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FEBRUARY

Blessings of
Ramadan

(For Islamic Brothers)

Thought-provoking speech of weekly
sunnah-inspiring ijtima

This Friday sermon is presented by the Madani Centres (Faizan-e-Madina) and the Department of Imams of Masjids (Dawat-e-Islami) for masjids on 26th February 2026 (Expected Islamic date: 24 Sha‘bān 1447 AH).

Quranic speech entitled:

Blessings of Ramadan

(Juz' 2, Surat al-Baqarah, verse 185)

In this speech, you will learn about:

- ❖ The palace with golden doors.
- ❖ Mercy upon a fire worshipper.
- ❖ A year's good deeds destroyed.
- ❖ The terrifying scene in the grave.



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الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ وَالصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى خَاتَمِ النَّبِيِّينَ
أَمَّا بَعْدُ فَأَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Blessings of Ramadan

الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَعَلَىٰ إِيكَ وَأَصْحَابِكَ يَا حَبِيبَ اللَّهِ
الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ يَا نَبِيَّ اللَّهِ وَعَلَىٰ إِيكَ وَأَصْحَابِكَ يَا نُورَ اللَّهِ

نَوَيْتُ سُنَّتَ الْإِعْتِكَافِ

I have made the intention of Sunnah *i'tikāf*.

The One Who Does Not Recite *ṣalāt* Is Unfortunate

The final Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ stated:

Whoever reaches the month of Ramadan but does not keep its fasts is *shaqī* (unfortunate/wretched). Whoever finds his parents or even one of them and fails to treat them well is *shaqī*. He who does not send *ṣalāt* upon me when I am mentioned is also *shaqī*.¹

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Dear Islamic brothers! اَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ It is our good fortune that once again in our lives, the month of greatness, mercy, blessings, and forgiveness, the month of Ramadan, is almost upon us.

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ What can be said about the blessings of Ramadan! Every moment of

¹ Al-Mujam al-Awsat: Hadith 3871

this month is filled with mercy, and the reward of good deeds is multiplied many times over. The reward of a voluntary act of worship is equal to an obligatory act, and an obligatory act is multiplied seventy times. Even the sleep of a fasting person in this month is regarded as an act of worship, and the angels who carry the 'Arsh say *āmin* to the supplications of those who fast.

The Doorway to Worship

Fasting is an internal form of worship, because no one knows we are fasting unless we inform them, and Allah loves hidden acts of worship more. According to a blessed Hadith, fasting is the gateway to worship.¹

Revelation of the noble Quran

One special virtue of Ramadan is that Allah Almighty revealed the noble Quran in this blessed month. As stated in the noble Quran itself:

شَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ فَمَنْ شَهِدَ
 مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۗ وَمَنْ كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ ۗ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ
 الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ ۗ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ
 تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨٥﴾

The month of Ramadan is that in which the Qur'an was sent down; guidance for people and clear directions and the Criterion; so whosoever from amongst you attains this month should most definitely fulfil its fasts. And whosoever is ill or travelling, so he should make up the same number of fasts on other days. Allah only intends ease for you and He does not intend difficulty for you, so that you complete the prescribed number 'of fasts' and that you glorify Allah as He granted you guidance, and so that you may be grateful.²

¹ Al-Jami al-Saghir: Hadith 2415

² Al-Quran, Al-Baqara, verse 185; translation from Kanz al-'Irfān

Definition of “Ramadan”

Regarding the opening words of the verse “شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي” , Mufti Aḥmad Yār Khan رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ explains in *Tafsīr Na‘īmī*:

“Ramadan,” like “Raḥmān,” is considered one of the names of Allah, as in this month, day and night are spent in the worship of Allah. This is also why it is called “شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ” , the month of Allah, just as the masjid or the Ka‘bah are called the House of Allah, because the actions performed there are solely for Him. Similarly, Ramadan is the month of Allah, for in it all deeds are dedicated to Him, such as fasting and *tarāwīḥ*.

Moreover, lawful employment and trade performed while fasting are also considered in this way. This is why this month is called Ramadan, meaning the month of Allah.

Or, it is derived from the word “*Ramḍā*” (رَمَضَاءُ), which refers to the autumn rain which cleanses the land and prepares it for spring. In the same way, this month washes away the dirt of the heart and makes the fields of deeds lush and fruitful, so it is called Ramadan.

