

1434-10-02 - أ. الشريم - المسجد الحرام

## **What then, now that Ramadan is over?**

### **Khutbah Topic**

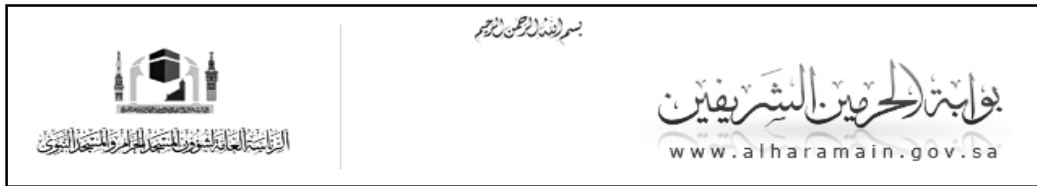
His Eminence Sheikh Saud Ash-Shurim—may Allah protect him— delivered this Friday Khutbah titled “**What then, now that Ramadan is over?**” After talking about the end of Ramadan, he stressed the need for considering what should be done after it. He also pointed out that bad deeds should be followed by good deeds in order for them to be erased. In so doing, one should remain simultaneously expectant of Allah’s reward but also fearful of His punishment. The Sheikh also emphasised the importance of regularly observing worship duties and disciplining oneself to perform them and avoid committing sins.

### **Part One**

Praise be to Allah: *﴿... Cleaver of the daybreak. He has appointed the night for resting, and the sun and the moon for reckoning.﴾* [Al-Anâam: 96]. He alternates the day and the night providing a lesson to clear-sighted people. Due praise be to Him in the herein and the hereafter. He alone has the power to ordain and unto Him shall all creatures return. I bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship save Allah alone with no associate. I equally bear witness that our Master and Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) is Allah’s Servant and Messenger, the best fasting Muslim and the best performer of pilgrimage, prayers, and *Qiyām* (voluntary night prayer). May Allah send His most favourite and immaculate *Salat* (Grace, Honours, Mercy) and Peace onto him, his kind and chaste family, his Companions, the *tabi’în* (contemporaries of the Prophet’s [ﷺ] Companions after his death), and all those who follow them righteously till Doomsday!

Now then,

I advise you –O people– and myself to observe *taqwā* (fear of disobeying Allah’s commands [ﷻ]). It is indeed the provisions of the followers (of the Straight Path) and the equipment enabling Muslims to remember Allah. With *taqwā*, higher ranks are



achieved and sins as well as bad deeds are erased: *﴿Verily, he who fears Allâh with obedience to Him (by abstaining from sins and evil deeds, and by performing righteous good deeds), and is patient, then surely, Allâh makes not the reward of the Muhsinûn (good-doers) to be lost.﴾*[Yûssef: 90]

O people!

There is an irrevocable divine law of alternating the days (power, rule, authority) between people, for Allah ‘brings the night as a cover over the day, seeking it rapidly’<sup>1</sup>. In the flow of time, one shifts from some provisions to others and from one act of worship to another, benefiting from each occasion to perform further good deeds. In fact, there seems to be something like a competition track where people are trying to outperform each other, for time is flying by and laziness is the exclusive cause of missing opportune moments for performing more good deeds. By the same token, the latter can only be achieved through assiduity and determination.

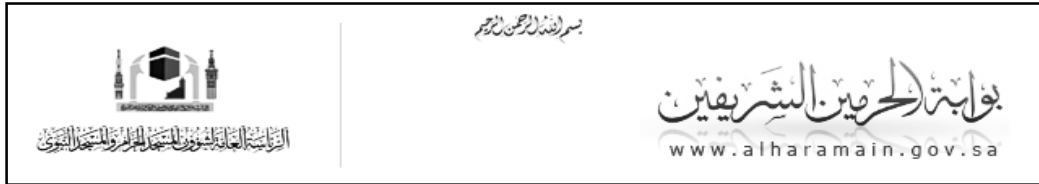
Everybody is working (in this life), but some people are selling out their souls (to the devil) while others are doing their best to set them free (from the shackles of worldly life) or indulging them in mortal sins. Those who fail to seize the opportunity of the seasons of good deeds (such as Ramadan) are those who follow their own desires and ask Allah to grant them overoptimistic wishes (without making an effort).

This worldly life is like a set dinner-table where hunger can be hardly satiated and craving for food is incessant. He who follows the footsteps of his exemplary leader, Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), will have responded positively to his Lord’s command: *﴿And worship your Lord until there comes unto you the certainty (i.e. death).﴾*[Al-Hîjr: 99]

O people!

