

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ

**O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you [Q۲:۱۸۳]**

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْكَرِيمِ الْمَنَّانِ، أَكْرَمَنَا بِشَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ، وَفَتَحَ لَنَا فِيهِ أَبْوَابَ الْجَنَّةِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ، فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

All Praise be to Allah, the Most Generous, the Most Bountiful Who honored us with the Month of Ramadan and opened for us the Gates of the Gardens of Paradise. I bear witness that there is no deity but Allah Alone, Who has no partner, and I bear witness that our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, is the Servant and Messenger of Allah. O Allah, send blessings, salutations and benedictions on our Master and Prophet, his family, all of his Companions, as well as those who follow them in goodness until the Day of Reckoning.

As to what follows, I counsel you, O Servants of Allah, and myself to have *Taqwā* of Allah (i.e. consciousness and self-restraining fear of Allah). Allah Almighty says:

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

[Q۲:۱۸۳] (O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may learn God-consciousness and self-restraining fear (*taqwa*))

**O Muslims:** Allah Most High has made the fasting of the Month of Ramadan compulsory. Allah Almighty says: (شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَنْ شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ)

[Q۲:۱۸۳] (Ramadhan is the (month) in which was sent down the Qur'an, as a guide to humankind, also as clear (Signs) for guidance and judgment (between right and wrong). So whosoever of you witnesses the month let him fast it)

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) emphasized the fact that fasting Ramadan is one of the Pillars of Islam, saying: «بُنِيَ الْإِسْلَامُ عَلَى خَمْسٍ: شَهَادَةِ: شَهَادَةِ: شَهَادَةِ: شَهَادَةِ: شَهَادَةِ»

«أَنَّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ، وَإِقَامَ الصَّلَاةِ، وَإِيتَاءَ الزَّكَاةِ، وَصَوْمَ رَمَضَانَ، وَحَجَّ الْبَيْتِ»

("Islam is built upon five: the testimony that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah, establishing Salat (the Ritual Prayer), paying Zakat (the Annual Tax), fasting (the month of) Ramadan, and performing Hajj (Holy Pilgrimage) to the Sacred House.")

Allah Most High has indeed made fasting distinct and exceptional among the deeds of human beings, and attributed it to Himself as a way of exalting it and

magnifying its status. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) says in a narration which he reported from His Lord, the Mighty and Sublime:

«كُلُّ عَمَلِ ابْنِ آدَمَ لَهُ إِلَّا الصِّيَامَ، فَإِنَّهُ لِي وَأَنَا أُجْزِي بِهِ»

('Every good deed performed by the son of Adam is for him except fasting; for that is for Me, and I Myself will give the reward for it.')

Allah Most High has designated a Gate from the Gates of Paradise specifically for those who fast, through which only they enter and no one else. The Messenger of Allah (Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: «إِنَّ فِي الْجَنَّةِ بَابًا يُقَالُ لَهُ الرَّيَّانُ، يَدْخُلُ مِنْهُ الصَّائِمُونَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، لَا يَدْخُلُ مَعَهُمْ أَحَدٌ غَيْرُهُمْ، يُقَالُ: أَيْنَ الصَّائِمُونَ؟ فَيَدْخُلُونَ مِنْهُ، فَإِذَا دَخَلَ آخِرُهُمْ أُغْلِقَ، فَلَمْ يَدْخُلْ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ»

[In Paradise there is a gate which is called al-Rayyan through which only the people who fast would enter on the Day of Resurrection. None else would enter along with them. It would be proclaimed: Where are the people who fast that they should be admitted through it? And when the last of them has entered, it would be closed and no one would enter it (after that)]

At that moment those who fast would rejoice in the everlasting delights and noble sites which Allah Almighty has prepared for them. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: «لِلصَّائِمِ فَرْحَتَانِ: فَرْحَةٌ عِنْدَ فِطْرِهِ، وَفَرْحَةٌ عِنْدَ لِقَاءِ رَبِّهِ»

(The fasting person has two moments of joy. One when he breaks his fast and another when he meets his Lord.)

What joy the fasting person will have in the Divine Pleasure of his Lord and what happiness he will experience in the honor conferred upon him by his Creator, particularly when he rises above all that is base with his moral traits, conduct and interaction with others, and meets wrongdoing and abuse with tolerance. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: «إِذَا كَانَ يَوْمَ صَوْمِ أَحَدِكُمْ فَلَا يَرْفُثْ وَلَا يَصْخَبْ، فَإِنْ سَاءَ لَهُ أَحَدٌ أَوْ قَاتَلَهُ، فَلْيَقُلْ إِنِّي امْرُؤٌ صَائِمٌ»

«إِذَا كَانَ يَوْمَ صَوْمِ أَحَدِكُمْ فَلَا يَرْفُثْ وَلَا يَصْخَبْ، فَإِنْ سَاءَ لَهُ أَحَدٌ أَوْ قَاتَلَهُ، فَلْيَقُلْ إِنِّي امْرُؤٌ صَائِمٌ»

(When any one of you is fasting one day, he should neither indulge in obscene language, nor be loud and uproarious; or if anyone reviles him or tries to quarrel with him, he should say: I am a person fasting.)

