



Ramadan: The Month of Giving

The First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah Who has honored us with the month of Ramadan. The month of mercy and forgiveness and freedom from perdition. 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 him), is the perfect example of servanthood unto Allah, and His sent Messenger unto the entire universe.

To Continue: I advise you, dutiful servants of Allah, and myself, to adhere to a heartfelt consciousness (Taqwa) of Allah. For He, the Most Gloriously Transcendent, states:

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أَعْطَى وَاتَّقَى * وَصَدَّقَ بِالْحُسْنَى * فَسَنِيَرُهُ لِلْيُسْرَى

As for he who gives and fears Allah, We will ease him toward ease. And believes in the best [reward]

[Qur'an: ٩٢:٥-٧]

In other words someone who spends their wealth in the path of good, out of piety for their Lord, seeking of His reward, and purifying themselves and their wealth. Indeed Allah will reward him for what he has expended

and please him in the Hereafter by entering His paradise, by saving him from punishment. Allah says:

وَسَيَجْزِيهَا الْآتِقَى * الَّذِي يُؤْتِي مَالَهُ يَتَزَكَّى * وَمَا لِأَحَدٍ عِنْدَهُ مِنْ

نِعْمَةٍ تُجْزَى * إِلَّا ابْتِغَاءَ وَجْهِ رَبِّهِ الْأَعْلَى * وَلَسَوْفَ يَرْضَى

But the righteous one will avoid it - [He] who gives [from] his wealth to purify himself. And not [giving] for anyone who has [done him] a favor to be rewarded, But only seeking the countenance of his Lord, Most High. And he is going to be satisfied.

[Qur'an: ۹۲:۱۷-۲۱]

The true believer is the one who strives in Ramadan to worship their Lord and to honor His creation. This is so that Allah can facilitate their affairs, enabling him to travel upon the path of good and paradise. Imam Shafi narrates: It is recommended for a person to increase in generosity and giving in the month of Ramadan, in emulation of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). To help the people in the fulfilment of their goodly activities, in the worship of their Lord. In such a manner Ramadan comes upon the believers and shall continue to, until the end of time, throughout the ages. So they sense this whilst they are fasting in a state of neediness, rejoicing in the season they are in. The fasting disciplines their egos, being gentle in their character, just as the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and

his companions were, sacrificing and giving of themselves, being merciful and compassionate.

O people of giving and excellence:

Indeed from the best of examples of noble giving, a form of compulsory charity, is the giving of Zakat. It is from the means by which a person enters into the mercy of Allah, as Allah says: **وَرَحْمَتِي وَسِعَتْ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ**

فَسَاكِبْهَا لِلَّذِينَ يَتَّقُونَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَالَّذِينَ هُمْ بِآيَاتِنَا يُؤْمِنُونَ

My mercy encompasses all things." So I will decree it [especially] for those who fear Me and give Zakat and those who believe in Our verses – [Qur'an:

٧:١٥٦]

The giving of Zakat makes thing easier for the poor, facilitating things for those in need, aiding the deprived. From the forms of such noble giving there is the hidden charity, that no-one knows except Allah. For this act indicates the sacrifice and giving of its doer , the excellence of character of the one doing so. An act that brings one under the shade of the Throne of the Most-Merciful on the Day of Judgment. As the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

سَبْعَةٌ يُظِلُّهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي ظِلِّهِ، يَوْمَ لَا ظِلَّ إِلَّا ظِلُّهُ - وَمِنْهُمْ - رَجُلٌ

تَصَدَّقَ بِصَدَقَةٍ فَأَخْفَاهَا حَتَّى لَا تَعْلَمَ شِمَالُهُ مَا تُنْفِقُ يَمِينَهُ

Seven people will be shaded by Allah under His shade on the day when there will be no shade except His ...” from them He mentioned, “and a man who

gives charity so secretly that his left hand does not know what his right hand has given.” (i.e. nobody knows how much he has given in charity).

