9/26/1440 H – Ramadan comes to an end

All praise is due to Allah, we praise him, and we ask him for guidance and forgiveness. And we seek protection in Allah from the malice of our own souls, and the evil of our actions. Whom Allah guides, no one can lead him astray, and whom He makes astray, no one can lead him back to the right path. I bear witness that there is no other deity but Allah, by himself, no associate to him, and I bear witness that Muhammad is his slave and Messenger.

"O you who believed! Fear Allah as He should be feared and die not except as Muslims." [Quran 3:102]

"O you who believed! Fear Allah, and (always) say a word directed to the truth. [71] "That He may make your conduct whole and sound and forgive you your sins: he that obeys Allah and His Messenger, has then attained the highest Achievement." [Quran 33:70 71]

Dear brothers and sisters, today is the last Friday of the blessed month of Ramadan. Next week, we will be welcoming the month of Shawal. Time is indeed moving fast. Only Allah (ﷻ) knows if we will be given the blessed opportunity to experience Ramadan again. Muslims have recently spent a whole month enjoying the blessings of their Lord between supplication, prayer, remembrance of Allah, and reciting the Qur’an. These honorable nights and blessed days, however, have come to an end, as if they were an hour in a day. Thus, we ask Allah to bless the remaining days to make up what we have lost and to conclude it by offering us forgiveness and release from the Hellfire.
One of the traits and attitudes of a true believer is a deep appreciation for all of Allah’s blessings. Among the most valuable blessings from Allah to His servants is age and time. Thus, Allah reminds us repeatedly in the Quran about the importance and significance of time. In one location, Allah says in Surat Al-Furquan:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ خِلْفَةً لِِّمَنْ أَرَادَ أن يَذَّكَّرَ أَوْ أَرَادَ شُكُورًا

“And it is He who has made the night and the day in succession for whoever desires to remember or desires gratitude.” Quran (25:62)

Also, there are reminders in the Sunnah of the prophet on the value of time and age, and how these gifts will not last forever. In the Hadith:

عن ابن عباس (رضي الله عنه) قال: قال رسول الله صل الله عليه وسلم: "اغتنِمْ خَمْسًا قَبْلَ خَمْسٍ، شَبَابَكَ قَبْلَ هَرَمِكَ، وَصِحَّتَكَ قَبْلَ سَقَمِكَ، وَغِنَاكَ قَبْلَ فَقْرِكَ، وَفَرَاغَكَ قَبْلَ شُغُلِكَ، وَحَيَاتَكَ قَبْلَ مَوْتِكَ.

The Messenger of Allah said, “Take advantage of five before five: your youth before your old age, your health before your illness, your riches before your poverty, your free time before your work, and your life before your death.”

This is the essence of Islamic teachings; that every Muslim must learn to appreciate the time that Allah has bestowed upon him.

He should also be one who strives to bring about positive changes throughout his life. The more one remembers of the realities of life and the impending death, the more one will make every effort to ensure that the opportunities given by Allah are not put to waste.

Accordingly, my dear brothers and sisters, I ask all of you to take a moment to reflect how we have spent this Ramadan. Do we feel that we have given our very best this
Ramadan? Have we succeeded in training ourselves to control our desires, to control our hearts and other parts of our body from committing sins and misdeeds?

What about our acts of worship? Do we feel closer to Allah (سُمِّيتُهُوُا رَحْمَةً) now that we have fasted for almost a month? Or do we feel the same – no increase in the state of our Iman nor the desire to do more good deeds?

If we used not to feel the need to help those in need, then are we now more sensitive and aware of their condition and are motivated to continue to do good deeds after Ramadan?

When one compares the people’s spiritual condition during Ramadan to that after Ramadan, they will certainly see signs of laziness and negligence in terms of performing righteous deeds. It is as if acts of worship and repentance were only meant for Ramadan!

