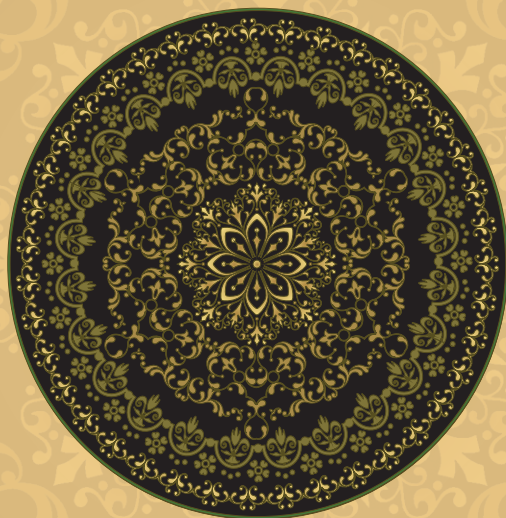


# شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ

## The Month of Ramadān

Virtues, Importance & Things to do



**Dr. Farhat Hashmi**

**eBook**



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*In the Name of Allah,  
the Most Merciful,  
the Especially Merciful.*

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## The Month of Ramadān

Virtues, Importance & Things to do

in light of Qur'an and Sunnah

**Dr. Farhat Hashmi**

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## Preface

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَكَفَى وَسَلَامٌ عَلَى عِبَادِهِ الَّذِينَ اصْطَفَى

Allah ﷻ created human beings and He is their Sustainer. He not only sent down the means for man's physical sustenance but also sent down Divine guidance, guiding His creation in every aspect of life. The Creator of the universe also revealed that He created jinn and humans for His worship. For this purpose He sent prophets and through them, He taught His creation practical ways of worshipping Him, perfecting religion through the last Messenger - Muhammad ﷺ. The Last Messenger, through his own example, set the best standards in every aspect of life, from acts of worship to dealings with others.

In acts of worship, Ṣalah (prayer), Ṣawm (fasting), Ḥajj (pilgrimage) and Zakat (charity) were given an obligatory status. Whereas Ṣalah is a daily act of worship, fasting is an annual one and the blessed month of Ramaḍān was chosen for it, a month which is superior to all other months. This book has been written to emphasize upon the virtues and importance of Ramaḍān so that through conscious effort we can fully avail the blessings and benefits of this month.

May Allah, the Glorified and Exalted, enable us in Ramaḍān to hasten towards acts of goodness and abstain from evil with a sincere intention. May He remove all internal and external hurdles that stand in the way of achieving closeness to Him. May He accept this effort as purely for His sake; reward abundantly all those who contributed in its preparation in any way; make it a means of salvation for us in the Hereafter and a means of lasting benefit for the readers. *Āmīn.*

Farhat Hashmi

1<sup>st</sup> August, 2011

*To reap the maximum benefit of the valuable moments of Ramaḍān, read this guide yourself and also share it with others.*

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ

الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ

هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ

فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ

وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ

يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ

وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ

وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَى مَا هَدَاكُم

وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

### **The Month of Ramadān**

[is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey - then an equal number of other days. Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful.

[Al-Baqarah: 185]

## **Marhaba Ramaḍān**

### **Welcome O Month of Ramaḍān!**

With the sighting of the moon of Sha'ban, one can feel the month of Ramadan approaching. Hearts begin to fill with joy and anticipation, and why shouldn't they? Indeed an honourable guest is about to arrive, bringing much mercy, blessings and privilege.

How many people were worshipping with us last Ramaḍān? Alas! They are no longer in this world, no longer in the mosques; today they lay in their graves.

Today, how many are unable to fast due to old age, a physical or mental illness or some other cause?

Therefore, those of us who are fortunate enough to be able to take advantage of this blessed month should welcome Ramaḍān with love and gratitude. One should start preparing enthusiastically for it and should respond whole-heartedly to the call to excel in good deeds.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

وَيُنَادِي مُنَادٍ: يَا بَاغِيَ الْخَيْرِ! اقْبَلْ وَيَا بَاغِيَ الشَّرِّ! اقْصِرْ

[When the month of Ramadan arrives] A caller cries out:  
'O seeker of good, proceed; O seeker of evil, desist'.

[Sunan al-Tirmidhī: 682]

### **Things to Do Before Ramaḍān:**

➤ Fast in the first half of the month of Sha'bān, especially to make up the missed fasts of the previous Ramaḍān. However, after the 15<sup>th</sup> of Sha'bān refrain from fasting to conserve your body's energies in preparation for Ramaḍān.

➤ Read books or listen to lectures to educate yourself about the rulings on Ramaḍān so that you can fast and worship with the proper etiquettes and conditions.

➤ Speak to your family, friends and neighbors about

Ramaḍān to help them mentally prepare for it.

➤ Spread knowledge about Ramaḍān by distributing booklets, cassettes and CDs, or by giving them as gifts.

➤ Clean your house thoroughly and organize your belongings; for example, arrange for a cassette or MP3 player to listen to the Qur'an while working around the house, acquire *dua* books, etc.

➤ Complete all important tasks such as buying your monthly groceries, 'Eid clothes for family members, servants and other dependents, and 'Eid gifts for relatives and friends so that your worship in Ramaḍān is not interrupted.

➤ Set aside money and other items you intend to give in charity, and decide beforehand what needs to be given to whom, how much and when.

➤ Make a to-do list of every day household chores.

➤ Set goals for different acts of worship and allocate specific times for them. Acts of worship include, but are not limited to, recitation of the Qur'an, its memorization, voluntary prayers (*nafl*), remembrance (*dhikr*), supplications (*du'ā*) and charity.

➤ For ease, schedule various acts of worship around prayer times:

- **Fajr – Sunrise:** Fajr prayer, recitation of Qur'an, morning supplications and reading beneficial literature.
- **Sunrise – Dhuhr:** Voluntary Ishrāq prayers (after sunrise – mid morning), listening or conducting Qur'an review sessions (*Dawr* of the *Qur'an*), Zuhr Prayer and daily routine work.
- **Dhuhr – 'Aṣr:** Afternoon nap, other work and 'Aṣr Prayer.
- **'Aṣr – Maghrib:** Preparation for (*Iftār*), evening supplications and *Dhikr*.

- **Maghrib – 'Ishā :** *Iftār*, Maghrib Prayer, Dinner and preparing for *Tarawīḥ*.
- **'Ishā:** 'Ishā Prayer and *Tarawīḥ*.
- **Night:** Sleeping for a part of the night.
- **Before Dawn:** Tahajjud, seeking forgiveness (*Istighfār*) and preparation for (*Suḥūr*).

**Remember! These are a few numbered days. This is why:**

- Spend most of your time in worship and performing good deeds.
- Minimize the time spent on fulfilling personal needs.
- Avoid all unimportant and useless activities.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

*Ramaḍān has come to you – a blessed month.*

(Musnad Aḥmad: 7148)





## ***Istiqbālu Ramaḍān***

### **Welcoming Ramaḍān with Invocations**

The beginning of Ramaḍān is determined by the sighting of the new moon. Therefore, one should make an effort to sight the moon. The Prophet ﷺ said:

إِذَا رَأَيْتُمُ الْهَلَالَ فَصُومُوا وَإِذَا رَأَيْتُمُوهُ فَافْطِرُوا فَإِنَّ غَمَّ عَلَيْكُمْ فَصُومُوا ثَلَاثِينَ يَوْمًا

Whenever you sight the new moon (of the month of Ramaḍān) observe fast. And when you sight it (the new moon of Shawwāl) break it, and if the sky is cloudy for you, then observe fast for thirty days.

[Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim: 2514]

Welcome the month of Ramaḍān with joy and supplications, and make the following invocation when you see the new moon:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِهْلِلْهُ عَلَيْنَا بِالْإِيْمَانِ وَالسَّلَامَةِ  
وَالْإِسْلَامِ رَبِّىْ وَرَبُّكَ اللّٰهُ

O Allah, let this moon (month) pass over us with blessings, Iman, safety, and in the state of Islam. (O Moon!) My Lord and your Lord is Allah.

[Sunan at-Tirmidhī: 3451]

اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ، اَللّٰهُمَّ اِهْلِلْهُ عَلَيْنَا بِالْأَمْنِ وَالْإِيْمَانِ وَالسَّلَامَةِ  
وَالْإِسْلَامِ وَالتَّوْفِيقِ لِمَا تُحِبُّ وَتَرْضَى رَبَّنَا وَرَبُّكَ اللّٰهُ

Allah is the Greatest. O Allah, let the crescent arise above us in safety, faith, peace, and Islam, and in agreement with all that You love and that which pleases You. Our Lord and your Lord is Allah.

[al-Kalim al-Ṭayyab: 162]

May Allah ﷻ make this Ramaḍān better than all our previous ones. *Amīn*.



## **Ramaḍān** **Shahr al-Raḥmah wa al-Barakah** **The Month of Mercy and Blessing**

Ramaḍān is that blessed month in which Allah showers His special mercy and blessings on His servants. The devils are chained and Allah encourages His servants to excel in good deeds so that performing good deeds is easier for them.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

إِذَا كَانَ رَمَضَانُ فَتُحْتُ أَبْوَابُ الرَّحْمَةِ

When there comes the month of Ramaḍān, the gates of mercy are opened. [*Saḥīḥ Muslim*: 2496]

In another narration, he ﷺ said:

قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ رَمَضَانُ، شَهْرٌ مُبَارَكٌ، افْتَرَضَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكُمْ صِيَامَهُ، تَفْتَحُ فِيهِ

أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ وَتُغْلَقُ فِيهِ أَبْوَابُ الْحَجِيمِ وَتُغْلِقُ فِيهِ الشَّيَاطِينُ، فِيهِ لَيْلَةٌ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ،

مَنْ حُرِمَ جَبَرَهَا فَقَدْ حُرِمَ

Ramaḍān has come to you – a blessed month. Allah has made obligatory upon you its fasting. In it, the gates of heaven are open, the gates of the Hellfire are closed and the evil devils are chained. To Allah belongs a night in it, which is better than a thousand months. Whosoever is prevented from its good, then he has been deprived.

[*Musnad Aḥmad*: 7148]

### **Things to Do:**

- Hasten in all types of good deeds such as worship, charity, helping others or greeting others with salām, smiling, etc.
- The devils are chained and it is easier to urge ourselves to good; so do not lose this excellent opportunity of self-improvement.
- Memorize this supplication and make it in the

morning and evening:

يَا حَيُّ يَا قَيُّوْمُ بِرَحْمَتِكَ أَسْتَغِيْثُ أَصْلِحْ لِيْ شَأْنِيْ كُلَّهُ  
وَلَا تَكِلْنِيْ إِلَى نَفْسِيْ طَرْفَةَ عَيْنٍ

O Ever Living One, O Eternal One, by Your mercy I call on You to set right all my affairs. Do not hand me over to my soul even for the blinking of an eye (i.e. a moment). [Sunan al-Kubra lil al-Nasā'i: 10404]

It is reported from Hudhaifa رضي الله عنه that the Prophet ﷺ said:  
The trial (fitna) of a man in respect of his wife, money, children and neighbours is expiated by his prayers, fasting, charity and by enjoining (what is good) and forbidding (what is evil). [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 525]



## **Ramaḍān** **Shahru al-Ṣiyām** **The Month of Fasting**

Fasting is a special act of worship of the month of Ramaḍān which was made mandatory in Sha'bān, 2 A.H. Thereafter, the Prophet ﷺ observed the obligatory fasts of Ramaḍān for the remainder of his life. Fasting was also obligatory for the previous nations, and now for the Muslim Ummah, for whom Allah chose the month of Ramaḍān as the month of fasting.

Allah ﷻ says:

لَا يَهْدِيهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا حَتَّىٰ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous. [Al-Baqarah: 183]

In another verse, Allah ﷻ says:

فَمَنْ شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ

So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; [Al-Baqarah: 185]

The obligation to fast is proved by several sayings of the Prophet ﷺ as well. The Prophet ﷺ said:

بُنِيَ الْإِسْلَامُ عَلَى خَمْسٍ: شَهَادَةِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَأَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، وَإِقَامَ الصَّلَاةِ، وَإِيتَاءَ الزَّكَاةِ، وَحَجِّ الْبَيْتِ، وَصَوْمِ رَمَضَانَ

Islam is built on five [pillars]: the testimony that there is no god but Allah and that Muḥammad is His slave and Messenger, establishing prayer, paying zakah, performing pilgrimage to the House, and fasting in Ramaḍān. [Agreed upon; words of Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim: 113]

Not only is fasting a compulsory act of worship, but it also has numerous benefits and is a source of earning immense rewards from Allah ﷻ, as is evident from the

following aḥādīth:

➤ **Fasting is a means of entry into Paradise:**

Abū Umāmah رضي الله عنه reported: I came to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and said: Order me to perform a deed that will allow me to enter Paradise. He ﷺ said:

عَلَيْكَ بِالصَّوْمِ فَإِنَّهُ لَا مِثْلَ لَهُ

Stick to fasting, as there is no equivalent to it.

