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Friday Sermon

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Reflection and Hope at the End of Ramadan

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي هَدَانَا لِلْإِسْلَامِ، وَوَفَّقَنَا لِإِتْرَاكِ شَهْرِ الصِّيَامِ وَالْقِيَامِ،
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْمَلِكُ الْعَلَّامُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ
سَيِّدُ الْأَنْبِيَاءِ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ خَيْرِ مَنْ صَلَّى وَصَامَ،
وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ الْكِرَامِ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهِ
وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us continue to strengthen our devotion to Allah s.w.t. Fulfil all His commands and abstain from all that He has prohibited. Let us focus our attention on Allah, especially on this closing day of **Ramadan**. May Allah s.w.t. accept our fasting, our prayers, our recitation of the Quran, and our other acts of worship. Amin, ya Rabbal 'Alamin.

Blessed Friday congregation,

Ramadan is coming to a close. Only a few hours remain before it departs. For those who have strived tirelessly in performing

righteous deeds throughout this month, continue doing so; fill these final moments of **Ramadan** with the same spirit. As for those who feel they have fallen behind in their worship, do not despair; there is still a little time left to beautify our deeds.

Did not our beloved Prophet Muhammad s.a.w. remind us, in a hadith narrated by Imam Al-Bukhari, that every deed is judged by its ending?

My dear brothers,

Alhamdulillah, we are close to completing the month-long fast of **Ramadan**. Many among us have performed the night prayers, recited the Quran, increased our **supplications**, paid our zakat, given charity, and engaged in many other good deeds. At the end of **Ramadan**, some may ask: *What more can we do?*

Here, the sermon invites us all to reflect and reassess the quality of our deeds throughout this month of **Ramadan**. It is narrated that among the righteous, once they had completed their acts of worship, they would be overcome with anxiety as they wonder if their deeds had truly been accepted by Allah s.w.t.

So how confident are we that the deeds we have striven to perform throughout **Ramadan** are worthy of being accepted by Allah? If we are not granted the opportunity to meet **Ramadan** next year, will our deeds thus far be sufficient as our provisions?

My dear brothers,

The sermon does not intend in any way to belittle the acts of worship that have already been performed. Rather, it invites all of us to make the best use of the remaining moments of **Ramadan**. Among the goals that every believer should strive for in this blessed month is to attain the **forgiveness** of Allah s.w.t.

Rasulullah s.a.w. said: *“Ruined is he who encounters the month of **Ramadan**, yet it passes while he has not been **forgiven**.”* (At-Tirmizi)

Therefore, even if we have already completed our recitation of the Quran, even if the opportunity for tarawih prayers has now come to an end, and even as time is fast passing by, one door of worship remains wide open for anyone who wishes to use it – the door of making *du’a* and **supplication**. Yes, dear brothers, the act of making *du’a*, seeking the mercy and **forgiveness** of Allah s.w.t.

Such is the great role of **supplication** for a believer. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Al-Furqan, verse 77:

قُلْ مَا يَعْجَبُوكُمْ رَبِّي لَوْلَا دَعَاؤُكُمْ فَقَدْ كَذَّبْتُمْ
فَسَوْفَ يَكُونُ لِرَامًا

Which means: *“Say: ‘My Lord would not concern Himself with you if not for your **supplication**. But you have denied Him, and the punishment will inevitably befall you.’”*

Therefore, my brothers, even though we are in the final moments of **Ramadan**, and its peak – Lailatul Qadr – may have already passed, let us make the best use of the time that remains by asking and beseeching Allah to accept our deeds and grant us His **forgiveness**.

Imam Hasan Al-Basri once advised: *“Increase in seeking **forgiveness**, for you do not know at which moment mercy will descend.”* It may well be - and Allah knows best – that among all the deeds we performed throughout **Ramadan**, the most sincere, the most deeply felt, and the most valuable in the sight of Allah is the **supplication** that we continue to raise at the final moments of this blessed month.

Ya Allah,

Here we humble our hearts and raise our hopes to You. With deeds that are modest, and with shortcomings beyond measure, we seek none other than Your generosity. Accept from us our deeds, our fasting, our prayers, and our acts of worship, for You are the Most Generous, the Most Merciful.

Ya Allah,

So many blessings You have bestowed upon us. So many opportunities You have granted us. Yet at the same time, our gratitude to You remains too little. Our sins and mistakes before You remain too many. We have fallen short in obeying Your commands too often. Therefore, Ya Allah, rectify our condition.

Rectify those matters pertaining to our religion. Rectify our worldly affairs. And rectify our affairs in the Hereafter when we stand before Your majesty and Your judgment.

Ya Allah,

To You alone we turn in **supplication**. To You alone we seek help and assistance. If it is not Your mercy that we seek, whose mercy could possibly help us, Ya Allah? If it is not Your **forgiveness** that we hope for, whose **forgiveness** could erase our sins and our transgressions, Ya Allah? If not in this month of **Ramadan**, the month of **forgiveness**, that you **forgive** our sins, when will we ever have the chance to cleanse the record of our deeds, Ya Allah?

Have mercy upon us, Ya Allah. Have mercy upon our parents. Have mercy upon our children and our families. Have mercy upon every one of Your servants who place their hopes in You, Ya Allah.

رَبِّ اغْفِرْ وَارْحَمْ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوٌّ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنَّا. اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوٌّ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ

فَاعْفُ عَنَّا. اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوٌّ كَرِيمٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنَّا يَا كَرِيمٌ.

رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءَ. رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءَ. رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءَ.

أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ
الرَّحِيمُ.

Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانْتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَى عَنْهُ وَزَجَرَ.

أَلَا صَلُّوا وَسَلِّمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمَرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ حَيْثُ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَزِيزِ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارِضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمُهَدِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقُرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا رَحِيمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالرُّلَازِلَ وَالْمِحْنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَن بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ أَنْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي عَزَّةٍ وَفِي فِلِسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ عَامَّةً، يَا رَحِيمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزْنَهم فَرَحًا، وَهَمَّهُمْ فَرَجًا، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ اكْتُبِ السَّلَامَ وَالسَّلَامَ وَالْأَمَانَ وَالْأَمَانَ لِلْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ

وَلِلنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً، وَقِنَا عَذَابَ
النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَيَنْهَى عَنِ
الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يَعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَادْكُرُوا اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ
يَذْكُرْكُمْ، وَاشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدْكُمْ، وَاسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعْطِكُمْ، وَلَا تَكْفُرْ
اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.