

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT THE 2023 FUO RAMADAN LECTURE

Delivered on 4th April 2023/ 14th Ramadan 1444AH

As-Salamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu,

I give all thanks and adoration to the Almighty Allah who spared our lives till this moment and granted us the opportunity to witness yet another Ramadan. Ramadan is a blessed month wherein different acts of worship are enjoined. It is a month of great significance to Muslims globally. It is the month where the revelation of the Qur'an was given to Our Prophet Muhammed (SAW). It is a time when we focus on spiritual rejuvenation, self-reflection and the purification of our souls. It is a month when we strive to attain greater levels of piety, righteousness and nearness to Allah (SWT). The significances of the blessed month cannot be over-emphasized. It is important for us to take full advantage of this limited period to achieve nearness to our Creator, in the hope that our sins will be forgiven and we will be saved from Hell and secure entrance into Jannah.

As we all know, the umbrella of Fountain University extends beyond the four walls of an academic classroom, it is, therefore, my due to do justice to the motto of the university which is "faith, knowledge and service" and I hope with the hosting of this Ramadan lecture, which happens to be the first following my assumption of duties, the watchword of the university will be duly justified. We live at a time where the world is facing numerous challenges, and as Muslims, we have a responsibility to come together, seek knowledge, and work towards positive change. Through the blessings of Allah (SWT), we have gathered here today to engage in fruitful discussions that can help us grow spiritually and intellectually. To achieve this mission, our esteemed lecturer, Sheikh AbdulGaniy AbdurRazaq Ballo will be delivering a lecture titled, "World of Jinns". The Jinns are creation of Allah (SWT) that have existed before the creation of the first man, Prophet Adam (ASW). Allah (SWT) in Surah ar-Rahman (55:15) says, "And He created the jinn from a smokeless flame of fire". This verse describes how Allah created jinns and emphasizes their supernatural origin that distinguishes them from humans.

The Ummah of the Prophet Muhammed (SAW) has a duty to seek knowledge from far and wide as said by the Prophet (SAW) in an authentic narration, "Whoever treads a path in search of knowledge, Allah will make easy for him the path to Paradise." Therefore, the significance of today's lecture is to buttress our understanding of the world of Jinn and the importance, effect and relationship they have with us as humans and Muslims. I leave our lecturer of today to do justice to the topic. I am not in doubt that at the close of the lecture, our *Imaan*, *Hikmah* and steadfastness in the ways of Allah will further be strengthened *in-shaa-Allah*.

Let me use this opportunity to assure all stakeholders of the University that the dreams and aspirations of the founder of this university will be upheld and fulfilled. All efforts and supports of members of the management team and university staff at large since my assumption of duties

on 1st March, 2023 are acknowledge and duly appreciated. I shall continue to strive to do justice in the management of university affairs. I pray Allah continues to elevate the university and keep our flag soaring high.

Distinguished Staff and our esteemed students, let me on your behalf welcome Sheikh Abdul Ganiy AbdurRazaq Ballo once again to Fountain University, Fountain Leads, Others follows. I appreciate the Chairman and members of the Executive of the Fountain University Muslim Community for organizing today's lecture. May Allah reward you abundantly.

Professor Olayinka Ramota Karim
Vice-Chancellor