[*Sunan al-Nasā'i*: 2222]

➤ **There is a special door in Paradise for those who fast:**

The Prophet ﷺ said:

إِنَّ فِي الْجَنَّةِ بَابًا يُقَالُ لَهُ الرَّيَّانُ يَدْخُلُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يُقَالُ: أَيْنَ الصَّائِمُونَ؟

فَمَنْ كَانَ مِنَ الصَّائِمِينَ دَخَلَهُ وَمَنْ دَخَلَهُ لَمْ يَظْمَأْ أَبَدًا

Indeed there is a gate of paradise called *al-Rayyān*. It will be called on the Day of Judgement: 'Where are the ones who fast?' So whoever is among the fasting ones will enter it. And the one who enters it will never be thirsty. [*Sunan Ibn Mājah*: 1640]

➤ **Allah will give the reward for fasting Himself:**

The Prophet ﷺ said that Allah ﷻ says:

كُلُّ عَمَلِ ابْنِ آدَمَ لَهُ إِلَّا الصَّيَّامَ فَإِنَّهُ لِي وَأَنَا أَجْزِي بِهِ

Every good deed of the son of Adam is for him except for fasting; it is for Me; and I shall reward (the fasting person) for it. [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1904]

It is a great honor that while other good deeds receive a reward from ten to seven hundred, the actual reward for fasting has been kept hidden since fasting is itself a hidden act of worship.

➤ **The odour from the mouth of the fasting person has been appreciated:**

The Prophet ﷺ said:

وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ لَخُلُوفٌ فَمِ الصَّائِمِ أَطْيَبُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ رِيحِ الْمُسْكِ

وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ لَخُلُوفٌ فَمِ الصَّائِمِ أَطْيَبُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ رِيحِ الْمُسْكِ

By He in Whose Hand is my soul, the breath of the fasting person is more pleasing to Allah than the fragrance of musk. [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1894]

➤ **Fasting is a shield:**

The Prophet ﷺ said:

الصَّيَّامُ حُجَّةٌ مِنَ النَّارِ كَحُجَّةِ أَحَدِكُمْ مِنَ الْقِتَالِ

Fasting is a shield [from hell-fire] like the shield of one of you in battle. [*Sunan Ibn Mājah*: 1639]

Through fasting, people are saved from all those sins which may lead them to the Hellfire.

➤ **Fasting is a protection from Hellfire:**

The Prophet ﷺ said:

مَا مِنْ عَبْدٍ يَصُومُ يَوْمًا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ إِلَّا بَاعَدَ اللَّهُ بِذَلِكَ الْيَوْمِ وَجْهَهُ عَنِ النَّارِ سَبْعِينَ خَرِيفًا

No slave fasts one day in the way of Allah without Allah putting his face a seventy years' journey away from the Fire on account of that day. [*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 2711]

➤ In the Arabic language, the word '*Siyām*' literally means 'to stop and refrain from doing something completely'. In shari'ah, it is 'to show servitude to Allah by abstaining from eating, drinking, sexual relations and other acts that nullify the fast, from pre-dawn to sunset, with the intention of worship'.

Fasting is not just a means of abstaining from food and drink, but also of leaving many bad habits. This is why Ibn al-Jawzi has stated three levels of fasting:

- Ordinary Fasting: to abstain from eating and physical desires.
- Special Fasting: to protect the eyes, tongue, limbs and all other organs of the body from sin.
- Unique Fasting: to rid the heart of every useless and baseless thought, and of any idea that would distance one from Allah and fill the heart with the remembrance of Allah Alone. [*Minhāj al Qāṣidīn*, p77]

### Things to Do:

- Fasting is a mandatory act of worship; observe it with a pure intention, solely to please Allah ﷻ.
- Do not leave a fast, without a *shara'i* [legitimate] excuse.
- Abstain from all those acts that nullify the fast.
- Be especially cautious about the tongue during fasting.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

Whoever fasts during Ramaḍān with faith and seeking his reward from Allah will have his past sins forgiven.

[Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 38]





## Ramadān

### Al-Suḥūr wa al-Iftār

### The Pre-Dawn and Fast-Breaking Meals

Fasting trains us to submit to Allah in full obedience. At Allah's directive, a person refrains from eating and drinking until a certain time. He also eats the Suḥūr meal at a particular time even if he does not wish to eat.

عَنْ أَبِي الدَّرْدَاءِ رَفَعَهُ قَالَ: ثَلَاثٌ مِنْ أَعْلَاقِ النَّبُوءَةِ: تَعْجِيلُ الْإِفْطَارِ وَتَأْخِيرُ السُّحُورِ  
وَوَضْعُ الْيَمِينِ عَلَى الشِّمَالِ فِي الصَّلَاةِ

Abū Darda رضي الله عنه narrated: Three things are from the traits of Prophethood. To hasten in Iftār (opening fast), delay the Suḥūr meal and to put the right hand on top of the left hand in Ṣalāh. [*Ṣaḥīḥ Jāmi' al-Sagḥūr*, Vol: 2, 3038]

**The Suḥūr Meal:** For a believer, there are blessings in Suḥūr and it is also a *sunnah* of the Prophet ﷺ.

He ﷺ said:

تَسَحَّرُوا فَإِنَّ فِي السُّحُورِ بَرَكَهً

Take the Suḥūr meal, for there is in it (much) blessing  
[*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1923]

The Prophet ﷺ called Arbaz bin Saarya رضي الله عنه to join him in eating Suḥūr with the words:

هَلُمَّ إِلَى الْعَدَاءِ الْمُبَارَكِ

(Arbaz), Come to the blessed food.

[*Sunan Abū Dāwūd*: 2344]

### Suḥūr is a Blessing from Allah:

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ الْحَارِثِ عَنْ رَجُلٍ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّبِيِّ ﷺ أَنَّ رَجُلًا دَخَلَ

عَلَى النَّبِيِّ ﷺ وَهُوَ يَتَسَحَّرُ فَقَالَ إِنَّ السُّحُورَ بَرَكَهٌ أَعْطَا كُفُومَهَا اللَّهُ فَلَا تَدَعُوهَا

‘Abdullah bin Hārith narrated from a person amongst the companions of the Prophet ﷺ that he once went to the Prophet ﷺ while he was eating Suḥūr. He ﷺ said:

‘This suḥūr is a blessing that Allah has given you so do not leave it.’ [*Musnad Aḥmad*, Vol: 38, 23142]

عَنْ الْمُقْدَامِ بْنِ مَعْدٍ يُكْرِبُ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ ﷺ قَالَ عَلَيْكُمْ بِغَدَاءِ السَّحُورِ فَإِنَّهُ هُوَ الْعَدَاءُ الْمُبَارَكُ

Miqdām bin Mādi Karb رضي الله عنه reported that the Prophet ﷺ said: You all should make the morning meal (Suhūr meal) compulsory upon yourselves as it is the blessed food of morning. [Sunan Al-Nasā'ī: 2166]

➤ **One Must have Suhūr even if it is a Sip of Water:**

قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ السَّحُورُ أَكْلُهُ بَرَكَهٌ فَلَا تَدْعُوهُ وَلَوْ أَنْ يَجْرَعَ أَحَدُكُمْ جُرْعَةً مِنْ مَاءٍ

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: There is *barakah* in eating Suhūr so do not leave it, even if one is to drink a sip of water. [Musnad Ahmad: 11086]

➤ **Mercy Descends Upon Those Who Eat Suhūr:**

It is related by Ibn Umar رضي الله عنه that the Prophet ﷺ said:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى الْمُتَسَحِّرِينَ

Verily Allah and His angels send Mercy upon those who eat Suhūr. (Al-Mujam al-Awsaṭ al-Ṭibrānī, Vol 7, 6430)

This means that Allah showers upon them His mercy and blessings while the angels pray for mercy and forgiveness for them.

➤ **Dates are the Best Suhūr:**

The Prophet ﷺ said:

نَعَمْ سَحُورُ الْمُؤْمِنِ التَّمْرُ

How excellent are dates as the believer's Suhūr.

[Sunan Abū Dāwūd: 2345]

Eat a balanced and healthy meal at Suhūr in order to stay active and fresh throughout the day and be able to perform all obligatory rituals and other acts of worship properly.

➤ **There are Two Joys for the Fasting Person:**

The Prophet ﷺ said:

لِلصَّائِمِ فَرْحَتَانِ يَفْرَحُهُمَا إِذَا أَفْطَرَ فَرِحَ وَإِذَا لَقِيَ رَبَّهُ فَرِحَ بِصَوْمِهِ

The fasting person has two occasions for joy, one when he breaks his fast because of his breaking it and the other when he meets his Lord because of the reward for



his fast. [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 1904]

➤ **It is Masnūn to Break the Fast Early:** We should have the fast-breaking meal (*Iftār*) as soon as the sun sets. The Prophet ﷺ said:

لَا يَزَالُ النَّاسُ بِخَيْرٍ مَا عَجَلُوا الْفِطْرَ

The people will continue to do well so long as they hasten to break the fast. [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 1957]

➤ **The Fast should be Broken with Dates or Plain Water:**

The Prophet ﷺ said:

إِذَا كَانَ أَحَدُكُمْ صَائِمًا فَلْيُفِطِرْ عَلَى التَّمْرِ، فَإِنْ لَمْ يَجِدِ التَّمَرَ فَعَلَى الْمَاءِ فَإِنَّ الْمَاءَ طَهُورٌ

If anyone of you is fasting, let him break his fast with dates. In case he does not have them, then with water.

Verily water is a purifier. [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Jāmi' al-Sagḥir: 746]

كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ يُفِطِرُ عَلَى رُطَبَاتٍ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُصَلِّيَ، فَإِنْ لَمْ تَكُنْ رُطَبَاتٍ فَعَلَى تَمْرَاتٍ

فَإِنْ لَمْ تَكُنْ حَسَا حَسَوَاتٍ مِنْ مَاءٍ

The Prophet ﷺ would break his fast with fresh dates before praying. If there were no fresh dates, he would eat dried dates. If there were no dried dates, he would drink a few sips of water. [Sunan Abī Dāwūd: 2356]

➤ **Reward for Giving Food to a Fasting Person to Break his Fast:**

The Prophet ﷺ said:

مَنْ فَطَرَ صَائِمًا، كَانَ لَهُ مِثْلُ أَجْرِهِ، غَيْرَ أَنَّهُ لَا يَنْقُصُ مِنْ أَجْرِ الصَّائِمِ شَيْئًا

He who gives food to a fasting person to break his fast will receive the same reward as him, except that nothing will be reduced from the fasting person's reward.

[Sunan al-Tirmidhī: 807]

**Things to Do:**

➤ Practice moderation when preparing the meals for Suḥūr and Iftār since this is the month of fasting, not 'feasting'.

➤ Avoid eating greasy foods and eating to your fill so that

you do not feel lethargic.

➤ Give leftover food to the needy instead of throwing it away.

➤ **Invocation for Iftār:**

While breaking the fast, the Prophet ﷺ used to say these words:

اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ صُمْتُ وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ

O Allah, I fasted for You and I break my fast from the provision provided by You.

[*Mishkāt al-Maṣābiḥ*: 1994] *Dāif*

ذَهَبَ الظَّمَأُ وَابْتَلَّتِ الْعُرُوقُ وَثَبَتَ الْأَجْرُ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ

The thirst has gone and the veins are quenched, and the reward is confirmed, if Allah wills.

