

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِلَّا تَنْصُرُوهُ فَقَدْ نَصَرَهُ اللَّهُ إِذْ أَخْرَجَهُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا ثَانِيَ اثْنَيْنِ إِذْ هُمَا فِي الْغَارِ إِذْ يَقُولُ لِصَاحِبِهِ لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا فَأَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ سَكِينَتَهُ عَلَيْهِ وَأَيَّدَهُ بِجُنُودٍ لَمْ تَرَوْهَا وَجَعَلَ كَلِمَةَ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا السُّفْلَى وَكَلِمَةُ اللَّهِ هِيَ الْعُلْيَا وَاللَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ

سُئِلَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ عَنْ صَوْمِ يَوْمِ عَاشُورَاءَ، فَقَالَ: يُكَفِّرُ السَّنَةَ الْمَاضِيَةَ وَقَالَ ﷺ: أَفْضَلُ الصِّيَامِ بَعْدَ رَمَضَانَ شَهْرُ اللَّهِ الْمُحَرَّمُ، وَأَفْضَلُ الصَّلَاةِ بَعْدَ الْفَرِيضَةِ صَلَاةُ اللَّيْلِ.

Respected Believers!

We have entered the blessed month of Muharram, the first month of the Hijri year, with the sunset on Tuesday evening of this week. The Hijri calendar is the calendar of Muslims, based upon the migration (Hijrah) of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ from Mecca to Medina. During the time of Hazrat Umar (may Allah be pleased with him), with the consensus of the noble companions, the Hijrah was accepted as the beginning of the Islamic calendar.

Indeed, the month of Muharram in which we find ourselves is one of the four sacred months to which Allah the Almighty has given special value. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: *"The year is twelve months, of which four are sacred: three consecutive months – Dhul-Qa'dah, Dhul-Hijjah, and Muharram – and Rajab, which comes between Jumada al-Thani and Sha'ban."* (Bukhari)

The month of Muharram reminds us of the Hijrah. Hijrah is not merely a journey from Mecca to Medina. Hijrah is a turning away from disbelief towards faith, from disobedience to obedience, from sin to repentance, from heedlessness to awakening.

Our Lord states in the Noble Qur'an: *"If you do not aid the Prophet – Allah has already aided him when those who disbelieved drove him out as one of two, when they were in the cave and he said to his companion, 'Do not grieve; indeed Allah is with us.' And Allah sent down His tranquility upon him and supported him with angels you did not see and made the word of those who disbelieved the lowest, while the word of Allah – that is the highest. And Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise."* (At-Tawbah, 9:40)

Respected ones! The Hijrah continues today. However, the Hijrah required of us today is turning away from sins towards Allah the Almighty. As the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said: *"The Muhajir (emigrant) is the one who abandons what Allah has forbidden."* (Bukhari)

Dear Muslims! One of the most virtuous days of the month of Muharram is the Day of Ashura. The Day of Ashura, which is the tenth day of Muharram, is one of the

blessed days to which the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ gave great importance.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was asked about fasting on the Day of Ashura. He replied: *"It expiates the sins of the past year."* Then he said: *"The most virtuous fasting after Ramadan is the fasting of the month of Muharram, the month of Allah. And the most virtuous prayer after the obligatory prayers is the night prayer (Tahajjud)."* (Muslim)

The Prophet ﷺ commanded that Ashura be fasted along with the ninth or the eleventh day as well.

Respected Believers! The month of Muharram also reminds us of the tragedy of Karbala. The beloved grandson of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the master of the youth of Paradise, Hazrat Husayn (may Allah be pleased with him), was martyred in Karbala during this month. This painful event is a shared sorrow for the entire Ummah. However, the way of Ahl as-Sunnah is not mourning and extremism; rather, it is to love the Ahl al-Bayt (the Prophet's household) and to take their faith, character, and conduct as an example.

Let us conclude our khutbah with a portion from the first sermon delivered by the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ near Quba after the Hijrah: *"O people! Repent to Allah before you die. Hasten to perform righteous deeds before you become preoccupied. Remember Allah often, both secretly and openly, so that you may be provided for, helped, and your shortcomings rectified. Know that Allah has made the Friday prayer obligatory upon you. Whoever abandons it out of disdain or denial, may Allah not bless his affairs. However, Allah accepts the repentance of those who repent sincerely. So protect yourselves from the Fire, even with half a date. Whoever cannot find that, let him protect himself with a kind word. For indeed, a good deed is rewarded tenfold up to seven hundredfold."* (Ibn Majah)