He reminds himself and the person in front of him that he is in a state of obedience to Allah Most High, and whosoever is in a state of worshipping his Lord, only responds and retaliates with what is good. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: «الصِّيَامُ جُنَّةٌ»

(Fasting is a protective shield)

Thus, the fasting person keeps his fasting pure and untainted and strives to safeguard his tongue, his hearing, his sight and all of his limbs, Jabir ibn 'Abdillah (may Allah be pleased with him) is reported to have said, (When you fast, then let hearing, sight and tongue also fast ... and let there be serenity and tranquility over you, and do not make the day that you eat and the day that fast the same). Whosoever safeguards his limbs and patiently perseveres in the obedience of his Lord, has indeed realized the true essence of fasting and achieved a complete reward from his Lord, the Most Merciful.

**O Worshippers:** Ramadan is a month of action, activity and earnestness, in which the fasting person patiently perseveres in being diligent and industrious in his work and professional occupation, and for that he will receive a great reward and a generous recompense from Allah Most High. When the fasting person has finished his work and completed his tasks, he invests his time in the obedience of his Lord and engages in the remembrance of his Creator, thus being constantly with Allah Most High and under His Care, Protection and Preservation. One of the greatest forms of remembrance of Allah, is the recitation of the Holy Qur'an and the contemplation of Its noble verses, for Ramadan is the Month of the Qur'an. Jibril (Gabriel) (peace be upon him) would meet with the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) every night of Ramadan, and recite and review the Qur'an with him.

Preceding generations of Muslims, whenever Ramadan was approaching, they would devote and dedicate themselves entirely to the recitation of the Holy Qur'an, for in the recitation of the Holy Qur'an there is an enormous reward.

Also, of the things whose reward is huge, whose goodwill widespread and whose benefit manifest in society, is feeding and providing food to others. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: «مَنْ فَطَّرَ صَائِمًا كَانَ لَهُ مِثْلُ

أَجْرِهِ، غَيْرَ أَنَّهُ لَا يَنْقُصُ مِنْ أَجْرِ الصَّائِمِ شَيْئًا»

(Whoever provides food for a fasting person to break his fast with, will have the same reward as the fasting person, without the reward of the fasting person being diminished in any way whatsoever.)

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) would accept the invitation of his companions, and when he would break his fast with one of them (having been invited by him), he would pray and supplicate for him saying:

«أَفْطَرَ عِنْدَكُمْ الصَّائِمُونَ وَأَكَلَ طَعَامَكُمْ الْأَبْرَارُ وَصَلَّتْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْمَلَائِكَةُ»

"The observers of fast have broken their fast with you, the righteous have eaten your food and the angels invoked blessings on you."

**O Muslims:** Also, of the recommended Prophetic practices through which the fasting person's reward is increased is having the pre-dawn meal (sahur). The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: «تَسَحَّرُوا فَإِنَّ فِي السَّحُورِ بَرَكَهً»

("Eat the sahur (i.e. the pre-dawn meal), for indeed in the sahur there is a blessing.")

Of the recommended Prophetic practices is hastening to break one's fast. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

«لَا يَزَالُ النَّاسُ بِخَيْرٍ مَا عَجَّلُوا الْفِطْرَ»

("People will remain fine (and on the right path) as long as they hasten the breaking of the fast.")

And also to break one's fast with a date or water before praying Maghrib (the sunset prayer). It has been reported on the authority of Anas ibn Malik (may Allah be pleased with him) that he said,

"كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ يُفِطِرُ عَلَى رُطَبَاتٍ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُصَلِّيَ، فَإِنْ لَمْ تَكُنْ رُطَبَاتٌ، فَتَمْرَاتٌ، فَإِنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ تَمْرَاتٌ حَسَا حَسَوَاتٍ مِنْ مَاءٍ"

(The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to break his fast before praying with some fresh dates; but if there were no fresh dates, he would have a few dry dates, and if there were no dry dates, he would drink sips of water.)

So let the fasting person rejoice in the acceptance of his fasting and the certainty of his reward (by Allah's Will), for the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to say whenever he broke his fast,

«ذَهَبَ الظَّمَأُ وَابْتَلَّتِ الْعُرُوقُ، وَتَبَّتِ الْأَجْرُ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ»

("Thirst has gone, the arteries are moist, and the reward is sure, if Allah wills.")

فَاللَّهُمَّ بَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ، وَأَعِنَّا فِيهِ عَلَى الصِّيَامِ وَالْقِيَامِ، وَضَاعِفِ لَنَا فِيهِ الْأَجْرَ يَا ذَا الْجَلَالِ وَالْإِكْرَامِ، وَوَفِّقْنَا لِمَطَاعَتِكَ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَطَاعَةَ رَسُولِكَ مُحَمَّدٍ الْأَمِينِ ﷺ وَطَاعَةَ مَنْ أَمَرْنَا بِطَاعَتِهِ عَمَلًا بِقَوْلِكَ: (يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ).

