

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلّٰهِ ، نَحْمَدُهُ وَ نَسْتَعِينُهُ وَ نَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَ نَعُوذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنْ  
شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَ مِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللّٰهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ  
لَهُ، وَ مَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ. وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللّٰهُ وَحْدَهُ  
لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ ، وَ أَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَ رَسُوْلُهُ.

All Praise be to **اللّٰهُ** .

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

اللّٰهُ أَكْبَرُ اللّٰهُ أَكْبَرُ اللّٰهُ أَكْبَرُ لا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللّٰهُ اللّٰهُ أَكْبَرُ اللّٰهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلّٰهِ الْحَمْدُ

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يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ حَقَّ تَقَاتِهِ وَلَا تَمُوتُنَّ إِلَّا وَأَنْتُمْ مُسْلِمُونَ

*“O you who believe! Observe your duty to Allah with the care that is due to Him, and do not die except in a state of Islam” (Al-Imran, 3:102)*

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ  
وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

*“O you who believe! Observe your duty to Allah, and let every soul look to what (provision) it has sent forth for tomorrow. And observe your duty to Allah, for Allah is well-acquainted with (all) that you do” (Al-Hashr, 59:18)*

وَاتَّقُوا 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 recompensed what it has earned, and none shall be dealt with unjustly” (Al-Baqara, 2:281)*

Dear brothers and sisters, ASA and Eid Mubarak. We praise Allah(swt) for blessing us with another Ramadan, for blessing us with another opportunity to gain His forgiveness, another opportunity to strengthen our Faith and the opportunity to celebrate with our brothers and sisters in Islam another day of Eid. The day of Eid is a day of rejoice in the knowledge that we are the worshipers and the servants of Allah(swt). It is a day of rejoice in the hope that we have gained the forgiveness that we so desperately need.

We all remember the ayah in which the fasting of Ramadan was prescribed for us:

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ  
الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ

***“The month of Ramadan is that in which the Quran was revealed, a guidance to people and clear proofs of the guidance and the criterion; whoever of you witnesses the month, then let him fast it” (Al-Baqara, 2:185)***

That was the beginning of ayah 185 in Surat Al-Baqara. All praise be to Allah(swt), we have witnessed the month, and all praise be to Allah(swt) we have fasted Ramadan. It is our hope that we have done so for the sole purpose of pleasing Allah and seeking the rewards from Him alone. As we come to the end of the ayah, this is what we read:

وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

***“And that you should complete the period and that you should exalt the greatness of Allah for His having guided you and that you may be thankful” (Al-Baqara, 2:185)***

This is why brothers and sisters, on this day, we start our celebration, as Allah(swt) Has commanded us, by exalting His greatness, and it is these words that define us distinctly as Muslims:

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

*Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest; there is no god worthy of worship except Allah. Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest; all praise belong to Allah.*

We exalt Allah for the guidance He gave us. We exalt him for the blessings of Ramadan, for the blessings of Iman and for the blessings of the Quran. Brothers and sisters, as Muslims, we are truly blessed. I am sure that some if not many of us do have our moments of doubt and our moments of weakness because we are Muslims living in a society that is foreign to Islam. We do definitely get our moments of doubt because we are human. When we look at others and, as in the words of the famous saying; we think that the grass is greener on the other side.

I know that some of our sisters, especially the younger ones may get frustrated with the Islamic dress code. Some of us may get frustrated with our financial ethos, while others may get frustrated with the burdens of worship. Well brothers and sisters, having gone through Ramadan, and now as we celebrate Eid, and as we exalt Allah(swt), do we still think that the grass is greener on the other side. Is there anything better in life than the feeling that we have pleased Allah(swt) and that He is pleased with us:

رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ خَشِيَ رَبَّهُ

*“Allah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him; that is for the one who fears his Lord” (Al-Bayina, 98:8)*

Is there any better feeling on this earth than the feeling that Allah is pleased with you? As Muslims, we are so incredibly blessed. Islam is a true blessing from Allah, and it is on a day like this that we need and we must force these doubts away from our hearts. Is there a more comforting statement than: Allah is the greatest?