Crops can ripen from a single rainfall. Likewise, believers perform good deeds continuously during the eleven other months, and the fasts of Ramadan ripen their harvest.

Alternatively, the name is derived from “*Ramaḍ*” (رَمَضٌ), meaning heat or burning, as Muslims endure the heat of hunger and thirst in this month, or because it burns away sins.¹

The Prophet صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said, “This month is called Ramadan because it burns away sins.”²

¹ Tafsir Naimi, part 2, Surah al-Baqarah, under verse 185, vol. 2, p. 322

² Kanz al-Ummāl, vol. 8, p. 217

The Palace with Golden Doors

Sayyidunā Abū Saʿīd al-Khudrī رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ narrates that the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said:

When the first night of Ramadan arrives, the gates of the skies and Paradise are opened, and they remain open until the last night. Whoever prays during any night of this blessed month; for every prostration, Allah records 1500 good deeds for him, and a house of red ruby with 60,000 doors is built for him in Paradise, each door adorned with gold and inlaid with red rubies.

Whoever keeps the first fast of Ramadan, Allah forgives all his sins until the last day of the month. From morning until evening, 70,000 angels supplicate for his forgiveness. Whenever he prostrates, a tree is planted for him in Paradise under whose shade a horseman could ride for 500 years.¹

سُبْحَانَ اللهِ Dear Islamic brothers! Reflect upon the immense mercy of our Lord. For the sake of His Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ, He has gifted us the month of Ramadan, a month in which all the gates of Paradise are opened, and the reward for good deeds increases.

According to Hadith, those who pray during the nights of Ramadan receive 1500 good deeds for each prostration and a magnificent palace in Paradise adorned with gold and rubies. This Hadith contains glad tidings for those who fast: 70,000 angels supplicate for their forgiveness from morning to evening.

Five Special Blessings

Sayyidunā Jābir رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ narrates:

The final Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: “Five such things have been granted to my Ummah in the month of Ramadan that were not granted to any Prophet before me:

¹ Shuab al-Iman: Hadith 3635

When the first night of Ramadan arrives, Allah gazes upon them with mercy, and whoever Allah looks upon with a glance of mercy will never be punished.

In the evening, the smell from their mouths (caused by hunger) is more fragrant to Allah than the scent of musk. The angels continuously pray for their forgiveness during the day and night.

Allah commands Paradise: “Adorn yourself for My righteous servants; soon they will find relief in My home and My grace from the hardships of the world.”

When the last night of Ramadan arrives, Allah forgives everyone.”

A person stood and asked: “O Messenger of Allah! Is that Laylat al-Qadr?”

The Prophet ﷺ replied, “No! Do you not see that when labourers finish their work, they are then given their wages?”¹

The Devotee of Ramadan

There was a man named Muhammad who did not pray throughout the year. When the blessed month of Ramadan arrived, he would wear clean clothes, offer all five daily prayers consistently, and even make up the missed prayers of the previous year.

People asked him, “Why do you do this?”

He replied, “This is the month of mercy, blessings, repentance, and forgiveness. Perhaps Allah will forgive me because of this action.”

When he passed away, someone saw him in a dream and asked, مَا فَعَلَ اللَّهُ بِكَ - “How did Allah deal with you?”

He answered, “Allah forgave me because I honoured Ramadan.”²

¹ Shuab al-Iman: Hadith 3606

² Durrat al-Nāṣihīn, p. 8

Allah Is Self-Sufficient

Dear Islamic brothers! Did you see how Allah showers His grace upon those who value Ramadan? He even forgave the one who worshipped only during this blessed month!

However, do not misunderstand this and think that prayers for the entire year are now unnecessary, as though one could simply fast and pray during Ramadan and then proceed straight to Paradise. Forgiveness or punishment depends entirely upon the will of Allah. He is Self-Sufficient. If He wills, He may forgive a person for what appears to be a minor good deed out of His grace, and if He wills, He may, out of His justice, hold someone accountable for a minor sin despite their many good deeds.

This is mentioned in the 284th verse of Surat al-Baqarah:

فَيَغْفِرُ لِمَن يَشَاءُ وَيُعَذِّبُ مَن يَشَاءُ ط

So, He will forgive whomsoever He wills and punish whomsoever He wills.¹

The Gates of Paradise Open

Dear Islamic brothers! When the month of Ramadan arrives, the doors of mercy and Paradise are opened, the gates of Hell are locked, and the devils are chained.

