

1434-09-17 - أ - بن حميد - المسجد الحرام

## **Thankfulness and the Merit of the Thankful**

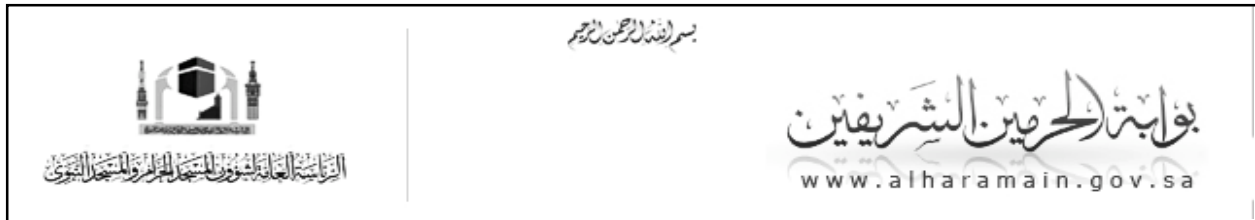
### **Khutbah Topic**

His eminence Sheikh Salehibn Abdullah IbnHumaid –may Allah protect him– delivered last Friday’s Khutbah titled “*Thankfulness and the Merit of the Thankful*” in which he talked about the merits of thankfulness and said that it belongs to the heart, and therefore every Muslim has to thank Allah for better and for worse. He mentioned the ways of thanking Allah and the manifestations thereof and cited some examples of thankful prophets and messengers, may Allah’s *Salat* and Blessing be upon them all.

### **Part one**

Praise be to Allah! Praise be to Allah, the Protector, the One Worthy of all Praise, Owner of the Throne, the Glorious, Doer of whatsoever He wills. Exalted be His Name! I thank Him; He promised the thankful more of His bounties, and I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah with no associate –a testimony of faithfulness and *tawhid* (oneness of Allah). I bear witness that our Master and Prophet Muhammad, the Servant and Messenger of Allah, is the best of prophets and most honourable servant of Allah. May Allah send His bounteous *Salat*, (Grace, Honour, Mercy) Peace and Blessing upon him, his honourable immaculate family, pious and righteous Companions who were blessed with sound judgment and a guided way of life, the *tabi’in* (the contemporaries of the Companions after the death of the Prophet ﷺ) and those who followed them in righteousness until the Day of *wa'id* (Account/Judgement Day).

Now then, I urge you –people– and myself to observe fear of Allah. Observe fear of Allah – may Allah have mercy upon you! It is piety that you should count on. You should follow the



example of your righteous predecessors, the early leaders. Take the initiative to obtain Allah's forgiveness and satisfaction; answer the one who calls to the way of Allah (ﷻ), to His reward and to His Paradise.

We thank You, Lord, for blessing us with Islam; we thank You for offering us the Qur'ān; we thank You for offering us family, wealth and health, O Lord! You have kept our enemy at bay; You have granted us sustenance and security; You have unified us after fragmentation, granted us sound health and answered our prayers.

For all this, we owe You infinite thanks as You have bestowed on us infinite graces. Praise be to You for every grace You have bestowed on us now or then, in public or in private, collectively or individually, to the living or the dead amongst us, and to those present or absent!

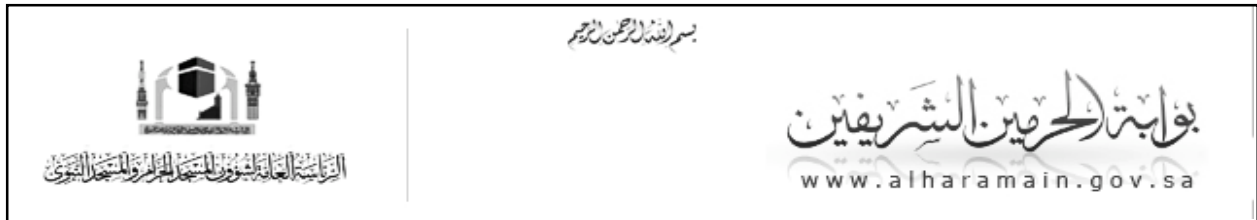
We extend our infinite praise to You until You are satisfied. Praise be to You if You are satisfied. Praise be to You, and to Your eternal praiseworthy Face! Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds!

O Muslims!

