

SERMON OF PROPHET
MUHAMMAD ﷺ



ON THE
LAST DAY OF
SHA'BAAN



In the Name of Allāh, The All-Gracious, The All-Merciful

The following sermon, which Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ delivered on the last day of the month of Sha‘bān to welcome in the month of Ramaḍān is the most comprehensive look at this blessed month in the words of the Prophet. This sermon has been narrated by Shaykh al-Ṣadūq on pages 84-85 in his book, *Al-Amālī*:

حَدَّثَنَا مُحَمَّدُ بْنُ إِبْرَاهِيمَ رَحِمَهُ اللَّهُ قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا أَحْمَدُ بْنُ مُحَمَّدٍ
الْهَمْدَانِيُّ قَالَ حَدَّثَنَا عَلِيُّ بْنُ الْحَسَنِ بْنِ فَضَالٍ عَنْ أَبِيهِ عَنْ أَبِي
الْحَسَنِ عَلِيِّ بْنِ مُوسَى الرِّضَا عَنْ أَبِيهِ مُوسَى بْنِ جَعْفَرٍ عَنْ أَبِيهِ
الصَّادِقِ جَعْفَرِ بْنِ مُحَمَّدٍ عَنْ أَبِيهِ الْبَاقِرِ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ عَلِيٍّ عَنْ أَبِيهِ
زَيْنِ الْعَابِدِينَ عَلِيِّ بْنِ الْحُسَيْنِ عَنْ أَبِيهِ سَيِّدِ الشُّهَدَاءِ الْحُسَيْنِ بْنِ
عَلِيٍّ عَنْ أَبِيهِ سَيِّدِ الْوَصِيِّينَ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ عَلِيِّ بْنِ أَبِي طَالِبٍ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ
قَالَ: إِنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ خَطَبَنَا ذَاتَ يَوْمٍ فَقَالَ:

Muḥammad ibn Ibrāhīm, may Allāh have mercy upon him, says that Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad al-Hamdānī says that ‘Alī ibn al-Ḥasan ibn Faḍḍāl quotes his father who quotes Abū Ḥasan’s father, [Imām] ‘Alī ibn Mūsā al-Riḍā, who in turn quotes his father [Imām] Mūsā ibn Ja‘far, who quotes his father [Imām] as-Ṣādiq, Ja‘far ibn Muḥammad from his father [Imām] al-Bāqir, Muḥammad ibn ‘Alī from his father [Imām] Zayn al-‘Ābidīn, ‘Alī ibn al-Ḥusayn from his father [Imām] Sayyid ash-Shuhadā’, al-Ḥusayn ibn ‘Alī who quotes from his father [Imām] Sayyid al-Waṣī’in, the Commander of the Faithful ‘Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib, peace be upon him, who said that the Messenger of Allāh, prayers of Allāh be upon him and his family, delivered a sermon once in which he said:

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّهُ قَدْ أَقْبَلَ إِلَيْكُمْ شَهْرُ اللَّهِ بِالْبَرَكَةِ وَالرَّحْمَةِ وَالْمَغْفِرَةِ
شَهْرٌ هُوَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَفْضَلُ الشُّهُورِ وَأَيَّامُهُ أَفْضَلُ الْأَيَّامِ وَلَيَالِيهِ أَفْضَلُ
الليالي وَسَاعَاتُهُ أَفْضَلُ السَّاعَاتِ هُوَ شَهْرٌ دُعِيتُمْ فِيهِ إِلَى ضِيَاةِ اللَّهِ
وَ جُعِلْتُمْ فِيهِ مِنْ أَهْلِ كَرَامَةِ اللَّهِ أَنْفَاسُكُمْ فِيهِ تَسْبِيحٌ وَ نَوْمُكُمْ
فِيهِ عِبَادَةٌ وَ عَمَلُكُمْ فِيهِ مَقْبُولٌ وَ دَعَاؤُكُمْ فِيهِ مُسْتَجَابٌ.

“O people! The month of Allāh has approached you filled with blessings, mercy, and forgiveness; it is a month which Allāh

regards as the best of all months; and its days are the best of days; its nights are the best of nights; and its hours are the best of hours. It is a month in which you have been invited to be the guests of Allāh, and you are regarded during it as worthy of enjoying Allāh’s grace. Your breathing in it praises the Almighty; and your sleeping is counted as worship (of Him); your voluntary acts of worship are accepted, and your prayers and supplications are answered.”

