

Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) Sermon on welcoming the month of Ramadhan

- ✓ My dear Brothers and Sisters. Today I am going to offer you the text of the **خطبه** (sermon) that was given before Ramadan by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

He (SAW) said,

O People! The month of Allah (Ramadhan) has approached you with His mercy and blessings. This is the month that is the best of all months **(عند الله سبحانه وتعالى)**.

Its days are the best among the days; its nights are the best among the nights and its hours are the best among the hours. In this blessed month there is one night that is better than one thousand months (in terms of its rewards).

This is a month in which He has invited you. You have been selected as the recipients of the honors of Allah, (SWT). In this holy month, when you breathe, it has the (Rewards) of 'Tasbeeh', and when you sleep you get the (Rewards) of worship. **(عبادة)**

Your good deeds are accepted in this month. So are your (invocations). (دَعَا). Therefore, you must make دُعَا to (your Lord), with sincerity, with hearts and minds that are free from sins and evils, that Allah may bless you with his Mercy and Forgiveness. Therefore observe fasting, in this month, and recite as much of the Holy Quran as you can.

Verily! The person who may not receive the mercy of Allah (SWT) in this month must be very unfortunate. (While fasting, remember the hunger and thirst of the Day of Judgement. Give charity (صَدَقَة) to the poor and the needy. Pay respects to your elders. Be kind to those younger than you and be kind towards your relatives kiths and kins (اقرباء). Guard your tongues against unworthy words and useless conversations, guard your eyes from obscenity and protect your ears from sounds that you should not be hearing.

Be kind to orphans so that if your children become orphans they also may be treated with kindness. Make دُعَا that Allah(SWT) may forgive your sins. Raise your hands for supplication (دَعَا) at the time of Prayers, because these are

the best Times for asking Allah’s mercy. When we make ^{دُعَا} at such times, we are answered by Him, when we call upon Him, He responds, and when we ask for anything, it is granted by Him.

O People! You have made your conscience (نَفْس) the slave of your desires; make it free by making ^{استغفار} Istighfar (asking His forgiveness). Your backs are breaking under the heavy load of your sins, so ^{سجود} prostrate before Him for long intervals and make them lighter.

Repentance

Understand well, that Allah has promised in the name of His Majesty and Honor that He will not punish such people who fast and offer Salat in this month and perform ‘sajood’ (Prostrate), and He will guard their bodies against the Hell Fire on the Day of Judgement (يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ).

If anybody amongst you invites for the Iftar of any believer, Allah will give him a reward as if he has set free a slave. He will forgive his minor sins.

Then the companions of Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) asked: "If everybody amongst us does not have the means to do so?"

Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) told them: - Keep yourself away from the Fire of Hell, by inviting for 'Iftar', though it may consist of only half a date or simply with water ^{and} if you have nothing else, a sip of milk. Anybody who may cultivate good deeds (*اعمال صالحه*) in this month will walk over the 'Siraat' (*سراط*) (Bridge) safely on the Judgement Day, even if his feet may be shaking.

Anybody who in this month may take light work from his servants (male or female), Allah will make his (accounts easy) on the Day of Judgement.

Anybody who does not bother others in this month, Allah will keep him safe from His wrath (*غضب*) on the day of Judgement. Anybody, who respects and treats an orphan with kindness in this month, Allah (SWT) shall look at him with dignity in Qiyamat. Anybody who treats his Relatives well, in this month, Allah will bestow His mercy on him in

Qiyamat, while anybody who mistreats his relatives (اقرباء) in this month, Allah will keep him away from His mercy, in Qiyamat.

Whoever offers 'Sunnah' prayers in this month, Allah will give him a certificate of freedom from Hell Fire. Whosoever offers one 'Wajib' Salat in this month, for him the Angels will write the rewards of 70 such prayers, which were offered by him in any other months. Allah's, Prophet further said; whosoever offers salutation , (صلاة وسلام) on me, Allah will make the scales of his deeds heavy, when the scales of others will be tending towards lightness on the Day of Judgement.

اللهم صل على محمد

Whosoever recites in this month only one 'Ayat', he will be rewarded as if he had recited the entire Holy Quran in the other months. Allah (SWT) increases the livelihood (رزق) of those who fast.

The Gates of Paradise remain opened in this month.

Pray to Allah (SWT) that these gates may not be closed on you.

The Gates of Hell are closed. Make (دعوى) that these gates may never be opened again. During this month Shaitan are

(شياطين)

اللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

imprisoned so ask your Lord not to let them Free and have power over you.

Dear Brothers & Sisters!

Let us try to observe the fasting of the month of Ramadan with Perfection and refrain from useless talks, obscenity,

disobedience, backbiting, and slandering others and avoid doing anything ^{THAT} displeases Allah. The Prophet (pduh) said:

“Whoever does not abandon false speech and acting falsely, then Allah has no need of his abandoning of food and drink.”

O servants of Allah! (يا عباد الله)

The main objective behind fasting is to attain Piety (تقوى).

Allah, SWT says: **“O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may attain piety.”**

يا ايها الذين آمنوا كتب عليكم الصيام كما كتب على الذين من قبلكم لعلكم تتقون

Now what is Piety?

Piety means to obey Allah’s commands and to avoid whatever He has prohibited. One can attain piety (تقوى) and enter into Paradise by the remembrance of Allah while fasting (ذكر); avoidance of whatever breaks the fast, drawing closer to Allah

by praying at night *صلوة تليد*, reciting the Qur'an, doing good deeds, giving obligatory and voluntarily charities, fulfilling duties to ones parents, observing good ties with kiths and kins, sharing food (with others), spreading the greeting salam of providing support to the orphans, being kind to the poor and the needy, fulfilling the obligations of Ramadan with strong determination, Perseverance while observing Patience.

The Prophet (pbuh) said: **“Whoever fasts Ramadan with belief and anticipation of a reward, his past sins are forgiven.”**

عن أبي هريرة ر.ه. - قال - قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم - من صام رمضان
إيماناً واحتساباً غُفِرَ له ما تقدم من ذنبه -

In preparation of this blessed month of Ramadan, it is the duty of those who fast, to learn the rulings of fasting, (احكام الصيام), ask the people of knowledge if there are any questions.

فاسألوا أهل الذكر إن كنتم لا تعلمون -

Muslims should be conscious of Allah at all times in their actions and behavior and by repelling/and fending off evil deeds with good, sins with pardon and forgiveness. The

Prophet (pbuh) 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 uses abusive language or tries to quarrel with him, he should say: 'I am fasting.'

May Allah, the Almighty bless us with the remaining days of Sha'ban, prolong our lives to witness Ramadan, help us to observe prayers and fasting with sincerity (إخلاص), help us to lower our gaze, protect our tongues, give us strength to recite the Qur'an, and help us obey (Him) Allah (SWT) and those He has ordained us to obey. Allah (SWT) says: **"O you who believe! Obey God, and obey the Messenger, and those (Muslims)**

charged with authority."
 يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا رَسُولَهُ وَأَطِيعُوا الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا
 O servants of Allah!

Ramadan is approaching with the flow of its infinite blessings and glad tidings of Forgiveness; and the Paradise has been prepared and awaits to receive those who fast with sincerity from its Door of Rayan. (باب الريان)

Therefore, let us prepare ourselves and seize this great opportunity in order to gain Allah's mercy, His forgiveness and be saved from Hell fire and get entry into the Paradise. آمين