There is a great personal trait and a graceful act of worship that Allah (ﷻ) has commanded and warned against ignoring. He praised those who observe it and made it an attribute of the elite of His creatures. He made it the purpose of creation and commandment, and promised those who observe it great rewards. He made it a reason for obtaining more of His graces, a guard of His blessings and a protector of His bounties.

People of thankfulness are the beneficiaries of His marvels. He has granted them one of His own names. They are the chosen few of His servants. Suffice it to achieve such grace, honour, and sublimity. It is –servants of Allah– the rank of thankfulness and the merit of the thankful.

Allah (ﷻ) says, ***«...and be grateful to Allâh, if it is indeed He Whom you worship.»*** [Al-Baqarah: 172]. None but the thankful may truly worship Allah.



He (ﷺ) also says, ***«...and be grateful to Me (for My countless Favours on you) and never be ungrateful to Me.»***[Al-Baqarah: 152]

Again, He (ﷺ) says, ***«And (remember) when your Lord proclaimed: "If you give thanks (by accepting Faith and worshipping none but Allâh), I will give you more (of My Blessings); but if you are thankless (i.e. disbelievers), verily My punishment is indeed severe."»***[Ibrahim: 7]

Allah (ﷻ) also says, ***«But few of My slaves are grateful.»***[Saba': 13]

Servants of Allah!

Thankfulness is an established principle in the worshippers' behaviour and a deeply-rooted rule in the souls of the righteous. Not only does it show in their behaviour, but it also fills their hearts and keeps their tongues preoccupied.

Allah described *Nūh*<sup>1</sup>, His first prophet (ﷺ) as ***«Verily, he was a grateful slave.»***[Al-Isra': 3]

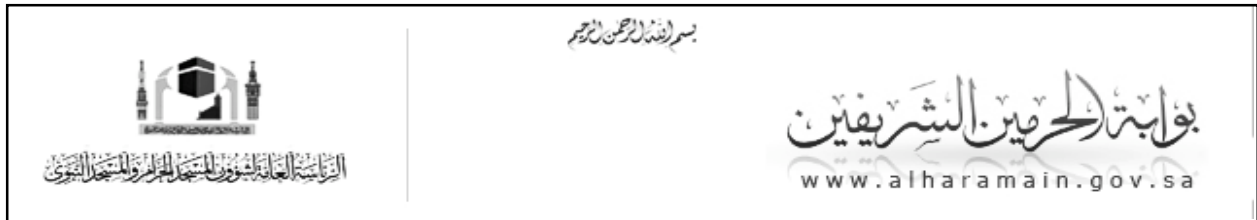
Similarly, describing *Ibrahim*<sup>2</sup>, *khaleel Allah* (Allah's intimate friend) and the owner of the *Hanifi*(true) religion, Allah (ﷻ) says, ***«(He was) thankful for His (Allâh's) Favours. He (Allâh) chose him (as an intimate friend) and guided him to a Straight Path (Islâmic Monotheism – neither Judaism nor Christianity.)»***[An-Naḥl: 121]

Thanking Allah (ﷻ) for the graces He has bestowed on him and for making the animals respond to his command, *Suleiman*<sup>3</sup> (ﷺ) said, ***«My Lord! Grant me the power and ability that I may be grateful for Your Favours which You have bestowed on me and on***

<sup>1</sup> He is known in the English Bible as 'Noah'.

<sup>2</sup> He is known in the English Bible as 'Abraham'.

<sup>3</sup> He is known in the English Bible as 'Solomon'.



*my parents, and that I may do righteous good deeds that will please You, and admit me by Your Mercy among Your righteous slaves.﴾[An-Naml: 19]*

*Suleiman also said, ﴿This is by the Grace of my Lord – to test me whether I am grateful or ungrateful! And whoever is grateful, truly, his gratitude is for (the good of) his ownself; and whoever is ungrateful, (he is ungrateful only for the loss of his ownself). Certainly my Lord is Rich (Free of all needs), Bountiful.﴾[An-Naml: 40]*

