

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ  
شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ  
لَهُ، وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ. وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ  
لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، وَأَشْهَدُ 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

وَأَنْتَقُوا يَوْمًا تُرْجَعُونَ فِيهِ إِلَى اللَّهِ ثُمَّ تُوَفَّى كُلُّ نَفْسٍ مَّا كَسَبَتْ  
وَهُمْ لَا يُظْلَمُونَ ﴿٢٨١﴾

*“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)*



Dear Brothers and sisters, ASA.

Brothers and sisters, Allah(SWT) tells us in the Holy Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا تَوْبُوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَّصُوحًا عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَن يُكَفِّرَ  
عَنكُمْ سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيُدْخِلَكُم جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ

***“O you who believe! Turn to Allah in sincere repentance: In the hope that your Lord will remit from you your ill deeds and bring you into Gardens beneath which Rivers flow” (S66, A8)***

Brothers and sisters, we know from understanding Islam, that this life is a temporary test for us all. The opportunities to indulge in this life and the opportunities to drift away from the path of Allah are plenty and it is very difficult to keep on the straight and narrow. Inevitably we all turn away from Allah, but Allah(SWT) in his infinite Mercy wants us to turn back to Him, and for that, He has given us many opportunities to do so.

Allah(SWT) has blessed us with five daily prayers to keep us close to Him throughout the day. He blessed us with our gathering on Fridays. And He has also blessed us with seasons of “goodness” so that we can take provisions for this life and the hereafter.

وَتَزَوَّدُوا فَإِنَّ خَيْرَ الزَّادِ التَّقْوَىٰ

***“And take forth provisions, for the best of provisions is ‘Taqua’” (S2, A197)***

The month of Ramadan is one such great season and it is only two weeks away. It is in Ramadan that the Greatest Book for humanity was revealed. This Holy Book is the word of Allah(SWT) and is an eternal doctrine for the guidance of humanity.

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ  
وَالْفُرْقَانِ

***“The month of Ramadan in which the Qur'an was revealed, a guidance for people, and clear proofs of the guidance and the Criterion (of right and wrong)” (S2, A185)***

Allah(SWT) has blessed us with this great season of fasting and of Quran purely and totally for our benefit. Indeed the one who is fortunate is the one who on the Day of Judgment, Ramadan and the Quran both will intercede for him or for her.

An authentic Hadeeth in Sahih Muslim and also narrated by Imam Ahmad and by At-Tabarani, the Prophet(SAAWS) said: *“Fasting and the Quran will intercede for the servant on the day of Judgment. Fasting will say: Oh my Lord, I prevented him from food and from fulfilling desires, let me act as an intercessor. The Quran will say: I prevented him from his sleep at night; let me intercede for him. Allah(SWT) declares: their intercession will be accepted”*.

Brothers and sisters, if we ever doubt that we will need intercession on the Day of Judgment, we only have to read one of the many descriptions of this day. The Holy Quran has described this day very clearly for us in many suras, and this is just one such example:

فَإِذَا جَاءَتِ الصَّاعَةُ ۗ (٣٣) يَوْمَ يَفِرُّ الْمَرْءُ مِنْ أَخِيهِ (٣٤) وَأُمِّهِ وَأَبِيهِ  
(٣٥) وَصَحْبَتِهِ وَبَنِيهِ (٣٦) لِكُلِّ أَمْرٍ مِّنْهُمْ يَوْمَئِذٍ شَأْنٌ يُغْنِيهِ (٣٧)

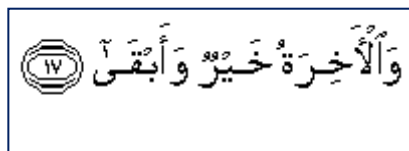
***“And when the deafening cry comes. The day when a man shall run away from his brother. From his mother and his father. From his wife and his children. Each, on that Day, will have enough concern of their own to make them indifferent to others” (S80, A33-7)***

Brothers and sisters, on this day, we will desperately need any intercession we can get, and we are told that our fasting and our Quran will do that for us.

