

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَ نَسْتَعِينُهُ وَ نَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَ نَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ
شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَ مِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ
لَهُ ، وَ مَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ. وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ
لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ.

All Praise be to **اللَّهِ** .

We praise him and ask him for help and forgiveness. We ask him for protection from the evilness within ourselves and from our own bad deeds. Whom-so-ever God guides to the truth no one can lead astray, and whom-so-ever He leaves misguided, no one has the power to guide.

I testify that there is no God but **اللَّهِ** to whom there is no partner and I testify that Muhammad **ﷺ** is his servant and messenger

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ
فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾

“And when my worshipers ask you of Me, surely I am very near. I answer the prayers of the one who calls on me. So let them answer My call, and let them believe in Me that they may achieve guidance” (S2, A186)



Dear brothers and sisters, ASA. This year we have been fortunate to have Ramadan and September start on the same day. This is the 19th of September, and therefore, tonight is the 20th night of Ramadan. The last ten days are upon us, and they have reached us so quickly.

A khutbah at a time like this can only be on one thing, the night of power: **لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ**

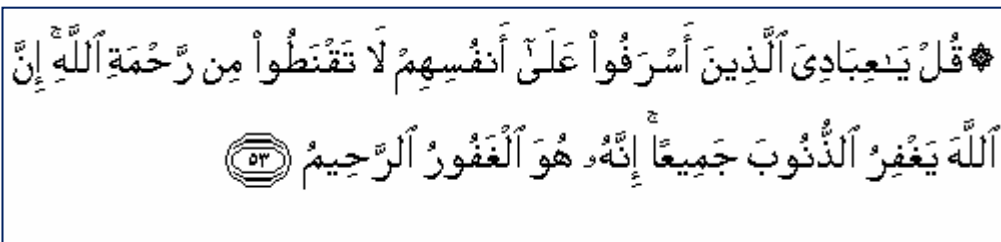
In a Hadeeth "Hassan", the Prophet(SAAWS) said: *this month has come upon you, and in it is a night that is better than one thousand months. The one who has been denied this night, he has indeed been denied all the goodness, and no one will be denied its goodness unless he is indeed among the deprived.*

Brothers and sisters, we must not take this issue lightly. We may not have the luxury of another Ramadan. When one thinks that by gaining a thousand months worth of worship in one night, how much do you think this will cover? A thousand months is equivalent to eighty years. For most of us, this is a lifetime. This is not a joke brothers and sisters, but it is a reality.

For the past 20 nights and 19 days we have been training ourselves to what is about to come. Praise be to Allah that this night of power is in the last ten nights. At the beginning of Ramadan, most of us are getting into first gear, but now, ISA, we are all getting there. Can we just imagine what a thousand months means? As a percentage, it is equivalent to 3 million percent. Isn't that incredible?

For those of us who have been blessed with Hajj, and having the blessings of standing on Arafat with our hands out to Allah asking him for everything and anything. We had to travel to Makkah. We had to go through many exhausting rituals. We ultimately stood on Arafat and started supplicating to Allah(SWT) and asked him for everything that we wanted. And now, many years down the line, we wish we can get the opportunity to ask Allah(SWT) again and again. The night of power brothers and sisters is our chance. We must take this opportunity with both hands.

Not only should we take this opportunity for ourselves, we must guide others towards it. This includes our families, our children, our brothers and sisters, our friends, our Muslim friends who have lost their way, and have lost hope in the mercy of Allah.



“Say: O my Servants who have transgressed against their souls! Despair not of the Mercy of Allah: Surely Allah forgives all sins: It is He who is most Forgiving, Most Merciful” (S39, Zumar, A53)

Let us remind ourselves and those around us about this glorious opportunity. If we do not have the ability to remind ourselves or others, then at least let us not waste this opportunity for others. Let us make sure that we do not have big Iftar parties where one is so full after eating that they can only lie there with a full belly and a heavy head. Let us not get caught up with the latest Championship football game or the latest film in the cinema.

What is intriguing is that in Ramadan, when one legitimately misses a day of fasting, he or she can make it up later:

أَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ فَمَنْ كَانَ مِنْكُمْ مَّرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ

“Fasting is for a certain number of days; but whoever among you is ill or on a journey, then (he shall fast) an equivalent number of other days” (S2, A184)

However, when it comes to the night of power, should you be unfortunate enough to miss it, you will have to wait the whole year to gain the opportunity again. We just cannot afford to miss it, and let us not be the excuse for someone else to miss it either.