Sayyidunā Abū Hurayrah رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ narrates that the Messenger of Allah صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ would give glad tidings to his Companions رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمْ, saying:

The month of Ramadan has come to you, a month full of blessings. Allah has made its fasts obligatory upon you. During this month, the gates of the heavens are opened, the gates of Hell are closed, and the rebellious devils are chained. In it is a night - Laylat al-Qadr - which is

¹ Al-Quran, al-Baqarah, verse 284; translation from Kanz al-'Irfān

better than a thousand months, and whoever is deprived of its blessings is truly deprived.¹

Mercy upon a Fire Worshipper

In Bukhara, there once lived a Magian (a fire-worshipper). One day during Ramadan, he was walking with his son through a Muslim marketplace when the boy began eating in front of the people. Seeing this, the father became angry and scolded him harshly, saying: “Do you feel no shame eating in the Muslim marketplace during Ramadan?”

The boy replied, “Father, you also eat during Ramadan!”

The father said, “Yes, but I eat secretly inside my home, not in front of Muslims. I do not dishonour this blessed month.”

Sometime later, the man passed away, and someone saw him in a dream, walking peacefully in Paradise.

Astonished, the person asked, “You were a fire worshipper; how did you enter Paradise?”

He replied: “Indeed, I was a Magian. But when death approached, Allah granted me faith due to my action of honouring Ramadan, and he admitted me to Paradise.”²

Respect the Blessed Month of Ramadan!

Dear Islamic brothers! Did you see how, because of honouring Ramadan, Allah not only blessed a fire worshipper with the gift of faith, but also granted him the everlasting blessings of Paradise? This incident should serve as a lesson and warning, especially for the heedless Muslims who show no respect for this sacred month.

Along with not fasting, they then commit wrongdoings. They smoke cigarettes, or even drink water and eat food in public in front of fasting Muslims, showing

¹ Sunan al-Nasai: Hadith 2103

² Nuzhat al-Majalis, vol. 1, p. 217

no shame at all.

Remember! In Islamic law, there is a severe punishment for the one who deliberately eats or drinks publicly during the day in Ramadan.

Will We Not Die?

Dear Islamic brothers! O Muslims! Come to your senses! How long will we continue indulging in the pleasures of the world? Will we not die one day? Will we roam the earth forever in this manner? Remember! One day, death will surely come to us and lift us from the comfort of our soft, luxurious beds before laying us in the earth. It will remove us from rooms adorned with every luxury and put us into the dark grave. Then, regret will be of no avail. There is still time, so repent sincerely from sins and adopt steadfastness in fasting and prayer.

A Year's Good Deeds Destroyed

It is narrated from 'Abdullāh b. 'Abbās رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُمَا that the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said:

Indeed, Paradise is adorned for Ramadan from one year to the next. When it arrives, Paradise says: "O Allah! During this month, grant me the servants from among Your servants who will dwell within me." The *Hūr 'Īyn* (maidens of Paradise) say: 'O Allah! During this month, grant us husbands from among Your servants.'"

During this month, whoever protects himself, abstaining from intoxicants, refraining from slandering a believer, and avoiding sins; Allah will wed him to one hundred *Hūr* for each night, and will build a palace of gold, silver, ruby, and emerald for him in Paradise. If the entire world were gathered and placed inside that palace, it would occupy only as much space as a sheep's pen occupies in the world.

Whoever consumes an intoxicant during this month, slanders a believer, or commits any sin; Allah will erase the good deeds of his entire year. Beware of negligence regarding Ramadan, for it is the month of Allah.

He granted you eleven months to enjoy His blessings, and He reserved one month for Himself. So, be fearful regarding Ramadan.”¹

Dear Islamic brothers! It has become clear that just as there are glad tidings of rewards and blessings for those who honour Ramadan, there are also severe warnings for those who disrespect this sacred month and commit sins during it.

The One Who Sins in Ramadan

Sayyidah Umm Hānī رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهَا reports:

The beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ said: “My Ummah will never be disgraced and humiliated so long as they fulfil the rights of Ramadan.”

Someone asked: “O Messenger of Allah! What does it mean for them to be humiliated and disgraced by neglecting the rights of Ramadan?”

The Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ replied: “By committing unlawful acts during this month.”

He further said: “Whoever fornicates or drinks alcohol in this month, Allah and all the angels curse him until the next Ramadan. If such a person dies before reaching the next Ramadan, he will have no good deed that can save him from the Fire of Hell. So, fear Allah regarding the month of Ramadan, for just as the reward of good deeds are multiplied in this month in comparison to other months, the matter of sins is also severe.”²

A Warning to the Ungrateful

Dear Islamic brothers! Tremble and take heed! Make special arrangements to protect yourselves from disrespecting Ramadan. Just as good deeds are multiplied in this blessed month, the destruction caused by sins is also multiplied.

The one who drinks alcohol or commits adultery during Ramadan is truly

¹ Al-Mujam al-Awsat: Hadith 3688

² Al-Mujam al-Saghir: Hadith 1488

unfortunate, for if he dies before the next Ramadan arrives, he will have no good deed that can save him from the Fire of Hell.

Remember! The *zinā* (fornication) of the eyes is looking at what is unlawful, and the *zinā* of the hands is touching a non-*maḥram* woman. So, beware! Protect your gaze from sin, especially during Ramadan, and strive to keep it lowered.

Unfortunately, even those who pray and fast still dishonour Ramadan. As a result, they are struck by the wrath of Allah Almighty and fall into the torment of the Fire.

The Terrifying Scene in the Grave

Once, the fourth Caliph of Islam, Sayyidunā ‘Alī b. Abī Ṭālib رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ visited a cemetery in Kufa. When he saw a newly made grave, he wished to learn about the condition of the deceased.

He supplicated to Allah Almighty, saying: “O Allah! Reveal to me the state of this person.”

Allah Almighty accepted this prayer of his, the veils that stood between him and the deceased were lifted, and the terrifying scene inside the grave was laid bare before him. The deceased was engulfed in flames, crying and wailing in agony, calling out: يَا عَلِيُّ! أَنَا غَرِيقٌ فِي النَّارِ وَخَرِيقٌ فِي النَّارِ - “O ‘Alī ! I am drowning in the Fire! I am burning in the Fire!”

The horrific sight of the grave and the agonising cries of the deceased made Sayyiduna ‘Alī رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ deeply distressed. He raised his hand to plead for the forgiveness of the deceased. A voice from the unseen responded: “O ‘Alī! Do not intercede for this person, for despite fasting, he disrespected Ramadan. He fasted during the day, but was indulged in sins and disobedience at night.”

Upon hearing this, Sayyiduna ‘Alī رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ became even more sorrowful. He fell into prostration, weeping and pleading: “O my Merciful Lord! My honour is subject to Your power. This servant has called upon me with great hope. O my Generous Lord! Do not disgrace me before him. Have mercy upon his helplessness and forgive him.”

Sayyiduna ‘Alī رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ continued weeping and supplicating. The boundless mercy of Allah surged forth, and a voice proclaimed: “O ‘Alī! For the sake of your broken-hearted plea, We have forgiven him.” The punishment was then lifted from the deceased.¹

Play and Amusement During the Nights of Ramadan

Dear Islamic brothers! Take a lesson from this. Unfortunately, during the blessed nights of Ramadan, many young men make loud noises and disturb others via useless activities.

These unfortunate souls not only deprive themselves of worship, but also become a cause of disturbance for those engaged in worship. They neither perform acts of worship themselves nor allow others to do so.

Such things cause heedlessness from the remembrance of Allah Almighty. The righteous always remain distant from such activities. Not only do they avoid this, but they also do not watch or listen to anything related to it. Especially during the sacred moments of Ramadan, one must never waste time in this manner.

Passing Time While Fasting

Sadly, there are many foolish people who fast but find themselves unable to pass time. As a result, they resort to forbidden and unlawful activities, occupying themselves with haram.

Remember, even if no betting is involved, games such as chess and cards remain impermissible. Since playing cards contain images of living beings, Imam Aḥmad Razā Khān رَحْمَةُ اللهِ عَلَيْهِ clearly declared them to be categorically unlawful.²

Dear Islamic Brothers! May Allah have mercy upon us. Ramadan is approaching. May Allah allow us to reach this sacred month, and may He give us the ability to value and honour it. Indeed, fortunate are those who reach

¹ Anīs al-Wa’izin, pp. 25-26

² Fatāwā Ridawīyya, vol. 24, p. 141

the month of Ramadan and, through its blessings, attain forgiveness and salvation. As for the one who fails to gain forgiveness even in this blessed month, he is truly deprived.