[*Sunan Abū Dāwūd*: 2357]

➤ **Supplicate for those who provide you with Iftār in the following words:**

أَفْطَرَعِنْدَكُمْ الصَّائِمُونَ وَأَكَلَ طَعَامُكُمْ الْأَبْرَارُ

وَصَلَّتْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْمَلَائِكَةُ

May the fasting persons break fast with you, the righteous partake in your meals and the angels pray for blessings for you. [*Sunan Abū Dāwūd*: 3854]



## **Ramaḍān** **Shahru al-Ghufrān** **The Month of Forgiveness**

Allah ﷻ is Most Forgiving and Merciful. His forgiveness is vast and He loves to forgive. It is His promise that anyone who feels remorse for having sinned and repents sincerely shall be forgiven.

Allah ﷻ says:

الَّذِينَ يَجْتَنِبُونَ كَبِيرَ الْإِثْمِ وَالْفَوَاحِشَ إِلَّا اللَّمَمَ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ وَاسِعُ الْمَغْفِرَةِ...

Those who avoid the major sins and immoralities, only [committing] slight ones. Indeed, your Lord is vast in forgiveness... [Al-Najm: 32]

A human being is prone to err, he keeps committing major and minor sins throughout his life for which he feels regret and guilt. Every human being wants to relieve himself of the burden of these sins and come out clean.

➤ **Ramaḍān is the best opportunity to purify oneself of sins:**

The Prophet ﷺ said:

وَرَمَضَانَ إِلَى رَمَضَانَ مُكَفِّرَاتٌ مَا بَيْنَهُنَّ إِذَا اجْتَنَبَ الْكَبَائِرَ

One Ramaḍān expiates the sins till the next Ramaḍān, provided that one has avoided the grave (major) sins.

[Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim: 552]

➤ **Fasting during the day and praying at night are a source of expiating sins:**

The Prophet ﷺ said:

مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

Whoever fasts during Ramaḍān out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards, then all his past sins will be forgiven. [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 38]

➤ **The fasting men and women are promised forgiveness:**

Allah ﷻ says:

وَالصَّائِمِينَ وَالصَّائِمَاتِ ... الخ . أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةً وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

The men and the women who observe Ṣawm (the obligatory fasting during the month of Ramaḍān, and the optional Nawafil fasting), ... Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a great reward (i.e. Paradise).

[Al-Aḥzab: 35]

➤ **The one who finds Ramaḍān but does not attain forgiveness is unfortunate:**

At one occasion, the Prophet ﷺ ascended the pulpit and said, 'Āmīn, Āmīn, Āmīn'. It was said, 'O Messenger of Allah, you ascended the minbar and said: 'Āmīn, Āmīn, Āmīn'. He said, Jibril ﷺ came to me and said:

يَا مُحَمَّدُ مَنْ أَدْرَكَ شَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ فَمَاتَ فَلَمْ يُغْفَرْ لَهُ فَأُدْخِلَ النَّارَ فَأَبْعَدَهُ اللَّهُ قُلْ آمِينَ فَقُلْتُ آمِينَ...

O Muhammad, whoever finds Ramaḍān, then dies and is not forgiven, he will enter Hell and Allah will cast him far away (from His mercy). Say Āmīn.' So I said 'Āmīn'.

[Al Mu'jam al Kabir lil-Ṭabarānī: 2022]

➤ **The time of Suhūr is ideal for seeking forgiveness:**

It is the virtue of Allah's chosen people that they seek forgiveness from Allah ﷻ secretly during this time. Allah ﷻ says in the Qur'an:

وَبَا لَأَسْأَلَهُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ

And in the hours before dawn they would ask forgiveness. [Al-Zariyāt: 18]

In another hadith, the Prophet ﷺ said:

يُنْزِلُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى إِلَى السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا كُلَّ لَيْلَةٍ لِنُصَفِ اللَّيْلِ الْآخِرِ أَوْ ثُلُثِ اللَّيْلِ الْآخِرِ يَقُولُ:

مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَدْعُونِي فَاسْتَجِبَ لَهُ؟ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَسْأَلُنِي فَأَعْطِيَهُ؟ مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَسْتَغْفِرُنِي؟

فَاعْفِرْ لَهُ؟ حَتَّى يَطْلُعَ الْفَجْرُ

When half of the night or two-third of it is over, Allah, the Blessed and the Exalted, descends to the lowest heaven and says: 'Is there anyone who invokes me that I may respond to his invocation; is there anyone who asks Me for something that I may give (it to) him; is there anyone who asks My forgiveness that I may forgive him?' (And Allah continues saying it) till it is daybreak.

[*Sunan al-Dārimī*, Vol 1, 1478]

### Things to do:

- Feel regret for your sins, accept your faults, cry over them and seek forgiveness from Allah ﷻ.
- Pray for the forgiveness of all Muslims.
- Do *Istighfār*, especially at the time of *Suḥūr* and remind your family members as well.
- Memorize the words of *istighfār* and repent at least 70-100 times a day.

### Words of *istighfār*:

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ

I seek the forgiveness of Allah the One besides Whom there is none worthy of worship, the Living, the Eternal, and I repent to Him. [*Sunan al-Tirmidhī*: 3577]





## **Ramadhān** **Shahru Taqwa** **Month of Piety**

The main objective of fasting is to acquire God-consciousness (*taqwa*) as told by Allah ﷻ:

لَا يَهْدِيهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous. [Al-Baqarah: 183]

➤ In order to achieve piety, it is not enough to just avoid eating and drinking during the fast but one should also stay away from all kinds of sins. If we are to abstain from the permissible (*halāl*) food while fasting, then it is even more important to avoid prohibited actions (*ḥarām*) such as lies, cheating, backbiting, quarrels, negative thoughts etc.

➤ Eating is one of our most favourite pastimes, which is very difficult to control. However staying hungry during fasting gives us the strength to overcome our negative emotions as well for the sake of Allah ﷻ.

➤ Abū Hurairah رضي الله عنه narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

لَيْسَ الصَّيَامُ مِنَ الْأَكْلِ وَالشُّرْبِ إِنَّمَا الصَّيَامُ مِنَ اللَّغْوِ وَالرَّفَثِ فَإِنْ سَابَكَ أَحَدٌ أَوْ جَهِلَ

عَلَيْكَ فَقُلْ إِنِّي صَائِمٌ

Fasting is not just (abstaining from) eating and drinking, but fasting is also (refraining) from vain speech (*Laghw*) and foul (or obscene) language and sexual actions (*Rafath*). If one of you is being verbally abused or annoyed, he should say, 'I am Fasting.'

[*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Targhīb wa al-Tarḥīb*: 1082]

- The Prophet ﷺ said:

رُبَّ صَائِمٍ لَيْسَ لَهُ مِنْ صِيَامِهِ إِلَّا الْجُوعُ وَرُبَّ قَائِمٍ لَيْسَ لَهُ مِنْ قِيَامِهِ إِلَّا الشَّهَرُ

Some fasting people get nothing from their fast apart from hunger and some people who tend to pray at night will get nothing from their standing except sleeplessness. [Sunan Ibn Mājah: 1690]

- Abū Hurairah رضي الله عنه narrated: The Prophet ﷺ said,

مَنْ لَمْ يَدَعْ قَوْلَ الزُّوْرِ وَالْعَمَلَ بِهِ وَالْجَهْلَ فَلَيْسَ لِلَّهِ حَاجَةٌ أَنْ يَدَعَ طَعَامَهُ وَشَرَابَهُ

Whoever does not give up lying, forged speech and evil actions, Allah is not in need of his leaving his food and drink. [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 6057]

- Likewise, in another tradition, Anas bin Mālik رضي الله عنه reported that the Prophet ﷺ said:

مَنْ لَمْ يَدَعْ الْخَنَا وَالْكَذِبَ فَلَا حَاجَةَ لِلَّهِ أَنْ يَدَعَ طَعَامَهُ وَشَرَابَهُ

Whoever does not stop speaking falsehood and acting in accordance with it, Allah has no need of him giving up his food and drink. [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Targhīb wa at-Tarhīb: 1080]

- It is as necessary to pay attention to the hidden aspects of worship (such as sincerity, love, hope and fear of Allah) as it is to maintain the physical and obvious rituals. In fact, this is what is meant by the achievement of true piety (*taqwa*).

### Things to do:

- Adopt virtues like patience, humility and God-consciousness through the hunger experienced while fasting.
- Make sure that your fast is not only about abstinence from food and drink, but also about guarding your eyes, ears, tongue, limbs and heart.
- Channelize most of your time and energies to achieve productivity and refrain from useless activities.
- Do a daily self-analysis to make the present day

better than the previous one.

- Make the fear and pleasure of Allah the basis of even your regular dealings with people.
- Remind yourself every day that it may be your last day of your life so that you perform each deed every day in the most excellent manner possible.
- In order to attain piety (taqwa), supplicate to Allah every day in the following words:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنِّىْ اَسْئَلُكَ الْهُدٰى وَالتَّقٰى وَالعَفَافَ وَالعِغْنٰى

O Allah! Indeed I ask You for guidance, Allah consciousness, chastity and contentment.

[Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim: 6904]



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## **Ramaḍān** **Shahru al-Ṣabr** **Month of Patience**

Patience means 'to stop' and 'to control oneself'. We come across a lot of unpleasant events in life. At times we might be at the receiving end of someone's transgression, but if we react hastily in a negative way it can worsen the situation. The only solution is Patience (*ṣabr*). Whenever we are about to take a negative action, fasting is a continuous reminder that we must refrain from arguing and creating unnecessary disturbance. At such instances, the words 'I am fasting' act as a shield or a defense mechanism that remind us that 'I can control myself' and 'I know how to be patient.'

➤ The Prophet ﷺ said:

الصَّيَّامُ جُنَّةٌ وَإِذَا كَانَ يَوْمُ صَوْمِ أَحَدِكُمْ فَلَا يَرْفُثُ وَلَا يَصْخَبُ فَإِنْ سَابَهُ أَحَدٌ أَوْ قَاتَلَهُ فَلْيَقُلْ إِنِّي صَائِمٌ

Fasting is a shield or protection from the fire and from committing sins. If one of you is fasting, he should avoid sexual relation with his wife and quarreling, and if somebody should fight or quarrel with him, he should say, 'I am fasting'. [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1904]

\* Fasting removes rancor of the heat. It is narrated by Ibn Abbas رضي الله عنه that the Prophet ﷺ said:

صَوْمُ شَهْرِ الصَّبْرِ وَثَلَاثَةُ أَيَّامٍ مِنْ كُلِّ شَهْرٍ يُذْهِبْنَ وَحَرَ الصَّدْرِ

Fasting in the month of patience (i.e. Ramaḍān) and fasting for three days each month remove rancor of the heart. [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Targhīb wa al-Tarhīb*: 1032]

➤ Fasting puts a break on some of our most beloved past-times and trains us to be patient, which is a necessary virtue if we want to attain success both in

this world as well as in the Hereafter. It is stated in the Qur'an:

إِنِّي جَزَيْتُهُمُ الْيَوْمَ بِمَا صَبَرُوا أَنَّهُمْ هُمُ الْفَائِزُونَ

Indeed, I have rewarded them this Day for their patient endurance - that they are the attainers [of success].

[Al-Mu'minūn: 111]

➤ When dealing with people in daily life, if we come across an unpleasant situation that provokes us, then we should deal with it with tolerance, for the sake of our 'fast'. We should especially endeavor to remain silent when angry. Although exercising patience can be very difficult, but its reward is Paradise!

Allah ﷻ says:

وَجَزَاهُمْ بِمَا صَبَرُوا جَنَّةً وَحَرِيرًا

And will reward them for what they patiently endured [with] a garden [in Paradise] and silk [garments].

[Al-Dahr: 12]

Although practicing patience can be extremely hard, but its reward is without account!

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمْ لِلَّذِينَ أَحْسَنُوا فِي هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةٌ وَأَرْضُ اللَّهِ وَاسِعَةٌ إِنَّمَا

يُوقَى الصَّابِرُونَ أَجْرَهُمْ بِغَيْرِ حِسَابٍ

Say, 'O My servants who have believed, fear your Lord. For those who do good in this world is good, and the earth of Allah is spacious. Indeed, the patient will be given their reward without account.' [Al-Zumar: 10]

### Things to do:

- Always try to be patient, even in the most difficult of times.
- Take special care of the tongue and resolve not to speak any ill.
- Control your anger and enjoin others to be patient when they lose control too.
- Keep reminding yourself that positive actions yield better results while negative reactions open the door to evil.