فَاسْأَلُوا اللَّهَ رَبَّكُمْ بِنِيَّاتٍ صَادِقَةٍ وَ قُلُوبٍ طَاهِرَةٍ أَنْ يُوفِّقَكُمْ لِصِيَامِهِ
وَ تِلَاوَةِ كِتَابِهِ فَإِنَّ الشَّقِيَّ مَنْ حُرِمَ غُفْرَانَ اللَّهِ فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ الْعَظِيمِ
وَ اذْكُرُوا بِجُوعِكُمْ وَ عَطَشِكُمْ فِيهِ جُوعَ يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ وَ عَطَشَهُ وَ
تَصَدَّقُوا عَلَى فَقَرَائِكُمْ وَ مَسَاكِينِكُمْ- وَ وَقَرُّوا كِبَارَكُمْ وَ اِرْحَمُوا
صِغَارَكُمْ.

“Ask Allāh your Lord therefore, with sincere intentions and with pure hearts to enable you to fast during it, and to recite His Book, for only a wretched one is deprived of Allāh’s forgiveness during this great month; and let your hunger and thirst during it remind you about the hunger and thirst of the Day of Resurrection. Give alms to the poor and indigent

among you; surround your elderly with respect and be kind to your youngsters.”

وَ صَلُّوا أَرْحَامَكُمْ وَ احْفَظُوا أَلْسِنَتَكُمْ وَ غُضُّوا عَمَّا لَا يَحِلُّ النَّظَرُ
إِلَيْهِ أَبْصَارَكُمْ وَ عَمَّا لَا يَحِلُّ الْإِسْتِمَاعُ إِلَيْهِ أَسْمَاعَكُمْ وَ تَحَنَّنُوا عَلَى
أَيَّتَامِ النَّاسِ يُتَحَنَّنْ عَلَى أَيَّتَامِكُمْ وَ تَوَبُّوا إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنْ ذُنُوبِكُمْ وَ
ارْفَعُوا إِلَيْهِ أَيْدِيَكُمْ بِالدُّعَاءِ فِي أَوْقَاتِ صَلَاتِكُمْ فَإِنَّهَا أَفْضَلُ السَّاعَاتِ
يَنْظُرُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ وَ جَلَّ فِيهَا بِالرَّحْمَةِ إِلَى عِبَادِهِ يُجِيبُهُمْ إِذَا نَاجَوْهُ وَ
يُلَبِّيهِمْ إِذَا نَادَوْهُ وَ يُعْطِيهِمْ إِذَا سَأَلُوهُ وَ يَسْتَجِيبُ لَهُمْ إِذَا دَعَوْهُ

“Maintain the familial ties with your relatives, and safeguard your tongues, and do not look at what Allāh has prohibited you from looking at; and do not listen to anything your ears have been forbidden to listen to. Be kind to the orphans of others so that your own orphans will equally receive kindness. Repent to Allāh for your sins, and raise your hands to Him in supplication during the times of your *ṣalāt* (prayers), for they are the best times during which Allāh, the Noble and Grand, looks with mercy to His servants and responds to their pleas when they plead to Him, and replies to their calls when they call upon Him, and gives to them

when they ask Him, and answers their calls when they call upon Him.”

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ أَنْفُسَكُمْ مَرْهُونَةٌ بِأَعْمَالِكُمْ فَكُفُّوهَا بِاسْتِغْفَارِكُمْ وَ
ظُهُورِكُمْ ثَقِيلَةٌ مِنْ أَوْزَارِكُمْ فَخَفِّفُوا عَنْهَا بِطُولِ سُجُودِكُمْ وَ اعْلَمُوا
أَنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى ذِكْرُهُ أَقْسَمَ بِعِزَّتِهِ أَنْ لَا يُعَذِّبَ الْمُصَلِّينَ وَ السَّاجِدِينَ
وَ أَنْ لَا يُرَوِّعَهُمْ بِالنَّارِ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ النَّاسُ لِرَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ مَنْ
فَطَرَ مِنْكُمْ صَائِمًا مُؤْمِنًا فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ كَانَ لَهُ بِذَلِكَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ عِتْقٌ
نَسَمَةٍ وَ مَغْفِرَةٌ لِمَا مَضَى مِنْ ذُنُوبِهِ.

“O people! Your souls are pawned by your deeds; therefore, release them by seeking (Allāh’s) forgiveness. Your backs are over-burdened by the weight (of your sins), therefore lighten their burden by prolonging your *sajdahs* (prostrations). Be informed that Allāh, Exalted is His mention, has sworn by His Dignity not to torture those who perform their prayers and prostrate to Him, and not to terrify them by the sight of the fire when people are resurrected for judgement in front the Lord of the universe. O people! Whoever from among you provides *iftār* (food to break the fast) to a believer who is fasting during this month will receive a reward equal to one who sets free a slave, and all of his past sins will be forgiven.”

فَقِيلَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَ لَيْسَ كُلُّنَا يَقْدِرُ عَلَى ذَلِكَ!

Having said so, the people said to him: “O Messenger of Allāh! Not all of us can do that (feed a person)!”

