

The Month of Mercy and Blessing: Ramadan

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلْنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ

وَالْفُرْقَانِ صَدِيقُ اللَّهِ الْعَظِيمِ

وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبٍ.

Honorable Muslims!

Next Wednesday, following the Isha prayer, we will welcome the blessed month of Ramadan with the Tarawih prayer, during which the entire Qur'an will be recited. That same night, we will rise for suhoor and make our intention to fast. Then, on Thursday, February 19th, the first day of Ramadan, we will enter this season of blessings and forgiveness, God willing.

Infinite praise and thanks be to our Lord, who has granted us the blessing of reaching this month. May greeting and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad Mustafa (saw), whose Ummah we are honored to belong to.

Dear Believers!

The month of Ramadan is a month of mercy that we have eagerly awaited throughout the year. It is an exceptional time in which faith, worship, good character, awareness of the Ummah, and Islamic brotherhood are strengthened. It is a period of self-reflection for the believer, during which they review their relationship with their Lord on the one hand, and their relationships with their brothers and sisters on the other.

Valuable Muslims!

Ramadan is the month in which fasting—an act of worship that leads us to piety through patience and contentment—was made obligatory. It is also the

month in which the Holy Qur'an, our guide to righteousness and the straight path, began to be revealed. Allah Almighty declares: **“The month of Ramadan is the month in which the Quran was revealed as a guide for mankind, clear proofs of the right path and of distinguishing between truth and falsehood. So whoever of you reaches this month should fast during it...”¹**

Ramadan is the month of repentance that purifies believers from their sins, like the autumn rain that falls at the end of summer and cleanses the earth of dirt and dust. Indeed, our Prophet (saw) said: **“Whoever fasts during Ramadan with faith and expecting reward from Allah, his past sins will be forgiven.”²**

Dear Muslims!

The most blessed places to experience the holy month of Ramadan are our masjids, where the hearts of believers stand in reverence before our Lord. Let us gather in our masjids, where we offer our servitude to Allah, and find peace. Let us benefit fully from the blessings of Ramadan. In this month of the Qur'an, let us fill our homes and hearts with the Qur'an. Let us uphold the tradition of collective Qur'an recitation (mukabala) and revive the Sunnah of our Prophet. Let us participate in the Tarawih prayers in our masjids. Let us bring joy to the faces of those in need through our zakat and sadaqah. And let us be among those who truly comprehend this blessed month, which, in the words of our Prophet, is a month in which **“from its very first night, the devils are chained, the gates of Hell are closed, the gates of Paradise are opened, and countless believers are freed from the Fire.”³**

¹ Bakara, 2/185.

² Buhârî, İmân, 28.

³ Tirmîzî, Sawm,1; İbn Mâja, Siyâm, 2.