



[27/09/1435 – A – Al-Shuraim]

٢٧-٠٩-١٤٣٥ هـ - أ - الشريم

A Moment of Reflection before Ramadhan Is over

Khutbah Topic

His Eminence Sheikh Saud Al-Shuraim –May Allah protect him– delivered this Friday's khutbah titled “**A Moment of Reflection before Ramadhan Is over**” in which he talked about Ramadhan as it is approaching its end. He advised Muslims to observe benevolence in these few remaining days of bliss before the month is over, highlighting in this regard the importance of the final good deeds. Sheikh Shuraim also talked about the ruling of, as well as the wisdom behind, *Zakat Al-Fitr* (charity given to the needy at the end of Ramadhan).

Part One

Praise be to Allah Who is Unique in His Might and Perfect Beauty, Glorified be He! Praise be to Allah Who is the Only Controller of all the Universe's affairs, be they singly or en mass, and Who is Most High in His Greatness and Glory ﴿... Who sent down the criterion (of right and wrong, i.e. this Qur'ân) to His slave (Muhammad SAW) that he may be a warner to the 'Alamîn (mankind and jinns).﴾ [Al-Furqân: 1]

I bear witness that there is no deity except Allah alone with no partners, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger, Select Companion and Close Friend, and the one chosen from among all His creatures. He is the best of all those who performed prayers and observed fasting and the most honoured of all those who went to Hajj and offered late-night prayers. May Allah send His profuse *Salat* (Graces, Honours, Mercy), Peace and Blessing upon him, his immaculate and benevolent family, his pious and righteous Companions and all those who follow in their footsteps until Judgement Day!

Now then,

O people! I enjoin you, as well as myself, to observe *taqwa* (fear of disobeying Allah) because it is the provision before departure, and the shade at a resting place. It purifies the spirit so that it may not go astray or be misled:



﴿We have recommended to the people of the Scripture before you, and to you (O Muslims) that you (all) fear Allâh, and keep your duty to Him,﴾ [Al-Nisâ': 131]

Servants of Allah!

The shortest of times is life span regardless of its longevity. The fastest thing is time. Time is a fast mover, unbeatable, and has slow recoil. Days pass by, like clouds. **Allah brings the night as a cover over the day, seeking it rapidly¹.**

Allah has decreed that everything, except His eternal paradise, come to an end. ﴿And the sun runs on its fixed course for a term (appointed). That is the Decree of the All-Mighty, the All-Knowing. And the moon, We have measured for it mansions (to traverse) till it returns like the old dried curved date stalk.﴾ [Yā-sīn: 38-39]

Servants of Allah!

It feels like it was just yesterday that our tongues were mumbling joyfully about the advent of Ramadhan. Now we see that the month has passed by like a fast-blowing wind. It is as if it had never been. Today we are choked with sadness at its departure. Our eyes are filled with tears at its exit. O Allah! How hard it is to say 'good bye' to one's beloved! How sad the heart is when it feels that its dear guest is packing and ready to leave and there is no way to make '*him*' stay.

O Muslims!

We have lived a blessed month full of peace and tranquillity. It was a month during which the spirits of the faithful have soared high, and with their fasting, praying and Qur'ān reciting have sublimated to the heights of divine serenity and within proximity of Allah Almighty that they truly wished that the whole year were Ramadhan. But alas!

These are the nights of purification and meditation. They are the nights of casting aside life's worries and discomforts. They are the Qur'ān nights, and how could you know what the Qur'ān is? It is the Word of our Lord, may He be extolled; it contains an account of our predecessors and our successors. It is the final arbiter between us. It is the Truth; there is no amusement in it. He who ignores it out of arrogance will be destroyed by Allah Almighty, and he who seeks empowerment elsewhere, Allah will humiliate him.

The Word of Allah (Glorified and Elevated be He) has been read out in Ramadhan for all to hear. It filled their ears with faith, and moral lessons. They have read in it the story of

¹ This expression in bold is a paraphrase from the Holy Qur'ān, Surat Al-A'rāf: 54.