The gates of paradise are all open in this month. We need to have faith in Allah that these gates are open for us. All we need to do is knock on the doors. I need to remind myself and all of us that all we need to do is knock on the doors of heaven. I cannot afford to have wasted all the effort of fasting and worship for the sake of something that will take me away from this glorious night.

A word of warning! In many masjids, it has become a tradition that the “khutmah” of Quran is achieved on the 27th night as if it has been decreed that the night of power will be on that night. Many have narrowed their bets to one in ten by doing so. For all we know, it may be tomorrow night, or it may be on the 28th night. Indeed, I have read that the “Salaf” used to do “khutmah” at the end of Ramadan and not traditionally of the 27th. There is a general backing off after the 27th night, and we need to be careful. Every single night is a potential night of power. If you want to have it, you know what to do.

In a hadeeth sahih, the Prophet(SAAWS) said about Ramadan: *“Allah has decreed that you will fast this month and I have given you the Sunnah of Quyam in this month. For the one who fasts*

and does Quyam in sound belief and conviction, he will be delivered from his sins as if he has been delivered on the day his mother gave birth to him”.

The Prophet(SAAWS) used to put in extra effort in Ramadan more so than any other month, and according to A'isha(RAA) she said that the Prophet(SAAWS) used to put more effort in the last ten days than in any other. She also said that in the last ten, the Prophet(SAAWS) enlivened the night in prayers, woke up his family, put extra effort and tightened his “belt”.

In Sahih Bukhari, the Prophet(SAAWS) said: “look for the night of power in the last ten of Ramadan”. Scholars have debated plenty trying to narrow down the night of power, but it has been in Allah’s mercy that it is left for us to ponder. What we need to do is not ponder, but to take advantage. The equation is very simple. Ten nights! I know that I am personally in desperate need to ask for forgiveness and to ask Allah to help me reform myself, to help me to help my family, and to help me to help my friends to reform. I know how much I am in need of this glorious night, and I am quite sure we are all in the same boat.

This night is so special, that a whole surat has been dedicated to it. One night of worship is equivalent to worship of eighty three years. All the salat that we do day in day out. All the extra prayers and extra worship. Just add all this up for a period of eighty three years. How can we leave it be. What a bargain! Let us all help each other to get the benefit. Let us not leave a friend or a family member sitting at home watching TV or doing something of little value. We desperately need to help each other.

Sometimes we need to ask ourselves a simple question. What is it all about? Why should I bother at all?

وَأَنْتَقُوا يَوْمًا تُرْجَعُونَ فِيهِ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ تُوَفَّى كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ
وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ

“And guard yourselves from the Day when you shall be brought back to Allah. Then every soul shall be paid what it has earned, and none shall be dealt with unjustly” (S2, A281)

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفر الله لي ولكم

2nd Khutbah:

الحمد لله ثم الحمد لله . الحمد لله نستعينه ونستغفره ، ونعوذ بالله من شرور
أنفسنا وسيئات أعمالنا . أما بعد :

يَتَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ
عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

“O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may achieve self-restraint” (S2, A183)

This is the aya we opened the Holy month of Ramadan with. I was interested in the translation of the end of the aya:

لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

I have read translations that said, “that you may achieve taqua”, or “that you may achieve self-restraint”, or “that you may ward off evil”, or “that you may guard against evil”. In the short version of “Tafseer Ibn Katheer”, nothing specific was mentioned. It is therefore likely that the meaning is open. At the beginning of the month, as we aim to start another process of self reform, achieving a state of “Taqua” and guarding off evil through fasting is important.

As we now start the last ten days of Ramadan, another meaning starts to take shape for:

لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

وَأَنْتَقُوا يَوْمًا تُرْجَعُونَ فِيهِ إِلَى اللَّهِ ^{عَظ}

“And guard yourselves from the Day when you shall be brought back to Allah”

This how beautiful Ramadan is. From a personal angle, I am always fearful just before Ramadan. I tend to ask myself am I going to be able to cope with Ramadan. However, and praise be to Allah, once it starts, it is as if it has a life of its own. But now that we are at the last ten of Ramadan, I know that I need to put the effort. It will happen by itself. I have to put in the effort and I think this goes for most if not all of us.

We are all on the path to returning to Allah. This is the ultimate truth. It is the undeniable truth. Allah has prescribed fasting for our benefit. Allah has chosen Ramadan for our benefit. Allah reminded us that He is near. All we need to do is to answer His call:

فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

“So let them answer My call, and let them believe in Me that they may achieve guidance” (S2, A186)

May Allah grant us the guidance to answer His call so as we can achieve the ultimate guidance.

May Allah grant us the wisdom to answer His call.

May Allah grant us the bounty of لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