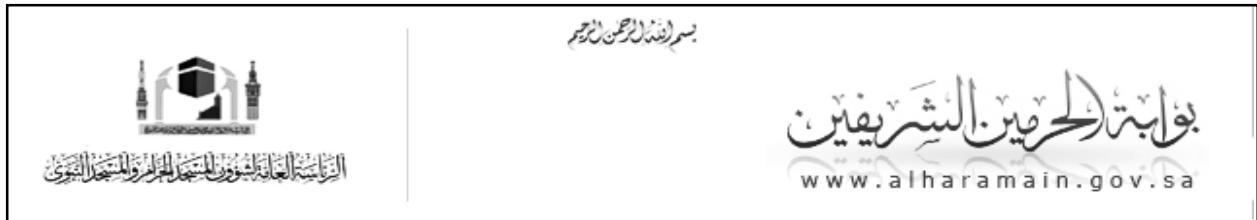
The messengers of Allah –may Allah’s peace and blessing be upon them– were keen on reminding their peoples of this great worship. *Hud* (عليه السلام), for example, told his people, ﴿**And remember that He made you successors after the people of Nûh (Noah) and increased you amply in stature. So remember the graces (bestowed upon you) from Allâh so that you may be successful.﴾[Al-A’raf: 69]**

*Sâleh* (عليه السلام), informing his people of the graces Allah had bestowed on them, said, ﴿**And remember when He made you successors after ‘Âd (people) and gave you habitations in the land, you build for yourselves palaces in plains, and carve out homes in the mountains. So remember the graces (bestowed upon you) from Allâh, and do not go about making mischief on the earth.﴾[Al-A’raf: 74]**

Although Allah (ﷻ) has forgiven him all his sins, Our Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) used to observe worship by night until his feet bled. He used to say, “***Won’t I be a thankful servant?***”

Brothers and sisters in Islam!

Thankfulness is the way Allah’s servants acknowledge the favours of their Lord and His graces in this world and the hereafter whether in their selves, family, property, business or all their matters.



Thankfulness is evidence that the servant is pleased with his Lord. It constitutes the heart's life and vivacity, preserving extant graces and searching for the missing ones.

Thankfulness is evidence of purity of the soul, sincerity of intention, and soundness of reason. Nay! Allah (ﷻ) created mankind for no other purpose than to thank Him. Allah Almighty says, *«And Allâh has brought you out from the wombs of your mothers while you know nothing. And He gave you hearing, sight, and hearts that you might give thanks (to Allâh).»* [An-Nahl: 78]

Thankfulness is the first commandment Allah (ﷻ) enjoined mankind; He says, *«And We have enjoined on man (to be dutiful and good) to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness and hardship upon weakness and hardship, and his weaning is in two years - give thanks to Me and to your parents. Unto Me is the final destination.»* [Luqman: 14]

Allah (ﷻ) told mankind that His satisfaction is couched in the act of thanking Him. He says, *«And if you are grateful (by being believers), He is pleased therewith for you»* [Al-Zumar: 7]

Moreover, Allah (ﷻ) has made thankfulness one of the reasons for deliverance from Allah's torture. Allah (ﷻ) says, *«Why should Allâh punish you if you have thanked (Him) and have believed in Him. And Allâh is Ever All-Appreciative (of good), All-Knowing.»* [Al-Nisa': 147]



Allah (ﷻ) has even bestowed exclusive favours on the thankful. He says, *«Thus We have tried some of them with others, that they might say: "Is it these (poor believers) whom Allâh has favored from amongst us?" Does not Allâh know best those who are grateful?»* [Al-An'am: 53]

Brothers and sisters in Islam!

Thankfulness has three pillars:

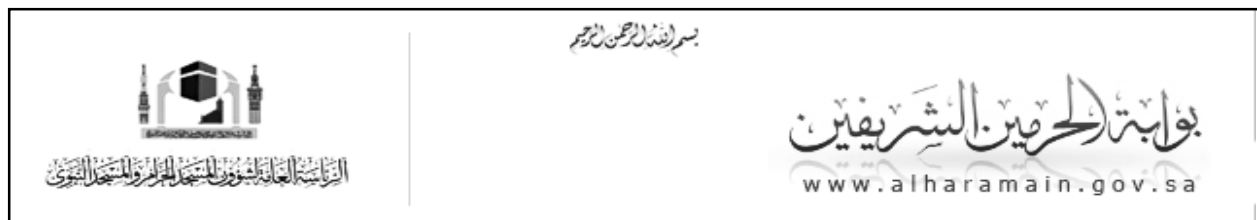
- 1- Acknowledging Allah's blessings implicitly with love for the Benefactor,
- 2- Speaking of blessings openly with praise to Allah,
- 3- Employing blessings in obedience to Allah, in seeking His pleasure and eschewing sinful acts.

