FAREWELL, O RAMADHĀN!

"So glorify the praises of your Rabb (in gratitude for this great favour) and seek forgiveness from Him (for any shortcomings). Without doubt, He is the greatest acceptor of repentance.." (Sūrah Nasr, Āyah 3)

Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam has said: "Whoever fasts the month of Ramadhān, with belief (in Allāh Ta'ālā) and with hope of reward, all his previous sins will be forgiven. And whoever stands in Salāh on Laylatul Qadr, with belief and with hope of reward, all his previous sins will be forgiven." (Bukhāri, 2014)

We find ourselves bidding a heartfelt farewell to this most blessed of months, the month of the Qur'ān. Having fasted by day and stood in Salāh by night, we will find, In Shā' Allāh, ourselves recipients of this beautiful promise of forgiveness by Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam.

In a Hadīth regarding the special favours our Ummah enjoys in the month of Ramadhān, Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam explains: "They will be forgiven on the final night (of 1)Ramadhān)." The Sahābah Radhiyallāhu 'Anhum asked: "O Rasūlullāh, is this (due to it being) Laylatul Qadr?" Nabi Sallallāhu 'Alayhi Wa Sallam replied: "No. However, (it's only right that) a worker is recompensed for his work once it's completed." (Musnad Ahmad, 7904)

Numerous sayings of our pious predecessors point to the fact that we return from the 'Īd Salāh totally forgiven. Hazrat Muwarriq Rahimahullāh would say to some of his friends at the 'Īd Salāh: "Certain people will return today (free from sin) like the day their mothers gave birth to them!"

With the above being mentioned, two things are of utmost importance:

1) We must constantly hope and ask Allāh Ta'ālā to accept whatever little A'māl we did this Ramadhān. These promises are true, but the condition is acceptance.

Hazrat Mālik bin Dīnār Rahimahullāh said: "The fear of an action not being accepted is even more difficult upon one than carrying out the action!"

Some of the pious predecessors would ask Allāh Ta'ālā 6 months in advance to allow them to reach the Mubārak month of Ramadhān, and for the remainder of the year, they would ask Allāh Ta'ālā to accept it from them!

2) We should not dirty our slates just as they have been wiped clean. How foolish would we be if after having attained forgiveness, we celebrate by openly flaunting the commands of Allāh Ta'ālā?

'Īd is a day of happiness and a day of celebration. It has been called "The day of prize-giving". However, this does not give us a license to do as we please, especially at a time when our Ummah is bleeding. Muslims are being slaughtered and face persecution in Gaza, Sudan, Syria, and many parts of the world. Allāh Ta'ālā has kept us in 'Āfiyah (peace and safety) - the least we could do is not abuse this by engaging in His open disobedience. The life of a believer, on all occasions, is governed by the Dīn of Allāh Ta'ālā.

We should totally abstain from:

- Intermingling with non-mahrams. Our meals and functions should be separate.
- Missing our Salāh, especially just after Ramadhān!
- Immodest dressing and the dressing of the disbelievers.
- Un-Islāmic customs and celebrations.

May Allāh Ta'ālā accept all our efforts during this blessed month of Ramadhān and grant us the ability to continue with good deeds after this month as well. Amin!