Such people are ignorant of the fact that Allah (سُمِّيتُهُوُا رَحْمَةً) is the Lord of all months and that Ramadan is only meant to be an occasion to renew our relationship and worship to Allah (سُمِّيتُهُوُا رَحْمَةً). That is why Allah says in Surat Al-baqarah:

"O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous." Quran (2:183)

Dear brothers and sisters, what a loss! For those whom Ramadan has failed to leave any effect in their lives. Ramadan came and left, and yet they are in the same state as they were in the past. In the Hadith;
Abu Hurairah narrated that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: “May the man before whom I am mentioned - and he does not send peace and blessings upon me - be humiliated. And may a man whose parents reached old age in his presence, and they were not a cause for his entrance to Paradise, be humiliated. And may a man upon whom Ramadan enters and then passes, before he is forgiven, be humiliated.”

Dear brothers and sisters, it is never too late to return to Allah (ﷻ) and to turn over a new leaf. We can start by making a commitment to ourselves that we will strive to be a better person today than we were yesterday; and that tomorrow will be better than today. And no matter what we do, let us continue to improve our bond with Allah (艉 تعالى).

Plant the intention to improve our relationship with Allah (艉 تعالى), especially in these remaining nights of Ramadan. Do not forget the golden opportunity to seek the night of decree, or Lailatul Qadar. This night marked the beginning of the revelation of the Qur’an. It is the best night of the year and worship on this night is better than worshiping for a thousand months. Allah (艉 تعالى) says in Surat Al-Qadr:

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إِنَّا أَنزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ﴿١﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ﴿٢﴾ لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِِّنْ أَلْفِ شََََََََهْرٍ ﴿٣﴾ تَنَزَّلُ المَلاَئِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِم مِِّن كُلِِّ أَمْرٍ ﴿٤﴾ سَلاَمٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ ﴿٥﴾
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“Indeed, We sent the Qur’an down during the Night of Decree. (1) And what can make you know what is the Night of Decree? (2) The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. (3) The angels and the Spirit descend therein by permission of their Lord for every matter. (4) Peace it is until the emergence of dawn.” Quran (97:1-5)
So, let us increase our acts of worship and good deeds in the last nights. We do not know if this is our last Ramadan in this world. We do not know if we, or our families, will be able to fast, pray terawih and pray together in the next Ramadan. Hence, just as how we are excited with *Eidulfitri* preparations, we should be more excited and diligent to gain the merits of *Lailatul Qadr* and Ramadan.

Dear brothers and sisters, increase asking for forgiveness to Allah (잵) in these last days and last moments of Ramadan. Al-Hassan Al-Basri once said: “Increase our *Istigfar* to Allah, because we do not know when exactly He will shower His mercy upon us”.

Even if we feel that we have fulfilled Allah’s command to perform good deeds throughout Ramadan, we should seek Allah’s acceptance of his deeds.

There is no guarantee that our deeds will be accepted by Allah, until the moment we meet Him. In this manner, Allah (잵) gives us a good example of the true believers when they worship Allah as He said in Surah Al-Mu'minun:

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْتُونَ مَا آتَوا وَقُلُوبُهُمْ وَجِلَةٌ أَنَّهُمْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ رَاجِعُونَ

“And they who give what they give while their hearts are fearful because they will be returning to their Lord.” Quran (23:60)

This is the character of the true believers. They perform good deeds without any arrogance. They keep asking Allah (잵) to accept their deeds. Hence, we should keep asking Allah (잵) to accept all our acts of worship, our *taraweh* prayers, our fasting and all the good deeds we have performed throughout this month.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهِ لَيْكُمْ وَلَلَّهِ وَلِسَانِ الرَّسُولِ الصَّلَاةُ عَلَيْهِ وَسُلَيْمَانَ نَصْرَهُ وَأَسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