There are three primary blessings:

- 4- The first and foremost blessing of Islam without which no other blessing may be obtained,
- 5- The blessing of health without which life may not move on,
- 6- The blessing of satisfaction without which good living may not be attained.

Al-Hassan Al-Basri –May Allah have mercy on his soul– said, *“The evil-free benevolence is sound health coupled with thankfulness; how many a thankful is in distress, and how many a blessed person is unthankful! If you were to ask Allah for something, ask Him the disposition for thankfulness along with sound health.”*

O you fasting and praying people! Thanking Allah (ﷻ) is mandatory in all cases: in health and in sickness, in youth and in old age, for richer, for poorer, in leisure and in pre-occupation, for better and for worse, in wakefulness and in slumber, in travel and sojourn, in solitude and in company, while standing, sitting or reclining.



Abu Al-Dardā' said, *"He who believes that food and drink are the only blessings Allah (ﷻ) has bestowed on him is lacking in knowledge"* because Allah's blessings are endless and his graces are perpetual. Allah says, *«And He gave you of all that you asked for, and if you count the Blessings of Allâh, never will you be able to count them. Verily, man is indeed an extreme wrong-doer, a disbeliever (an extreme ingrate who denies Allâh's Blessings by disbelief, and by worshipping others besides Allâh, and by disobeying Allâh and His Prophet Muhammad.)»* [Ibrahim: 34]

He (ﷻ) also says, *«See you not (O men) that Allâh has subjected for you whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth, and has completed and perfected His Graces upon you, (both) apparent (i.e. Islâmic Monotheism, and the lawful pleasures of this world, including health, good looks, etc.) and hidden.»* [Luqman: 20]

Be informed –May Allah grant you success– that thankfulness has countless means and infinite domains. Thank your Lord for the graces He has bestowed on you and for what He has concealed of your blemishes.

A man asked Abu Tamima, *"How are you doing?"* He answered, *"I am cherishing two graces I do not know which is better for me."* *"Sins concealed by Allah (ﷻ) so nobody can taunt me with them, and a love that Allah has implanted in the hearts of people that my actions do not merit,"* he continued.

Thanking Allah can be fulfilled by offering prayers. The Prophet (ﷺ) used to offer night prayers until his feet bled and he used to say, *"Won't I be a thankful servant?"*



Alternatively, thankfulness can be expressed by fasting. Musa<sup>4</sup> (عليه السلام) fasted the Day of ‘Ashurā’ (the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Muharram, the first lunar month) to thank Allah for saving him and his people from Pharaoh and so did our Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). The Prophet (ﷺ) ordered Muslims to observe fasting on the Day of ‘Ashurā’ and told the Jews, “***We are more entitled to follow Musa in this than you are.***”

Thankfulness might take the form of a prostration in gratitude to Allah which a believer performs upon receiving something good or a blessing from his Lord and Master (Allah). Our Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) prostrated himself when (archangel) Jibreel<sup>5</sup> (عليه السلام) told him that Allah says: “***Whoever makes one Salat on you, Allah will make ten (Salats) on him***”.

Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) also prostrated himself when he heard that Musailimah, the Liar<sup>6</sup> was killed. Ali (رضي الله عنه) also prostrated himself when he heard that Ibn Al-Thadiyah, akharijite<sup>7</sup>, was killed. Kaab Ibn Malik (who stayed behind and did not join the Tabuk military expedition with the Prophet) also prostrated himself when Allah accepted his repentance.

AbdulRahman Assulami says: “*Prayer is thankfulness, fast is thankfulness, and everything good done for the sake of Allah (ﷻ) is thankfulness, and the best kind of thankfulness is praising Allah.*”

Counting the blessings (of Allah) as well as speaking about them are forms of thankfulness, and whoever pays people compliments is thankful. Contentment is also thankfulness; therefore, be content and you will be the most thankful of people. When someone does you a favour, he enslaves you. However, when you reward him, you free yourself; and whoever falls short of rewarding people, then let him pay them compliments and thank them, for whoever does not thank for that which is little will not thank for that which is much.

