

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ○

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

## Hazrat Ameer's Ramadan ul Mubarak Message 1429 Hijrah (September 2008)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ  
عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

“O you who believe fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may guard against evil.” (Al-Baqarah, 2:183)

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ  
فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ○

“And when My servants ask thee concerning Me, surely I am nigh. I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls on Me, so they should hear My call and believe in Me that they may walk in the right way” (Al-Baqarah, 2:186)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Assalaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaato Hoo.

This year I have selected two verses from Surah *Al-Baqarah* (The Cow) for my Ramadan message. As we all look forward to this Blessed Month we should reflect on these verses as the first one gives us the reason for fasting and the second the path to nearness to Allah.

The major reason given for fasting in the Holy Qur'an is that **'you may guard against evil'** i.e. to attain *Taqwa*. *Taqwa* may be understood to represent the spirit (*baatin*) of an outwardly act (*zaahir*). As stated in the Holy Qur'an this is the main aim of all devotional acts in Islam and other major religions. This is what the Prophet Muhammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, meant when he said that it is not your thirst and hunger that pleases Allah but the *Taqwa*; this is also what is mentioned in the Bible where *Matthew 6: 16-18* states:

“Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thy head, and wash thy face;