Ask Allah (잵) for forgiveness. Truly, He is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful
الحمد لله رَبّ الْعالَمِيْنَ، وَالعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِيْنَ، وَلَا غَدِّوانٌ إلَّا عَلَى الظَّالِمِيْنَ، وَنَشْهَدُ أنَّ لَا إِلَهَ إلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكُ لَهُ وَلِيُّ الصَّالِحِيْنَ، وَنَشْهَدُ أنَّ سَيِّدَنا مُحَمَّدًا ﷺ بُهْبِمَا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ إِمَامُ الأنَبِيَّيْنَ وَالْمُرْسَلِيْنَ، وَأَفْضَلُ خَلْقِ اللَّهِ أَجْمَعِيْنَ، صَلِّوُتَ اللَّهِ وَسَلاَمُهُ عَلَيْهِ، وَعَلَى أَهْلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَالتَّابِعِيْنَ لَهُ إِحْسَانًا إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

Dear brothers and sister, Allah (ﷻ) has prescribed certain kinds of worship to be observed at the end of this month, with which we can increase our faith and perfect our worship. By the end of this month Allah has ordained for us Zakaat Al-Fitr, Takbirat Al-Eid, and Eid Prayer.

Zakaat Al-Fitr is due upon every Muslim, whether young or old, man or woman. It is paid by the head of the household on behalf of himself and for each member of the family he/she is responsible on.

The main objective of Zakat Al-Fitr is to clean our worship during Ramadan and to feed the needy. Zakat al-Fitr can be paid during Ramadan, before Eid al-Fitr prayers at the latest, so that the poor can enjoy the day of Eid. However, it should not be delayed until after Eid prayer because, in this case, it will be counted as sadaqa or voluntary charity. In the Hadith;


Ibn ’Abbas (RAA) narrated, ‘The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) enjoined Zakat-ul-fitr on the one who fasts (i.e. fasted during the month of Ramadan) to purify him from any indecent act or speech and for the purpose of providing food for the needy. It is accepted as Zakat for the person who pays it before the Eid prayer and it is Sadaqah (i.e. voluntary charity) for the person who pays it after the Eid prayer.’
Zakaat Al-Fitr has been prescribed by the Prophet (SAW) as a Sa’ of food. The Sa’ was a unit for measuring volumes and it is estimated by weight to be from 2 to 2.6 kilo grams. The food can be given to needy in forms of dried dates, barley (شََعير) or any other kind of food.

Among the acts of worship at the end of Ramadan is reciting Takbirat or glorifying Allah (سَمَا) from the sunset of the day preceding the Eid day until Eid Prayer. Allah (سَمَا) says in Surat Al-baqara:

يُرِيدُ اللَّـََََََََََََهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسََََْرَ وَلَ يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسََََْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِِّرُوا اللَّـََََََََََََهَ عَلَىٰ مَ ا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

“Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful.” Quran (2:185)

Recite Takbir in mosques, homes and streets as “Allahu Akbar Allahu Akbar la ilaha illal-lah, Allahu Akbar Allahu Akbar wa lillahil-hamd”

Say this with loud voice as a sign of glorification of Allah.

As for the Eid prayer, the Messenger of Allah (SAW) ordered all people even women to perform it, so go out for the prayer whether men, women, young or old.

According to the Prophet’s tradition, one may eat three, five or any odd number of dates before getting out to perform Eid Prayer. Remember that it is forbidden to fast on Eid Al-Fitr and eating some dates affirms this practice. It is recommended to wear our best clothes for attending the Eid prayer. It is also recommended to perform a ritual bath (ghusl) before heading to the Eid prayer. Make this day a day of joy and happiness for you and your family.
I ask Allah (ﷻ) to accept all our deeds and to place us and our families among those who are bestowed with His mercy and released from the clutches of hellfire.

يقول الله تعالى: (إِنَّ الله وَمَلاَئِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا) اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى عَبْدِكَ وَنَبِيِّكَ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى هُمْ وَعَلَى أَيَّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا اللَّهُمَّ أَصَََلِحْ لَنَا دِينَنَا الذي هُوَ عِصَََْمَةُ أَمْرِنَا .. وأَصَََلِحْ لَنَا دُنْيَانَا لَنَا مَعَاشَََُنَا .. وأَصَََلِحْ لَنَا آخِرَتَنَا لَنَا مِنْ كُلِّ شََََرِّ .. وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ * وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَِِّ رَبِِّ الْعَالَمِينَ