

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شَرِّ 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 مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ  
 يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ  
 يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ الَّذِي تَسَاءَلُونَ بِهِ وَالْأَرْحَامَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ  
 كَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ رَقِيبًا  
 يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا سَدِيدًا يُصْلِحْ لَكُمْ أَعْمَالَكُمْ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَمَنْ يُطِيعِ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ فَقَدْ فَازَ فَوْزًا عَظِيمًا  
 أَمَّا بَعْدُ  
 فَإِنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى وَخَيْرَ الْهُدَى هَدْيُ مُحَمَّدٍ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَشَرُّ الْأُمُورِ مُحَدَّثَاتُهَا وَكُلُّ مُحَدَّثَةٍ بِدْعَةٌ وَكُلُّ بِدْعَةٍ ضَلَالَةٌ وَكُلُّ ضَلَالَةٍ  
 فِي النَّارِ

Dear my brothers in Islam,

All thanks and praise is due to Allah Ta'ala, we seek His help and forgiveness. We seek refuge to Allah from the evil within ourselves and the consequences of our evil deeds. Whosoever Allah guides will never be led astray, and whosoever Allah leads astray will never find guidance. We bear witness that there is no God to be worshipped except Allah, alone without any partners, and we bear witness that Muhammad shallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam is His servant and His Messenger.

As a reminder for myself and all of us, let us increase our taqwa to Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'ala by fulfilling all of His commands and refraining from all His prohibitions. Let's continue to be guided by the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Shallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam in our daily life.

Dear brothers,

We are now in the middle of Sya'ban and approaching the holy month of Ramadan, the month of mercy and forgiveness, in which the believer strives to be among the successful through spending its days in fasting and its nights in prayers, giving more charities and drawing closer to Allah with righteous deeds. The Prophet shallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam used to prepare himself to welcome this blessed month, instruct the people about its virtues and merits, and remind them of its blessings, mercy and goodness. Therefore, their determinations and preparedness for the month are promoted and their hearts and souls yearn for the coming of this blessed month.

**Rasulullah shallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam said: "When it is the first night of the month of Ramadan, the devils and the resolutely evil jinn are enchained, the gates of Hell are firmly locked such that none of them are opened, the gates of Paradise are opened such that none of them are closed, and a caller proclaims, 'O Pursuer of good, proceed and O Pursuer of evil, refrain'. [There are those] whom God salvages from Hell and that is in every [Ramadan] night."** (HR At-Tirmidzii)

Let us perfectly observe the fast of the month of Ramadan and refrain from vain talks, obscenity, disobedience, backbiting, and slander as well as anything with which Allah gets displeased. Rasulullah shallallaahu'alaihi wa sallam said: **"Whoever does not abandon false speech and acting falsely, then Allah has no need of his abandoning of food and drink."** (HR Al-Bukhari)

Dear brothers,

We all know that the main objective behind fasting is to attain piety or taqwa. Allah Subhaanahu wa Ta'ala says:

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

**"O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may attain piety." (Al-Baqarah: 183)**

Taqwa is to obey Allah's commands and to avoid whatever He has prohibited. Muslims can attain piety and enter Paradise through being conscious of Allah in his fasting, avoidance of whatever that breaks it, drawing closer to Allah by praying at night, reciting the Qur'an, doing good deeds, giving obligatory and voluntarily charities, fulfilling duties to ones parents, observing good ties with kith and kin, sharing food (with others), providing support to the orphans, being kind to the poor and the needy, fulfilling the obligations perfectly with strong determination, and adherence to patience.

Dear brothers,

We can prepare ourselves for welcoming the month of goodness through hastening towards true repentance, resolving to observe sincerity in prayer and do some sunnah fasting so that we are ready to face Ramadan. Hastening towards repentance and forgiveness from Allah is in particular a very important act, as Allah Ta'ala says in the Quran,

وَسَارِعُوا إِلَىٰ مَغْفِرَةٍ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَجَنَّةٍ عَرْضُهَا السَّمَاوَاتُ وَالْأَرْضُ أُعِدَّتْ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ

**"And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord and a garden as wide as the heavens and earth, prepared for the people of taqwa. " (Ali Imran: 133)**

In preparation for this blessed month of Ramadan, it is the duty of those who fast to learn the rulings of fasting, ask the people of knowledge if there are any questions, organize their times during the days and nights and stick to the path of righteous people by dedicating a time for reciting the Qur'an and for remembering Allah. It is also important to keep good relations with relatives and fellow muslims.

At all times, Muslims should be conscious of Allah in all actions and behavior and fend off evil deeds with good ones, sins with pardon and forgiveness. Rasulullah shallallahu'alaihi wa sallam said: **"When anyone of you is observing the fast, he should neither indulge in obscene language nor should he raise his voice, and if anyone reviles him or tries to quarrel with him, he should say: 'I am fasting.'" (HR Ahmad)**

May Allah, the Almighty bless for us the remaining days of Sha'ban, prolong our life to witness Ramadan, help us observe prayers, fasting, lower our gaze, protect our tongue, recite the Qur'an, and help us obey Him and those He has ordained us to obey.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ

## Second sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَبِهِ نَسْتَعِينُ عَلَى أُمُورِ الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ،  
وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، أَمَا بَعْدُ

Dear my brothers,

Let's repent from our own sins as much as possible and as soon as possible. Let's fear Allah as He should be feared, seek nearness to Him through righteous deeds and abstain from sinful acts. Send forward our good deeds before we meet Him and make good use of our lifetime. Allah says,

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ ۖ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

"O you who have believed, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow - and fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do." (Al-Hashr: 18)

Dear brothers,

Ramadan is approaching with the flow of its blessings and goodness and the Paradise has been prepared to receive those who fast properly through the door of Ar-Royyan. Sahl Ibn S'ad reported that the Prophet (pbuh) said:

**"In Paradise, there is a door called al-Rayan, through which those who fast will enter, whoever enters through it will never be thirsty."** (HR At-Tirmidzi)

Therefore, let us prepare ourselves and seize this great chance in order to gain Allah's mercy, Paradise, pardoning, forgiveness and be saved from fire.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا  
اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ إِنَّكَ سَمِيعٌ قَرِيبٌ مُجِيبُ الدَّعَوَاتِ

رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ رَءُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ  
رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا وَإِسْرَافَنَا فِي أَمْرِنَا وَثَبِّتْ أَقْدَامَنَا وَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ  
رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ

رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِنْ نَسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا رَبَّنَا وَلَا تَحْمِلْ عَلَيْنَا إصْرًا كَمَا حَمَلْتَهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِنَا رَبَّنَا وَلَا تُحَمِّلْنَا مَا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ وَاعْفُ عَنَّا وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا أَنْتَ مَوْلَانَا فَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ  
رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ  
سُبْحَانَ رَبِّكَ رَبِّ الْعِزَّةِ عَمَّا يَصِفُونَ وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى الْمُرْسَلِينَ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