



The Month of Goodness draws near

First Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah, the All-forgiving, All-pardoning. He is the One who has promised us an increase and amplification of reward for doing good in blessed times. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except Allah, the uniquely One, who has no partners in His one-ness. And I testify that our Sayyid, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad, is the slave of Allah and His Messenger. O Allah, send Your peace and blessings upon him and upon whomsoever follows him in guidance until the Last Day.

To Continue: I advise you, O slaves of Allah and myself, with the Taqwa of Allah, for verily Allah says:

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

O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous – [Qur'an: ١٨٣: ٠٢]

O Believers: Indeed, Allah has legislated for His slaves, specific seasons and times when the reward for performing specific devotions is amplified. This includes special days when we are encouraged to expend ourselves in doing goodness because of the great blessedness of those times. From the greatest of such days and months is the days and month of Ramadan. For Ramadan is a tremendous month in which lies immense goodness which brings about a great reward for whoever devotes themselves to such goodness. This is why the souls of believers are always desirous and avid

whenever Ramadan draws near, just as the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to give glad tidings to his companions whenever it would draw near and arrive by stating:

قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَمَضَانُ، شَهْرٌ مُبَارَكٌ، افْتَرَضَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمْ صِيَامَهُ، تَفْتَحُ فِيهِ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ، وَتُغْلَقُ فِيهِ أَبْوَابُ الْجَحِيمِ، وَتُغْلَقُ فِيهِ الشَّيَاطِينُ

There has come to you Ramadan. A great month which Allah has obligated upon you to fast in. In it are opened the gates of Paradise, [and in it] the gates of the fire are closed and the devils are chained up. [Ahmad]

For this reason, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said that at the onset of Ramadan a caller calls out:

يَا بَاغِيَ الْخَيْرِ أَقْبِلْ

A caller calls out: "O seeker of the good, draw near!"

[Tirmidhi]

So here it is ... here is the month of goodness. Let us draw near to it, drawing near to it with our hearts and limbs desirous of performing good for in it the doors of mercy are opened for us. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said:

إِذَا دَخَلَ رَمَضَانُ؛ فَتُحْتَفَتُ أَبْوَابُ الرَّحْمَةِ

When Ramadan begins, the gates of mercy are opened.

[Tirmidhi]

What glad tidings there are here for the believers who receive Ramadan in the best of states with pure hearts. So, they do not carry grudges and are forgiving of others, and they leave aside rancor and other negative states, being tolerant and forbearing towards others. They enter into this month in a state of repentance, turning to Him with a sincere atoning taubah. This is why in this month spiritual ranks are raised

and sins are forgiven and bad deeds are wiped out. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said: **الصَّلَوَاتُ الْخَمْسُ، وَالْجُمُعَةُ إِلَى الْجُمُعَةِ،**

وَرَمَضَانَ إِلَى رَمَضَانَ مَكْفِرَاتٌ مَّا بَيْنَهُنَّ، مَا اجْتَنَبْتَ الْكَبَائِرُ

“The five [daily] prayers, [from] Friday to Friday and Ramadan to Ramadan make atonement for what has happened [between them] since the previous one as long as major sins have been avoided.” [Muslim]

So, who could be more felicitous than a person who makes the most of the month of Ramadan and attains unto such forgiveness. Such a person invests their day in fasting and their nights in prayer, devoting themselves purely and utterly for the sake of Allah, gaining reward from Allah the most generous, thereby. The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said:

مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ وَقَامَهُ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا؛ غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

He who fasts during Ramadan with faith and seeking his reward from God will have his past sins forgiven. [Nisai]

So, let us be of those who fast and who obtain such forgiveness, filling their time with remembrance of the Most Merciful, being busied with reciting of the Qur'an, hastening to righteousness and devotion. O Allah make us of those who receive Ramadan with faith and in a state of peace, make us of those who are people of righteousness and spiritual excellence. And accept all of us for Your obedience and bless us with obedience towards your Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and obedience towards those You have ordered us to show obedience towards, in accordance with Your saying:



يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ

O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. [Qur'an:

٤:٥٩]

I say this and I seek forgiveness for myself and for you, so seek His forgiveness, indeed He is the most forgiving, most Merciful.

Second Khutbah

All praises are due to Allah the One. And may peace and blessings be upon our Sayyid, Sayyiduna Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and upon all of his companions. I advise you slaves of Allah and myself with the Taqwa of Allah.

O Believers: The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is reported to have said:

الصِّيَامُ جُنَّةٌ، وَإِذَا كَانَ يَوْمٌ صَوْمٍ أَحَدِكُمْ؛ فَلَا يَرْفُثْ وَلَا يَصْخَبْ،

فَإِنْ امْرُؤٌ شَتَمَهُ أَوْ آذَاهُ؛ فَلْيَقُلْ: إِنِّي صَائِمٌ، إِنِّي صَائِمٌ

Fasting is a shield or protection. If one of you is fasting, he should avoid sexual relations and quarreling, and if somebody should fight or quarrel with him, he should say, 'I am fasting. I am fasting.' [Bukhari and Muslim]

Ramadan is a gift for those who abstain from those forbidden acts which break the fast, who preserve their limbs from committing the forbidden and indecent, who beautify their souls with the most praiseworthy of traits, who interact with people with the best of characters and the best of deeds. Such people are those who can truly lay claim to having a wholesome fast and be of those who attain unto its great reward. The companion Jabir (Allah be pleased with him) is

reported to have said: "If you fast, then fast with your hearing, fast with your seeing, fast with your tongue. Let there be upon you a serenity, tranquility and peacefulness brought about by your fast, do not make the days in which you fast like the days in which you don't, do not make them the same." So, let those who fast hold firm to such beneficial advice, let us encourage and motivate our children with this, such that we as families can attain unto the tremendous benefits of this month. Let us devote our times to the devotion of Allah, devotion towards the Most Merciful (Rahman), committing ourselves to Ihsan. Let us connect with our families and relatives for His sake.

And with this we ask You O Allah that You send Your prayers and blessings upon all of the Prophets and Messengers, and especially on the seal of them, our master, our Prophet, Sayyiduna Muhammad. O Allah send Your peace and blessings upon him, and upon his family, his companions, all of them. O Allah, grant success to the UAE President HH Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, to the Vice-President, the Crown Prince and his Brothers, their Highnesses, the Rulers of the Emirates and guide them to all that is good and what pleases You. O Allah: Bestow your mercy on the late Sheikh Zayed, Sheikh Maktoum and the other late UAE Sheikhs who have passed on to Your mercy. We ask you to admit them into Paradise by Your grace. O Allah have mercy on those martyred for Your sake, and grant them intercession for their people, and grant their families patience and a great reward. And have mercy, our Lord, upon our fathers and mothers, and upon whoever has a right upon us. Please continue sending Your blessings and bounties upon this nation the UAE, and upon all the Muslims and the entire Ummah wheresoever they may be. O Allah, confer upon us Your blessings upon us and do not make us from those who

despair. O Allah: aid us, help us, and bless us. O Allah: bless us in this life with that which is good and in the next life that which is good, and save us from the hellfire. Believers, remember Allah and He will remember you, forget Him not, lest you be forgotten. Let us align ourselves towards Him sincerely, and align our hearts. So, stand up for prayer.