Time flies, leaving no trace behind. Bygone moments are bygone. Very recently, we have been filling our lungs as much as we could with the fragrant breeze of the

<sup>1</sup> This expression is borrowed from the Chapter (surat) Al-A’raf: 54.



graceful month of Ramadan. Both our ears and eyes were imbued with its scented inspiration. Some performed few devotional acts; others, however, perfumed many. Nevertheless, Allah's eternal laws regulating the universe attest to the rule that there is an end to everything. As a matter of fact, perfection is inevitably prone to defection. Everything will perish save Allah's face (ﷻ).<sup>2</sup> He is the ultimate in existence and nothing ensues Him, for none is eternal save the Living, the Immortal: ***«And the moon, We have measured for it mansions (to traverse) till it returns like the old dried curved date stalk.»*** [Yassîn: 39]

Ramadan's register for the worshippers' deeds has now been folded up, and its marketplace –which was then abundantly supplied with commodities and good deeds– has now been shut down. Some have gained; some have lost; still others have been deprived of Allah's favours. Therefore, he who adored Ramadan for its own sake should know that Ramadan is over, and he who adored Allah has to know that Allah is the Lord of all months. Indeed, how wretched a community becomes when it cherishes knowledge of Allah exclusively in Ramadan. This is because we are enjoined to perform the same basic acts of worship in Ramadan as well as in the rest of the lunar months, save that during Ramadan –unlike the rest of the lunar months– such devotional acts tend to form a harmonious whole characterised by unique features.

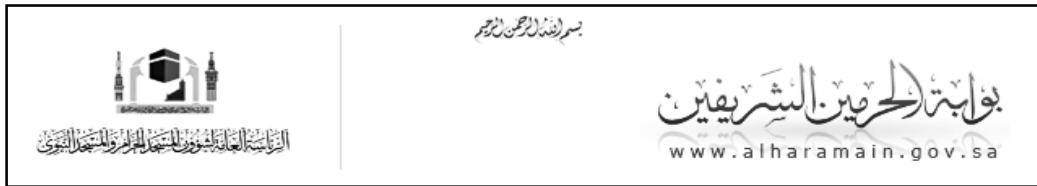
Obviously, our Munificent Creator has encouraged us to perform the following acts of worship in the rest of the months rather than exclusively in Ramadan: charity, *qiyām*, voluntary fast (during other lunar months), recitation of the Holy Qur'ān, *tasbīh*<sup>3</sup> and *tahlīl*<sup>4</sup> along with all other sorts of graceful deeds. In this particular vein, authentic narrations affirm that Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) was the most generous of all –that is to say, in his lifetime in general– but he was even more generous in Ramadan.

Consequently, it would be shameful for anyone to weaken after strength and commit evil deeds after doing good ones. Unlike other people who may adopt extreme options, the inspired believer is the one who experiences fear (of divine punishment) and expectation (of divine reward) in total moderation. He worships Allah constantly and in all circumstances. He performs supplementary acts of worship whenever the moment is opportune but remains moderately balanced in periods of ordinary activity. He is indefatigable in worship and performs successive good deeds. His post-Ramadan behaviour and activity reflect Allah's satisfaction with his good deeds

<sup>2</sup>Again, this expression is borrowed from the Chapter Al-Qasas: 88.

<sup>3</sup> Glorification of Allah by saying *subhānallāh* (سبحان الله – Glorified/Exalted be Allah).

<sup>4</sup>Utterance of the formula *lā ilāha illāllāh* (لا إله إلا الله) - There is no deity save Allah).



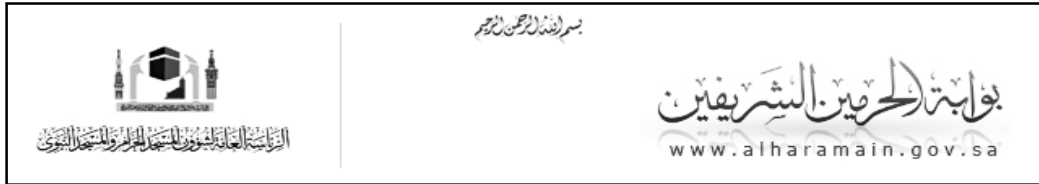
during Ramadan because he managed to refrain from degrading himself after having already achieved positive results. Thus, he would not commit the error against which Allah warned us: *﴿And be not like her who undoes the thread which she has spun, after it has become strong ...﴾* [An-Nahl: 92]

May Allah bless anyone who holds fast to the worship of his Lord after Ramadan, without breaching the covenant he has concluded with his Creator as regards sincere repentance, request of divine pardon, and salvation from hellfire, because vainesires are intriguing. Conversely, whoever sticks to the non-severable bond with Allah will be immune from his instinctive desires and will be able to establish an unbreakable link with Allah which will resist dissolution despite the ebb and flow of time. As a result, he will acquire the ability to perform worship duties on a regular basis and discipline himself to adapt to them through observing their precise timing and identifying their order of priority without fatigue or boredom.

