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Suffer  
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Grateful



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Worldly Life: A Test for Mankind

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

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اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كُلَّمَا سَبَّحَهُ الْمُسَبِّحُونَ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كُلَّمَا حَمَدَهُ الْحَامِدُونَ،

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ كُلَّمَا وَحَدَهُ الْمُوَحِّدُونَ، وَكَبَّرَهُ الْمُكَبِّرُونَ، وَقَامَ بَيْنَ يَدَيْهِ

الْقَائِمُونَ، وَرَكَعَ لِعَظَمَتِهِ الرَّكَعُونَ، وَسَجَدَ لِجَلَالِهِ السَّاجِدُونَ،

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي أَنْعَمَ عَلَيْنَا بِصِيَامِ أَفْضَلِ شَهْرٍ، وَقَدَّرَ لَنَا الْإِلْتِقَاءَ بِبَلِيَّةِ

الْقَدْرِ، وَيُحِيطُنَا بِمَوَدَّتِهِ فِي يَوْمِ عِيدِ الْفِطْرِ.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الرَّؤُوفُ الْمَنَّانُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ

وَرَسُولَهُ الشُّكُورُ الْحَنَّانُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ،

وَأَصْحَابِهِ وَأَتْبَاعِهِ، وَسَلِّمْ تَسْلِيمًا. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا أَيُّهَا الْمُسْلِمُونَ،

أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَجَلَّ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

**My dear brothers and sisters rahimakumullah,**

On this **blessed** morning, we gather to celebrate our success in strengthening our taqwa of Allah through acts of worship throughout the month of Ramadan. We are **grateful** to Allah s.w.t. for the many **blessings** He has bestowed upon us, especially the **blessing** of faith (*iman*), which has been renewed once again through Allah's mercy and love during Ramadan.

Alhamdulillah! We have witnessed our mosques enlivened and filled with congregants from all walks of life – young and old, men and women – many striving to attain the mercy of Allah s.w.t. Our media platforms have been enriched with religious content. Our relationship with the Quran has felt close once again, and its recitation and reflections have revived our hearts and senses.

We have expressed togetherness by preparing and sharing meals for iftar, reaching out to those in need, and extending our charity and contributions. We have also witnessed the enthusiasm of our youth to be involved – instilling optimism that the spirit of *iman* continues to flourish in our society. And by Allah's will, may it be preserved for generations to come.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ.

**Dear blessed congregation,**

Our success in completing the acts of worship during the month of Ramadan did not depend solely on our own efforts. Rather, it is by the mercy and love of Allah s.w.t. upon all His servants. Did Rasulullah s.a.w. not say, in a hadith narrated by Imam al-Bukhari and Muslim, that no one will enter Paradise because of their deeds alone, except by the vast mercy of Allah s.w.t.?

So let us, on this blessed morning, reflect upon the signs of Allah's mercy and love for us. Reflect on every blessing that Allah has granted us, even without us asking for it. Allah s.w.t. has blessed us with the gift of faith and Islam. Allah s.w.t. has granted us strength, time, provision, and so much more. Allah s.w.t. has also bestowed upon us peace and well-being, so that we may live our religion with sincerity and dedication.

All of these are proofs of Allah's mercy and love. He has bestowed upon us countless blessings. So then, how can we reflect true piety and gratitude for all these blessings?

### **Beloved congregation,**

Everything that Allah s.w.t. has decreed in a person's life – our lifespan, our provision, our faith – is both a test and a responsibility upon us. We were created by Allah to be tested, and our whole life is a test. As Allah says in Surah Al-Mulk, verse 2:

الَّذِي خَلَقَ الْمَوْتَ وَالْحَيَاةَ لِيَبْلُوَكُمْ أَيُّكُمْ أَحْسَنُ عَمَلًا  
وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفُورُ ﴿٢﴾

Which means: “(He is the One) who created death and life to **test** which of you is best in deeds, and He is the Almighty, the Most Forgiving.”

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ.

**Dear blessed congregation,**

This morning, allow me to share two lessons regarding the **trials** of life, so that we may understand and face them in ways that are pleasing to Allah s.w.t.

### **First: Each person is tested in different ways**

Indeed, dear brothers and sisters, in recent times, we have witnessed that among Muslim communities around the world, there are those who observe Ramadan in an atmosphere of tension and fear. What is usually a time of joy and peace has turned into one of gloom and seclusion.

We certainly empathise with the trials they are facing. We pray that Allah s.w.t. protects the innocent and restores peace. We also remain steadfast in our belief in Allah’s decree, trusting that there is wisdom behind every occurrence.

However, just as hardship and suffering are tests, blessings and ease are also tests. Yes, some people are tested with hardship and deprivation. However, just because we do not face similar hardships, we must not think that Allah is not **testing** us. On the contrary, if we live in a state of ease and comfort, every **blessing** we enjoy is also a form of **test** from Allah s.w.t.

