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Arrival of Ramadan – The Importance of Preparation

أَخْمَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي هَدَانَا هَذَا وَمَا كُنَّا لِنُهَتِدَ إِلَّا لَوْلَا أَنْ هَدَانَا اللَّهُ أَشْهُدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهُدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّداً عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أَوْصِي نَفْسِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمَتَّقُونَ.

Zumratal mukminin rahimakumullah,

Let us increase our taqwa towards Allah s.w.t. by obeying all His commands and avoiding all His prohibitions. Do not be deceived by the assumption that tomorrow is guaranteed for us. For the only certainty in this life is death.

Dear respected congregation,

The month of **Ramadan** is fast approaching. Perhaps this may be our last **Ramadan**. Therefore, let us not waste this opportunity. Let us welcome **Ramadan** with spiritual and physical **preparation**, guided by sincere intentions. This is the

focus of today's khutbah: How **prepared** are we to welcome the arrival of **Ramadan**?

As Muslims, we are constantly reminded to **prepare** ourselves. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah al-Hashr, verse 18:

يَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَتَقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ ﴿١٨﴾

Which means: “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 Aware of what you do.”

Dear brothers,

Is it already too late for us to **prepare**? How can we still **prepare** ourselves before **Ramadan** arrives? Today's khutbah highlights two important matters for us to reflect upon.

First: Do Not Procrastinate

We often wait for **Ramadan** to increase our acts of worship and abandon bad habits. However, we must not continue to delay. If death comes before we meet **Ramadan**, will “waiting for **Ramadan**” as an excuse benefit us when we stand before Allah? Indeed, it is inappropriate for us to postpone repentance and self-improvement, while placing our hopes on an uncertain tomorrow.

Therefore, let us begin from this very moment. Improve our prayers. Strengthen our connection with Allah s.w.t. Take time to read and reflect upon the Quran. Strive to abandon bad habits and poor character.

Brothers, **preparation** for **Ramadan** does not begin with the sighting of the new moon. It begins with the **changes** we make today.

Remember, **Ramadan** is not merely a month of worship. It is a spiritual and moral training for the rest of lives. Our goal is to nurture lasting **transformation**, not temporary motivation.

Second: Identify Clear Plans and Goals

Set clear targets and plan wisely. **Ramadan** is limited, and its time is extremely precious. Let us ask ourselves now: Do we not want to become more careful in our speech? Do we hope to better control our desires during times of hardship and ease?

What are our spiritual goals in this blessed month? Do we aim to pray in congregation more frequently at the mosque or with our families? Do we hope to complete the recitation of the Qur'an? Do we wish to practice qiyamullail? More importantly, how can we achieve these goals?

At the same time, consider how we can balance worship with our daily responsibilities – towards our families, work, and

excellence in our studies. Clear planning will help us remain focused, consistent, and steadfast throughout **Ramadan**.

My dear brothers,

Ramadan is a month of blessings and forgiveness. The doors of mercy are wide open, and sins are forgiven for those who repent sincerely. It would be a great loss if we were to let this opportunity pass without planning and without achieving real **change**.

Therefore, let us strive earnestly to **prepare** ourselves, so that this **Ramadan** becomes the best **Ramadan** of our lives. May Allah grant us the opportunity to meet **Ramadan** and benefit from it in the best way.

اللَّهُمَّ بِلْعَنَا رَمَضَانَ، اللَّهُمَّ بِلْعَنَا رَمَضَانَ، اللَّهُمَّ بِلْعَنَا رَمَضَانَ.
أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغُفُورُ
الْوَحْيِيمُ.

Second Sermon

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمْرَ، وَأَشْهُدُ أَنَّ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهُدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسِلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عَبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمْرَ، وَاتَّهُوا عَمَّا كَفَرُوكُمْ عَنْهُ وَزَجَرُ.

أَلَا صَلَوَا وَسِلَمُوا عَلَى النَّبِيِّ الْمُصْطَفَى، فَقَدْ أَمْرَنَا اللَّهُ بِذِلِكَ حِينَ قَالَ فِي كِتَابِهِ الْعَرِيزِ: إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلِّوْنَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ إِذَا مَنُوا صَلُوْلَا عَلَيْهِ وَسِلُمُوا تَسْلِيْلَمَا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسِلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَأَرْضَ اللَّهَمَّ عَنِ الْخَلْفَاءِ الرُّشِيدِينَ الْمُهَدِّدِينَ سَادِاتِنَا أَيِّ بُكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بِقَيْةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقَرَائِبِ وَالْتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنَّا مَعْهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بَرْ حُمَّتَكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمَنَاتِ، وَالْمُسِلِمِينَ وَالْمُسِلَّمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ ادْفِعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالْوَلَازِلَ وَالْمَحْنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَنْ بَلْدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبَلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ انْصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي عَرَّةٍ وَفِي فِلَسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بِدْلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَخُزْنَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمُّهُمْ فَرَجًا، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ اكْتِبْ السَّلَامَ وَالسَّلَامَ وَالْأَمَانَ وَالْأَمَانَ لِلْعَالَمِ كُلِّهِ

وَلِلنَّاسِ أَجْمَعِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتَنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً، وَ قَنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

عَبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعُدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَى، وَ يَنْهَا عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ، يُعَظِّمُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ، فَإِذَا كُرِّوا اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمَ يَدْكُرُكُمْ، وَ اشْكُرُوهُ عَلَى نِعَمِهِ يَزِدُّكُمْ، وَ اسْأَلُوهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ يُعَطِّكُمْ، وَ لَذِكْرُ اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَ اللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.