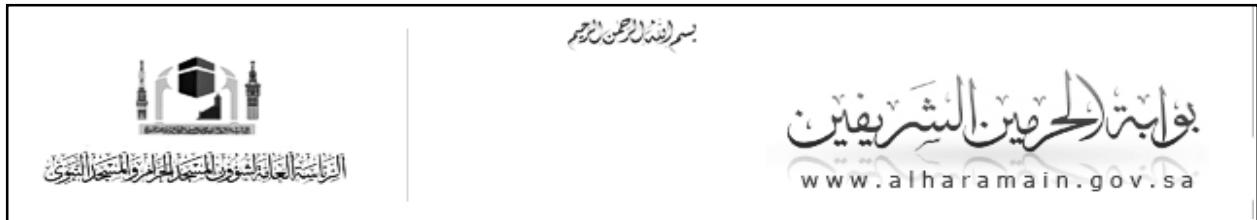
<sup>4</sup> He is known in the English Bible as ‘Moses’.

<sup>5</sup> This archangel is known in the English Bible as ‘Gabriel’.

<sup>6</sup> He was called ‘liar’ because he claimed prophesy and lead apostasy after the death of the Prophet (ﷺ).

<sup>7</sup> In brief, kharijites were those who rejected the leadership of the fourth guided Caliph, Ali Ibn Abi Talib (رضي الله عنه).





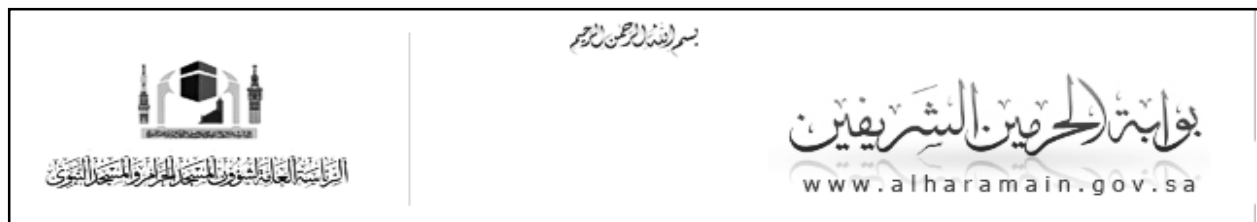
Another form of thankfulness is the continuous praise of Allah, and whoever offers, in the morning and in the evening, (the following supplication): *"O Allah! Whatever blessing bestowed upon me or upon any of Your creatures is from You alone without partner, so for You is all praise and unto You are all thanks"*, would have offered his day's thanks.

Nowthen, O Muslims, may Allah have mercy on you! It is indeed an act of favour, mercy, and kindness from Allah (ﷻ) that He thanks his servants; He is the Forgiving, the Thankful. Allah thanked and forgave the one who offered water to a (thirsty) dog, let alone the one who does good to the Muslims, visits the needy, gives charity to the poor, and has mercy on the oppressed and the wretched!

Allah also thanked and forgave the one who removed a thorny branch from the road, let alone the one who does his best to facilitate the matters of people, dispel their grief, and ease their hardships.

An aspect of the Kindness of Allah (ﷻ) is that He has made the act of thanking people as an act of thanking Him: *"whosoever does not thank people will not thank Allah"*. Another aspect of His kindness is that He turned His servants' acts of thanking to their own advantage.

I seek refuge with Allah from the accursed Satan: *﴿And a sign for them is the dead land. We give it life, and We bring forth from it grains, so that they eat thereof (33). And We have made therein gardens of date-palms and grapes, and We have caused springs of water to gush forth therein (34) So that they may eat of the fruit thereof - and their hands made it not. Will they not, then, give thanks? (35). Glory be to Him Who has created all the pairs of that which the earth produces, as well as of their own (human) kind (male and female), and of that which they know not.﴾* [Ya-Sin: 33-36]



May Allah (ﷻ) benefit me and you with the great Qur'ān and with the guidance of Prophet Mohammed (ﷺ)! I say this and ask Allah's forgiveness for you and me and for all the Muslims! So ask for His forgiveness; He is the All-Forgiving, the All-Merciful!

