

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ
لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: مَنْ فَطَرَ صَائِمًا كَانَ لَهُ مِثْلُ أَجْرِهِ غَيْرَ أَنَّهُ لَا يَنْقُصُ مِنْ أَجْرِ
الصَّائِمِ شَيْئًا

Respected Muslims!

We are filled with the joy and gratitude of reaching the blessed month of Ramadan, the Sultan of eleven months. Praise be to our Lord, who has enabled us to witness this sacred month. Ramadan is a month of blessings and mercy, offering us the opportunity for spiritual purification and containing the Night of Power (Laylat al-Qadr), which is better than a thousand months. Almighty Allah created humans and jinn solely to worship Him. Fasting is one of the acts of worship that disciplines the soul, teaches patience, and leads to piety.

Our Lord, the Most High, says in the Noble Quran: **"O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous."** (Al-Baqarah, 183)

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ also emphasized the importance of fasting, saying: **"Everything has a form of charity, and the charity of the body is fasting. Fasting is half of patience."** (Ibn Majah, Siyam, 44)

Dear Congregation!

Fasting sincerely is not merely about abstaining from food and drink. Fasting teaches us to understand the plight of the hungry, to control our desires, and to free ourselves from greed and selfishness. It encourages gratitude for the blessings we have and prevents envy for what others possess. At the same time, it fosters generosity, cooperation, and empathy.

The phrase "...that you may become righteous" at the end of the verse commanding fasting indicates that fasting serves as a shield protecting us from sins. While fasting, we must abstain not only from food and drink but also from foul speech, lies, backbiting, envy, and all forms of sin.

The Prophet ﷺ said: **"Fasting is a shield. When one of you is fasting, he should neither indulge in obscene language nor raise his voice in anger. If someone insults or fights him, let him say, 'I am fasting.' By the One in whose hand my soul is, the breath of a fasting person is more pleasing to Allah than the fragrance of musk."** (Bukhari, Sawm: 2)

Respected Brothers and Sisters! Let us not forget that fasting is not merely physical hunger; it is an act of worship that purifies the soul and heart. The Prophet ﷺ warned: **"How many people fast and gain nothing from their fasting except hunger and thirst, and how many people pray at night and gain nothing from their prayer except sleeplessness and fatigue."** (Ibn Majah, Siyam, 21; Hakim, al-Mustadrak: 1/431)

We must perform our acts of worship solely for the sake of Allah's pleasure and avoid viewing fasting as a diet or a means of losing weight. For deeds are judged by intentions, and our Lord has no need for anyone to go hungry or thirsty!

Beloved Believers!

On the first night of Ramadan, the devils are chained, the gates of Hell are closed, and the gates of Paradise are opened wide. However, let us not forget that our inner selves remain free and can lead us into sin and heedlessness. Our nafs may deceive us through traits such as greed, envy, hatred, and love of worldly things. In this blessed month, we must engage in self-reflection, seek spiritual purification, give charity, and fulfill our obligations of Zakat and Fitr on time.

On this occasion, I pray to our Lord that the blessed month of Ramadan brings goodness to the entire Muslim Ummah and becomes a means for us to attain piety and purification from sins.

I conclude my khutbah with a noble hadith: **"Whoever provides food for a fasting person to break their fast, they will receive the same reward as the fasting person, without diminishing the reward of the fasting person in the slightest."** (Tirmidhi, Sawm, 82; Ibn Majah, Siyam, 40)