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

These are the words we use to call to prayers. These are the words we use to enter our prayers. These are the first words uttered in the ears of a newborn. These are the words we utter when we go into Jihad. These are the words we utter when we are successful, and these are the words we utter when we are fearful. These are the words that define us as Muslims. Now ask yourself, who else in this entire world that has such a statement; **Allah is the greatest.**

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لا إِلَهَ إِلاَّ اللَّهُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

There is so much that can be said on such a glorious day, but I know you are eager to have breakfast and I will limit this to a few reminders. As we rejoice, we need to remember what each one of us has been able to achieve and we need to take strength from this achievement to help us over the next eleven months. Ramadan was never the test. We all sailed through Ramadan with the help of Allah. Truly, it is today that our test begins. Those who know little or nothing of Islam (which include some Muslims) will understandably think that the “ordeal” of Ramadan is over. How misguided can they be. Ramadan is the month when we were protected by Allah(swt), and it is now that our test starts.

As we rejoice and celebrate, we are tempted to let go and to let lose; many with the intention that it is just for the period of Eid. There is the mistaken perception that I have done so much goodness over Ramadan, surely I can relax just for a few days. This is why on a day like this we need to remember this beautiful Dua':

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا مِنْ لَدُنْكَ رَحْمَةً إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْوَهَّابُ

*"Our Lord; let not our hearts deviate now that you have guided us. And grant us mercy from You, for you are the Grantor of bounties without measure" (Al-Imran, 3:8)*

Let us keep this Dua' close to our hearts in the hope that Allah(swt) has indeed blessed us with guidance, and in the hope that Allah will maintain His guidance on us. Let us be under no illusion that it was indeed by our will that we ploughed through Ramadan. No brothers and sisters, it was by the grace and by the blessing of Allah that we have done so, but now it is back in our hands. It is on the day of Eid that our test starts again. During Ramadan, ISA we were able to develop two important characteristics that we need to hold onto: obedience and humility to the will of Allah

Allah(swt) reminds us in the Holy Quran in Surat Al-Baqara as to why Iblis failed so miserably:

وَإِذْ قُلْنَا لِلْمَلَائِكَةِ اسْجُدُوا لِآدَمَ فَسَجَدُوا إِلَّا إِبْلِيسَ  
أَبَىٰ وَاسْتَكْبَرَ وَكَانَ مِنَ الْكَافِرِينَ

*"And behold We said unto the angels: Prostrate yourselves before Adam. They fell prostrate, except Iblis. He refused to obey; he was arrogant and so was of those who disbelieve" (Al-Baqara, 2:34)*

Compare this to the order given to sIbraheem:

إِذْ قَالَ لَهُ رَبُّهُ أَسْلِمِ قَالَ أَسْلَمْتُ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

*"When his Lord said to him: Submit! he said: I have submitted to the Lord of the Worlds" (Al-Baqara, 2:131)*

Brothers and sisters, when the angels are ordered by Allah(swt), they obey through their nature. They were created obedient and they have no choice. When Jinn and Humans were created, we were given the choice. To obey and to disobey, and to be humble and to be arrogant are both within our makeup. It is up to us to decide which character we bring forward. The arrogance of Iblis was his downfall, and the arrogance of Iblis caused him to disobey; let us not fail in the same way. If there is one message from today, it is to conquer the arrogance within us. Iblis will get to you through your arrogance and through your pride. Do not let your pride get the better of you. Be humble to Allah(swt) and be obedient. Allah(swt) said to us; whoever humbles himself to my majesty, I will elevate him.

Brothers and sisters, during Ramadan we restrained ourselves from what Allah(swt) has made lawful for us. Let us celebrate Eid by restraining ourselves from what Allah(swt) has made unlawful for us.