## **Ramaḍān Shahru al-Qur'an Month of Qur'an**

Qur'an is the speech of Allah, revealed for the guidance of mankind. It is an honorable Book, and for its revelation, Allah chose the most blessed night in the most blessed month of Ramaḍān.

➤ Allah ﷻ says:

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ

Indeed, We sent it down during a blessed night. Indeed, We were to warn [mankind]. [Al-Dukhān: 3]

➤ At another place it is said:

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ

The month of Ramaḍān [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. [Al-Baqarah: 185]

➤ The Prophet ﷺ used to recite the Qur'an to Jibrīl ﷺ during Ramaḍān. 'Abdullah ibn Masūd ؓ said:

وَكَانَ جِبْرِيلُ يَلْقَاهُ كُلَّ لَيْلَةٍ فِي رَمَضَانَ حَتَّى يَنْسَلِخَ يَغْرُضَ عَلَيْهِ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ الْقُرْآنَ

Jibrīl used to meet him every night of the month of Ramaḍān till it elapsed. Allah's Messenger used to recite the Qur'an to him. [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 1902]

➤ We learn through another narration that the Prophet ﷺ used to recite the Qur'an (whatever had been revealed thus far) to Jibrīl once every year and in the last year of his life, he did so twice. [Ref: Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 3624]

From the above prophetic traditions (aḥādīth), we learn of the close affinity between our Prophet ﷺ and the Qur'an. Therefore, we should also establish a close relationship with the Qur'an during this special month. We can do this in the following manner:

➤ **Recitation of the Qur'an:** Qur'an has been revealed in the Arabic language and that is why reading its Arabic text is a means of earning reward. Allah ﷻ has promised ten rewards for reciting every letter of the Qur'an. To the ones who recite the Qur'an, Allah gives the glad tidings of having made a successful deal that carries no losses. He says:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَأَقَامُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَأَنفَقُوا مِمَّا رَزَقْنَاهُمْ سِرًّا وَعَلَانِيَةً  
يَرْجُونَ تِجَارَةً لَّنْ تَبُورَ

Indeed, those who recite the Book of Allah and establish prayer and spend [in His cause] out of what We have provided them, secretly and publicly, [can] expect a profit that will never perish. [Fāṭir: 29]

That is why we should spend more time reading the Qur'an during the month of Ramaḍān as compared to other days.

➤ **Recitation of Qur'an During Night Prayers:** Reciting and listening to the Qur'an during *Tarawīḥ* or *Qiyām al-Lail* (voluntary night prayers) will be a means of intercession on the Day of Judgment. 'Abdullah bin 'Amr رضي الله عنه narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

الصَّيَامُ وَالْقُرْآنُ يَشْفَعَانِ لِلْعَبْدِ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ يَقُولُ الصَّيَامُ أَيْ رَبِّ مَنَعْتُهُ الطَّعَامَ وَالنِّسْوَاتِ  
بِالنَّهَارِ فَشَفِّعْنِي فِيهِ وَيَقُولُ الْقُرْآنُ مَنَعْتُهُ النَّوْمَ بِاللَّيْلِ فَشَفِّعْنِي فِيهِ قَالَ فَيُشَفِّعَانِ

The fast and the Qur'an are two intercessors for the servant of Allah on the Day of Resurrection. The fast will say, 'O Lord, I prevented him from his food and desires during the day. Let me intercede for him.' The Qur'an will say, 'I prevented him from sleeping at night. Let me intercede for him.' And their intercession will be accepted. [Musnad Aḥmad: Vol 11, 6626]

➤ We also learn from the narration of 'Abdullah Ibn 'Abbās رضي الله عنه that reading the Qur'an during the night is better as compared to that done during the day, for

the Prophet ﷺ used to recite to Jibrīl every night.

➤ The Prophet ﷺ led the night prayer (*Tarawīh*) thrice during the last ten days of Ramaḍān and made long recitation therein. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 2012]

➤ **Memorization (*Hifz*) of Qur'an:** Apart from reciting the Qur'an, memorizing and preserving it in the heart is also a noble deed. 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr bin al-Aas ؓ narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

يُقَالُ لِصَاحِبِ الْقُرْآنِ: اقْرَأْ وَارْتَقِ وَرَتِّلْ كَمَا كُنْتَ تُرْتِّلُ فِي الدُّنْيَا، فَإِنَّ مَنْزِلَكَ  
عِنْدَ آخِرِ آيَةٍ تَقْرُؤُهَا

The one who was devoted to the Qur'an will be told on the Day of Resurrection: Recite and ascend (in ranks) as you used to recite when you were in the world. Your rank will be at the last Ayah you recite.

[*Sunan Abū Dāwūd*: 1464]

Obviously this would only be possible for those who have memorized and preserved the Qur'an in their hearts.

➤ **Reflecting on the Qur'an:** To ponder and reflect upon the meanings of the verses of Qur'an is also considered a meritorious act. We should try to reflect deeply on its verses so that we may understand it better and implement it accordingly. For indeed, the Qur'an has been revealed for the practical guidance of all mankind.

➤ Allah ﷻ says:

كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِيَدَّبَّرُوا الْآيَاتِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرُ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

[This is] a blessed Book which We have revealed to you, [O Muḥammad], that they might reflect upon its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded.

[*Ṣād*: 29]

➤ **Learning and Teaching the Qur'an:** Apart from individual recitation and reflection upon the Qur'an, learning and teaching it in study circles is a source of



immense blessings from Allah ﷻ. Abū Hurairah رضي الله عنه narrates that the Prophet ﷺ said:

وَمَا اجْتَمَعَ قَوْمٌ فِي بَيْتٍ مِنْ بُيُوتِ اللَّهِ يَتْلُونَ كِتَابَ اللَّهِ وَيَتَدَارَسُونَهُ بَيْنَهُمْ إِلَّا نَزَلَتْ عَلَيْهِمُ السَّكِينَةُ وَغَشِيَتْهُمْ الرَّحْمَةُ وَحَفَّتْهُمُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَذَكَرَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِيمَنْ عِنْدَهُ

No people gather in one of the houses of Allah, reciting the Book of Allah and teaching it to one another, but the angels will surround them, tranquility will descend upon them, mercy will envelop them and Allah will mention them to those who are with Him (angels).

[*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 6853]

### Things to Do

- Recite the Qur'an frequently during Ramaḍān; complete its recitation in entirety at least once by yourself.
- If you have memorized all or part of the Quran, set up a time to revise it formally on a regular basis. Otherwise, try to memorize some portions of the Qur'an.
- Ensure that you listen to the entire Qur'an behind the Imam during the voluntary night prayer (i.e. *Tarawīḥ*).
- Make an effort to understand and reflect upon the meanings of the Qur'an.
- Invite family and friends to the Qur'an and encourage them towards its understanding, as hearts are more inclined towards goodness during the blessed month of Ramaḍān.
- Try to attend any locally-organized gathering of 'Dawra e Qur'an' (Review of the Qur'an) or listen to one 'online', so that you can educate yourself or somebody else.
- Listen to CDs or audio tapes of the Qur'an and its meanings and share such audio resources with others as well.

## **Ramaḍān** **Shahru al-Du'ā** **Month of Supplications**

After mentioning fasting and the month of Ramaḍān in the Qur'an, Allah ﷻ says:

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

And when My servants ask you, [O Muḥammad], concerning Me - indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me. So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided. [Al-Baqarah: 186]

From the above *ayah*, we learn that supplicating to Allah (*du'ā*) is a form of worship.

- We should invoke Allah (make *du'ā*) much in Ramaḍān, as the opportunities of acceptance in this blessed month are many.
- Supplications made by the one who is fasting is accepted by Allah ﷻ as is evident from the narration of Anas bin Malik رضي الله عنه that the Prophet ﷺ said:

ثَلَاثَ دَعَوَاتٍ لَا تُرَدُّ دَعْوَةُ الْوَالِدِ وَدَعْوَةُ الصَّائِمِ وَدَعْوَةُ الْمُسَافِرِ

Supplications made by three people are not rejected: the father, the fasting person and the traveler.

[Sunan al-Kubrā al-Baihaqī: 6484]

- It is narrated by Abū Saeed al-Khudri رضي الله عنه that the Prophet ﷺ said:

إِنَّ لِلَّهِ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى عِتْقَاءَ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ يُعْنَى فِي رَمَضَانَ وَإِنَّ لِكُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ دَعْوَةٌ مُسْتَجَابَةٌ

In every day and every night, during the month of Ramaḍān, there are people to whom Allah grants

freedom from the Fire, and there is for every Muslim a supplication which he can make and it will be granted.

[*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Targḥīb wa al-Tarḥīb*: 1002]

➤ The time of breaking the fast (*Iftār*) is a special time for acceptance of supplications. 'Abdullah bin 'Amr bin 'Aas رضي الله عنه narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

A fasting person, upon breaking his fast, has a supplication that will not be rejected.

[*Mustadrak Ḥākim*: 1422]

➤ Invoke Allah ﷻ with His glorious names as they are a means of acceptance of supplications.

### **Things to Do**

➤ Avail to the fullest extent the opportunities provided in the month of Ramaḍān to make as many supplications as you can.

➤ Cry, implore and beseech Allah with humility when you are alone.

➤ Supplicate for yourself and for others after obligatory prayers, after recitation of the Qur'an, before breaking the fast and at pre-dawn.

➤ Make use of resources like books of supplications – e.g. Qur'anic and Masnūn Supplications and your own personal lists.

➤ Try to memorize recommended supplications related to specific occasions (such as those made on waking up, sleeping etc.).

➤ Try to reach the mosque at least 15 minutes before prayer time, read the Qur'an, remember Allah (*dhikr*), reply to the *adhān* and make supplications until the prayer begins, for the time between the *adhān* and *iqāmah* is a blessed time when supplications are accepted, so make use of all such moments.



## **Ramaḍān** **Shahru al-Dhikr** **The Month of Remembrance**

A true believer is never unmindful of Allah ﷻ even for a moment and remembers Him at all times. Especially while fasting his heart is more inclined towards Allah ﷻ and he draws closer to his Lord by consciously remembering Him every position – whether standing, sitting or lying down, at rest or at work, day or night. According to Allah ﷻ they are the ‘intelligent ones’:

الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ قِيَامًا وَقُعُودًا وَعَلَىٰ جُنُوبِهِمْ

Who remember Allah while standing or sitting or [lying] on their sides and give thought to the creation of the heavens and the earth, [saying], "Our Lord, You did not create this aimlessly; exalted are You [above such a thing]; then protect us from the punishment of the Fire.

[Āli ‘Imrān: 191]

The Prophet ﷺ used to remember Allah ﷻ constantly and urged others to do so as well. ‘Abdullah bin Baṣr رضي الله عنه narrates:

أَنَّ رَجُلًا قَالَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ! إِنَّ شَرَائِعَ الْإِسْلَامِ قَدْ كَثُرَتْ عَلَيَّ، فَأَخْبِرْنِي بِشَيْءٍ

أَتَشَبِّهُ بِهِ قَالَ: لَا يَزَالُ لِسَانُكَ رَطْبًا مِنْ ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ

A person once said, O Prophet of Allah ﷺ, I know that the commandments of Islam upon me are many, but tell me the one that I may practice diligently throughout my life. The Prophet ﷺ, replied, Keep your tongue always moist (i.e. busy) with the remembrance (*dhikr*) of Allah.

[Sunan al-Tirmidhī: 3375]

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ قَالَ: مَنْ قَالَ: لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ،

لَهُ الْمُلْكُ وَلَهُ الْحَمْدُ، وَهُوَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ، فِي يَوْمٍ مِائَةَ مَرَّةٍ، كَانَتْ لَهُ عِدَّةُ عَشْرِ رِقَابٍ،

وَكُتِبَتْ لَهُ مِائَةٌ حَسَنَةٍ، وَمُحِيتَ عَنْهُ مِائَةٌ سَيِّئَةٍ، وَكَانَتْ لَهُ حِرْزًا مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ،  
يَوْمَهُ ذَلِكَ، حَتَّى يُمِيسَى، وَلَمْ يَأْتِ أَحَدٌ بِأَفْضَلَ مِمَّا جَاءَ بِهِ إِلَّا أَحَدٌ عَمِلَ أَكْثَرَ مِنْ ذَلِكَ،  
وَمَنْ قَالَ: سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ، فِي يَوْمٍ، مِائَةَ مَرَّةٍ، حَطَّتْ خَطَايَاهُ، وَلَوْ كَانَتْ مِثْلَ زَيْدِ الْبَحْرِ

Narrated Abū Hurairah رضي الله عنه, the Prophet ﷺ said: whoever said 'Lā ilāha illAllāhu waḥdahū lā sharīka lahu, lahul mulku wa lahul ḥamdu, wa huwa 'alā kulli shai'in qadīrun' 100 times in one day, he will get the reward of freeing 10 slaves and 100 good deeds will be written for him, 100 bad deeds will be forgiven and he will be saved from the tricks of Shaitan until the evening, and on the day of judgement no one will bring better deed than his apart from the one who recited this even more times.