نَفَعَنِي اللَّهُ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَبِسُنَّةِ نَبِيِّهِ الْكَرِيمِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَعْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.

## The Second Khutbah

All praises are for Allah, Lord of all the Worlds. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love and adoration, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that One-ness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon his name), is the perfect example of dutiful servanthood towards Allah, and is His sent Messenger unto the entirety of the created universe. O Allah: We ask you to bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon him; his family; all of his companions; and whomsoever follows and seeks to emulate him in the best of ways till the Last Day. I advise you, O servants of Allah, and myself, with Taqwa of Allah (glorified be He).

**O Worshippers:** While we are on the doorstep of the Blessed Month of Ramadan, enjoying stability and tranquility, we remember our armed forces who defend country and honor, safeguard the homeland, protect its assets and reinforce its standing and progress in the world. They constitute the impenetrable fort and the mighty shield. We offer them, with all veneration and pride, the salute of honor and respect and we congratulate them on the anniversary of the Unification of the UAE Armed Forces, thanking them for the efforts and sacrifices that they have made and the heroic role that they are performing. We ask Allah Most High to grant them steadfastness, success, protection and support, and we give them the glad tidings of the statement of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him): «عَيْنَانِ لَا تَمَسُّهُمَا النَّارُ: عَيْنٌ بَكَتْ مِنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ، وَعَيْنٌ بَاتَتْ تَحْرُسُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ»

("There are two eyes that shall not be touched by the Fire: An eye that wept out fear for Allah, and an eye that spent the night standing on guard in the cause of Allah.")

And with this, let us send our peace and blessings upon the one we have been commanded to send our peace and blessings upon, as Allah says: **Indeed, Allah confers blessing upon the Prophet, and His angels [ask Him to do so]. O you who have believed, ask [Allah to confer] blessing upon him and ask [Allah to grant him] peace.** [Qur'an: ٣٣:٥٦]. So, O Allah, bestow Your peace, blessings and grace upon our Master, our Prophet and upon his family and all of his companions. And may Allah be pleased with the Righteous Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman, Ali; and the noble companions of the Prophet, the Sahaba, may Allah be pleased with all of them. O Allah, we ask You for soundness in our faith, and trust in good character, and a true success that will be followed by eternal bliss.

O Allah, we ask You for Your mercy, for true prosperity, for Your redemptive forgiveness and Your pleasure. O Allah, make us from those who are obedient, respectful, those who venerate their parents, honoring their mothers and their fathers, embodying excellent character towards their families and wider societies.

O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and guide him to all that is good. O Allah, we seek Your favour in granting him continued good health and care. O Allah, we also ask You to grant success to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates.

O Allah, we ask You to forgive all of the Muslims, both the men and women, the living and dead. O Allah, bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to the mercy of their Lord. O Lord, grant them from your abundant mercy and bless them with Your kindness and satisfaction. O Allah, we ask you to admit them into Paradise, being given bounties therein without being taken to account. O Lord, forgive and show mercy on our parents, relatives and whosoever may have a right upon us.

O Allah, we ask You, from your loving kindness, for the immensity of your forgiveness, for the reward of all righteousness, for the safety and protection from all sin. O Allah, we ask you for the ultimate success in attaining Paradise, and the ultimate respite in being saved from the Fire. O Allah, do not allow us to sin except that You forgive us, nor to have any worry except that you relieve us therein, nor for any debt to come upon us except that You see it compensated, nor for there to be any sick amongst us except that You see them healed. Let there be no dead, except that You have covered them in Your mercy, and let there be no pressing need, amongst any of us, except that You see it met and fulfilled. O most Noble of the Noble, You are capable over all things, and You are the most generous in responding to those who call upon You.

We ask You, O Allah, the Lord of all domains, to continue blessing the UAE with stability, welfare, increase in its bounties, knowledge, civilization, happiness, beauty and tolerance. O Allah, please continue blessing it with safety and security. O Allah, have mercy on the honorable martyrs of our nation and gather them with the ones upon whom Allah has bestowed favour of the Prophets. O Allah, make the dwelling of the martyrs, their families, parents and relatives with the righteous. Indeed, You are ever-responsive to those who call upon You. O Allah, grant to the people of Yemen that which is good, and unite them upon that which is True and Sacred, and provide for them all manners of prosperity, O most Noble of the Noble. O Allah, spread peace and security amongst all the Muslim nations, and the entirety of the world. O our Lord, we ask You for the best of this World, the best of the Hereafter, that You will protect us from the punishment of the Fire, and

that You enter us into Your paradise with the righteous. Indeed You are the Most Generous and Most Forgiving.

**O Servants of Allah:** Remember Allah, the Majestic, and He will remember you. Thank Him for His blessings and He will increase you therein. And establish the prayer.

**So stand up for prayer.**