فَقَالَ: اتَّقُوا النَّارَ وَ لَوْ بِشِقِّ تَمْرَةٍ! اتَّقُوا النَّارَ وَ لَوْ بِشَرْبَةِ مِنْ مَاءٍ!
أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ مَنْ حَسَّنَ مِنْكُمْ فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ خُلِقَهُ كَانَ لَهُ جَوَازٌ عَلَى
الصِّرَاطِ يَوْمَ تَزُلُّ فِيهِ الْأَقْدَامُ وَ مَنْ خَفَّفَ فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ عَمَّا مَلَكَتْ
يَمِينُهُ خَفَّفَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ حِسَابَهُ وَ مَنْ كَفَّ فِيهِ شَرَّهُ كَفَّ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ
غَضَبَهُ يَوْمَ يَلْقَاهُ

He [Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ] responded by saying: “Shun the fire of Hell even by half a date! Shun the fire of Hell even by a drink of water! O people! Whoever improves his conduct during this month will have a safe passage on *the bridge (al-sirāt)* when many feet will slip on it, and whoever decreases the burdens of his slave (or anyone who works for him) will be rewarded by Allāh decreasing his reckoning. Whoever abstains from harming others will be spared the wrath of the Almighty when he meets Him.”

وَ مَنْ أَكْرَمَ فِيهِ يَتِيمًا أَكْرَمَهُ اللَّهُ يَوْمَ يَلْقَاهُ وَ مَنْ وَصَلَ فِيهِ رَحِمَهُ
وَصَلَهُ اللَّهُ بِرَحْمَتِهِ يَوْمَ يَلْقَاهُ وَ مَنْ قَطَعَ فِيهِ رَحِمَهُ قَطَعَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ

رَحْمَتَهُ يَوْمَ يَلْقَاهُ وَ مَنْ تَطَوَّعَ فِيهِ بِصَلَاةٍ كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بَرَاءَةً مِنْ
النَّارِ.

“And whoever affords generosity to an orphan will be rewarded by Allāh being generous to him on the Day of Judgement. Whoever improves the ties with his kin will be rewarded by Allāh including him in His mercy, and whoever severs his ties with his kin, Allāh will withhold His mercy from him upon meeting Him. And whoever offers (voluntary) prayers, Allāh will decree a clearance for him from the torment of the fire.”

وَ مَنْ أَدَّى فِيهِ فَرَضًا كَانَ لَهُ ثَوَابٌ مِنْ أَدَى سَبْعِينَ فَرِيضَةً فِيَمَا
سِوَاهُ مِنَ الشُّهُورِ وَ مَنْ أَكْثَرَ فِيهِ مِنَ الصَّلَوَاتِ عَلَيَّ ثَقَّلَ اللَّهُ مِيزَانَهُ
يَوْمَ تَخْفُفُ الْمَوَازِينُ وَ مَنْ تَلَا فِيهِ آيَةً مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ كَانَ لَهُ مِثْلُ أَجْرِ
مَنْ خَتَمَ الْقُرْآنَ فِي غَيْرِهِ مِنَ الشُّهُورِ.

“And whoever performs an obligation will receive the reward of one who has performed seventy obligations in other months. Whoever increases the sending of blessings upon me [by saying: *اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَ آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ*], Allāh will make the balance of his good deeds weigh heavily when scales will be light. Whoever recites one verse of the Qur‘ān

will receive the rewards of a person who recites the entire Qur’ān in other months.”

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ أَبْوَابَ الْجَنَانِ فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ مُفْتَحَةٌ فَاسْأَلُوا رَبَّكُمْ أَنْ لَا يُغَلِّقَهَا عَلَيْكُمْ وَ أَبْوَابَ النَّيِّرَانِ مُغَلَّقَةٌ فَاسْأَلُوا رَبَّكُمْ أَنْ لَا يُفْتِّحَهَا عَلَيْكُمْ وَ الشَّيَاطِينَ مَغْلُوبَةٌ فَاسْأَلُوا رَبَّكُمْ أَنْ لَا يُسَلِّطَهَا عَلَيْكُمْ.

“O people! The gates of the heavens in this month have been opened - so pray to your Lord not to close them against you; and the gates of the fires have been closed - so pray to your Lord not to open them for you; and the devils have been chained - so pray to your Lord not to unleash them against you.”

قَالَ أَمِيرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ: فَقُمْتُ فَقُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ! مَا أَفْضَلُ الْأَعْمَالِ فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ؟

The Commander of the Faithful [Imām ‘Alī عليه السلام] says: “I stood up and asked: ‘O Messenger of Allāh, what is the best of deeds [which can be performed] in this month?’”

