

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَى  
وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ

وَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ: إِذَا جَاءَ رَمَضَانُ فَتُحْتَفَلُ أَبْوَابُ الرَّحْمَةِ، وَعُلِقَتْ أَبْوَابُ  
جَهَنَّمَ، وَسُلْسِلَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ

Dear Muslims!

The shadow of the blessed month of Ramadan, the Sultan of eleven months, the month of mercy, forgiveness, and blessings, has fallen upon us. On the night connecting February 28th to March The 1st, insha'Allah, after the Isha prayer, we will perform our first Tarawih prayer and rise for Suhoor to make the intention for our first fast.

The content of today's khutbah will be the khutbah delivered by our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) during the month of Sha'ban in preparation for Ramadan. In this khutbah, the Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "O people! A great month is approaching you. A month of mercy has enveloped you. Ramadan is such a blessed month that within it lies a night better than a thousand months—the Night of power (Laylat al-Qadr). Almighty Allah has made fasting during its days obligatory and the Tarawih prayer at night a voluntary act of worship. Whoever performs a voluntary good deed during Ramadan will receive the reward of fulfilling an obligatory act at other times. And whoever fulfills an obligatory act during this month will receive the reward of seventy obligatory acts performed in other months. This is the month of patience and endurance, and the reward for patience is Paradise. Ramadan is the month of grace, generosity, mutual aid, and solidarity. This month increases and blesses the sustenance of the believer. Whoever provides food for a fasting person to break their fast will have their sins forgiven and be spared from the Hellfire. The fasting person's reward will not be diminished, and they will also receive a reward equal to that of the one who fasted."

As the Prophet (peace be upon him) spoke these words, one of the companions asked, "O Messenger of Allah! Most of us do not have the means to provide food for a fasting person. Will we be deprived of this reward?" The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied, "Whoever gives a fasting person a single date, a sip of water, or a mouthful of milk to break their fast will also receive this reward. This month of Ramadan is so blessed that its beginning is mercy, its middle is forgiveness, and its end is liberation from the Hellfire. Whoever lightens the workload of those under their authority during this month, Allah will forgive them and free them from the Hellfire.

In Ramadan, increase the following four acts: Two of them will please your Lord, and the other two are essential for you.

The two qualities that will please your Lord are:

1. Constantly recite the declaration of faith (Kalima-i Tawhid).
2. Seek forgiveness and repentance from your Lord for your sins.

As for the other two:

1. Ask Allah Almighty for Paradise.
2. Seek refuge in Him from the fire of Hell.

O my companions! Whoever feeds a fasting person and provides them with water to drink, Allah will give them a drink from my Hawd al-Kawthar (the Pond of Abundance), and they will never feel thirst again until they enter Paradise." (Ibn Khuzaymah, Sahih, 3/191-192)

I conclude my khutbah with a noble verse from the Quran:

"Ramadân is the month in which the Quran was revealed as a guide for humanity with clear proofs of guidance and the decisive authority. So whoever is present this month, let them fast." (Al-Baqarah, 185)