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the creation of the heavens and earth, and the entrance of the people of Paradise into Paradise, and the entrance of the people of Hell into Hell after they have reflected on Allah's miracles vis-à-vis the previous nations who had passed away. They have pondered on Allah's reward for the obedient in the herein and the hereafter, and His punishment for the disobedient:

﴿We relate unto you (Muhammad SAW) the best of stories through Our Revelations unto you, of this Qur'ân. And before this (i.e. before the coming of Divine Inspiration to you), you were among those who knew nothing about it (the Qur'ân).﴾ [Yûsuf: 3]

Servants of Allah!

The wind has blown away most of the leaves of the fruitful Ramadhan tree. If one has committed a sin during the past days out of negligence, he should know that persistence on sinning in the coming days is worse than the sin itself.

You should know, servant of Allah, to what party you belong vis-à-vis Ramadhan! Are you one of those who have wronged themselves? Are you just parsimonious or one of those who hasten toward all that is good, Allah willing? If you have not been able to draw moral lessons from the Qur'ân, wherefrom then will you draw such lessons? If you failed to benefit from the school of Ramadhan, from which school will you benefit? If you have not given charity in Ramadhan, then when will you give charity?

You should know –you servant of Allah– that this blessed month is a witness for or against you. What are you going to do in its remaining nights?

﴿Lest a person should say: "Alas, my grief that I was undutiful to Allâh (i.e. I have not done what Allâh has ordered me to do), and I was indeed among those who mocked [at the truth! i.e. *Lâ ilâha ill-Allâh* (none has the right to be worshipped but Allâh)], the Qur'ân, and Muhammad SAW and at the faithful believers, etc.﴾ [Al-Zumar: 56]

O Allah! What a loser will the one who wasted Ramadhan be, if he succumbs to procrastination, and neglects repentance till he sees the ropes of his tents loosened, and its passages fold on his deeds!

The choking bitterness in our throats does not mean that Ramadan is not coming back. Nay! Ramadan will certainly return unless the Day of Judgment comes first. The bitterness is caused by the uncertainty of whether one will be alive when it returns or will be dead and buried.



How wretched the one who wastes the chance of the Gate of *Rayyān*² is! How wretched it is for the one who is meant by the Prophet's 'Amen' when he was told by (Arch-angel) *Jibreel* (Gabriel) –peace be upon him– “*Humiliated be the one who lived through Ramadan but his sins were not forgiven.*” and the Prophet said, “**Amen, amen, amen.**”

O people!

Your month is about to say farewell. What is left of it will pass at the speed of light. The wise sees it as short-shadowed; they see it long until it has elapsed and lasting until it has become ephemeral. What is left of the month is the race track; success is the finish line, and paradise is the trophy.

Horses run faster near the end of the race. The successful servant is the one who has realised that a good ending outweighs a bad beginning. You never know, servant of Allah, the bliss of your deeds might be in the end. It is the end that counts. How many a servant has experienced sweetness at the very end after a bitter beginning!

How miserable is the unrepentant sinner! Woe unto the paradise seeker if he succumbs to negligence! How wretched is he who is trying to escape hell fire while he goes to sleep!

﴿... and for this let (all) those strive who want to strive (i.e. hasten earnestly to the obedience of Allāh).﴾ [Al-Muṭaffifin: 26]

Thus, fear Allah, O servants of Allah! Take a breath, O You who are fasting and performing late-night prayer, before tight suffocation, and yield to Allah before you are driven forcefully (in front of Him on the Day of Judgement):

﴿That Day shall you be brought to Judgement, not a secret of you will be hidden.﴾ [Al-Hāqqah: 18]

Indeed, it is only death that separates us from either Paradise or Hellfire, and a destination awaiting such a moment deserves a short life no matter how long this life might be!