And whoever said 'SubḥānAllāhi wa biḥamdihi' 100 times in a day, his sins will be forgiven even if they are equal to the froth of the sea.

### Things to Do

- Keep your tongue moist (i.e., busy) with the remembrance of Allah's (*dhikr*) at all times during Ramaḍān.
- Be regular with your morning and evening supplications. For details of these, you may refer to the book "Wa Iyyaka Nasta'in".
- Repeat the words of remembrance during household chores, especially when cooking and cleaning. Keep doing so while walking, driving etc.
- *Dhikr* is a composite word, which comprises of:
  - *Tasbīḥ* - to say سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ  
Subḥān Allah - Glory be to Allah
  - *Tahmīd* - to say الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ  
Alḥamdulillah - All Praise is to Allah
  - *Takbīr* - to say اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ  
Allahu Akbar – Allah is Great

and

• *Tahlil* - to say لا اله الا الله

*La ilaha illAllah* – None has the right to be worshipped but Allah Alone

➤ *Glorification (Tasbīh):*

(100 times) سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ

Glory be to Allah, and Praise be to Him.  
[*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 6846]

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

Glory be to Allah, and praise be to Allah, and none has the right to be worshipped but Allah Alone, and Allah is the greatest

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَبِحَمْدِهِ عَدَدَ خَلْقِهِ وَرِضَا نَفْسِهِ وَرِزْنَةَ عَرْشِهِ وَمَدَادَ كَلِمَاتِهِ

Glory be to Allah, and praise be to Him to the extent of the number of His creation and to the extent of His pleasure and to the extent of the weight of His Throne and to the extent of the ink of His words.

➤ *Blessings on the Prophet ﷺ (Durūd):*

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

O Allah, bestow Your favor on Muḥammad and on the family of Muḥammad. [*Sunan al-Nasā'i*: 1293]

➤ *The Noble Verse (Ayat Karīmah):*

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ

None has the right to be worshipped but You (O Allah) Glorified (and Exalted) are You [above all that (evil) they associate with You]! Truly, I have been of the wrongdoers. [*Sunan Tirmidhī*: 3505]

➤ *Seeking Forgiveness (Istighfār):*

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ

I seek forgiveness from Allah - the Most Great, there is no true deity except Him. The Ever Living, the Self Subsisting and I turn (in repentance) towards Him.

## Ramadān Shahru al-Mawasāt The Month of Compassion

The Prophet ﷺ has termed Ramadān 'The Month of Compassion' (*Shahru al-Muwasah*), which means that it is a month for human beings to show kindness and concern for each other, to help each other, and sharing their problems, especially to alleviate any difficulties or hardships faced by a person in the search and maintenance of a livelihood.

➤ The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

مَنْ أَفْضَلَ الْعَمَلِ إِدْخَالَ الشُّرُورِ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِ يَقْضِي عَنْهُ دَيْنًا يَقْضِي لَهُ حَاجَةً  
يُنْقِصُ عَنْهُ كُرْبَةً

One of the best deeds is to bring about happiness unto the believers; through settling their debts, fulfilling needs for them and averting adversities from them.

[*Shu'ab al-Imān*: Vol 6, 7679]

➤ The Prophet ﷺ said:

إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لَيُدْرِكُ بِحُسْنِ الْخُلُقِ دَرَجَةَ الصَّائِمِ الْقَائِمِ

By his good character a believer can reach the same rank as someone who fasts and prays at night.

[*Sunan Abū Dāwūd*: 4798]

➤ By experiencing hunger himself, the one who fasts during Ramadān, gets the opportunity to empathize with the hunger pangs of those who live on empty stomachs. His heart softens to their suffering and he tries to fulfill their needs.

➤ To earn the pleasure of Allah, the previous generations of pious Muslims would load their mosques with food during Ramadānin order to feed the poor. As Allah ﷻ says:

وَيُطْعِمُونَ الطَّعَامَ عَلَى حُبِّهِ مِسْكِينًا وَيَتِيمًا وَأَسِيرًا

And they give food in spite of love for it to the needy, the orphan, and the captive. [Al-Dahr: 8]

➤ Ayesha رضي الله عنها narrated that a (cooked) Iguana was sent to the Prophet ﷺ. He ﷺ neither ate from it nor stopped others from eating it. I said: O Messenger of Allah ﷺ! Can we not feed the poor with it? He ﷺ said:



لَا تُطْعِمُوهُمْ مِمَّا لَا تَأْكُلُونَ

Do not feed them what you would not eat yourself.

[Musnad Ahmād: 24736]

### Things to Do:

- Think of ways to benefit the creation of Allah during Ramaḍān. Strive to help all people and create an environment of mutual love and harmony.
- Let the fast-breaking meal (*Iftār*) be a time for the whole family to get together. Invite friends, neighbors and relatives to join in this meal as well.
- Make an effort to tend to the needs of widows, orphans, the poor, and the sick.
- Visit hospitals in order to help the sick as well as their dependants.
- Visit prisoners and provide them any assistance possible.
- Do not turn away a beggar empty-handed.
- Ease the workload for servants and employees.
- Show more respect to elders and kindness to children as compared to normal days.
- Join ties of kinship with close relatives and enquire about their needs in order to help fulfill them.
- Help resolve grievances between estranged relatives and re-establish good relations.
- Cleanse your heart of grudges, make peace with those around you, and forgive their excesses if any, so that you can deal with everybody at the level of excellence (*Ihsān*).

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- Partner with somebody while doing any good deed, as it will create ease in many ways.
  - Enlist the help of friends and colleagues to distribute items of necessity, food, clothing, educational audio and reading material etc.
  - During their menstrual cycle, women often become distressed by their inability to fast or pray. Instead, they can redirect their energies by listening to the recitation of the Qur'an or some other educational lectures, remembering Allah (*dhikr*), or engaging in social work.



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## **Ramaḍān** **Shahru al-Sadaqah** **The Month of Charity**

Ramaḍān is the month of benevolence and alms giving, in which the generosity of the Prophet ﷺ knew no bounds. ‘Abdullah Ibn ‘Abbās رضي الله عنه narrated that:

كَانَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ أَجْوَدَ النَّاسِ بِالْخَيْرِ وَكَانَ أَجْوَدُ مَا يَكُونُ فِي رَمَضَانَ حِينَ يَلْقَاهُ جِبْرِيلُ وَكَانَ جِبْرِيلُ يَلْقَاهُ كُلَّ لَيْلَةٍ فِي رَمَضَانَ حَتَّى يَنْسَلِخَ يَعْرِضُ عَلَيْهِ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ الْقُرْآنَ فَإِذَا لَقِيَهُ جِبْرِيلُ كَانَ أَجْوَدَ بِالْخَيْرِ مِنَ الرِّيحِ الْمُرْسَلَةِ

The Prophet ﷺ was the most generous amongst the people, and he used to be more so in the month of Ramaḍān when Jibrīl visited him, and Jibrīl used to meet him on every night of Ramaḍān till the end of the month. The Prophet ﷺ used to recite the Qur'an to Jibrīl, and when Jibrīl met him, he used to be more generous than the fast wind. [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 1902]

➤ It is evident from this narration that the Prophet ﷺ used to give more in charity to the poor and needy during Ramaḍān as compared to some other time of the year. His generosity touched and benefitted everyone just like the wind that reaches everywhere. Similarly, we should also try to spend more in Ramaḍān and remember that giving alms does not diminish wealth, but rather its reward is increased many folds by Allah ﷻ.

➤ Apart from spending on family members, relatives, the poor and the needy, we should engage in welfare projects that benefit the community, such as constructing & renovating mosques and rest areas for travelers, digging wells, building and improving water-works to provide clean drinking water, etc.

➤ Spending on the propagation and learning of

religious knowledge and meeting the expenses of students who have set out on this path is the best act of continuous charity (*ṣadaqah jāriyyah*). This is because spending in the cause of Allah ﷻ, while seeking only His pleasure, is considered by Allah to be a loan upon Him, and He takes the responsibility of returning it. *Subhān Allāh!* What glad tidings for all the Muslims! Allah ﷻ says:

مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يُقْرِضُ اللَّهَ قَرْضًا حَسَنًا فَيُضَاعِفَهُ لَهُ أَضْعَافًا كَثِيرَةً

Who is it that would loan Allah a goodly loan so He may multiply it for him many times over? And it is Allah who withholds and grants abundance. [Al-Baqarah: 245]

➤ Spending on the fast-breaking meal (*Iftār*) or contributing to it in any way is also a recommended practice that brings rewards. In one narration, the Prophet ﷺ said:

مَنْ فَطَرَ صَائِمًا كَانَ لَهُ مِثْلُ أَجْرِ مَنْ غَيْرَ أَنَّهُ لَا يَنْقُصُ مِنْ أَجْرِ الصَّائِمِ شَيْئًا

He who gives food to a fasting person to break his fast will receive the same reward as him while nothing will be reduced from the fasting persons reward.

[*Sunan al-Tirmidhī*: 807]

➤ In another narration, the Prophet ﷺ said:

مَنْ فَطَرَ صَائِمًا أَوْ جَهَّزَ غَازِيًا فَلَهُ مِثْلُ أَجْرِهِ

Whoever helps in breaking the fast of another person or helps in the preparation of another person who leaves to fight in the way of Allah, will get a reward equal to that of the person who is helped.

[*Sunan al-Kubrā al-Baihaqī*: 8140]

### Things to Do:

- Open your heart and spend as much as you can in the way of Allah ﷻ during Ramaḍān.
- Spend on your wife, children, parents and other kith and kin in the prescribed manner.
- Arrange for the fast-breaking meal (*iftār*) for the maximum number of people possible, especially

including the poor, the needy and the destitute.

- Help all needy people of the community.
- Earn the reward of continuous charity, by spending on students seeking religious education.
- Contribute to social and welfare projects like the construction or renovation of mosques, hospitals and other community works.
- Also spend on the learning and propagation of religious knowledge (*dawah* efforts).
- If it is due, pay your Zakah before any other voluntary act of charity.
- Even smiling and saying a good word to others are acts of charity, so keep smiling!



## **Ramaḍān** **Shahru al-Qiyām** **The Month of Standing in Worship**

Allah ﷻ created human beings for His worship, and also informed them of the manner and times of worship. Ramaḍān is that special month wherein several different acts of worship come together. Of these, the foremost is the timely performance of the obligatory prayers. There are other voluntary prayers (such as Salatud Ḍuhā [mid-morning prayer at some point between Fajr and Dhuhr] which are a means of attaining closeness to Allah ﷻ. As for the one who stands in worship with sincerity during the nights of Ramaḍān, there are glad tidings of forgiveness for all past sins.

- The Prophet ﷺ said:

مَنْ قَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

Whoever establishes prayers during the nights of Ramaḍān faithfully out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards (not for showing off), all his past sins will be forgiven. [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 37]

- The pious believers always make an effort to spend their nights standing in prayers. Allah ﷻ says:

تَتَخَفَى جُنُوبُهُمْ عَنِ الْمَضَاجِعِ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ خَوْفًا وَطَمَعًا وَمِمَّا رَزَقْنَهُمْ يُنفِقُونَ

They arise from [their] beds; they supplicate their Lord in fear and aspiration, and from what We have provided them, they spend. [*Al-Sajdah*: 16]

- Normally it is difficult to stand in night worship (i.e., for *Qiyām al Lail*), but it becomes easy when done in congregation (in the form of *Tarawīḥ*) and due to the blessings of Ramaḍān. Allah ﷻ says of the God fearing ones:

كَانُوا قَلِيلًا مِنَ اللَّيْلِ مَا يَهْجَعُونَ ۚ وَلَا سَحَارَهُمْ يَسْتَغْفِرُونَ

They used to sleep but little of the night. And in the

hours before dawn they would ask forgiveness.

