

Be informed my beloved brothers and sisters that Ramadan is near, the guest which all have been waiting for, a month filled with blessings, mercy, forgiveness, generosity, Quran, prayer and good deeds.

Ramadan the month in which the Quran was revealed as Allah says:

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَى
وَالْفُرْقَانِ

‘The month of Ramadan in which the Quran was revealed a guidance for mankind and clear proofs of guidance and distinguishing between right and wrong.’

Ramadan the month in which the prophet Muhammad was the most generous of people, as it came in the hadeeth of Anas:

روى البخاري في صحيحه: عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ، قَالَ: «كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
أَجْوَدَ النَّاسِ، وَكَانَ أَجْوَدَ مَا يَكُونُ فِي رَمَضَانَ حِينَ يَلْقَاهُ جِبْرِيلُ، وَكَانَ يَلْقَاهُ فِي كُلِّ لَيْلَةٍ
مِّن رَمَضَانَ فَيُدَارِسُهُ الْقُرْآنَ، فَلَرَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَجْوَدُ بِالْخَيْرِ مِنَ الرِّيحِ
الْمُرْسَلَةِ»

Imam al Bukhari narrated on the authority of Ibn Abbaas that: ‘The Messenger of Allah was the most generous of all people, and he used to reach the peak of generosity in the month of Ramadan when Jibreel used to meet. Jibreel used to come and meet the Prophet every night in Ramadan to teach him the Quran. Allah’s messenger was the most generous person even more generous than a pleasant wind.’

Ramadan the month which contains a night which worship in it is better than 1000 months, as Allah says:

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ (1) وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ (2) لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ
خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ

‘Indeed we revealed the Quran on Laylatul Qadr, and what will make you know what Laylatul Qadr is? Laylatul Qadr is better than a thousand months...’

Ramadan the month in which the gates of mercy and paradise are opened and the gates of the hell fire are locked and the devils are chained.

As the Prophet Muhammad said:

: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: " إِذَا كَانَ أَوَّلُ لَيْلَةٍ مِنْ شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ صَفَّدَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ، وَمَرَدَّةُ الْجِنِّ، وَغُلِّقَتْ أَبْوَابُ النَّارِ، فَلَمْ يُفْتَحْ [ص: 58] مِنْهَا بَابٌ، وَفُتِّحَتْ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ، فَلَمْ يُغْلَقْ مِنْهَا بَابٌ، وَيُنَادِي مُنَادٍ: يَا بَاغِيَ الْخَيْرِ أَقْبِلْ، وَيَا بَاغِيَ الشَّرِّ أَفْصِرْ، وَلِلَّهِ عِتْقَاءُ مِنَ النَّارِ، وَذَلِكَ كُلُّ لَيْلَةٍ "

'When it is the first night of the month of Ramadan the evil devils are chained. The gates of the hell fire are locked- not a single gate is opened and the gates of Paradise are opened-not a single gate is locked and a caller calls out: O seeker of good come forward, and O seeker of evil withhold, and there are many whom Allah frees from the fire-and that is ever night.' (Tirmidhee 682 , Ibn Majah)

Be informed my dear brothers and sisters that Ramadan is the month of fasting and fasting is from the best types of worship solely because Allah attributed it to himself and only He knows the reward for the fasting one, and similarly it is one of the secret acts which only Allah knows about in which one cannot show off in doing. Also fasting is one of the collective acts of worship in which all the Muslims throughout the world unify upon observing no matter how far apart they are, at the same time, regardless of their social statuses and wealth. And this is what assists in unifying their hearts, souls and goals upon the worship of Allah alone. Observing Ramadan and fasting is also an opportunity to be kind to one another, having mercy with one another, whenever the wealthy man feels the pains of hunger or thirst he may remember his unfortunate brothers and sisters who suffer from hunger throughout the year, so he gives from his wealth to assist them. Also fasting Ramadan has benefits which perfect and better one's character and manners, one learns patience and forbearance and how to control ones desires and strengthen ones will. Fasting Ramadan also has health benefits by giving the stomach, intestines and digestive tract an opportunity to rest from constantly working throughout the year.

Ramadan is coming soon my brothers and sisters, the month which is filled with virtues and many opportunities to do good and be forgiven from our sins so who from amongst us will take advantage and benefit from this blessed month?

Second khutbah:

Fasting Ramadan is the fourth pillar in Islam and from the best types of worship. Be informed that there are different levels of fasting: *Fasting means to abstain from*

1. One who denies his stomach and genitals from fulfilling their desires by staying away from food, drink and sexual relations during fasting.
2. The one who denies his eyes from looking at impermissible things, his tongue from prohibited sayings, his hands from impermissible earnings, his legs from walking to impermissible places, his ears from listening to music and false speech, and controlling the rest of ones limbs so as not to fall in prohibited actions.
3. This level is when the heart abstains and refrains from love of the worldly affairs and the thoughts which distance one from Allah. While abandoning everything that Allah has prohibited from actions, beliefs and sayings.

In order for the fast to be complete and true it must contain these three altogether.

From the manners of this last type of fasting is lowering one's gaze, protecting ones tongue from speech which harms others or is unbeneficial, while preserving the rest of the limbs from sinful actions. In the hadeeth of Imam al Bukhari: That the Prophet said: 'Whoever does not abandon false speech (lying, backbiting, slander, rumors, etc...) and action upon it than Allah has not need for him to abandon his food and drink.'

And also be informed that the types of people in Ramadan are many

1. The one who fasts Ramadan as a habit, custom or ritual of abstaining from food and drink. He views Ramadan as a month of staying up late and enjoying delicious food and drink. And he wastes his time with movies, songs and ill speech. As for performing the actions of worship such as fasting, praying taraweeh, etc... then he performs them only as a participative duty, custom, and habit ~~to the people~~ *The People* while fearing what ~~they~~ will say if he doesn't fast and keeping the blame off of him. So there is no humility, sincerity or fear of Allah in his actions in Ramadan, nor does he adorn himself with good manners, and he believes that he has little or no sins which need to be forgiven.

The second type of people are those who fast as an apparent action of worship as the Muslims have been accustomed to performing in Ramadan. Without earning its virtues and benefits, nor practicing the manners and characteristics of a Muslim. He doesn't protect his tongue from bad statements, nor does he lower his gaze, nor does he protect his ears from impermissible sounds, nor does he protect the rest of his limbs from the impermissible things. His status in Ramadan is similar to the previous months, no difference except hunger and thirst. .

The third type, and we ask Allah to make us from them-are the ones who look forward to Ramadan so that they can fast it and hoping for Allah's mercy during Ramadan while seeking to rectify oneself and seeking to attain its virtues, their Lord called out to them and they respond, the hearts are filled with Imaan, and their tongues are filled with the remembrance of Allah, and their limbs are filled with humility and humbleness towards Allah. They conform to the book of Allah by reciting, reading and pondering over it. They work hard into changing their bad habits and sinful ways and abandon them forever.

So work hard in doing good deeds in this upcoming month of Ramadan and seek repentance from Allah for your sins and bad deeds.

Readers and reciters of the Quran:

Two types:

- 1- The one who focuses on reading and reciting the Quran frequently to finish Ramadan with many completions
- 2- The one who ponders over the Quran