

# 9/26/1440 H – Ramadan comes to an end

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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]

فإن أصدق الحديث كتاب الله وخير الهدي هدي محمد (ﷺ) وشر الأمور محدثاتها وكل محدثة بدعة وكل بدعة ضلالة وكل ضلالة في النار

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 (سبحانه وتعالى) 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 (سبحانه و تعالی) to His servants is age and time. Thus, Allah (سبحانه و تعالی) reminds us repeatedly in the Quran about the importance and significance of time. In one location, Allah (سبحانه و تعالی) says in *Surat Al-Furqan*:

وَهُوَ الَّذِي جَعَلَ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ خِلْفَةً لِمَنْ أَرَادَ أَنْ يَذَّكَّرَ أَوْ أَرَادَ شُكُورًا ﴿٦٢﴾

“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 (صلى الله عليه وسلم) on the value of time and age, and how these gifts will not last forever. In the Hadith;

عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ (رضي الله عنه) قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: "اغْتَنِمَ خَمْسًا قَبْلَ خَمْسٍ ، شَبَابَكَ قَبْلَ هَرَمِكَ ، وَصِحَّتَكَ قَبْلَ سَقَمِكَ ، وَغِنَاكَ قَبْلَ فَقْرِكَ ، وَفَرَاغَكَ قَبْلَ شُغْلِكَ ، وَحَيَاتَكَ قَبْلَ مَوْتِكَ." صححه الألباني في صحيح الجامع 1077

The Messenger of Allah (صلى الله عليه وسلم) 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 (سبحانه و تعالی) 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 (سبحانه و تعالی) 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 (سبحانه و تعالی) is the Lord of all months and that Ramadan is only meant to be an occasion to renew our relationship and worship to Allah (سبحانه و تعالی). That is why Allah says in Surat Al-baqarah:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

“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;

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " رَغِمَ أَنْفُ رَجُلٍ ذُكِرْتُ عِنْدَهُ فَلَمْ يُصَلِّ عَلَيَّ - وَرَغِمَ أَنْفُ رَجُلٍ أَدْرَكَ أَبَوَاهُ عِنْدَ الْكِبَرِ فَلَمْ يُدْخِلْهُ الْجَنَّةَ - وَرَغِمَ أَنْفُ رَجُلٍ دَخَلَ عَلَيْهِ رَمَضَانُ ثُمَّ انْسَلَخَ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُغْفَرَ لَهُ " رواه

الترمذي

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 (سبحانه و تعالی) 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 (سبحانه و تعالی).

Plant the intention to improve our relationship with Allah (سبحانه و تعالی), 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 worshipping for a thousand months. Allah (سبحانه و تعالی) says in Surat Al-Qadr:

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ ﴿١﴾ وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ ﴿٢﴾ لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ﴿٣﴾ تَنَزَّلُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ ﴿٤﴾ سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطْلَعِ الْفَجْرِ ﴿٥﴾

"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 (سبحانه و تعالی) 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 (سبحانه و تعالی) gives us a good example of the true believers when they worship Allah as He said in Surah Al-Mu'minun:

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْتُونَ مَا آتَوْا وَقُلُوبُهُمْ وَجِلَةٌ أَنَّهُمْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ رَاجِعُونَ ﴿٦٠﴾

“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 (سبحانه و تعالی) to accept their deeds. Hence, we should keep asking Allah (سبحانه و تعالی) 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 اللَّهَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

Ask Allah (سبحانه و تعالی) for forgiveness. Truly, He is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ، وَلَا عُدْوَانَ إِلَّا عَلَى الظَّالِمِينَ، وَنَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ وَلِيُّ الصَّالِحِينَ، وَنَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ إِمَامَ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ وَالْمُرْسَلِينَ، وَأَفْضَلَ خَلْقِ اللَّهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، صَلَوَاتُ اللَّهِ وَسَلَامُهُ عَلَيْهِ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ لَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ،

Dear brothers and sister, Allah <sup>(سبحانه و تعالاه)</sup> 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;

عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ: { فَرَضَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - زَكَاةَ الْفِطْرِ; طَهْرَةً لِلصَّائِمِ مِنَ اللَّعْوِ، وَالرَّفَقَةِ، وَطُعْمَةً لِلْمَسَاكِينِ، فَمَنْ آدَاهَا قَبْلَ الصَّلَاةِ فَهِيَ زَكَاةٌ مَقْبُولَةٌ، وَمَنْ آدَاهَا بَعْدَ الصَّلَاةِ فَهِيَ صَدَقَةٌ مِنَ الصَّدَقَاتِ. { رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ، وَابْنُ مَاجَةَ، وَصَحَّحَهُ الْحَاكِمُ

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 (شعير) or any other kind of food.

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

يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨٥﴾

“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 (سبحانه و تعالي) 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 اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا) اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى عَبْدِكَ وَنَبِيِّكَ مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ، وَالتَّابِعِينَ لَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ .. اللَّهُمَّ أَعِزَّ الْإِسْلَامَ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ .. اللَّهُمَّ أَصْلِحْ لَنَا دِينَنَا الَّذِي هُوَ عِصْمَةٌ أَمْرَنَا .. وَأَصْلِحْ لَنَا دُنْيَانَا الَّتِي فِيهَا مَعَاشُنَا .. وَأَصْلِحْ لَنَا آخِرَتَنَا الَّتِي إِلَيْهَا مَعَادُنَا .. وَاجْعَلِ الْحَيَاةَ زِيَادَةً لَنَا فِي كُلِّ خَيْرٍ .. وَالْمَوْتَ رَاحَةً لَنَا مِنْ كُلِّ شَرٍّ .. اللهم بلغنا ليلة القدر .. سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ .. وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ \* وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