أقول قولي هذا وأستغفرُ الله لي و لكم

2<sup>nd</sup> Khutbah:

الحمدُ لِلَّهِ ثم الحمد لِلَّهِ . الحمد لِلَّهِ نَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شَرِّهِ  
أَنْفُسِنَا وَسَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا . أَمَا بَعْدُ :

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ وَلِلَّهِ الْحَمْدُ

*Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest; there is no god worthy of worship except Allah. Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest; all praise belong to Allah.*

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا هَلْ أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ تِجَارَةٍ تُنْجِيكُمْ مِّنْ عَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ

*“O you who believe! Shall I guide you to a trade that will save you from a grievous Penalty” (As-Staff, 61:10)*

تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَتُجَاهِدُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ  
وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ لَكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

*“You believe in Allah and His Messenger, and that you strive in the cause of Allah, with your wealth and with yourselves: That will be best for you, if you did but know” (As-Saff, 61:11)*

يَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَيُدْخِلْكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ  
وَمَسَاكِنَ طَيِّبَةً فِي جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ ذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

*“He will forgive you your sins, and admit you to Gardens beneath which Rivers flow, and to beautiful dwellings in Gardens of Eden: that is indeed the Supreme Achievement” (As-Saff, 61:12)*

The messages for us today are to take strength from our achievements during Ramadan; to ask Allah to keep us on His guidance; to exercise humility and obedience; and to strive with our wealth and with ourselves in the cause of Allah.

As we strive to keep on the straight path, let us not forget our parents, our kin, our friends and our neighbours. Let us not forget those in need both near and far. Let us not forget our brothers and sisters who have strived with all that they have, including their lives to bring justice to Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, and continue to do so at great human loss in Syria and in Yemen. Let us not forget those less fortunate than ourselves who are facing hunger and starvation in Somalia and other northern African regions. Let us not forget those Muslims in our neighbourhoods and not too far away in this city that are less fortunate than ourselves and are in need of our help. How often do we say, and true it is; we are very fortunate in our community here in Altrincham, so let us take on the trade of Allah, and let us strive with our wealth and ourselves in the path of Allah. Let us be generous in the way we give, and let us keep our brothers and sisters in our Dua' and let us keep the remembrance of Allah always on our lips.

Let us also be generous with the brothers and sisters of our own community. The Prophet(saaws) tells us that the deeds of those who have fallen out with each others will not be raised until they have made up. Brothers and sisters, as we exit Ramadan, let each and every one of us ask; do I have a brother or sister that I have fallen out with. If so, please, before you leave the mosque today, go and make up. If you truly want your deeds of

Ramadan be lifted to Allah, make up as soon as possible. As for those of us who stood on the 29<sup>th</sup> night praying to Allah for forgiveness and for salvation; asking Allah to save us from the torment of hellfire and to grant us eternal Paradise, let us make sure that the money we feed ourselves and our children with is lawful if we want our Dua's to be elevated to Allah.

As for our "Ibadat", let us not forget to fast the six days of Shawal. Let us also set ourselves small and achievable targets in our "Deen" and "Ibadat" and make sure we strive to keep these targets for as long as we can. The Prophet(saaws) said that the most loved of deeds in the sight of Allah are those which are persistent, even if it is of a small magnitude. Let each and every one of us set a plan for himself or herself. Set yourself an achievable task that you can maintain for a long time. The task should not be onerous or too much of a burden or you will give it up eventually. Make it easy, but the most important thing is to keep at it. With the will of Allah, such a small task may eventually grow, and with it, your good deeds.

And finally for our children, as we look back at Ramadan, we start looking forward to another year of education. Please be aware that studying is an "Ibada". Studying becomes an act of worship, when you set yourself on the path of Allah. Remember that Allah demands of us "Ihssan". The most important thing you can do for yourself, for your parents and for Islam is to study hard, apply yourself as a good Muslim, and do your best and your utmost.

الله أكبر الله أكبر لا إله إلا الله الله أكبر الله أكبر والله الحمد

*Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest; there is no god worthy of worship except Allah. Allah is the greatest, Allah is the greatest; all praise belong to Allah.*