[Bukhari and Muslim]

Giving charity to relatives is of greater reward, for the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

الصَّدَقَةُ عَلَى الْمِسْكِينِ صَدَقَةٌ، وَهِيَ عَلَى ذِي الرَّحِمِ ثِنْتَانِ:
صَدَقَةٌ وَصَلَةٌ

"Giving charity to a poor person is charity, and (giving) to a relative is two things, charity and upholding the ties of kinship." [Bukhari and Muslim]

O Worshippers of Allah:

From the greatest of charity in Ramadan is to provide food in the form of iftar to those who fast, for this is an act that is beloved to Allah and a means by which a person enters Paradise in a state of amnesty. Allah has promised those who feed the needy with Paradise, for

He says: **إِنَّ هَذَا كَانَ لَكُمْ جَزَاءً وَكَانَ سَعْيَكُمْ مَشْكُورًا**

[And it will be said], "Indeed, this is for you a reward, and your effort has been appreciated."

[Qur'an: ٧٦:٢٢]

The Sahaba and the righteous who came before ascertained the bounty of feeding food to the needy, so some of them used to give food every night to the widows, the orphans, and the poor. This is because giving food to others is a way of expressing gratitude

to the Merciful One who has given us life itself, giving them safety and security. Allah has called us to this way of gratitude, as He says: **فَلْيَعْبُدُوا رَبَّ هَذَا الْبَيْتِ** *

الَّذِي أَطْعَمَهُمْ مِنْ جُوعٍ وَآمَنَهُمْ مِنْ خَوْفٍ

Let them worship the Lord of this House, Who has fed them, [saving them] from hunger and made them safe, [saving them] from fear.

[Qur'an: ١٠٦:٣-٤]

So we should honor this blessing of food and remember the poor and the needy, working with the official channels in distributing it to those most deserving. From the best forms of giving, a form of continuous charity, is the building of wells and the provision of water. For it is narrated on the authority of Sad ibn Ubadah (may Allah be pleased with him) that he said: “O Messenger of Allah which type of charity is the best ? He responded by saying: “Providing drinking water.” [Sunan al-Nasa'i].

Alongside giving there is the spirit of giving, and what is more beautiful than one who whilst giving embodies the spirit of peace and contentment by smiling, for to smile in the face of one's brother is itself a charity. The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) is reported to have said:

تَبَسُّمُكَ فِي وَجْهِ أَخِيكَ صَدَقَةٌ

“Your smiling in the face of your brother is charity” [Al-Tirmidhi]

It is likewise beautiful if such a demeanor be coupled with kindly words, for that too is a type of charity that makes weighty the scales of goodness, allowing for such people to be saved from perdition and to enter the endless bliss of Paradise. The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) is reported to have said:

اتَّقُوا النَّارَ وَلَوْ بِشِقِّ تَمْرَةٍ، فَمَنْ لَمْ يَجِدْ فِكَلِمَةٍ طَيِّبَةٍ

“Protect yourselves from the Fire, even with half of a date and he who hasn't got even this, (should do so) by (saying) a goodly, pleasant word.” [Sahih al-Bukhari]

So O Allah make us from those who multiply their reward, those whose spending of themselves in this life results in them being given in the next. Enter them unto that which You have promised them therein. And assist us all in the way of piety and obedience. Piety towards Your trustworthy Messenger, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), the ability to be dutiful towards those You have commanded us to be dutiful towards, in accordance with Your words: **O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you.** [Qur'an: ٤:٥٩]

May Allah bless me and bless you with the Noble Qur'an and with the Way (Sunnah) of His Noble Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). I say this, and I seek forgiveness for me and for you, so seek His forgiveness, for He is the All-Forgiving and the All-Merciful.

The Second Khutbah

All praises are for Allah, the most Noble, most generous. 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:

What are these last ten days and nights that are coming upon us and drawing close? The blessed are those who invest their time in them for the sake of Allah with all types of worship drawing near to Allah thereby. Exposing themselves to the blessed breezes from His redeeming compassion and opening themselves up to enter the blessing of His paradise, for the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him):

افْعَلُوا الْخَيْرَ دَهْرَكُمْ، وَتَعَرَّضُوا لِنَفْحَاتِ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ، فَإِنَّ لِلَّهِ
نَفْحَاتٍ مِنْ رَحْمَتِهِ يُصِيبُ بِهَا مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ

Do good throughout your lives and expose yourselves to the gentle breezes of the mercy of Allah. For indeed Allah has gentle breezes from His mercy, that he gives to avail to whom He wills from His servants. [al-Tabarani]

In other words, seek the mercy of Allah and travel its paths and take its means. So let us invest and make the most of what remains of Ramadan, in a spirit of excellence and generosity, embodying Taqwa of Allah, doing the recitation of Qur'an, to attain thereby the pleasure of the Rahman. Attaining the highest levels of Paradise.

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.**