



1	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WHEN THE DEVIL IS SHACKLED</b> 2 June 2017AD / 7 Ramadan 1438H</p>
2	<p>إِنَّ الْحَمْدَ لِلَّهِ، مُحَمَّدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينَهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ وَنَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ، وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ أَعْمَالِنَا، مَنْ يَهْدِ اللَّهُ فَهُوَ الْمُهْتَدِ وَمَنْ يَضِلِّ فَلَنْ تَجِدَ لَهُ وِليًا مُرْشِدًا.</p>
3	<p>أَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ،</p>
4	<p>اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى نَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ وَمَنْ دَعَا بِدَعْوَتِهِ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.</p>
5	<p>أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَنَفْسِي بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُقْلِحُونَ.</p>
6	<p>قَالَ تَعَالَى: أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ وَكَذَلِكَ جَعَلْنَا لِكُلِّ نَبِيٍّ عَدُوًّا شَيْطَانِ الْإِنْسِ وَالْجِنِّ يُوحِي بَعْضُهُمْ إِلَى بَعْضٍ زُخْرُفَ الْقَوْلِ غُرُورًا وَلَوْ شَاءَ رَبُّكَ مَا فَعَلُوهُ فَذَرَّهُمْ وَمَا يَقْتُرُونَ ﴿١١٢﴾</p>
7	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b> Heeding the call of Allah SWT and His Messenger is the foundation for all success and excellence in human life. Indeed, the real meaning of human life is devotion to, and conviction in, Allah SWT by performing all His commands and abstaining from all that He has forbade. Remember! Nothing is more rewarding in the Hereafter than to choose to return to Allah SWT through sincere and glowing conviction in Him.</p>
8	<p>In conjunction with the blessed month of Ramadan we are currently celebrating and observing, the <i>mimbar</i> today would like to invite the congregation to listen and reflect upon a sermon entitled, "<b>When the Devil is Shackled</b>".</p>



9	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>The arrival of the month of Ramadan is celebrated with joy by the faithful, who would always look forward to its arrival. Many blessings and rewards promised by Allah SWT can be reaped during this holy month. In fact, the graces and blessings began on the first night of Ramadan.</p>
10	<p>This is mentioned in a hadith recorded by Imam at-Tirmidhi and narrated by Abu Hurairah RA, where Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p>إِذَا كَانَ أَوَّلُ لَيْلَةٍ مِنْ شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ صُفِّدَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ وَمَرَدَةُ الْجِنِّ، وَغُلِقَتِ أَبْوَابُ النَّارِ فَلَمْ يُفْتَحْ مِنْهَا بَابٌ، وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ فَلَمْ يُغْلَقْ مِنْهَا بَابٌ.</p>
11	<p><b>Which means:</b> <i>"When the early evening arrives in the month of Ramadan, (leaders of) demons and devils are shackled, the gates of Hell are closed, not one door is opened, while the gates of heaven are opened, and not one door is closed."</i></p>
12	<p>According to the <i>hadith</i> mentioned above, the devil is perceived as being shackled during the month of Ramadan. However, why are there still many people committing evil acts during the month?</p>
13	<p>This is a question often heard in the community. A prominent scholar, Sheikh Abul 'Abbas Al-Qurtubi once said: <i>The devil is perceived to be shackled only for those who observe fasting strictly according to the tenets and requirements required.</i> In contrast, those who do not fast and do not strictly practice its requirements, the shackling of the devil does not apply. In fact, he adds: <i>Even if the devil is really prevented from interfering and disrupting humans during Ramadan, but evil is still committed, it is then due to the desires, common practices as well as the so-called 'devil' within humans that such evil still exists.</i></p>
14	<p>This coincides with the verse in Surah al-An'am, verse 112, which was read out at the beginning of the sermon:</p> <p>This coincides with the verse in Surah al-An'am, verse 112, which was read out at the beginning of the sermon:</p>