فَقَالَ: يَا أَبَا الْحَسَنِ! أَفْضَلُ الْأَعْمَالِ فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ الْوَرَعُ عَنِ مَحَارِمِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَ جَلَّ.

He replied: “O Abu’l Ḥasan, the best of deeds in this month is to be far from what Allāh, the Noble and Grand, has forbidden (for us to perform).”

ثُمَّ بَكَى. فَقُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ مَا يُبْكِيكَ؟

(The Prophet) then began to cry, so I [Imām ‘Alī] asked him: “O Messenger of Allāh, what makes you weep?”

فَقَالَ: يَا عَلِيُّ أَبْكِي لِمَا يُسْتَحَلُّ مِنْكَ فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ كَأَنِّي بِكَ وَ أَنْتَ تُصَلِّي لِرَبِّكَ وَ قَدْ انْبَعَثَ أَشَقَى الْأَوَّلِينَ وَ الْآخِرِينَ شَقِيقُ عَاقِرِ نَاقَةٍ ثَمُودَ فَضْرَبَكَ ضَرْبَةً عَلَى قَرْنِكَ فَخَضَبَ مِنْهَا لِحْيَتَكَ.

He (the Prophet) replied: “O ‘Alī, I weep for that which will befall you in this month. (I visualize myself) to be in your place when you will offering your *ṣalāt* (praying) to your Lord, and the most wicked person of all times - like the one who chopped off the feet of the camel (which was the proof of Prophet Ṣāliḥ’s divine mission) of (the tribe of) Thamūd - will strike you on your head, and your beard will become dyed with your own blood.”

قَالَ أَمِيرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ: قُلْتُ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ وَ ذَلِكَ فِي سَلَامَةٍ مِنْ دِينِي؟

The Commander of the Faithful asked: “O Messenger of Allāh, will my faith be secure?”

فَقَالَ: فِي سَلَامَةٍ مِنْ دِينِكَ.

He (the Prophet) replied: “Yes, your faith will be secure.”

ثُمَّ قَالَ: يَا عَلِيُّ مَنْ قَتَلَكَ فَقَدْ قَتَلَنِي وَ مَنْ أَبْغَضَكَ فَقَدْ أَبْغَضَنِي
وَ مَنْ سَبَّكَ فَقَدْ سَبَّنِي لِأَنَّكَ مِنِّي كَنَفْسِي رُوحُكَ مِنْ رُوحِي وَ طِينَتُكَ
مِنْ طِينَتِي. إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَبَارَكَ وَ تَعَالَى خَلَقَنِي وَ إِيَّاكَ وَ اصْطَفَانِي وَ إِيَّاكَ
وَ اخْتَارَنِي لِلنُّبُوَّةِ وَ اخْتَارَكَ لِلْإِمَامَةِ فَمَنْ أَنْكَرَ إِمَامَتَكَ فَقَدْ أَنْكَرَ
نُبُوَّتِي.

The Prophet went on [as his companions listened] and said:
“O ‘Alī, whoever kills you has (in fact) killed me; and whoever
exhibits hatred for you has actually hated me; and whoever
utters profanities against you has actually uttered profanities
against me, because you are to me like my soul is to me. Your
spirit is from my spirit, and your nature is from my nature.
Surely Allāh, the Praised and the Glorious, created me and
then you; chose me and then you; and selected me for
Prophethood and selected you for Imāmate. Whoever denies
your Imamate has (in fact) denied my Prophethood.”

يَا عَلِيُّ أَنْتَ وَصِيِّي وَ أَبُو وُلْدِي وَ زَوْجُ ابْنَتِي وَ خَلِيفَتِي عَلَى أُمَّتِي
فِي حَيَاتِي وَ بَعْدَ مَوْتِي أَمْرُكَ أَمْرِي وَ نَهْيُكَ نَهْيِي. أَقْسِمُ بِالَّذِي بَعَثَنِي

بِالنُّبُوَّةِ وَ جَعَلَنِي خَيْرَ الْبَرِيَّةِ إِنَّكَ لِحُجَّةٌ لِلَّهِ عَلَى خَلْقِهِ وَ أَمِينُهُ عَلَى
سِرِّهِ وَ خَلِيفَتُهُ عَلَى عِبَادِهِ.

“O ‘Alī! You are my successor and father of my (grand) children, and husband of my daughter, and my caliph (vicegerent) over my nation - both in my lifetime and after my death. Your command is my command, and your forbidding is my forbidding. I swear by the Power that raised me up with Prophethood and made me the most excellent of creation, that you are the Proof of Allāh (*Hujjatullāh*) over His creatures, and His trustee over His mysteries, and His representative over His creatures.”

We ask Allāh ﷻ to give us the ability to make the most of the Month of Ramaḍān and attain spiritual proximity to Him.



www.iph.ca