Let us not be deceived into thinking that the **blessings** and comforts we have signify our honour in the sight of Allah s.w.t. What determines a person's rank before Allah, whether their life is full of ease or hardship, is the level of taqwa or piety instilled in the heart. Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Al-Hujurat, verse 13:

إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقَىٰكُمْ

Which means: *“Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you.”*

Brothers and sisters, alhamdulillah, we are a community that has been **blessed** abundantly by Allah s.w.t. While others around the world face **suffering** and hardship, we continue to live under the shelter of peace and well-being by Allah's permission. We still enjoy financial stability. We have sufficient provisions and necessities. We can still think about and plan for our future. Educational levels continue to rise, and we are able to practice our religion without fear for our safety. All of these are great



This hadith emphasises the response of a believer when facing both forms of tests – whether when receiving good news and blessings, or when struck by trials and misfortunes.

When confronted with a test, a Muslim does not give up, despair, or become overly anxious in times of **trial**. He maintains his relationships, seeks to improve circumstances, and continues to spread *ihsan* – goodness. He places his trust in Allah, seeks His help, and continues to strive and prepare for the future.

Allah s.w.t. says in Surah Al-Baqarah, verse 155:

وَلَنَبْلُوَنَّكُمْ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوعِ وَنَقْصٍ مِّنَ الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَنْفُسِ  
وَالثَّمَرَاتِ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٥٥﴾

Which means: “We will surely **test** you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of wealth, lives, and fruits – but give glad tidings to the patient.”

This verse highlights that the reaction expected from a believer in the face of trials is to be patient. A believer does not view **trials** as a failure. Rather, they are seen as an opportunity to attain reward from Allah s.w.t. It all depends on how we respond when faced with a challenge. This determines the true success of a believer who faces trials and hardships.

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ.

## **Dear fellow Muslims,**

As Muslims living in better circumstances compared to some of our brothers and sisters in other countries, it is our duty to receive Allah s.w.t.'s blessings with gratitude. Scholars explain that **gratitude** for our **blessings** is not merely uttered through our words. Consider the following explanation:

First, **gratitude** must arise from a heart that is certain and convinced that every provision and **blessing** comes from Allah. To Him alone we direct our prayers and hopes.

Second, **gratitude** must be expressed with the tongue. By saying 'alhamdulillah', we acknowledge the Giver, that is Allah, and seek His **blessings** in our provision.

Third, **gratitude** must be reflected in our actions. Every favour we receive is a trust from Allah. We will be held accountable for every **blessing** we possess. What do we do with the **blessings** of security, well-being, freedom, education, sustenance, and income that Allah has given us?

## **Beloved brothers and sisters,**

The sermon wishes to remind us once again to continue performing good deeds and preserving noble values such as *rahmah* – mercy and *ihsan* – compassion, extending beyond Ramadan, as a sign of our **gratitude** to Allah s.w.t. Allah says in Surah Saba', verse 13:



## Second Sermon

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

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اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ، اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ حَمْدًا كَثِيرًا كَمَا أَمَرَ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ. أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ تَعَالَى فِيمَا أَمَرَ، وَانْتَهُوا عَمَّا نَهَاكُمْ 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 ءَامَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا. اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَ بَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ.

وَارْضَ اللَّهُمَّ عَنِ الْخُلَفَاءِ الرَّاشِدِينَ الْمُهْدِيِّينَ سَادَاتِنَا أَبِي بَكْرٍ وَعُمَرَ وَعُثْمَانَ وَعَلِيٍّ، وَعَنْ بَقِيَّةِ الصَّحَابَةِ وَالْقَرَابَةِ وَالتَّابِعِينَ، وَتَابِعِي التَّابِعِينَ، وَعَنْ مَعَهُمْ وَفِيهِمْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ، وَالْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ، الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ  
وَالْأَمْوَاتِ. اللَّهُمَّ اذْفَعْ عَنَّا الْبَلَاءَ وَالْوَبَاءَ وَالزَّلَازِلَ وَالْمِحْنَ، مَا ظَهَرَ  
مِنْهَا وَمَا بَطَنَ، عَن بَلَدِنَا خَاصَّةً، وَسَائِرِ الْبُلْدَانِ عَامَّةً، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ.  
اللَّهُمَّ انصُرْ إِخْوَانَنَا الْمُسْتَضْعَفِينَ فِي غَزَّةٍ وَفِي فِلِسْطِينَ وَفِي كُلِّ مَكَانٍ  
عَامَّةً، يَا أَرْحَمَ الرَّاحِمِينَ. اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّلْ خَوْفَهُمْ أَمْنًا، وَحُزْنَهُمْ فَرَحًا، وَهَمَّهُمْ  
فَرَجًا، يَا رَبَّ الْعَالَمِينَ. رَبَّنَا آتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً، وَفِي الْآخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً،  
وَقِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ 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، وَلَذِكْرُ  
اللَّهِ أَكْبَرُ، وَاللَّهُ يَعْلَمُ مَا تَصْنَعُونَ.