	<p><b>Which means:</b> <i>“Likewise did We make for every Messenger an enemy - evil ones among men and jinns, inspiring each other with flowery discourses by way of deception. If the Lord had so planned, they would not have done it: so leave them and their inventions alone.”</i></p>
15	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>Every year, the month of Ramadan greets Muslims around the world. But, in fact, the month of Ramadan is faced by Muslims with different notions, based on individual differences, knowledge, confidence and determination. There are those who view Ramadan as a time to increase revenue and income from an economic standpoint.</p>
16	<p>There are also those who view it from the point of health, where fasting is simply a mission to lose weight. Even worse, some see Ramadan as a ‘traditional’ ritual without any spiritual significance.</p>
17	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>Let us look back and see the impact that fasting has on generating exemplary personalities, preventing evil and crime, creating positive values and building a harmonious society. Most importantly, we ask what sort of conviction and devotion can we achieve through fasting? Let us look at how we can improve the quality of our fast:</p>
18	<p><b>First: Understand the purpose and mission of fasting clearly</b></p> <p>The main goal of fasting as prescribed upon all Muslims is to resist the temptations of desire. Therefore, fasting is a practice to manage or to control desires, which is the enemy within us. If <i>solat</i> is for the connecting of our heart and soul with God, <i>zakat</i> for the cleansing of our soul from greed for wealth, then, fasting is a specific act of worship to resist our desires.</p>
19	<p>This coincides with what Allah SWT stated in Surah Yusuf, verse 53:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  <span style="font-size: 1.2em;">إِنَّ النَّفْسَ لَأَمَّارَةٌ بِالسُّوءِ إِلَّا مَا رَحِمَ رَبِّي إِنَّ رَبِّي غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ</span> </p>



	<p><b>Which means:</b> "Nor do I absolve my own self (of blame): the (human) soul is certainly prone to evil, unless my Lord do bestow His Mercy: but surely my Lord is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful."</p>
20	<p><b>Second: Learn and reflect upon the demands of fasting and maintain discipline</b></p> <p>Fasting is not merely refraining from eating and drinking as well as abstaining from sexual desires alone. In fact, it has guidelines and principles that need to be adhered to, such as the pillars of fasting, the required conditions, matters that invalidate fasting, and so on. Fasting under such principles would be able to educate our soul, thus acting as an eliminator of sin.</p>
21	<p>It has been clearly stated in a hadith recorded by Imam Bukhari and Imam Muslim, through a narration by Abu Hurairah RA, Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p> <p><b>Which Means:</b> "Whoever fasts during Ramadan because of faith and expecting rewards, his previous sins will be forgiven".</p>
22	<p><b>Third: Avoid matters that decreases rewards and lessens the quality of our fast</b></p> <p>If someone is fasting, but does not distance himself from unlawful acts, and disregards the sanctity of the sacred month of Ramadan, his fast does not bring about any effect in the transformation of his behaviour and actions.</p>
23	<p>In a hadith recorded by Imam al-Bukhari and narrated by Abu Hurairah, Rasulullah SAW was reported to have said:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>
24	<p><b>Which Means:</b> "Fasting is a fortress, therefore for those who fast, avoid vile and filthy talk. If abused or asked to fight, say: 'I am fasting', twice."</p>
25	<p><b>Fourth: Make the most of every moment and time to habitually practice obedience</b></p>



	<p>Appreciate the month of Ramadan that we are observing by increasing the performance of acts of devotion for Allah SWT. As we know, supplementary practices and acts of worship performed during the month of Ramadan will be given multiple rewards, similar to obligatory practices and acts of worship. Therefore, discipline the soul by increasing the performance of supplementary prayers, sharpen the mind by reciting the al-Quran and make it a daily routine to always visit and find solitude in the house of God and, hopefully, our desires and lust will be continuously and comprehensively tamed for the duration of Ramadan.</p>
26	<p><b>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</b></p> <p>In conclusion, here are some important lessons that can be drawn from the sermon today:</p> <p><b>First:</b> The term <i>'the devil is shackled'</i> should be understood in a wider context rather than understood or interpreted literally.</p> <p><b>Second:</b> Fasting is not merely abstaining from eating and drinking, but includes strict observation of the pillars of fasting, the requirements, and matters that can invalidate fasting and so forth.</p> <p><b>Third:</b> Appreciate the month of Ramadan by performing virtuous deeds through the increase in performing supplementary prayers, reciting the al-Quran, spending time in solitude at the mosque, giving to charity, and so on.</p>
27	<p>Finally, let us all reflect upon the words of Allah SWT in Surah al-Baqarah, verse 183:</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>قَالَ تَعَالَى: اَعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطٰنِ الرَّجِيْمِ</b></p>



	<p>يَأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾</p>
28	<p><b>Which means:</b> "O, you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may (learn) self-restraint."</p>
29	<p>بَارَكَ اللهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُوا اللهُ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ، فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.</p>