May Allah have mercy on a servant who repents sooner rather than later and who strives against his whims, for his death is hidden from him while his hope is only deceptive; and between death and hope there is Satan beautifying sin for him so he keeps committing it while giving him hope for repentance so he keeps delaying it:

² One of the Gates of Paradise reserved exclusively for people fasting Ramadan appropriately.



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﴿He [*Shaitan* (Satan)] makes promises to them, and arouses in them false desires; and *Shaitan's* (Satan) promises are nothing but deceptions.﴾ [Al-Nissā': 120]

Ibn Abbas (May Allah be pleased with both of them) said: "*Allah called to His forgiveness those who claimed that Uzair was the son of Allah, those who claimed that Allah is poor, those who claimed that the hand of Allah is tightly closed (i.e. does not spend), and those who claimed that Allah is the third of three (i.e. Trinity); He says to all of them:*

﴿Will they not repent to Allâh and ask His Forgiveness? For Allâh is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful.﴾ [Al-Mā'idah: 74]”

﴿O you who believe! Turn to Allâh with sincere repentance! It may be that your Lord will remit from you your sins, and admit you into Gardens under which rivers flow (Paradise) the Day that Allâh will not disgrace the Prophet (Muhammad SAW) and those who believe with him﴾ [Al-Taḥrīm: 8]

May Allah bless you and me by the Glorious *Qur'ān* and make its verses and wise words beneficial to you and me! This is what I have said. If it is correct, it is so thanks to Allah, but if it is wrong, it is my own fault and Satan's. I ask Allah to forgive my sins, yours, and those of all the Muslims, so ask Him for forgiveness, for He is Most Forgiving, Most Merciful!



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Part Two

Praise be to Allah for His blessings, and thanks are due to Him for His guidance and bounty!

Now then,

Observe *taqwa*, O servants of Allah! Know that you are very close to a blessed Eid (i.e. Eid Al-Fitr), during which you make *takbir* (say Allah is the Greatest) after you finish your fasting days. This Eid is a break given to you by Allah; in it He permitted you merriment that does not cause His wrath, a kind of joy that does not lead to exuberance and wantonness, for Allah Almighty has dispraised those who reach this state. He (May He be extolled) said:

﴿Verily! Allâh likes not those who are glad (with ungratefulness to Allâh's Favours).﴾ [Al-Qaṣaṣ: 76]

When a true believer feels glad, he feels the gladness of the strong and the pious; he does neither become arrogant nor go astray because of his gladness. Moreover, it is not a characteristic of the thankful, those who have delivered the right of Allah in Ramadhan (i.e. fasted), to feel that kind of gladness which would bring about Allah's wrath; nor is it the characteristic of the fearful, those who have lagged behind (in delivering the right of Allah) in Ramadhan.

You should also know, O You –may Allah protect you– that war has harshly flared up on some of your brothers and sisters in faith which might make them forget the merriment of the Eid. What kind of Eid will make them feel merry while they do not find anyone who gives them clothes! What kind of Eid will make them feel merry while they do not find anyone who feeds them! What kind of Eid will make them feel merry and among them are orphans whose heads have not been caressed by a compassionate hand, and mothers bereaved of their children with no comforting person to wipe their tears!



Haven't we read during our Month (Ramadhan) the words of The Maker (Sublime be He):

﴿And let those (executors and guardians) have the same fear in their minds as they would have for their own, if they had left weak offspring behind. So let them fear Allâh and speak right words.﴾ [Al-Nisâ': 9]

It is a lesson derived from the heart of life and the core of repeated reality in that one could imagine his progeny being weak, broken, eaten up by snake-like humans until they become homeless; so it is Your Mercy we need, O Lord! Your Mercy!

Therefore, be with them (help them) O servants of Allah! Support them with your money, compassion, and supplication, for Allah grants His mercy to those who are merciful.

You must also know, may Allah have mercy on you, that Allah has prescribed on you *Sadaqat/Zakat Al-Fitr* which is purification of your fasting from vanity (vain discourse) and obscenities; it is also food for the poor. It consists of one *Sā'* (about 3kg) of food, wheat, cottage cheese, dates, raisins, barley, etc. of what people usually eat for each Muslim male or female, free person or slave, child or adult.

