

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
﴿وَأَعْبُدْ رَبَّكَ حَتَّىٰ يَأْتِيَكَ الْيَقِينُ﴾
سُورَةُ الْحَجَرِ، 99/15

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ قَالَ:
«إِكْلُفُوا مِنَ الْعَمَلِ مَا تُطِيقُونَ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَمَلُّ حَتَّىٰ تَمَلُّوا،

وَإِنَّ أَحَبَّ الْعَمَلِ إِلَى اللَّهِ أَدْوَمُهُ وَإِنْ قَلَّ»

أبو داود، كتاب التطوع، 27

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

We have now reached Eid, leaving behind the blessed month of Ramadan, which we strived to observe with care and which brought blessings into our lives, all praise be to Allah. We pray that the fasts we kept, the Tarawih prayers we performed, the dua we made, the forgiveness we sought, the charity we gave and all of our acts of worship throughout this month are accepted by Allah. May Allah (swt) include us among the righteous, those who are enlightened by the light of the Qur'an, who are kept away from wrongdoing through prayer, whose patience is refined through fasting and who purify their wealth through zakat and fitrah.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

The blessed month of Ramadan is a school that teaches a Muslim how they should live each year. Ramadan reminds us to resist the desires of the nafs for the sake of Allah's pleasure, to stand in prayer at night, to share our tables, to help those in need and to appreciate even a single bite of bread and a drop of water. However, what truly matters is carrying these beautiful qualities into our entire lives and living by them. Indeed, Allah (swt) commands in the Qur'an: **“Worship your Lord until death comes to you,”**¹ reminding us that our servitude is not limited to one month, but that we must live in a way that seeks His pleasure throughout our entire lives. Therefore, let us not waste our lifetime on meaningless pursuits. Let us strive to perform our ibadah regularly and consistently.

For the Prophet (saw) said:

*“Strive to do deeds within your capacity. Allah does not tire (of giving reward), but you tire. The most beloved deeds to Allah are those that are consistent, even if they are small.”*²

Dear Jama'ah!

Through the fasts we observed, we strengthened our willpower and learned to embrace patience. By guarding our hands, our tongues and our hearts, we said “I am fasting” in the face of evil and sin. We abstained not only from what is forbidden, but even from lawful acts such as eating and drinking, solely for the sake of Allah's pleasure. It is this very submission that we must always uphold in our lives, in relation to all that has been commanded as compulsory and all that has been prohibited. Let us not forget: while fasting has been made compulsory for one month each year, performing prayer for the sake of Allah has been commanded five times a day. Allah (swt) says: **“Seek help through patience and prayer. Indeed, it is difficult except for those who have deep humility and reverence for Allah,”**³ informing us that persistence in worship is burdensome only for those who lack awareness of their meeting with Allah (swt) and true humility before Him. How blessed are those who prostrate to Allah every day and give thanks for His countless blessings.

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

Compulsory acts of worship are duties of servitude that must be fulfilled without exception. Alongside these, let us not neglect our sunnah and voluntary (nafl) acts of worship. For indeed, acts such as the night prayer (tahajjud) and voluntary fasting carry great reward in the Hereafter. Let us also follow the glad tidings of the Prophet (saw): *“Whoever fasts during Ramadan and then follows it with six days in Shawwal, it is as if they have fasted for the entire year,”*⁴ and strive to observe six days of fasting during this month of Shawwal.

May Allah (swt) grant us the ability to revive every month with the spirit of Ramadan and every night with the awareness of Laylat al-Qadr. May our Friday and our Eid be blessed!



¹ Surah Al-Hijr, 15:99

² Ebû Dâvûd, Tatavvû', 27

³ Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:45

⁴ Müslim, Sıyâm, 204