[*Al-Zāriyāt*: 17, 18]

➤ The Prophet ﷺ said:

أَفْضَلُ الصَّلَاةِ بَعْدَ الْفَرِيضَةِ صَلَاةُ اللَّيْلِ

The best prayer after the prescribed prayer is prayer at night. [*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 2755]

There is a narration from Abū Umāmah رضي الله عنه that the Prophet ﷺ said:

عَلَيْكُمْ بِقِيَامِ اللَّيْلِ فَإِنَّهُ دَابُّ الصَّالِحِينَ قَبْلَكُمْ وَهُوَ قُرْبَةٌ لَكُمْ إِلَى رَبِّكُمْ وَمُكَفِّرَةٌ لِلْسَّيِّئَاتِ وَمَنْهَاجٌ عَنِ الْإِثْمِ

Be vigilant in standing up [in prayer] at night for it was the practice of the pious before you. It is a means of gaining proximity to your Lord, expiation for transgressions and a barrier from sins.

[*Ibn Khuzaimah*: Vol 2, 1135]

➤ To offer *Tarawīḥ* prayers during Ramaḍān is a recommended practice (*sunnah*) of the Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ, established by both his words and actions, which he also urged upon his Companions.

➤ It is better to offer *Tarawīḥ* prayers in congregation. The Prophet ﷺ included his wives and other household members in this congregation and made long recitation therein. Especially during the last ten nights, he woke them from sleep to establish the night prayer. Abū Zarr رضي الله عنه narrated that: We fasted in Ramaḍān with the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and he did not lead us in (voluntary) night prayer until there were only seven days left. Then he led us in prayer until a third of the night had passed. When there were six days left, he did not lead us. When there were five days left (i.e. on the night of the 25<sup>th</sup>), he led us in prayer until half the night had passed. We said, O Messenger of Allah ﷺ, we wish that you had continued praying with us till the end of the night. He ﷺ said: If a man prays with the Imam until he finishes, it will be written for him as if he prayed the whole night.

Then he ﷺ did not lead us till there were three nights of the month left. Then (on the night of the 27<sup>th</sup>), he led us, and called out his family and his wives (for the congregation) and led us until we were afraid that we would miss *al-falāḥ*. The narrator asked Abū Zarr: What is '*al-falāḥ*'?, He replied: Suḥūr. [Sunan al-Tirmidhī: 806]

### Things to Do

- Establish the voluntary *Ḍuḥā* prayers.
- Pray *Tarawīḥ* in congregation at the nearest mosque.
- Read the translation of the portion of the Qur'an to be recited in *tarawīḥ* that night (in order to be able to understand it better).
- Focus more on the state of the heart, sincerity and submission before Allah while praying, rather than how many units of prayer (*rakah*) you offer, as quality is more beloved to Allah ﷻ than quantity.
- Lengthen the *qiyām* of your obligatory prayers.
- Procrastination and laziness in offering prayers is a sign of hypocrisy. Try to offer each obligatory prayer at its earliest time.





## **Ramaḍān wa al-Umrah** **Ramaḍān and Minor Pilgrimage**

We all deeply desire to visit the House of Allah ﷻ and every believer yearns to perform the major and minor pilgrimage (*Hajj* & *‘Umrah*). During the month of Ramaḍān, when the reward of every act of worship increases, the reward of offering *‘Umrah* becomes equivalent to performing *Hajj*. The evidence for this is found in the following traditions:

➤ Ibn Abbās رضي الله عنه narrated that when the Prophet ﷺ returned after performing his farewell pilgrimage, he inquired from Umm Sanān al-Anṣāriyah رضي الله عنها:

مَا مَنَعَكَ مِنَ الْحَجِّ؟ قَالَتْ: أَبُو فَلَانٍ تَعْنِي زَوْجَهَا كَانَ لَهُ نَاضِحَانِ حَجَّ عَلَى أَحَدِهِمَا وَ  
الْآخَرَ يَسْقِي أَرْضَنَا، قَالَ: فَإِنَّ عُمْرَةَ فِي رَمَضَانَ تَقْضِي حَجَّةً أَوْ حَجَّةً مَعِيَ

What forbade you from performing Hajj? She replied, The father of so-and-so (i.e. her husband) had two camels and he performed Hajj on one of them, and the second is used for the irrigation of our land. The Prophet ﷺ said (to her), Perform *‘Umrah* in the month of Ramaḍān, it will be equivalent to Hajj or Hajj with me (in reward). [*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1863]

➤ In another tradition, the Prophet ﷺ said:

فَإِذَا جَاءَ رَمَضَانُ فَأَعْتَمِرِي فَإِنَّ عُمْرَةَ فِيهِ تَعْدِلُ حَجَّةً

When the month of Ramaḍān comes, perform *‘Umrah*, for *‘Umrah* in this (month) is equal to Hajj (in reward).

[*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 3038]

According to yet another narration, he ﷺ said:

عُمْرَةٌ فِي رَمَضَانَ كَحَجَّةٍ مَعِيَ

*‘Umrah* in Ramaḍān is equal to a Hajj with me.

[*Al Mu’jam al-Kabīr al-Tabarānī*: Vol 1, 722]

**Note:** Remember that only the *reward* of performing *‘Umrah* in Ramaḍān is equivalent to that of Hajj. The

obligation of Hajj is *not* fulfilled by performing 'Umrah during Ramaḍān.

### **Things to Do**

- If you have the means and Allah makes it possible for you, then go for 'Umrah.
- If illness, old age or some other reason prevents you from going yourself, inspite of having the means, then send someone else to perform 'Umrah.
- If you are granted the opportunity to perform 'Umrah, then spend this time in worship as much as you can.



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## **Ramādān**

### **Wal-Ashrul Awākhir**

### **The Last Ten Days of Ramādān**

The entire month of Ramādān is a time to be spent in worship. However, the excellence of rituals performed in the last ten days have been especially mentioned.

➤ To encourage our family members towards acts of worship especially during the last ten days is following an established practice (*sunnah*) of the Prophet ﷺ. Ayesha رضي الله عنها narrated that:

كَانَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ إِذَا دَخَلَ الْعَشْرُ شَدَّ مِئْزَرَهُ وَ أَحْيَا لَيْلَهُ وَ أَقْفَطَ أَهْلَهُ

With the start of the last ten days of Ramādān, the Prophet ﷺ used to tighten his waist belt (i.e., work hard) and used to stay awake at night, and used to wake up his family members too (for worship).

[*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 2024]

In another tradition, Ayesha رضي الله عنها said:

كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ يَحْتَفِظُ فِي الْعَشْرِ الْآخِرِ مَا لَا يَحْتَفِظُ فِي غَيْرِهِ

He ﷺ would strive [to do acts of worship] during the last ten days of Ramādān more than he would at any other time. [*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 2788]

The Prophet ﷺ would also wake his daughter and son-in-law for night worship. One night, Allah's Messenger ﷺ knocked on the door of Ali رضي الله عنه and Fatima رضي الله عنها (his daughter), and asked:



أَلَا تَقُومَانِ قُصَصَيَّانِ

Won't you (stand up and) pray (at night)?

[*Mu'jam Ibn al-A'rabi*: 2332]

### **Things to Do**

- Spend maximum time performing acts of worship during the last ten days.
- If possible, take leave from work in order to become focused and devoted to the worship of Allah.

- 
- 
- Prolong standing (and recitation) as much as possible during voluntary night prayers (i.e. *Tarawīh* and *tahajjud*).
  - Recite Qur'an abundantly and make remembrance (*dhikr*) of Allah.
  - Wake up yourself and awaken your family members for night worship.



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## Ramaḍān wa Sunnatul I'tikāf

### Ramaḍān and the Prophetic Practice of I'tikāf

Spending time in the mosque, being devoted to the worship of Allah ﷻ and seeking nearness to Him is called *I'tikāf*. This is a *Sunnah Mu'akkida Kifayah* (a practice established from the Prophet ﷺ which he routinely performed). Its duration is the last ten days of Ramaḍān. During this time, a person distances himself from all worldly pursuits, family members, household chores, base desires and distractions, and devotes himself completely to the worship of Allah ﷻ.

➤ Abū Hurairah رضي الله عنه narrated that:

كَانَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ يَعْتَكِفُ فِي كُلِّ رَمَضَانَ عَشْرَةَ أَيَّامٍ ، فَلَمَّا كَانَ الْعَامُ  
الَّذِي قُبِضَ فِيهِ اعْتَكَفَ عِشْرِينَ يَوْمًا

The Prophet ﷺ used to perform *I'tikāf* every year in the month of Ramaḍān for ten days, and when it was the year of his death, he stayed in *I'tikaaf* for twenty days.

[*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 2044]

➤ If someone is unable to do *I'tikāf* for all ten days, then he/she can do it for as many days as possible. It is narrated by 'Abdullah bin Umar رضي الله عنه that Umar رضي الله عنه enquired:

يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ فِي الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ أَنْ أَعْتَكَفَ لَيْلَةً  
فِي الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ ، قَالَ: أَوْفِ بِنَذْرِكَ

O Messenger of Allah ﷺ! I vowed in the pre-Islamic period of ignorance to stay in *I'tikāf* for one night in al-Masjid al-Ḥarām. He ﷺ said to him, 'fulfill your vow'.

[*Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 6697]

➤ 'Ā'ishah رضي الله عنها narrated:

عَنْ عَائِشَةَ أَنَّهَا قَالَتْ : السُّنَّةُ عَلَى الْمُعْتَكَفِ أَنْ لَا يَعُودَ مَرِيضًا ، وَلَا يَشْهَدَ جَنَازَةً وَلَا

يَمَسُّ امْرَأَةً وَلَا يُبَاشِرُهَا وَلَا يُخْرِجُ لِحَاجَةٍ إِلَّا لِمَا لَا بُدَّ مِنْهُ، وَلَا اعْتِكَافَ إِلَّا بِصَوْمٍ وَلَا

اعْتِكَافَ إِلَّا فِي مَسْجِدٍ جَامِعٍ

The practice for one who is observing *I'tikāf* (in a mosque) is to not visit a sick person, or attend a funeral, or touch or embrace his wife, or go out for anything but necessary purposes. There is no *I'tikāf* without fasting, and there is no *I'tikāf* except in a mosque. [Sunan Abū Dawūd: 2483]

➤ According to the practice of the Prophet ﷺ (*sunnah*), *I'tikāf* is to be started in the mosque after Fajr prayers of the 20<sup>th</sup> of Ramaḍān.

➤ It is a mandatory condition to fast during *I'tikāf*.

➤ Women should also observe *I'tikāf*. 'Ā'ishah رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا reported that: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ used to observe *I'tikāf* in the last ten days of Ramaḍān till Allah called him back (to his heavenly home). Then his wives observed *I'tikāf* after him. [Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim: 2784]

### Things to Do:

➤ If it is possible to make alternate arrangements for the pressing concerns of daily life, then take time off for *I'tikāf*.

➤ If you are unable to do *I'tikāf* yourself, then encourage and help another family member to do so.

➤ To make the best use of your time during *I'tikāf*, make a time-table for yourself.

➤ Spend your time in voluntary prayers, recitation of the Qur'an, supplications, remembrance of Allah (*dhikr*), productive reading and reflecting.

➤ Abstain from all unnecessary pastimes and useless activities.

➤ Refrain from engaging in useless conversation or pointless arguments with other people while doing *I'tikāf* in the mosque.

➤ The purpose of *I'tikāf* is to seek closeness to Allah through seclusion, and to temporarily cut off from the



engagements of daily life, so avoid unnecessary meetings and socialization.

➤ Observe patience and do not complain about any discomfort or pain experienced during this worship.



*In Paradise there are rooms whose outside can be seen from the inside and the inside can be seen from the outside. Allah has prepared them for those who feed the poor, who are gentle in speech, who fast regularly and who pray at night when people are asleep.*

*[Musnad Aḥmad: 22905]*



## **Ramaḍān**

### **Wa Lailatul Qadr**

### **The Night of Decree**

*Lailatul Qadr* is an extremely virtuous night. It is the night in which the Qur'an, a book of guidance for all mankind, was revealed.

لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ ۝

The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months.

[Al-Qadr: 3]

- It is a night full of peace and tranquility until dawn.
- There is an entire chapter of the Qur'an (Surah Al Qadr) that was revealed about the excellence and virtue of this night.
- Believers in search for this night spend the last ten odd nights of Ramaḍān immersed in worship.
- Angel Jibrīl, accompanied by uncountable other angels, descend upon earth during this night, bringing with them Allah's ﷻ mercy and benevolence. Abū Hurairah رضي الله عنه narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

إِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ تَلِكُ اللَّيْلَةَ فِي الْأَرْضِ أَكْثَرُ مِنْ عَدَدِ الْحَصَى

And verily, the angels who are on the earth during that night are more numerous than the number of pebbles.

[Musnad Ahmad: Vol 16, 10734]

- Every good deed done during this night is better than a thousand months' worth of good deeds. Anas ibn Malik رضي الله عنه narrates that upon the arrival of the month of Ramaḍān, the Prophet ﷺ said:

إِنَّ هَذَا الشَّهْرَ قَدْ حَضَرَكُمْ وَفِيهِ لَيْلَةُ خَيْرٍ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ مَنْ حُرِمَهَا

فَقَدْ حُرِمَ الْخَيْرِ كُلَّهُ وَلَا يُحْرَمُ خَيْرَهَا إِلَّا مَحْرُومٌ

The person who remains deprived of the blessings of this night will remain deprived of all goodness. No one is

deprived of the blessings of this night except the most wretched ones. [Sunan ibn Mājah: 1644]

### **Seek Lailatul Qadr in the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramaḍān**

Ibn ʿUmar رضي الله عنه narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

الْتَمِسُوهَا فِي الْعَشْرِ الْآوَاخِرِ يَعْنِي لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ فَإِنْ ضَعُفَ أَحَدُكُمْ أَوْ

عَجَزَ فَلَا يُغْلِبَنَّ عَلَى السَّبْعِ الْبَوَاقِي

Seek it (*Lailatul Qadr*) in the last (ten nights). If one among you shows slackness and weakness (in the earlier part of Ramaḍān), it should not be allowed to prevail upon him in the last week. [Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim: 2765]

### **Standing in prayer during the night of Lailatul Qadr is a means of expiation of previous sins**

Abū Hurairah رضي الله عنه narrated that the Prophet ﷺ said:

مَنْ قَامَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

Whoever establishes prayers during the Night of Al-Qadr with sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards (not for showing off), all his past sins will be forgiven. [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 2014]

➤ When worshipping collectively, refrain from making loud noises and commotion, arguments, idle talk etc., and focus entirely on your worship. ʿUbādah bin Al-Sāmīt narrated:

خَرَجَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ لِيُخْبِرَنَا بِلَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ فَتَلَاخَى رَجُلَانِ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ فَقَالَ: خَرَجْتُ

لِيُخْبِرَكُمْ بِلَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ فَتَلَاخَى فُلَانٌ وَفُلَانٌ فَرُفِعَتْ وَعَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ خَيْرًا لَكُمْ

Allah's Messenger ﷺ went out to inform the people about the (date of the) Night of Al-Qadr. There happened a quarrel between two Muslim men. The Prophet ﷺ said: I came out to inform you about the Night of Al-Qadr, but as so-and-so and so-and-so quarreled, the news about it has been taken away; and hopefully it will be better for you. [Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī: 2023]

## Signs of Lailatul Qadr

➤ The Prophet ﷺ said:

تُصْبِحُ الشَّمْسُ صَبِيحَةَ بَلْكَ اللَّيْلَةِ مِثْلَ الطَّسْتِ لَيْسَ لَهَا شُعَاعٌ حَتَّى تَرْفَعَ

On the morning following *Lailatul Qadr* the sun does not have any rays, as if it were a brass dish, until it rises up.

[*Sunan Abū Dāwūd*: 1378]

➤ Abū Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported: We were talking about *Lailatul Qadr* in the presence of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ and he said:

أَيُّكُمْ يَذْكُرُ حِينَ طَلَعَ الْقَمَرُ وَهُوَ مِثْلُ شِقِّ حَفَنَةٍ

Who amongst you remembers (the Night of Al-Qadr), when the moon arose and it was like the edge of a big plate. [*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 2779]

➤ Ibn ‘Abbas رضي الله عنه narrated that Allah’s Messenger ﷺ said:

لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ طَلْقَةٌ لَا حَارَّةٌ وَلَا بَارِدَةٌ تُصْبِحُ الشَّمْسُ يَوْمَهَا حَمْرَاءَ ضَعِيفَةٍ

The Night of Al-Qadr is pleasant, neither hot nor cold, the sun rises on its morning with faint redness.

[*Ibn Khuzaimah*: 2192]

عَنْ زَيْدٍ قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ أَبِي بَنَ كَعْبٍ يَقُولُ: وَقِيلَ لَهُ: إِنَّ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنَ مَسْعُودٍ يَقُولُ: مَنْ قَامَ السَّنَةَ أَصَابَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ فَقَالَ أَبِي: وَاللَّهِ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ! إِنَّهَا لَفِي رَمَضَانَ يَحْلِفُ مَا يَسْتَشِي وَاللَّهِ! إِنِّي لَا عَلِمْتُ أَيُّ لَيْلَةٍ هِيَ، هِيَ اللَّيْلَةُ الَّتِي أَمَرَ نَبَاهَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ بِقِيَامِهَا هِيَ لَيْلَةُ صَبِيحَةِ سَبْعٍ وَعِشْرِينَ، وَأَمَارَتُهَا أَنْ تَطْلُعَ الشَّمْسُ فِي صَبِيحَةِ يَوْمِهَا بَيَضاءَ لَا شُعَاعَ لَهَا

Zirr رضي الله عنه reported: I heard from Ubayy bin Ka’b رضي الله عنه a statement made by ‘Abdullah bin Mas’ud رضي الله عنه in which he said: Whoever stands up (in prayer) for the year will find the Night of Al-Qadr. Ubayy رضي الله عنه said: ‘By Allah, the One except Whom there is no God, that (*Lailatul Qadr*) is in *Ramadhān*’, he swore without reservation. ‘By Allah, I know the night; it is the night on which the Messenger of Allah ﷺ commanded us to pray. It preceded the morning of twenty-seventh and its indication was that the sun rose with

whiteness on that day, having no rays'. [Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim: 1668]

### Things to Do:

- ~~Yearn and strive to attain Lailatul Qadr and strive to seek it.~~
- Make preparations for worship, particularly for *qiyām*, during this night.
- Make a proper schedule for the night, allocating time to voluntary prayers, recitation of the Qur'an, supplications and *adhkār*.
- Have your children and family members join you in worship.
- Menstruating women can do *dhikr/tasbīḥ*, spend their time listening to the recitation of the Qur'an and making supplications.
- Make the following supplication abundantly: 'Ā'ishah رضي الله عنها said: I asked the Messenger of Allah ﷺ: O Messenger of Allah ﷺ, if I know what night is the night of Qadr, what should I say during it? He ﷺ said, say:

اَللّٰهُمَّ اِنَّكَ عَفُوٌّ كَرِيْمٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّيْ

O Allah, You are the One Pardoning, You love to pardon, so pardon me. [Sunan al-Tirmidhī: 3513]



## **Ahkām al-Siyām**

### **Rules of Fasting**

In the Arabic language, the word '*Ṣiyām*' literally means 'to stop and refrain from doing something completely'. In legal terminology (*shari'ah*), it means 'to show servitude to Allah by abstaining from eating, drinking, sexual relations and other acts that nullify the fast, from pre-dawn to sunset, with the intention of worship'.

- Fasting is mandatory on all sane, adult Muslims, who are not travelling and who can endure the rigors of fasting. [Ref. Surah Al-Baqarah: 183]
- The intention to observe the obligatory fast must be made before dawn (i.e. Fajr). [Ref. *Sunan Abū Dāwūd*: 2454]
- It is enough to make the intention to fast in the heart and there is no need to verbalize it since no words are recorded in any authentic tradition of the Prophet ﷺ
- Using the tooth-stick (*miswak*) in order to clean the mouth while fasting is established through the practice of the Prophet ﷺ [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, Book of Fasting, Chapter 27]
- The fast is not broken by the application of *jilā'* (kohl) to the eyes. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, Book of Fasting, Chapter 28]
- Using nasal drops that reach the throat or stomach invalidates fasting. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, Book of Fasting, Chapter 27]
- It is permissible for the fasting person to take a bath or rinse his mouth with water (i.e., take water in the mouth and spit it out), especially when hot.
- When performing ablution while fasting, it is not permissible to make excess in cleaning the nose and to take up water into the nostrils to such an extent



that there is a risk of it reaching the throat. [Ref. *Sunan al-Tirmidhī*: 788]

➤ Nasal bleeding or *istihāzah* (irregular bleeding, which is other than the normal menstruation or post-natal bleeding) and other kinds of bleeding do not invalidate the fast. However, menstruation and post-natal bleeding break the fast irrespective of the time of the day it starts.

➤ Cupping/phlebotomy is permissible during fasting. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1938]

➤ Involuntary vomit does not break the fast. However, if someone vomits intentionally, the fast is invalidated. [Ref. *Sunan Abū Dāwūd*: 2380]

➤ In case of necessity, food can be tasted. Use just the tip of the tongue for tasting, and do not allow anything to reach the throat. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, Book of Fasting, Chapter 25]

➤ Eating or drinking accidentally does not break the fast provided that the fasting person stops immediately upon remembering, spitting out even the sip of water or morsel of food still in his mouth. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1933]

➤ It is mandatory upon the person who eats intentionally to repent sincerely and make up his fast (i.e. keep *qada* fast).

➤ Fasting is not invalidated by swallowing the saliva or phlegm. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, Book of Fasting, Chapter 27]

➤ Bleeding from the teeth does not affect the fast, unless it is swallowed.

➤ Applying fragrance or smelling perfume are both permissible during the fast.

➤ The person who is unable to fast due to old age or chronic illness from which he has no hope of recovering, should feed one poor person per day for each missed fast. [Ref. *Sunan al-Dār Qutnī*: 2355]

➤ If someone recovers from a disease or illness and

some fasts are due upon him, and he has the physical strength and ability to make up his missed fasts but does not do so and dies in that state, then his fasts have to be made up by his heirs. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1952]

➤ It is permissible for a pregnant or nursing mother to leave fasting if it is too burdensome for her. However, it is mandatory for her to fast later and make up the number in lieu of the fasts missed in Ramaḍān. [Ref. *Sunan Ibn Mājah*: 1667]

➤ It is better for the traveler not to fast, although he is allowed to fast if he wishes to. Both events – fasting and not fasting during travel – are established from the actions (sunnah) of the Prophet ﷺ. If the weather is intensely hot or fasting places an excessive hardship upon the traveler, then he should not fast. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1943, 1945, 1946]

➤ If a husband forces intercourse upon his wife, the fast of the wife shall not be invalidated – she neither has to repeat the fast nor is there any penalty on her. On the other hand, the husband has sinned; he must repeat the fast, as well as pay the expiation (*kaffārah*) – which is manumitting one slave. If he does not have the ability to do so, then he must fast continuously for 2 months. If that is also not possible for him, then he must feed sixty poor people. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, 1936]

➤ Fasting is not invalidated by a wet-dream (*iḥtilām*) or mere emission of madhiy [prostatic fluid. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, Book of Fasting, Chapter 32]

➤ Compensatory fasts in lieu of obligatory fasts missed in Ramaḍān can be kept any time of the year but have to be done before the next Ramaḍān. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 1950]



## ***Al-Widā' Ramadān*** **Farewell Ramadān**

Finally it is time to say farewell. اَيَّامًا مَّعْدُودَاتٍ 'the numbered days' reach their end with the profound feeling that despite all our efforts and striving, in reality, we were unable to do justice to this month as it rightfully deserved. What should our feelings be at this time? Is my heart quivering in the same way that is described in the Qur'an?

وَالَّذِينَ يُؤْتُونَ مَا آتَوْا وَقُلُوبُهُمْ وَجَلَةٌ أَنَّهُمْ إِلَىٰ رَبِّهِمْ رَاجِعُونَ

And they who give what they give while their hearts are fearful because they will be returning to their Lord. [Al-Mu'minūn: 60]

In other words, do we have the kind of actions in our Book of Deeds that will save us from humiliation and punishment on the Day of Judgment? The heart cries out at this juncture:

O our Lord! Look not at our actions, but at Your All-Encompassing Mercy. Grant us closeness to Yourself not because of our worship but because of Your endless Bounty. Make Your worship the coolness of our eyes. Bless us with sincerity.