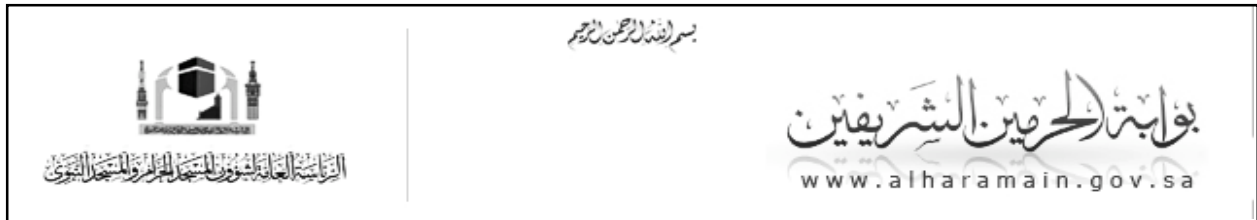
## Part Two

Praise be to Allah! He enumerated and knew everything. He brought to perfection and mastered what He made. I praise Him (ﷻ) for the knowledge He has granted to His servants and made it accessible to them. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone with no associate, a witness of someone who knew the truth and adhered to it, and I bear witness that our Master and Prophet Mohammad (ﷺ) is the Servant and Messenger of Allah (ﷻ), who declared the truth publically. May Allah send His *Salat* (Graces, Honours, and Mercy) and Peace upon him, his family, his Companions, his followers, his supporters (in Madinah) and all those who championed his cause, respected him and were hospitable to him!

O Muslims!

Take good care of the blessings of Allah, for if they turn away from a household they will hardly come back.

Another aspect of thanking Allah (ﷻ) and acknowledging His favours and blessings is to thank Him for the blessings He has bestowed on the Two Holy Mosques and their visitors. These blessings include: security and safety, affluence and opulence, good care and service, the provision of what facilitates all forms of worship such as prayer, *Tawāf* (circumambulation round the Ka'ba), *Sa'i'y* (the rite of going to and fro seven times between *Safā* and *Marwā* in Makkah during *Hajj* and *Umrah*), and visiting. Another blessing for which Allah deserves to be thanked is the sanctification of the House (of Allah, i.e. the Ka'ba) in preparation for those who circumambulate it, those who stand up in prayer and those who bow and prostrate themselves (in humility and obedience to Allah), whether they are dwellers of Makkah or visitors from outside.



These blessings are manifest in unique services, unlimited spending, expansions and repairs that meet the needs of the time and the increase in the numbers of those performing *Hajj*, *Umrah*, or visiting, and a proper exploitation of new inventions and technologies.

The importance and need of these works and projects, their eminence, size, as well as the special arrangements made to accomplish them sometimes require making decisions for the common good, and for the best interest of those visiting the Two Holy Mosques in particular. The objective is to make things easier for them, ensure their safety, and offer them good services.

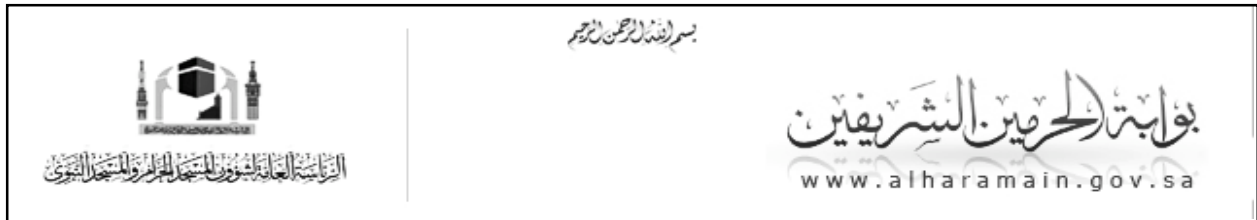
Among the decisions made is the need to reduce, arrange, and organize the number of pilgrims and performers of *Umrah*, in addition to raising the consciousness of the people by asking them to visit the Honoured Haram (the Holy Mosque in Makkah) less frequently, just for a limited period of time until all the works are completed in the best possible way possible and in order to ensure the safety of those visiting the Holy Mosque (in Makkah).

It is indeed hoped that everyone will show understanding and cooperation for the best interest of all and towards accomplishing the project and optimizing security and safety.

May Allah bless the efforts and may He guide the steps of our leaders and reward them profusely for their good care and great services (of the Two Holy Mosques)! May Allah maintain our safety and security and protect us against every evil!

O servants of Allah! Another aspect of thankfulness is the blessing of being guided to obedience and proper worship (of Allah) as well as the blessing of experiencing this honoured month and performing the fast and night prayer. Indeed, there is no greater deprivation or rejection than witnessing the month of Ramadan without being forgiven (of sins); for he who is deprived of the bounties of this month is really deprived (of so much good). Therefore, do thank Allah sincerely as you are approaching the last ten days of this month.