If pious deeds require perseverance and patience, observing them regularly requires greater perseverance and extraordinary patience: *﴿Verily, those who say: "Our Lord is Allâh (Alone)," and then they stand firm,<sup>[1]</sup> on them the angels will descend (at the time of their death) (saying): "Fear not, nor grieve! But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised!﴾* (30) *﴿"We have been your friends in the life of this world and are (so) in the Hereafter. Therein you shall have (all) that your inner-selves desire, and therein you shall have (all) for which you ask.﴾* [Fûşşilat: 30-31]

O you, who have opted for *tawbah* (repentance)! Beware, and never return after Ramadan to suckling on the breast of disability and laziness after a month of weaning from them, for suffering a relapse is far more serious than the ailment itself and a sin after *tawbah* would be more disgraceful than those committed before it.

Verily, those of you who were keen to carry out exhortation throughout the month of Ramadan would certainly reap the benefit therefrom and would be in a better position to bolster their chances of perseverance down the path of righteousness in this life and everlasting blissfulness in the Hereafter: *﴿Allâh will keep firm*



those who believe, with the word that stands firm in this world (i.e. they will keep on worshipping Allâh Alone and none else), and in the Hereafter. And Allâh will cause to go astray those who are *Zâlimûn*(polytheists and wrong-doers), and Allâh does what He wills.﴾ [Ibrahim: 27]

May Allah bless you and me by the *Qur'ân* and the *Sunnah* and make its verses and wise sayings beneficial to you and me! This is what I have said. If it is correct, it is so because Allah has willed it to be; if it is wrong, it is my own fault and Satan's. I seek forgiveness from Almighty Allah. Verily, He is Oft-Forgiving!

## Part Two

Praise be to Allah for His beneficence and thanks are due to Him for the success He granted us and for His graciousness!

Now, then:

Allah (ﷻ) has so wisely and exclusively legislated for us the celebration of *Eid*<sup>5</sup> with much happiness, joy and ease after a month of hard work and perseverance. Part of the wisdom involved is reflected in the resolve of the fasting Muslim to engage physical as well as psychological endurance in the face of the natural oscillations and crises. It is also reflected in the shifting after a month of praising (of Allah), night praying, recitation (of the *Qur'ân*), crying and supplication into a celebration of brotherly love, happiness, reunion (of family and relatives), ease and joy.

Allah (ﷻ) concluded His verses on fasting with piety for the many rewarding acts of obedience and submissiveness (to Allah) involved therein. With respect to *Eid*, he concluded with *takbir*<sup>6</sup> for the ample praise, the ease and happiness it embodies in the hope (by the fasting Muslim) of achieving acceptance (by Allah) of fasting during the month of Ramadan: ﴿(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] for having guided you so that you may be grateful to Him.﴾[Al Baqarah: 185]

<sup>5</sup> *Eid al Fitr*: a festivity to celebrate the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting for Muslims.

<sup>6</sup> Saying *Allâhu Akbar* (in Arabic الله أكبر), or Allah is Greater.

Verily, among the things that would help corroborate our perseverance and obedience vis-à-vis Allah is moderation in the way we celebrate our *Eid*; that is we should avoid exaggeration that would cause the wrath of Allah as well as stinginess in matters where Allah granted us abundance. The ultimate purpose in this regard is to avert being weak or doomed to perdition.

Rather, the type of celebration recommended here is that which is observed by the true believers in Allah, not by the reckless and the heedless who think of Ramadan as nothing but a nuisance in the face of their heedless pursuit of vanity and excessive joy. Indeed, moderation is best in this regard.

Let us remember the advice of the Chosen one<sup>7</sup> (ﷺ), who said: ***“He who observes fasting in the month of Ramadan, and also observes fasting for six days in the month of Shawwal, it is as if he had observed fasting for the whole year.”***[Narrated by Muslim]

Therefore –O servants of Allah– do not let the *Eid* celebration and joy distract your attention from the sufferings of your brothers in faith who have witnessed no *Eid*, happiness or joy. For them every month is the same with all the bombing and destruction caused by wars. They hardly ever get any sleep and in every home of theirs there is a disaster of death, injury or displacement. They have become victims of oppression, poverty, hunger and desolation with no home or shelter.

