



22nd Sha'ban 1446 (21st February 2025) Friday Sermon

Preparing for the Month of Ramadan

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ
سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ، وَمَنْ يَضِلَّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اللَّهُمَّ
صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَيْهِ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَاتَّبَاعِهِ وَعَلَى كُلِّ مَنْ اهْتَدَى بِهِدْيِهِ
وَاسْتَنَّ بِسُنَّتِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ: فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ، أُوصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، فَقَدْ
قَالَ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى: ﴿وَسَارِعُوا إِلَى مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا السَّمَاوَاتُ
وَالْأَرْضُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ﴾⁽¹⁾

All praises, glory and exaltations belong to the Allah the Almighty. We thank Him. We seek forgiveness, help, and assistance in our affairs from Him. And we rely upon Him. Verily, I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah, the Almighty. I bear witness that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah, the Almighty, send salutations, peace, and blessings upon him (peace be upon him), his family, and his companions! and include in

(1) Surah Aal- 'Imran (3:133)

these salutations, peace, and blessings all those who follow them until the Day of Judgement! Amen!

O Muslim brothers! I advise and urge myself and all of you to be mindful of Allah, the Almighty. Allah, the Almighty, says: “And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and to a garden (i.e., Paradise) as vast as the heavens and the earth, prepared for the righteous.”⁽²⁾

O Muslims! We are approaching the month of Ramadan, a time filled with blessings and virtue. We must be fully prepared to receive its rewards and blessings and welcome it with open hearts. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said explaining to his Companions the significance and blessings of the month of Ramadan as it approached:

(أَتَاكُمْ رَمَضَانُ، شَهْرٌ مُبَارَكٌ، فَرَضَ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ عَلَيْكُمْ صِيَامَهُ، تَفْتَحُ فِيهِ أَبْوَابُ السَّمَاءِ، وَتُغْلَقُ فِيهِ أَبْوَابُ الْجَحِيمِ، وَتُغْلَقُ فِيهِ مَرَدَةُ الشَّيَاطِينِ، لِلَّهِ فِيهِ لَيْلَةٌ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ، مَنْ حُرِمَ خَيْرَهَا فَقَدْ حُرِمَ.)⁽³⁾

“Ramadan has come to you, a blessed month, in which Allah, the Almighty, has made fasting obligatory upon you. The doors of the heavens are opened, the doors of Hell are closed, and the devils are chained. In it, Allah has a night which is better than a thousand months. Whoever is deprived of its goodness is indeed deprived.” The Prophet (peace be upon him) reminded us of the virtues of that month so that we would not deprive ourselves of its blessings.

(2) Ibid

(3) Narrated by An-Nasa'i (2106)

O Muslims! As we approach this blessed month, the first thing we should do is greet it with sincere repentance, turning away from the sins we are committing in our lives. Allah, the Almighty, says:

﴿تَوُوبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا أَيُّهَ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُفْلِحُونَ﴾⁽⁴⁾

“And turn to Allah in repentance, all of you, O believers, that you may succeed.”

O Servants of Allah, the Almighty! We should approach the days of this blessed month with sincere faith, seeking its full blessings and rewards. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

(مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ.)⁽⁵⁾

“Whoever fasts during Ramadan with faith and in anticipation of reward, all his previous sins will be forgiven.” Therefore, we should approach the month of Ramadan with the noble resolve to reform our souls and begin new chapters in our lives. What better way to train the soul to do good? It is a month in which all the means of being mindful of Allah converge. Unlike the other months of the year, it is a month in which diligence in worship must be increased, and it must be faced with strong determination.

O Muslims! One of the most important things we need to do in preparation for the month of Ramadan is to understand the Islamic rulings related to fasting. We must learn about the virtues of fasting and how to fast in a way that ensures that we receive its full rewards and blessings. It is essential to recognize the

(4) Surah An-Nur (24:31)

(5) Narrated by Al-Bukhari (38) and Muslim (760)

actions that invalidate the fast and those that are considered makrooh while fasting, and to avoid them. This will allow us to fully enjoy the infinite reward of fasting. In a Qudsi hadith narrated by the Messenger (peace be upon him): Allah, the Almighty He said: “Every act of the Son of Adam is for him except fasting; it is (exclusively) for Me. and I shall reward him for it.”