The Messenger of Allah (May Allah's *Salat* and Peace be upon him) used to pay it before going to perform the Eid prayer. His Companions (May Allah be pleased with them) used to pay it one or two days before Eid.

﴿Allâh intends for you ease, and He does not want to make things difficult for you. (He wants that you) must complete the same number (of days), and that you must magnify Allâh [i.e. to say *Takbîr (Allâhu-Akbar)*; Allâh is the Most Great] on seeing the crescent of the months of Ramadân and Shawwâl] for having guided you so that you may be grateful to Him. (185) And when My slaves ask you (O Muhammad SAW) concerning Me, then (answer them), I am indeed near (to them by My Knowledge). I respond to the invocations of the supplicant when he calls on Me (without any mediator or intercessor). So let them obey Me and believe in Me, so that they may be led aright.﴾ [Al-Baqarah: 185-186]

This is said, send, O you Muslims –may Allah have mercy on you– your *salat* upon Muhammad Ibn Abdullah (May Allah's *Salat* and Peace be upon him), the best of Allah's creatures, the most honest human being, and the possessor of the *hawdh* (Blessed Basin in Paradise) and the interceder in the Hereafter. For Allah ordered you –O believers– after beginning by Himself and then His angels, who are praising His sanctity, saying:



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﴿O you who believe! Send your *Salât* on (ask Allâh to bless) him (Muhammad), and (you should) greet (salute) him with the Islâmic way of greeting (salutation i.e. *As-Salâmu 'Alaikum*.﴾ [Al-Aḥzāb: 56]

O Allah! Send Your *Salat* (Graces, Honours and Mercy), Peace and Blessing upon Your Servant and Messenger, Muhammad, who has the brightest face and the most radiant forehead! O Allah! Be pleased with his four Caliphs, Abu Bakr, Omar, Othman and Ali, all of his Companions, on the *tabi'in* (contemporaries of the Companions of the Prophet [May Alla's *Salat* and Peace be upon him] after his death) and those who righteously followed them till the Day of Judgement! O Allah! Be also pleased with us all, along with them, by Your Pardon and Generosity, O You, Most Merciful, Most Compassionate!

O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims and fail polytheism and polytheists (who associate partners with You)! O Allah! Grant glory to Your religion, Your Book and the *Sunnah* of Your Prophet, and Your believing servants!

O Allah! Relieve the distressed among Muslims, alleviate their anguish, pay off the debts of those indebted, and cure our patients and theirs, with Your Mercy, O You, Most Merciful!

O Allah! Make the seasons of good a profit and prize for us; O Allah! Make times of blessings and gratuity a path and ladder for us to Your Mercy!

O Allah! Grant us safety in our homelands, and set right our *Imams* and rulers! O Allah! Make our leadership from among those who fear You, observe *taqwa* and seek Your satisfaction, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Guide our leader to say and do whatever You love and whatever pleases You, O You, the Living, the Everlasting! O Allah! Set right his retinue, O You, the Lord of Majesty and Honour!

O Allah! Set right the conditions of Muslims everywhere, O Allah! Set right the conditions of Muslims everywhere, O Allah! Grant victory to our oppressed brothers and sisters in their religion everywhere! O Allah! Grant them victory in Gaza! O Allah! Relieve their distress! O Allah! Render the condition of their enemy into depravity and his plans into dire results, O You, the Lord of Majesty and Honour!

O Allah! Grant victory to our oppressed brothers and sisters in the Sham homelands; O Allah! Grant them victory in Burma! O Allah! Grant them victory in every place Your Name is mentioned, O You, the Lord of Majesty and Honour, O You Lord of the Worlds!



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﴿... Our Lord! Give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Fire!﴾ [Al-Baqarah: 201]

Glorified be our Lord, the Lord of Honour and Power! You are free from what they wrongly attribute unto You! May peace be upon all the Messengers! And the last of our supplications is “Praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds!”