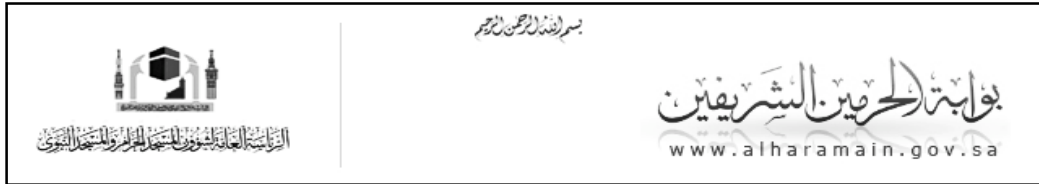
Then, do not let your *Eid* celebration distract your attention from their woes and sufferings or deprive them from your whole-hearted supplications and material generosity by offering them relief and consolation; Allah is ever in the service of His servants so long as they are in the service of their brothers and sisters (fellow Muslims).

Ask Allah –may He have mercy on you– to send His *Salat* (Graces, Honours and Mercy) and Peace on the best creature of Allah and the purest of mankind, Muhammad ibn `AbdAllāh, who is given *al-Hawdh*<sup>8</sup> and is vested with intercession; for Allah sent His *Salat* (Graces, Honours and Mercy) and Peace on him and then ordered His angels, that are praising His sanctity, to do likewise and called out to you, O believers, to ask Him to send His *Salat* (Graces, Honours and Mercy) and Peace on him. Allah the Almighty (ﷻ) says: ***“Allāh sends His Salât (Graces, Honours,***

<sup>7</sup> The Chosen one (المصطفى) is one of the attributes of the Prophet (ﷺ).

<sup>8</sup> This is the Arabic word for the water basin given by Allah (ﷻ) to the Prophet (ﷺ) in the Hereafter, from which he will give the believers to drink and they will never feel thirsty thereafter.





***Blessings, Mercy) on the Prophet (Muhammad ﷺ), and also His angels (ask Allâh to bless and forgive him). O you who believe! Send your Salât[1] on (ask Allâh to bless) him (Muhammadﷺ), and (you should) greet (salute) him with the Islâmic way of greeting (salutation i.e. As-Salâmu ‘Alaikum).﴾[AlAhzab: 56]***

O Allah! Send Your *Salat*(Graces, Honours, and Mercy) and Peace on Your Servant and Messenger Muhammad who has the brightest face and the most glorious forehead. O Allah! Be pleased with his four Caliphs, Abu Bakr, Omar, Othman and Ali, on all the Companions of Your Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), and the *tabi'in*, and those who righteously followed them till the Day of Judgment! O Allah! Be also pleased with us all, along with them, by Your Pardon and Generosity, O You, the Most Merciful, Most Compassionate of all!

O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! O Allah! Grant glory to Islam and Muslims! O Allah! Fail polytheism and polytheists (who associate partners with You)! O Allah! Grant victory to Your Religion, Your Sacred Book, Your Prophet's *Sunnah*, and Your true servants!

O Allah! Bring an end to the suffering of Muslims! Rescue those in distress, and help those indebted pay back their debts! Cure those of us and those of the Muslims who are ill, O You, Most Merciful, Most Compassionate!

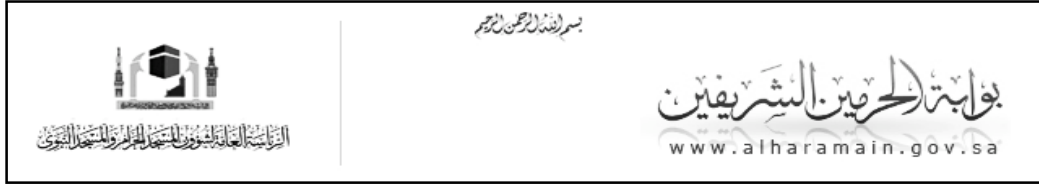
O Allah! Set right the conditions of Muslims everywhere! O Allah! Set right the conditions of Muslims everywhere! O Allah! Set right the conditions of Muslims everywhere! O Allah! Set right their conditions in Arakan, Palestine, Syria and Egypt! O You, the Lord of Majesty and Honour, the Lord of the Worlds!

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! Guide our leader to do and say whatever you please and accept. O You the Ever-Living, the Eternal Guardian! O Allah! Make righteous his retinue, O You the Lord of Majesty and Bounty!

O Allah! Make those occasions for good deeds an asset and a gain for us and those times for blessings and inspiration a path and a route of ascent for us to Your Mercy!

***﴿... 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 You, our Lord, the Lord of Honor and Power! You are free from what they attribute unto You! May peace be upon the Messengers! The last of our supplications is all praise be to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds!