

HUNGER OF FASTING CURES GREED

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

أَلْهَيْكُمْ التَّكَاثُرُ (1) حَتَّى زُرْتُمُ الْمَقَابِرَ (2) كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ (3)

نَمَّ كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ (4)

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

يَقُولُ ابْنُ آدَمَ مَالِي مَالِي - قَالَ - وَهَلْ لَكَ يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ مِنْ مَالِكَ إِلَّا مَا أَكَلْتَ

فَأَقْنَيْتَ أَوْ لَبِستَ فَأَبْلَيْتَ أَوْ تَصَدَّقْتَ فَأَمْضَيْتَ

A Blessed Friday to You, Brothers and Sisters!

To the humankind who falls into the hands of desire and fancy and gets dragged into the swirl of ambition and cupidity, Allah the Exalted asks this crucial question: **“Where are you going?”**ⁱ “Where are you going, oh, humans? Are you aware of your path?”

In this blessed Ramadan, the month of Quran, we must once again ask ourselves that question. We must shake and pull ourselves together with it. And we must ruminate over the answer.

Honorable Believers!

Ramadan is one of the best periods of time in which the answers we can give to this question are experienced in person. Because Ramadan reminds us of what we have forgotten. It calls us to contemplate. Ramadan calms down our spirit with Quran, prayer, remembrance, repentance, alms, and supplication. Fasting leaves us hungry from sunrise to iftar, thus curing greed which is another type of hunger and the source of all evil. Its origin is described in the Quran as “takathur” (boasting with abundance and competing for it). Allah Almighty enjoins us this fact in Surat at-Takathur:

أَلْهَيْكُمْ التَّكَاثُرُ. حَتَّى زُرْتُمُ الْمَقَابِرَ “Competition in worldly increase diverts you until you visit the graveyards.”

كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ. نَمَّ كَلَّا سَوْفَ تَعْلَمُونَ “No! You are going to know. Then no! You are going

to know.” كَلَّا لَوْ تَعْلَمُونَ عِلْمَ الْيَقِينِ “No! If you only knew with knowledge of certainty.”

لَتَرَوُنَّ الْجَحِيمَ “You will surely see the Hellfire (if you do not stop your greed and competing in boasting with abundance).”

نَمَّ لَتَرَوُنَّهَا عَيْنَ الْيَقِينِ “Then you will surely see it with the eye of certainty.”

نَمَّ لَتُسْأَلُنَّ يَوْمَئِذٍ عَنِ النَّعِيمِ “Then you will surely be asked that Day about pleasure.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Brothers and Sisters!

One day when our Prophet (pbuh) recited this surat, he followed up with this question upon which every single one of us must contemplate: “The son of Adam says: ‘My wealth, my wealth.’ And do you own anything except what you give in charity, such that you’ve spent it, or what you eat, such that you’ve finished it, or you wear, such that you’ve worn it out?”ⁱⁱⁱ

Brothers and Sisters!

Avarice and greed are the source of all evil from which the humankind suffers. Isn’t the greed of global powers the reason for the bloodshed and suffering nowadays? Isn’t it greed and nothing else that causes the balance of the universe to be disturbed, the nature to be ruined and the environment to be polluted, and the future of human species to be risked by modifying plants and seeds?

Brothers and Sisters!

As they come upon us to enlighten our hearts and cities every year in such an atmosphere, Ramadan and fasting offer us a great opportunity to get rid of greed, desire, and avarice. Ramadan and fasting remind us that our belongings do not actually belong to us, material and spiritual blessings are all but a test. They make us realize that the world is temporary, what’s permanent and everlasting is the afterlife. Ramadan teaches us to share and fasting teaches us to thank and be grateful. Ramadan inculcates us that real wealth is not the abundance of our fortune but the contentment of our hearts. It declares that the way to have bliss on the earth and salvation in the afterlife is not piling up wealth but winning hearts and accumulating prayers.

Then come, Dear Brothers and Sisters, Let us allow fasting and other worships we perform to let us deliver from greed and make us grateful and thankful believers. Let us surrender our hearts to Ramadan.

ⁱ At-Takwir, 81/26.

ⁱⁱ At-Takathur, 102/1-8.

ⁱⁱⁱ Muslim, Zühd, 3.