The narrations and incidents I have shared with you are all taken from the beautiful book, *Blessings of Ramadan*, written by Mawlana Ilyas Attar al-Qadiri **دَامَتْ بَرَكَاتُهُمُ الْعَالِيَةِ**.

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ *Blessings of Ramadan* is a unique and priceless treasure. It is difficult to find another book that covers this topic with such depth and clarity.

It is an excellent resource:

- To spend Ramadan in the best manner.
- To learn the outward and inner etiquettes of fasting.
- To understand common mistakes people make while fasting, which can nullify the fast, and to learn the relevant Islamic rulings related to them.

You can purchase this book from Maktabat-ul-Madinah, or download it for free from Dawat-e-Islami's official website: www.dawateislami.net. Keep this book in your home, read it yourself, encourage your family to read it, and even better, conduct a daily or weekly dars from it in your home.

اِنَّ شَاءَ اللّٰهُ By doing so, you will gain abundant religious knowledge, you will receive the reward of teaching others about Islam, you will fulfil the responsibility of reforming your family, which is a duty upon us all, and you will be blessed to spend Ramadan in an excellent manner.

صَلُّوْا عَلٰى الْحَبِيْبِ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلٰى مُحَمَّدٍ

Durood-o-Salam Mobile Application

اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ Dawat-e-Islami's I.T. Department has launched several beneficial mobile applications, one of which is the Durood-o-Salam app.

- The app contains six spiritually uplifting *ṣalāt* upon the beloved Prophet صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ that you can recite at any time, and also set as your unlock sound.
- You can select the automatic recitation of *ṣalāt*, so that it plays automatically whenever you unlock your phone.
- The *ṣalāt* you select will appear on your home screen whenever the phone is unlocked, and the font size can be adjusted to your preference.
- The volume of the recitation can be adjusted to your choice.
- Every time you unlock your phone, the *ṣalāt* appears on the screen and is instantly recorded in the *ṣalāt* counter.

صَلُّوا عَلَيَّ الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيَّ مُحَمَّدٍ

As the speech draws to a close, here is an Islamic ruling we can learn.

What Is Correct?

(Clarification of the correct Islamic ruling and addressing a common misunderstanding.)

Ruling: Congratulating others on the arrival of Ramadan is permissible. Yet, the claim that Paradise becomes obligatory because of this is not found in any Hadith.

Explanation: Usually, when the blessed month of Ramadan arrives, a message circulates on social media stating something like this: “It is mentioned in a Hadith that whoever is the first to congratulate others on the arrival of Ramadan, Paradise becomes obligatory for him.”

Ramadan is undoubtedly a blessed and honourable month, and it is permissible to express happiness upon its arrival, congratulate others, and even hope for reward for doing so. It is even possible that by rejoicing at the arrival of

Ramadan, we may become deserving of Paradise through the mercy of Allah Almighty.

However, the claim written in such messages, that Paradise becomes obligatory for the one who congratulates first, does not exist in Hadith. One must refrain from forwarding false and fabricated messages. If someone sends you such a message, invite them to goodness with love, affection, and wisdom. If possible, one should firmly refute these claims.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

مَنْ كَذَبَ عَلَيَّ مُتَعَبِّدًا فَلْيَتَّبِعُوا مَقْعَدَهُ فِي النَّارِ

“Whoever deliberately lies about me, let him take his seat in the Fire.”¹

May Allah Almighty grant us the ability to learn the correct Islamic rulings and act upon them.

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

Blessings of *al-Asmā' al-Ḥusnā* (Litany):

يَا قَادِرُ

Whoever forms a habit of reciting “يَا قَادِرُ” while washing each limb during wudu, no enemy will be able to kidnap him بِإِذْنِ اللَّهِ.² May Allah grant us the ability to act upon this.

أَمِيرِينَ بِجَاهِ خَاتِمِ النَّبِيِّينَ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ وَسَلَّمَ

صَلُّوا عَلَى الْحَبِيبِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ

¹ Sahih al-Bukhari: Hadith 107

² Madani Panj Surah, p. 255