Fasting is a protection (i.e., protects from the Hellfire) Do not engage in intercourse during the day when anyone of you is fasting! And do not indulge in idle talk! And if someone was to argue with you or attack you, simply say that you are fasting! The Messenger (peace be upon him) swore by the One in whose Hands his soul rests: “The smell that comes from the mouth of a fasting person is better before Allah than the fragrance of musk. The fasting person has two moments of joy: when he breaks his fast, he rejoices in the act of breaking his fast, and when he meets his Lord, the Mighty and Sublime, he will rejoice for having fasted.”⁽⁶⁾ In the narration of Imam Muslim, it is stated that the reward for every deed of the Son of Adam is multiplied from ten times to seven hundred times.⁽⁷⁾

O Beloved brothers! If one does not fast as prescribed, will they receive this great reward? How unfortunate it would be if we were among those who experience only hunger and thirst during the blessed days of Ramadan! The Messenger (peace be upon him) said:

(6) Narrated by Bukhari (1904) and Muslim (1151)

(7) See the narration of Muslim in the previous reference.

(مَنْ لَمْ يَدَعْ قَوْلَ الزُّورِ وَالْعَمَلَ بِهِ وَالْجَهْلَ، فَلَيْسَ لِلَّهِ حَاجَةٌ فِي أَنْ يَدَعَ طَعَامَهُ
وَشَرَابَهُ.)⁽⁸⁾

“Whoever does not give up forged speech and evil actions, and ignorance, then Allah is not in need for him to leave his food and drink.” The Messenger (peace be upon him) said in another hadith: “There are people who get nothing except hunger and thirst, and there are those who pray and get nothing from their prayer but a sleepless night.”⁽⁹⁾ The one who meets the month of Ramadan and does not purify himself during it, who is fasting only in name—has he not, in essence, wasted the entire month?

O Muslims! We should not only prepare for Ramadan by cleaning our homes, renewing our furniture, buying and hoarding food. These things are not problematic in themselves. However, it is regrettable that, in the name of preparing for the blessed days of goodness, we often see people being wasteful. Avoid such behaviors! When you approach the month of Ramadan, your first priority should be to plan it in a way that allows you to attain the full rewards and blessings of this month. You, your wife, children, and relatives should also organize things so that everyone can enjoy the full blessings and rewards of these noble days.

O Muslims! To obtain the great reward of fasting, one should delay the Suhur (predawn meal), observe the obligatory prayers and the Rawatib sunnah prayers, reflect on the Qur'an

(8) Narrated by Al-Bukhari (6057)

(9) Narrated by Ahmad (8856), and Shu'ayb al-Arna'ut said: "Its chain of narration is good."

while reading it, and make supplication frequently. It also includes being kind to one's wives, children, parents, and relatives, hastening to break the fast, and giving charity generously. If we plan our time to accommodate the month of Ramadan in a way that allows for Taraweeh prayers and night worship, we will make the most of this noble opportunity. O our Creator and Sustainer! Grant us the ability to welcome the month of Ramadan with sincere repentance!

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ، وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ. أَقُوْلُ قَوِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهُ الْعَظِيْمَ الْجَلِيْلَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِجَمِيْعِ
الْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمِيْنَ مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.

Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِيْنَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيْكَ لَهُ،
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، اَللّٰهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلٰى آلِهِ
وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِيْنَ، وَالتَّابِعِيْنَ لَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّيْنِ.

أَمَّا بَعْدُ: فَاتَّقُوا اللهَ عِبَادَ اللهِ وَاحْشَوْهُ! قَالَ اللهُ تَعَالَى: ﴿وَتَكَرَّوْا فَاَيْتَ﴾

خَيْرَ الزَّادِ النَّقْوَى^٤ وَاتَّقُوْنَ يَتَأُوْلِي الْأَلْبَابِ ﴿١٠﴾

Praise and thanks be to Allah, the Almighty. I bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Him. And I bear witness that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is His Servant and

Messenger. O our Creator and Sustainer! Send salutations, peace, and blessings upon Muhammad (peace be upon him), his family, and his companions!

