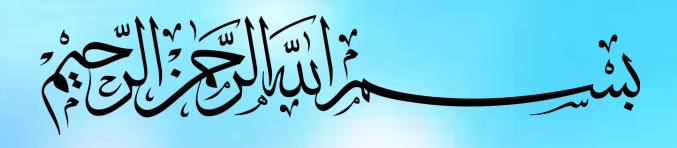






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Let us altogether strive to increase our imaan (faith) and taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala by abiding all of His Commands and

avoiding all of His prohibitions. May we attain the blessings (barakah) of life in this world and the Hereafter. The *khutbah* today is titled...



We are at the brink of Ramadaan, a month that is full of rahmah (mercy) and barakah. Let us take this very special opportunity to reap tremendous

rewards offered by Allah *Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala*.

In the *hadeeth* of Abu Hurayrah *radiyAllaahu* 'anh, Rasulullah said:

"There has come to you Ramadaan, a blessed month, which Allah, the Mighty and Sublime, has enjoined you to fast. In it the gates of heavens are opened and the gates of Hell are closed, and

every devil is chained up. In it Allah has a night which is better than a thousand months; whoever is deprived of its goodness is indeed deprived."

(Ahmad and an-Nasaa'i)

Similarly in the hadeeth of Salman al-Faarisi radiyAllaahu 'anh, who mentioned that Rasulullah addressed them on the last day of Sha'baan and said:

"O People, there has come to you a great and blessed month, a month in which there is a night that is better than a thousand months. Allah has made fasting (this month) an obligation and

spending its nights in act of prayer an voluntary worship. Whoever draws near to Allah during this month by doing some good deeds is like one who does an obligatory action

at any other time, and the one who does an obligatory action during this month is like one who does seventy obligatory actions at any other times."

(ibn Khuzaymah)

Both of these hadeeth are sufficient for us to comprehend how great are the rewards promised to us. We will attain the rahmah of Allah, our sins forgiven, our du'aa (supplication) accepted,

our deeds multiplied, and many more. This is even further intensified for 'ibaadah (worship) performed in the last ten nights of Ramadaan.

Indeed, the objective of fasting is not only to restrain oneself from eating and drinking during the day, but to teach us self-discipline and nurture us unto having the taqwa of

Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala. Among them is training the heart to always remain sincere (ikhlaas), guarding the eyes by only looking at matters that are ma'roof (good) and refraining

from gazes that can lead to munkar (evil) and disobedience, preventing the ears from listening to speeches that are prohibited by the shara', observing the stomach from consuming food that

are haraam (unlawful) and shubuhah (doubtful), safeguarding the tongue from speaking about matters relating to lies and slander.

Fasting also intends teach us to indulge in charity for handsome reward awaits those that love to give sadaqah (charity) by offering iftar (breaking the fast) meals. However, at the same

time, let us not fall into wastefulness that a plethora of food are thrown away throughout the month of Ramadaan. Let us become slaves of Allah that prioritize upon moderation and not go

overboard in the preparation of food in Ramadaan.

Hence, let us celebrate this month of barakah with great determination to attain nearness to

Allah Subhaanahu Ta'aala. Aside from performing the daily prayers in jamaa'ah (congregation) at its earliest time, we should fill our Ramadaan nights with the taraweeh

supererogatory prayer, i'tikaaf (seclusion) inside the masjid, giving sadaqah, increase in our dhikr and du'aa, recitation (tilaawah) of al-Qur'an, and other sunnah acts.

Rasulullah had mentioned the greatness of the reward in the recitation of al-Qur'an, which will appear with its shafaa'ah (intercession) for its reciter in the Hereafter.

Abu Umaamah al-Baahiliy narrated that the Prophet said:

"Recite the Qur'an, for on the Day of Resurrection it will come as an intercessor for those who recite it." (Muslim)

When the month of Ramadaan arrives, Sayyidina 'Umar al-Khattaab radiyAllaahu 'anh would often mention "Welcome O Ramadaan, a month that cleanses us, everything becomes

good due to Ramadaan, fasting during the day becomes good, waking up in the night for prayer becomes good, and sadaqah in this month is equivalent to spending from one's wealth for

jihaad fee sabeelillaah.

Before we celebrate the arrival of a month that is full of barakah, it is befitting that we revise our knowledge regarding the 'ibaadah of

fasting and practices that have been ordained, pleading for forgiveness and making tawbah (repentance) to Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala so that we enter the month of Ramadaan

on a clean slate, with a soul that is pure and cleansed, externally and internally. Let us beseech and pray to Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala with great hope that all of our fasting and 'ibaadah

will be accepted by Him Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala.

In the *hadeeth* of Abu
Hurayrah *radiyAllaahu*'anh, Rasulullah gave us
a great reminder, stating:

"Many people who fast get nothing from their fast except hunger and thirst."

(ibn Maajah)

To end this khutbah, let us ponder and derive lessons from following the recommendations:

1. The Muslim ummah must have certainty that the 'ibaadah of fasting in Ramadaan is a command of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala that is waajib to (obligatory) fulfilled.

2. The Muslim ummah must remain istiqaamah (steadfast) and do not stop from engaging in throughout 'ibaadah Ramadaan, from its beginning until the final ten nights.

3. The Muslim ummah must always perform tawbah, regretting upon all of the sins committed, abiding by the commands of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala, and abstaining from all of His prohibitions.

"The repentance accepted by Allah is only for those who do wrong in ignorance [or carelessness] and then repent soon after. It is those to whom Allah will turn in forgiveness, and Allah is ever Knowing and Wise."

(Soorah an-Nisaa' 4:17)

## THE SECOND KHUTBAH

Let us altogether strive to have the tagwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wa Ta'aala by increasing our obedience towards Him and avoiding acts of disobedience and abominable deeds.

O Allah, grant us guidance in performing the five obligatory prayers in congregation, fulfilling zakaat through Selangor Zakaat Board (LZS), making endowment (waqf)

through Perbadanan Wakaf Selangor (Selangor Endowment Corporation) and giving away our wealth (infaaq) through Tabung Infak Jariah Umat Islam Selangor (TIJARI, Selangor Continuous Charity for Muslims Fund),

## and to the orphans through Darul Ehsan Islamic Foundation (YIDE).

