

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسَاجِدُ اللَّهِ مَنْ أَمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ
الصَّلَاةَ وَأَتَى الزَّكُوَةَ وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ فَعَسَى أُولَئِكَ أَنْ
يُكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ.
وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:
أَحَبُّ الْبَلَادِ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَسَاجِدُهَا.

RAMADAN, MOSQUE, AND LIFE

Honorable Muslims!

Endless praise and exaltation be to Allah the Almighty that we have reached Ramadan al-Sharif, the sultan of the eleven months. Ramadan al-Sharif is an exceptional period in which the mercy and forgiveness of our Exalted Lord pour down upon us in abundance, and His blessing and grace overflow from our homes into the streets. It is a school that restores our inner world, worn down by the rush of daily life, and gives meaning to our existence. Ramadan al-Sharif is a great blessing granted to us so that tranquility may fill our hearts and that our servitude may be strengthened upon the sirat al-mustaqim. It is a precious treasure bestowed upon us to remind us of our responsibilities toward our Lord, our families, and our community.

Dear Believers!

Just as Ramadan al-Sharif offers many spiritual attainments, it also presents numerous opportunities to reestablish, strengthen, and enhance our bond with the mosques. Ramadan al-Sharif enables us to build and revive a mosque-centered life through the adhans, the muqabalah recitations, circles of knowledge, Tarawih prayers, and the iftar tables set in their courtyards. For indeed, the mosques are the cradle of our civilization and the heart of our cities. The mosques are sacred places that blend faith with morality, worship with consciousness, knowledge with wisdom, and servitude with responsibility. As our Prophet (saw) stated, “**The parts of land dearest to Allah are its mosques.**”¹

Esteemed Muslims!

Our Exalted Lord states in the Noble Qur'an: “**The mosques of Allah should only be maintained**

by those who believe in Allah and the Last Day, establish prayer, pay alms-tax, and fear none but Allah. It is right to hope that they will be among the 'truly' guided.”² To maintain the mosques is not merely to construct them. To maintain the mosques is to stand shoulder to shoulder in the same row and attain serenity together. It is to reach the consciousness of unity, solidarity, and brotherhood beneath the domes of the mosques and in the shadow of their minarets.

Distinguished Believers!

We live in an age in which family ties have weakened and relationships among relatives and neighbors have nearly reached the point of extinction. Humanity is becoming increasingly isolated, left alone within crowds. The unrest caused by excessive attachment to the blessings of this world leads a person to perceive life as confined to this worldly existence and to drift away from spirituality. The remedy for all these difficulties we experience lies in strengthening the bond between the mosque and life, and in bringing once again to the forefront the universal truths of Islam and the values that define who we are.

Noble Muslims!

If we are able to benefit more fully from the serene spiritual atmosphere of Ramadan al-Sharif, we may return to our true essence and keep our consciousness of servitude alive. If we can cultivate beautiful memories of the month of Ramadan within the minds and hearts of our children, we may help them look toward the future with confidence. If we place prayer at the center of our time and the mosque at the center of our lives, we may attain happiness in this world and in the Hereafter.

I would like to conclude this Friday's khutbah with the following glad tiding of our Beloved Prophet (saw): “**When a man goes out of his house to his Masjid, one foot records a good deed and the other erases a bad deed.**”³

¹ Muslim, Masajid, 288.

²Tawbah, 9/18.

³ Nasa'i, Masajid, 14.