Follow the footsteps of your Prophet Mohammed (ﷺ); for he was, like a blowing wind, so generous in doing good, and he was most generous in these last ten days. He used to wake up his



wives, tighten his gown (as a sign of his intention for a long act) and stay up all night (worshipping Allah).

You should know that the Hereafter has got its markets where some people win while others lose; obedience also has got its own seasons and times where some hardworking people (worshippers) succeed while neglectful ones are let down.

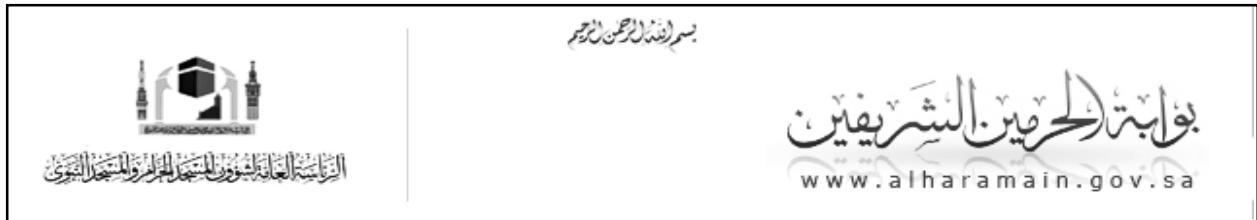
Therefore, show Allah—may He have mercy on you— something of your own beneficence. Bring yourselves into accountability, O servants of Allah! Make sure to include in the records of your deeds piety and philanthropy, benevolence and charity, consolation and relief, prayer and fasting, recitation (of the Qur’ān) and night prayer, and remembrance (of Allah) and supplication.

These days of the month are the best during which the servant makes up for what he missed and neglected (earlier in the year). There is (much) good in these last ten days as they include the Night of Power which is better (in performing good deeds and worship) than a thousand months. He who witnesses it will gain a great reward (from Allah).

Show Allah your hard work that would help strengthen your faith, purify your souls, and bring (you) closer to Allah (ﷻ). So fear Allah, may He have mercy on you and may He accept from us and you the fast and night prayer as well as the good deeds and worship.

Meet the benevolence of your Lord with reciprocal benevolence, and safeguard His blessings by obedience and acknowledgment, for the favour of Allah is great, His blessing extensive, and His good all-inclusive; and every act of thankfulness, though little, is a price for every favour no matter how big it might be; and he who does not appreciate little favours would not most likely appreciate big ones!

This being said, I advise you to send your *salat* and peace on the Mercy and Blessing Allah bestowed on you, your Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), the Messenger of Allah, as Your Lord commanded you to do in His wise Book where He so truthfully and graciously said: **Allâh**



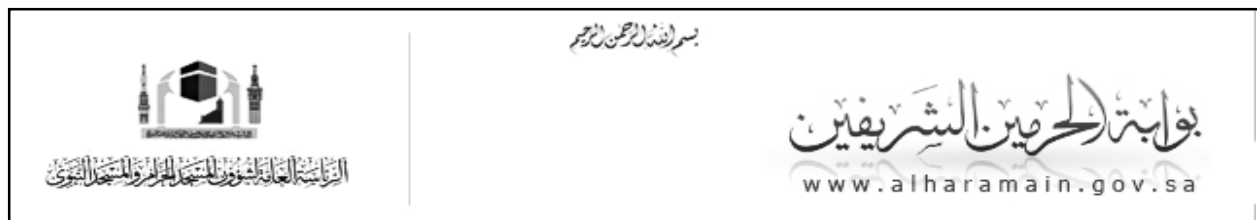
sends His *Salât* (Graces, Honours, Blessings, Mercy) on the Prophet (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم), and also His angels (ask Allâh to bless and forgive him). O you who believe! Send your *Salât* on (ask Allâh to bless) him (Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم), and (you should) greet (salute) him with the Islâmic way of greeting (salutation i.e. *As-Salâmu 'Alaikum*). [Al Ahzab: 56]

O Allah! Send Your *Salat* (Graces, Honours, Mercy), Peace and Blessing on Your Servant and Messenger, our Master and Prophet, Muhammad (ﷺ), the beloved and the Chosen One, on his virtuous and immaculate family and on his wives, the mothers of the believers! O Allah! We seek Your satisfaction with the four Caliphs, Abu Bakr, Omar, Othman, and Ali, the Prophet's Companions, the *tabi'in* (contemporaries of the Companions of the Prophet — his death) and those who followed them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment! O Allah! We seek Your Satisfaction with us as well, since You are Most Forgiving, Most Generous, and Most Beneficent!