Then know! O Servants of Allah, the Almighty! He says: “And take provisions, but indeed, the best provision is the fear of Allah. And fear Me, O you of understanding.”

O Muslims! The most important thing that can be done in preparation for Ramadan is to make yourself accustomed to it. It is obligatory to make up for any fasts from the previous Ramadan that you have missed. And we must prepare to meet the month of Ramadan in a manner that allows us to fast without any reduction in the great reward of fasting. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said:

(مَنْ صَامَ يَوْمًا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بَعَدَ اللَّهُ وَجْهَهُ عَنِ النَّارِ سَبْعِينَ خَرِيفًا) ⁽¹¹⁾

“Whoever fasts a day in the cause of Allah, Allah will distance his face from the Fire by seventy years.”

Since the rewards of fasting are so immense, one should strive to fulfill this act of worship in its fullest sense. Engaging in backbiting, malicious gossip, lying, arguing, insulting, speaking falsely, or listening to such things while fasting will diminish its reward.

O Muslims! Don't make Ramadan a month focused on increasing business profits! Instead, offer goods at affordable prices and strive to earn the rewards of this blessed month! Shape the work environment so that it does not interfere with worship,

(11) Narrated by Al-Bukhari (2840) and Muslim (1153), and the wording belongs to Al-Bukhari.

enabling the employees under your care to receive the great rewards of this holy month!

O Muslims! Allah, the Almighty, says commanding us to send salutations and peace upon His Prophet (peace be upon him). He says:

﴿إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا

تَسْلِيمًا﴾ (12)

“Indeed, Allah sends blessings upon the Prophet, and His angels invoke blessings upon him. O you who have believed! Ask Allah to send blessings upon him and grant him peace.”

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ، كَمَا صَلَّيْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ. اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ، كَمَا بَارَكْتَ عَلَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ وَعَلَى آلِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِنَّكَ حَمِيدٌ مَجِيدٌ. وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمُهَدِّدِينَ. أَبِي بَكْرٍ، وَعُمَرَ، وَعُثْمَانَ، وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ سَائِرِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ أَجْمَعِينَ. وَعَنَا مَعَهُمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. آمِينَ!

O our Creator and Sustainer! Send salutations, peace, and blessings upon the noble Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), who guided us to the Straight Path, as well as upon his family, his companions, and all who follow them!

O our Creator and Sustainer! Grant us the ability to diligently fast, establish prayer, recite the Qur'an, and pray the Tahajjud prayer! Grant us the ability to repent with a sincere repentance and meet the month of Ramadan! O our Creator and

Sustainer! Grant peace and safety within the Islamic Ummah!
Eliminate all diseases and afflictions from us. Heal the sick and bestow upon us the blessings of good health and well-being!

O our Creator and Sustainer! Make our country prosperous and bless the fisheries and agricultural industries and increase their abundance! Strengthen our country's economy and grant it prosperity and success!

O our Creator and Sustainer! Grant guidance, victory, and success to the leaders whom You have chosen to lead the affairs of Islam and the world along the righteous path! Forgive the sins of those who have passed away and those alive among us, and have mercy upon us all! Grant us goodness in this world and the Hereafter and save us from the torment of Hellfire! Forgive all the Believers and Muslims and have mercy on them! Amen!

اللَّهُمَّ انصُرِ الْإِسْلَامَ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ، وَأَذِلَّ الشِّرْكَ وَالْمُشْرِكِينَ، وَدَمِّرْ أَعْدَاءَكَ
أَعْدَاءَ الدِّينِ. اللَّهُمَّ انصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْلِمِينَ الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي فَلَسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ
مَكَانٍ. اللَّهُمَّ كُنْ لَهُمْ عَوْنًا وَنَصِيرًا. اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ،
وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، إِنَّكَ سَمِيعٌ قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبُ
الدَّعَوَاتِ يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ! ﴿رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً
وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ﴾⁽¹³⁾ ﴿وَأَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَى عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ
وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَلَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ﴾⁽¹⁴⁾

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Ministry of Islamic Affairs

(13) Surah Al-Baqarah (2:201)

(14) Surah Al-'Ankabut (29:45)