Brothers and sisters, in this world, we have two types of traders; those who trade for this life and those who trade for the hereafter. Those who trade for this life look forward to special seasons where they can make a handsome gain. Those who trade for the hereafter also look forward to special seasons to make a handsome gain. The traders of this world are described as:

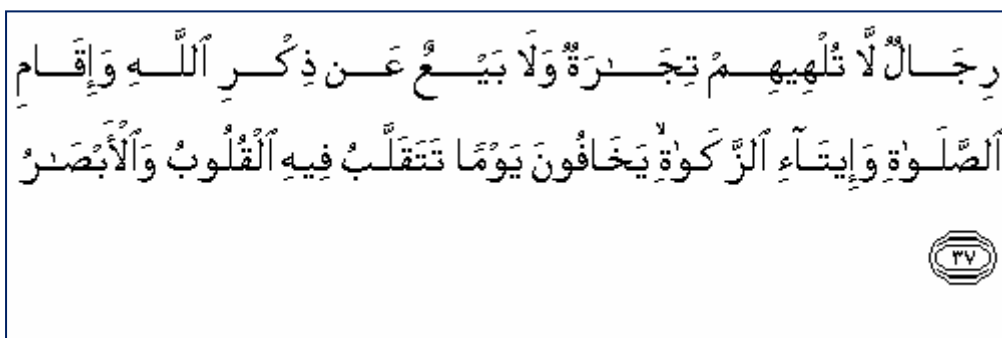
بَلْ تُوْثِرُونَ الْحَيٰوةَ الدُّنْيَا (١٦) ***“But they favour the life of Dunia” (S87, A16)***

While the traders of the hereafter understood the next ayah:



*“And the hereafter is better and everlasting” (S87, A17)*

We know brothers and sisters that the gains of this world are extremely appealing and can be very difficult to resist. But those who trade for the hereafter know that this trade is very special. They know that they are trading for forgiveness from their Lord and for eternal paradise. Such people are described in the Holy Quran:



*“Men whom neither trade nor sale can distract them from the Remembrance of Allah, or from establishing Prayers or the giving of “Zakat”: Their fear is for the Day when hearts and eyes will be transformed“(S26, A37)*

Brothers and sisters, Allah(SWT) has again given us the opportunity to witness another Ramadan, and we need to make the most out of it. It is our chance again to be traders of the hereafter and it is our chance to gain the intercession of fasting and the Quran.

Let us also remember that the month of Ramadan is the month of the Muslim family. It is a month where the family is brought together many times during the day. We should wake up as a family for “Suhur”, we should join together as a family more frequently for prayers and we should try to break our fast together as a family. It is truly a fantastic month for the whole family and we should use this opportunity wisely. We need to make adequate preparations for such an occasion. It will take a good deal of changing of habits gained over the past eleven months, but this is what it is all about. It is the ideal opportunity to change for the better. If during Ramadan we cannot achieve change, then it is probably impossible for us to change at any other time

Part of this process of change includes our children growing up understanding their religion. I am quite sure that they are all looking forwards to this special season. We need to make this experience special for them. Ramadan needs to touch the hearts of our children. In one part we should encourage our children to fast and train them for this act of worship. It has been customary that children are encouraged to try fasting after seven. By ten if the child is strong and healthy

enough we should encourage them further. When our children reach “Bulough (puberty)”, it is compulsory. The act of fasting from food and drink is principally the physical aspect of Ramadan. We need to understand that by only teaching and encouraging our children to fast, we will probably fail to educate our children about the beauty of this month.

Our children need to learn that fasting is not about the hunger and the thirst. This would be the wrong message for them. Ramadan is about the taming of our nature and the taming of our desires. Ramadan is about improving our conduct with others but above most, Ramadan is about developing our relationship with Allah.

Ramadan is not just about the fast of the stomach. In Ramadan, the tongue should fast, the eye should fast, the ear should fast and the hands and feet should fast. We need to teach our children that Ramadan is not simply about fasting from food and from drink. Ramadan is about developing our character. It is about developing our ability to be more patient and tolerant. It is about developing our ability of self control. It is about teaching ourselves to have more empathy. Our children need to know that there is much more about Ramadan, but it starts with fasting from food and drink.

When I look at our community in Altrincham, one of my biggest worries is that Allah(SWT) has blessed us with a relatively easy life. When we look at the rest of the world, we are indeed among the very fortunate few. This easy life can be very distracting. As we indulge in the luxuries of life we can easily get distracted and become less empathetic with the needs and difficulties of others. This is why Ramadan is particularly important for us living in this community. It brings us back to earth. This message is equally important for our children who for the most have all that they want and much more than they need.

Brothers and sisters, I truly believe that the most important message for our children in Ramadan is to encourage them during this Holy month to develop their own personal relationship with Allah. Ramadan is the month of “Du’a”. We know that the “Du’a” of the fasting person is very special and is not turned down. In hadeeth narrated by Ibn Maja, the Prophet(SAAWS) said that the “Du’a” of the fasting person at the time of breaking his fast does not get turned down”.

In another narration by Ahmad and by Tirmizi, the Prophet(SAAWS) said: three people will not have their “Du’a” rejected. The fasting person as he breaks his fast, a just leader and the person who has been transgressed against. Allah will raise this “Du’a” and the doors of heaven will open to it.

Brothers and sisters, we are now in great need to utilize the time of breaking our fast to ask of Allah for ourselves, for our families and for the rest of the Muslim Ummah. We ask of Allah for His forgiveness, His mercy and for the triumph of Islam, and we say:

“The thirst has gone, the veins are moist and the reward has been confirmed by the will of Allah{Zahaba-al-Dhama’, wab-talat-il-ourouq, wa thabutal-ajr ISA}. Narrated by Ibn Dawood.

Brothers and sisters let us teach our children that Ramadan is the month of asking of Allah. It is the month of building this special relationship with Allah. We know that all other acts of worship can be witnessed by others except fasting; it is truly between you and Allah. When we teach our children to fast, we instinctively tell them it is Allah that you are fasting for. This action is not for us. When our children fast it is not for us, it is for the sake of Allah. This is one of the things that make Islam very special.

Islam is about submitting to Allah(SWT). It is about worshipping none but Allah. It is about asking of none but Allah. It is about believing that all that you have is a blessing from Allah, and it is about believing that we will all ultimately return to Allah. This makes Ramadan very very special. Ramadan allows us to develop this unique and personal relationship. This to me is one of the most important aspects of fasting in Ramadan. It is purely for the sake of Allah.

In addition to the positive effect Ramadan can have on our children, we also have a duty to demonstrate to our children the positive effects that Ramadan has on us. There is no point telling our children about the benefits of this glorious month when we ourselves are not experiencing this benefit. We are the most important example for our children and we need to set a good example.

Brothers and sisters, one of the difficulties of celebrating Ramadan in a non-Islamic society is the fact that we will witness no change outside of our community. In the Islamic world, Ramadan is very evident. But for us here, we, the community, become responsible to bring the spirit and the beauty of Ramadan to our community. To do so, we need to make a special effort to change some of our habits. We need to cut down on certain things and we need to increase certain things. It is really up to us to create the atmosphere of Ramadan.

Ramadan is so powerful that even without trying you find that you are getting organized. We already have a timetable for the month. Many things are in need of change and one of the things we need to change during Ramadan is how we priorities and fill our time. Ramadan needs to be the time of reducing our interests in this life and increasing our interests in the hereafter. During Ramadan we should be able to break old routines and build new ones. We need to build routines that will get us closer towards Allah; praying on time, praying “nawafel”, reading the Quran and improving our knowledge and understanding of Islam and so on.

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفر الله لي ولكم

2<sup>nd</sup> Khutbah:

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

Brothers and sisters, Ramadan is the month of fasting and is also the month of “Qiyam”. Every Muslim, male and female should prepare themselves for this Holy month. Husband and wife should encourage each other to attend “Taraweeh”. We should encourage our able children to do the same. The first two weeks of Ramadan will still be in the summer holiday, and hopefully our children will have the chance to gain from this period.

At the time of the Prophet(SAAWS), the women attended the masjid for “jama’a” prayers, including Fajr and Isha. At some stage, they were entering the masjid from the same door as the men, until the Prophet(SAAWS) asked for a door to be designated for the women. Until our day, there is a designated door for the women at the Masjid of the Prophet(SAAWS) in Madina.

We should encourage the family to attend taraweeh to encourage the atmosphere of the family prayers. Ramadan is the month of unity and solidarity. To achieve our goals, we need to help each other.

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ

***“And help you one another in righteousness and pious duty, and help not one another in sin and transgression” (S5, A2)***

Finally brothers and sisters, Ramadan is the month of spending and giving for the sake of Allah. Ramadan is the month of giving and the month of sharing. Let us use this great month to help our children understand the gift of giving and sharing for the sake of Allah.

We ask Allah to help us to fast the days of Ramadan in true belief and in anticipation of the rewards, and help us to carry out the “qiyam” in true belief and in anticipation of the rewards. We ask Allah to help us purify ourselves and our loved ones in this Holy and Blessed month.