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! O Allah! Let down tyrants and infidels and all other enemies of Islam!

O Allah! Grant us security in our homelands, and set right our *Imams* and leaders! O Allah! Entrust our government to those who fear You and seek Your satisfaction! O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Grant our *Imam* and Leader a success of Your own! Honour him with Your obedience and make Your word the uppermost through him! Make him an asset to Islam and Muslims! Grant him sound health and wellness! Guide him, his deputy, his brothers and his aides to do what You love and what pleases You, and lead them to righteousness and piety!



O Allah! Help Muslim leaders to abide by Your Book and to follow the *Sunnah* of Your Prophet, Mohammad (ﷺ)! Make them a blessing on Your faithful, and unite them on the grounds of righteousness and truth, O Lord of the Worlds!

O Allah! Make for this *Ummah* a matter (an affair) of rationality (guidance) whereby the pious are honoured and the sinful are guided, and where virtue is promoted and vice is prevented! Verily, You are the Omniscient!

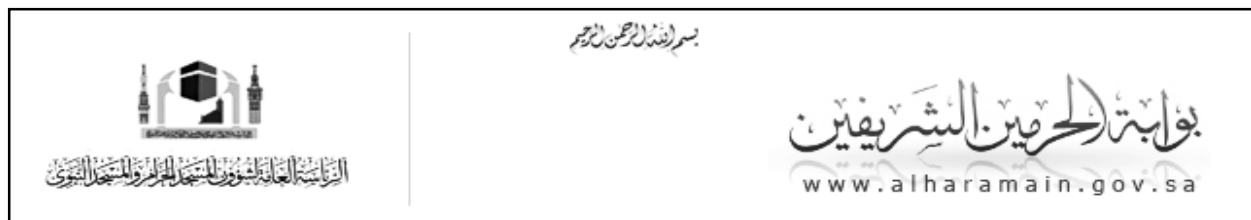
O Allah, the Protector of believers, the Supporter of the defenseless, the Reliever of those in need, the Ultimate Hope, the Refuge of the weak! Grant relief to our oppressed brothers everywhere: in Palestine, Syria, Arakan, and everywhere! Bring an end to their suffering! Grant them speedy relief and draw them closer at heart! O Allah! Grant them an aid, a fighting power and a triumph of your own! O Allah! We beseech You to grant them great victory, relief, mercy and perseverance!

O Allah! Defeat the tyrants and oppressors and those who sympathize and side with them! O Allah! Disperse their gathering, scatter their crowds, and tear them apart! O Allah! Make their plotting to their own detriment!

O Allah! Destroy the usurpers and occupiers among the Jews for You are certainly able to do so! O Allah! Inflict Your wrath which is so inevitably destined to strike the people who are *Mujrimûn* (criminals, polytheists or sinners)! O Allah! We pray You to drive them off to their own detriment and seek refuge in You from their evils!

O Allah! Set right the conditions of Muslims, O Allah! Set right the conditions of Muslims! Stop their bloodshed, give leadership to the best among them, unite their word on the Truth, the right guidance, and the *Sunnah*! Grant them victory over Your enemy and theirs!

O Allah! Whoever intends to do any evil against us, our religion, our homeland, our *Ummah*, our security, or our unity, O Allah! Get him busy with himself, let his plotting return against him, and make his destruction in his planning, O You the Lord of the Worlds!



O Allah! Guide us to the path of repentance to You and reliance on You and open up for us the doors of acceptance and gratification! O Allah! We implore You to accept our fasting, night prayer, obedience, and supplication! We implore You to make righteous our deeds, expiate from us our wrongdoings, lead us to redemption, forgive our sins and bestow on us Your mercy, You, the Most Merciful!

*﴿Our Lord! We have wronged ourselves. If You forgive us not, and bestow not upon us Your Mercy, we shall certainly be of the losers.﴾ [Al-A'raf: 23] ﴿... 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 Your Lord, the Lord of Honour and Power! You are free from what they attribute unto You! May peace be upon all the messengers! And all praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds!