

Farewell to Ramadan

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
وَاعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
وَإِنَّ أَحَبَّ الْعَمَلِ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَدْوَمُهُ وَإِنْ قَلَّ.

Honorable Muslims!

Ramadan is a school that returns each year to teach us how to live a life that is pleasing to Allah. In this distinguished school, we spent a month striving to learn how to be good individuals and sincere Muslims. We recited the Holy Qur'an, our ultimate guide to life. We endeavored to understand its messages and embody them in our lives. After Ramadan, too, let us strive to maintain this strong bond with the Holy Qur'an in every aspect of our lives. Let us continue to carry its blessings with us and integrate them into our daily lives.

Ramadan brought us together as families in our mosques for an entire month. In addition to our five daily prayers, we stood shoulder to shoulder in reverence during the tarawih prayers. We soothed our hearts with supplications and salawats. However, our servitude is not limited to a day or a month. Our Almighty Lord invites us to a lifetime of servitude: **“And worship your Lord until the inevitable comes to you.”**ⁱ Our Prophet (saw), moreover, reminds us that we should carry our worship into every moment of our lives, saying, **“The most beloved of deeds in the sight of Allah are those that are continuous, even if they are small.”**ⁱⁱ Let us, therefore, continue the worship habits we have cultivated during Ramadan throughout the entire year.

Esteemed Muslims!

In the school of Ramadan, we strengthened our willpower through fasting and learned the virtues of patience. By stating, **يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ** **“O believers! Seek comfort in patience and prayer. Allah is truly with those who are patient,”**ⁱⁱⁱ, our Lord invites us to be patient and to seek His help through prayer and patience.

Dear Believers!

Alhamdulillah, during Ramadan, the month of goodness, we embraced the motto of our Prophet (saw), **عَلَىٰ كُلِّ نَفْسٍ مِّنْكُمْ حَقٌّ** **“Every good deed is sadaqah.”**^{iv} We have striven to walk the path of goodness by showing love and affection to our parents, spouses, and children, upholding the rights of our relatives and neighbors, and touching the hearts of orphans and the less fortunate. We gave our zakat and sadaqah to those in need, seeking the pleasure of Allah the Almighty. Let us, therefore, carry these fine qualities we have cultivated during Ramadan into every moment and every aspect of our lives. Let us continue to be righteous individuals, to spread goodness across the earth, to always stand against oppression, and to support the oppressed. Let us never forget that goodness holds a transformative power and that the world can only be changed through acts of kindness and righteousness.

Dear Muslims!

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr that we are celebrating. I pray to our Almighty Lord that all our Muslim brothers and sisters suffering under oppression, especially in Gaza, and from East Turkestan to Arakan, from Kashmir to Yemen and Sudan, may soon regain their freedom.

ⁱ Hijr, 15/99.

ⁱⁱ Abu Dawud, Tatawwu', 27.

ⁱⁱⁱ Baqarah, 2/153.

^{iv} Bukhari, Adab, 33.