

Awareness of Servitude and Ramadan

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِنَ الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ
فَمَنْ شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ...
قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
أَتَاكُمْ رَمَضَانُ شَهْرٌ مُبَارَكٌ فَرَضَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ عَلَيْكُمْ صِيَامَهُ تَفْتَحُ فِيهِ
أَبْوَابُ السَّمَاءِ وَتُغْلَقُ فِيهِ أَبْوَابُ الْجَحِيمِ وَتُغْلَبُ فِيهِ مَلَائِكَةُ الشَّيَاطِينِ...

Dear Believers!

It had been only eighteen months since our Prophet ﷺ migrated to Medina. It was the final days of Sha‘ban. The following verses of Surah al-Baqarah, announcing the obligation of fasting, were revealed:

“Ramadan is the month in which the Qur’an was revealed as guidance for mankind, and as clear proofs of guidance and the Criterion. So whoever among you reaches the month, let him fast during it.”¹

Our beloved Prophet ﷺ ascended the pulpit of al-Masjid al-Nabawi and addressed his Ummah: **“You have reached the blessed month of Ramadan. Almighty Allah has made fasting obligatory upon you in this month. In this month, the gates of Paradise are opened, the gates of Hell are closed, and the rebellious devils are chained.”²**

Dear Believers!

Ramadan is the month of fasting and the Qur’an, the month of patience, gratitude, repentance, and reflection. It holds within it the Night of Power (Laylat al-Qadr), better than a thousand months. According to the Prophet ﷺ, on the first night of Ramadan, an angel calls out: **“O seeker of goodness! Come to worship and servitude! O seeker of evil! Abandon your sins!”³**

My brothers and sisters!

Ramadan finds its meaning through fasting. Fasting is a training in patience, willpower, and compassion. The verse, **“O you who believe! Fasting has been prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may attain piety,”⁴** shows that its purpose is to protect us from evil and

sin. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: **“Fasting is a shield. On the day one of you is fasting, let him not use foul speech or engage in quarrelling. If someone provokes or insults him, let him say, ‘I am fasting.’”⁵**

Dear Believers!

Ramadan is the month in which the Qur’an, our book of life, began to be revealed. The Qur’an is the Word of Allah, **“the best of speech.”⁶** As the Prophet ﷺ said: **“The most truthful speech is the speech of Allah; and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad ﷺ.”⁷** The Qur’an guides humanity to the straight path in every age until the Day of Judgment.

Dear Muslims!

Ramadan is a month of brotherhood, solidarity, and sharing. By abstaining from food and drink, we understand the poor, value our blessings, and give thanks to Allah, the Provider.

It is also a time to end bad habits and open new pages of goodness. We compete in righteous deeds, avoid evil words and actions, and strengthen the bonds of unity, love, and respect among us.

Dear brothers and sisters!

Let us bring our tongues, hearts, reflections, and lives together with the beauty of Ramadan. Let us devote more time to reading and understanding the Qur’an. Let us repair our worn hearts with its light and observe our fasts with awareness.

Brothers and sisters!

As every year, we are providing iftar meals in our masjid this Ramadan. We need the support of those who say, **“Let one iftar meal be from us as well.”** Let us remember that spending for the sake of Allah is a great act of worship. Our Lord says: **“Whoever spends Ramadan in worship, believing sincerely and hoping for reward from Allah, his past sins will be forgiven.”⁸**

May our Lord grant all of us the opportunity to spend another Ramadan in health and well-being, with a consciousness of worship and servitude.

1 Bakara, 2/185.

2 Nasâi, Siyâm, 5.

3 Tirmizî, Sawm, 1; İbn Mâce, Siyâm, 2.

4 Bakara, 2/183.

5 Buhârî, Sawm, 9; Müslim, Siyâm, 29.

6 Zümar, 39/23.

7 Nasâi, İdeyn, 22.

8 Buhârî, İman, 27.