. Through the blessings of this month, our Lord teaches us not only fasting, but also the reflection of faith upon our character, and how to be a true "servant" in our words, our state, and our way of living. Allah ﷻ, informs us in Surah Al-Furqan about "the servants of the Most Merciful" and their attributes:

"The servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth in humility, and when the ignorant address them, they say words of peace. And those who spend the night before their Lord, prostrating and standing. And those who say, 'Our Lord, avert from us the punishment of Hell. Indeed, its punishment is ever adhering. Indeed, it is an evil residence and abode.' And those who, when they spend, are neither extravagant nor stingy, but are in a medium position [between that]. And those who do not invoke with Allah another deity or kill the soul which Allah has forbidden [to be killed] except by right, and do not commit unlawful sexual intercourse. And whoever should do that will meet a penalty. Multiplied for him is the punishment on the Day of Resurrection, and he will abide therein humiliated. Except for those who repent, believe and do righteous work. For them Allah will replace their evil deeds with good. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful. And he who repents and does righteousness does indeed turn to Allah with [accepted] repentance. And [they are] those who do not testify to falsehood, and when they pass near ill speech, they pass by with dignity. And those who, when reminded of the verses of their Lord, do not fall upon them deaf and blind. And those who say, 'Our Lord, grant us from among our wives and offspring comfort to our eyes and make us an example for the righteous.'" (Al-Furqan, 25:63-74)

My Respected Brothers and Sisters!

These noble verses we have just recited teach us what kind of faith, character, and servitude the servants of the Most Merciful live by. Therefore, some fundamental principles we must understand from these verses and incorporate into our lives are as follows:

The believer is not arrogant, harsh, or hurtful; they are humble, dignified, and solemn. When provoked, they do not respond with the same tone; they do not consent to injustice, but neither do they speak with the language of conflict. They guard their tongue, avoid breaking hearts, and prioritize well-being.

These verses teach that servitude continues not only during the day but also at night. The believer lives their day with the consciousness of worship and revives their night by turning to their Lord. Night prayer (Qiyam Al-Layl) disciplines the soul and enlivens the heart. The nights of Ramadan are a great opportunity to get accustomed to this.

The servants of the Most Merciful do not become complacent, trusting in their worship; they constantly seek refuge in Allah. The believer lives between fear and hope: they ask for Paradise and seek refuge in Allah from Hellfire. They do not neglect supplication (dua); for dua is the believer's sanctuary. The believer is balanced in spending. They neither waste, losing blessings, nor become stingy, darkening their heart. They hasten to do good, care for the needy, but do not succumb to ostentation or excess.

These verses also clearly state that the believer must stay away from major sins. Their faith is purely based on tawhid (Monotheism), they do not approach oppression, do not take a life unjustly, do not commit adultery, and protect their chastity and honour. The believer lives righteously and always advocates for the truth.

Moreover, our Lord reminds us of the vastness of the door of repentance. The believer cannot conceal their mistake from Allah ﷻ; they do not persist in sin. They do not talk about or boast of past sins. Their repentance is sincere, not just verbal; they perform righteous deeds and do not fall into despair.

The servants of the Most Merciful adopt truthfulness as their motto: They never stand with lies or false testimony. They are truthful, trustworthy, do not cause trouble, and stand by justice. They do not get caught up in vain and false pursuits, do not act against Muslims, do not engage in gossip or discord. They do not waste their lives on futile and useless matters, do not linger in gatherings that darken the heart, and preserve their honour, dignity, and solemnity derived from the truth.

They are not those whose hearts close when the Qur'an is recited; rather, they are servants who awaken and come to when the verses are reminded. When they hear the truth, they do not dismiss it or distort the words of truth according to their own desires, interests, or whims. They take heed and incorporate it into their lives.

Finally, these verses teach that the believer must strive and supplicate not only for themselves but also for their family and progeny. They consider their spouse a companion with whom to walk towards Paradise together, beyond just worldly comfort. The believer desires their child not merely to be successful in this world, but to be a faithful, well-mannered, and righteous servant. Reviving homes with the Qur'an, raising children with good examples, combining supplication with effort – this is the correct path befitting the servants of the Most Merciful.

I conclude my sermon with a verse from the Holy Qur'an: **"So is one who walks fallen on his face more guided, or one who walks erect on a straight path?"** (Al-Mulk, 67:22)