Forgive us without reckoning because Your Mercy is Vast...What little we managed to do during this Ramadān was only due to Your special favour upon us and what we couldn't do was due to our own negligence and fault.

سپر دم بتو مایہء خویش را تو دانی حسابی کم و بیش را

We submit our meager investments unto You  
And You are All-knowing of our deficiencies and excesses.

O our Lord, make us steadfast on the straight path for the rest of our life and do not deprive us of any opportunity to do good. *Āmīn...*

## Self Analysis

Did this Ramaḍān bring about any change in me?

### Rights of Allah ﷻ



#### Did I:

- Leave any fast without a valid reason or genuine illness?
- Perform the obligatory prayers on time?
- Arrange to regularly perform voluntary night prayers (*Tarawih*)?
- Recite the Qur'an, reflect and ponder upon its meaning?
- Make remembrance (*dhikr*) of Allah ﷻ at all times?
- Make extra effort to supplicate on special occasions of acceptance, apart from regular times?
- Engage in special worship during the odd nights of the last ten days?
- Spend my wealth willingly on other people as well as in good causes purely to earn the approval of Allah ﷻ?
- Spend most of my time in different acts of worship?

### Rights of People

#### Did I:

- Join the ties of kinship and do good to my parents, siblings and other relatives?
- Look after the comfort of my family?
- Show compassion to and help those in distress?
- Tend to the sick?
- Reduce the workload of domestic servants, or share their work?
- Refrain from lies, backbiting, thinking ill of others, undue curiosity and finding faults in others?
- Commit excesses or hurt someone?

- 
- 
- Endure with patience and fortitude any mishap, pain or difficulty?
  - Initiate the greeting of ‘Salam’ and meet others with a smile?



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## ‘Eid al-Fiṭr

- ‘Eid al-Fiṭr is a day of happiness and festivities. Fasting on this day is prohibited as it is a day of feast and declaring Allah’s greatness.
- As an expression of happiness, the mosques, markets, streets and houses ought to resound with the cries of *takbīrāt* (*Allahu Akbar*) as soon as the crescent of Shawwāl (marking ‘Eid) is sighted.
- *Ṣadaqah Fiṭr* is mandatory on all Muslims, irrespective of whether they fasted in Ramaḍān or not. It is even payable on the baby born before the prayer of Eid; on slaves and on behalf of any guests present in the house. It is not necessary that the one who pays *Ṣadaqah Fiṭr* must also be eligible to pay obligatory charity (*Zakah*).

عَنِ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ قَالَ: فَرَضَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ زَكَاةَ الْفِطْرِ طَهْرَةً لِلصَّائِمِ  
مِنَ اللَّغْوِ وَالرَّفَثِ وَطُعْمَةً لِلْمَسَاكِينِ مَنْ أَدَّاهَا قَبْلَ الصَّلَاةِ فَهِيَ زَكَاةٌ مَقْبُولَةٌ  
وَمَنْ أَدَّاهَا بَعْدَ الصَّلَاةِ فَهِيَ صَدَقَةٌ مِنَ الصَّدَقَاتِ

Narrated Abdullah Ibn ‘Abbās: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ prescribed the *Ṣadaqah* (alms) relating to the breaking of the fast as a purification of the fasting from empty and obscene talk and as food for the poor. If anyone pays it before the prayer (of ‘Eid), it will be accepted as *zakah*. If anyone pays it after the prayer, that will be a *Ṣadaqah* like any other *Ṣadaqah* (alms).

[Sunan Abī Dāwūd: 1609]

- To clean the teeth with the tooth-stick (*miswak*), take a bath, wear beautiful clothes and apply fragrance is part of the *sunnah*.
- To eat something sweet (preferably dates) before going to the ‘Eid prayers is also a *sunnah* of the Prophet ﷺ. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 953]
- It is a *sunnah* to recite *takbīrat* abundantly while going for the ‘Eid prayers. [Ref. *Muṣanaf Ibn Abī Shaibah*:



➤ There is no extra voluntary prayer (*nawafil*) prior to or after the two units (*rakah*) of 'Eid prayers. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 989]

➤ Women should also go to 'Eid prayers. Umm 'Atiyya رضي الله عنها said:

أَمَرَنَا تَعْنِي النَّبِيَّ ﷺ أَنْ نُخْرَجَ فِي الْعِيدَيْنِ الْعَوَاتِقِ وَذَوَاتِ الْخُدُورِ وَأَمَرَ الْحَيْضَ أَنْ يُعْتَزَّلْنَ مُصَلَّى الْمُسْلِمِينَ

He (the Messenger of Allah) ﷺ commanded us that we should take out unmarried girls and veiled young girls for 'Eid prayers, and he ﷺ commanded the menstruating women to (attend the gathering but) remain away from the praying place of the Muslims.

[*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 2054]

➤ It is a *sunnah* to take different routes when going to and returning from the 'Eid prayers. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*: 986]

➤ Those who miss the 'Eid prayers due to some reason can offer two units (*rakah*) at home. [Ref. *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, Book of 'Eidain, Chapter 25]

➤ Meeting fellow Muslims on 'Eid day strengthens the ties of mutual love and regard between them. When meeting on this day, the companions of the Prophet ﷺ used to greet each other with the following words:

تَقَبَّلَ اللَّهُ مِنَّا وَ مِنْكُمْ

May Allah accept from us and you.

[*Sunan al-Kubrā lil Baihaqī*: 6390]



## **Takbīrāt**

اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ، اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ لَا اِلٰهَ اِلَّا اَللّٰهُ وَ اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ  
اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ وَ لِلّٰهِ الْحَمْدُ

Allah is greatest, Allah is greatest, there is no one to be worshiped except Allah, and Allah is greatest, Allah is greatest, and all praises are for Allah.

[*Muṣanaf Ibn Abi Shaibah*: 5650]

اَللّٰهُ اَكْبَرُ كَبِيْرًا وَ اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ كَثِيْرًا  
وَ سُبْحَانَ اَللّٰهِ بُكْرَةً وَ اَصِيْلًا

Allah is greatest, most great, all abundant praises are for Allah and glory of Allah day and night.

[*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 1358]



## **Siyām al-Shawwāl** **Fasts of Shawwāl**

After Ramaḍān and ‘Eid, make an effort to keep the six fasts of Shawwāl.

➤ Abū Ayyub al-Ansari رضي الله عنه narrated that Allah’s Messenger ﷺ said:

مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ ثُمَّ أَتْبَعَهُ سِتًّا مِنْ شَوَّالٍ كَانَ كَصِيَامِ الدَّهْرِ

He who observed the fast of Ramaḍān and then followed it with six (fasts) of Shawwāl, it would be as if he fasted perpetually. [*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim*: 2758]

In another place, it has been reported that the Prophet ﷺ said:

صِيَامُ رَمَضَانَ بِعَشْرَةِ أَشْهُرٍ وَطِيَامُ السَّنَةِ أَيَّامٍ بِشَهْرَيْنِ فَذَلِكَ صِيَامُ السَّنَةِ

Fasting in the month Ramaḍān is equivalent to ten months and fasting six days is equivalent to two months. This totals the reward of fasting for one full year. [*Ṣaḥīḥ ibn Khuzaimah*: 2115]

➤ These six fasts may be kept immediately after ‘Eid or later at any time during the month of Shawwāl, individually or consecutively.

Note: First make up the number of fasts in lieu of those missed during Ramaḍān for any reason (i.e., *qada* fasts), as it is compulsory to complete the fasts of Ramaḍān. Allah ﷻ says:

وَمَنْ كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَى سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ

وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ

Whoever is ill or on a journey - then an equal number of other days. Allah intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period. [*Al Baqarah*: 185]

## **Fasting on Mondays and Thursdays**

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

تُعْرَضُ أَلْأَعْمَالُ يَوْمَ الْاِثْنَيْنِ وَالْاِثْنَيْنِ فَأُحِبُّ أَنْ يُعْرَضَ عَمَلِي وَأَنَا صَائِمٌ

The deeds of people are presented (to Allah) on Mondays and Thursdays. So I like that my actions be presented while I am fasting. [*Sunan Tirmidhī*: 747]

## **Fasting on *Ayyām Bīd* (13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of a Lunar Month)**

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ fasted on the three radiant days of every month (i.e., 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of a lunar month).



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Established in 1994, Al-Huda International Welfare Foundation is a registered non-profit organization working to promote authentic Islamic knowledge. Free of any political influence and sectarianism, Al-Huda aims to present a true understanding of the Qur'an and Sunnah and strives for the welfare of the society.

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Al-Huda Institute began its first educational program in Islamabad catering to students of all ages and backgrounds. The various courses offered not only increase the students in their awareness and strengthen their knowledge but also help them find inner peace, develop good character and consciously serve humanity by applying and conveying the knowledge they have learnt.

Al-Huda reaches out to the community through various well-arranged welfare services including: Educational Sponsorships, Assistance for Self Employment, Monthly Financial Assistance, Marriage Bureau, Religious and Social Counseling, Funeral Support Services, Ramaḍān Services, Collective Sacrifices on Eid al-Aḍḥa, Water Supply Service, Monthly Ration and Clothes, Free Medical Camps, Emergency Relief etc.

For further information please visit our websites:

**[www.alhudapk.com](http://www.alhudapk.com)    [www.farhathashmi.com](http://www.farhathashmi.com)  
[www.alhudainstitutue.ca](http://www.alhudainstitutue.ca)**



# Gifts of Ramaḍān

## Translation & Explanation of Qur'an

Fahm ul Qur'an- 1999 Urdu, Dr. Farhat Hashmi	Fahm ul Qur'an- 2000 Urdu Dr. Farhat Hashmi
Fahm ul Qur'an- 2002 Urdu Dr. Farhat Hashmi	Fahm ul Qur'an- 2010 Urdu Dr. Farhat Hashmi
Tafheem ul Qur'an- 2008 Urdu Dr. Idrees Zubair	Fahm e Din- 2004 Urdu Dr. Idrees Zubair
Tafheem ul Qur'an- 2009 Urdu Dr. Idrees Zubair	Fahm ul Qur'an- 2011 English Ghazala Qureshi
Fahm ul Qur'an- 2002 English Amina Elahi	Fahm ul Qur'an- 2002 Pashto Bismah Kamal
Fahm ul Qur'an- 2002 Sindhi Farah Abbasi	Fahm ul Qur'an- 2002 Balochi Under publication

## Assorted Lectures on Ramaḍān by Dr. Farhat Hashmi

<i>Ramaḍān Aagaya</i>	Ramaḍān Mubarak
<i>Kirmain</i> (30 programs on Ramaḍān )	<i>Kitāb us Siyām</i> (Book of Fasting)
<i>Ramaḍān Muazzaz Mehman</i>	<i>Hum Ramzan Kaise Guzarein</i> (30 programs)
Bukhārī (Book of Fasting, Tarawīḥ, Chapter on A'tikaaf)	<i>Shahru Ramzan</i> (Month of Ramaḍān) (CD)

## Books, Pamphlets and Cards

<i>Shahru Ramzan</i>	<i>Khawateen aur Ramzan</i>
Qur'anic & Masnun Supplications	<i>Taqwa – Roze ka Maqsood</i>
<i>Roze ke Ahkam</i>	Fasting in Ramzan
Supplications of Ramaḍān	<i>Eid ul Fiṭr</i>
Eid Cards	Ramzan Mubarak Urdu / Sindhi

AL-HUDA International presents Eid gifts for you and your family,  
so that you can reap maximum benefit of Ramaḍan.

**Du'a Cards**



**Cds**



**Books**



**Banners**



**Stickers**





# NOTES

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# NOTES

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# شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ

## Month of Ramaḍān

### The Doors of Mercy are Opened!

- Ramaḍān is better than all other months of the year.
- Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet ﷺ during this month.
- Qur'an was brought down from *al-Lawh al-Mahfūz* (the Preserved Tablet) to *Bait al-'Izzah* (the House of Glory) during Ramaḍān.
- All other scriptures like the Torah, Zabūr, Injīl and the books of Ibrahim were revealed during this month.
- Standing in prayers during the night (*Qiyām*) and fasting during the days of Ramaḍān is a means of salvation.
- There is one night of *Lailat ul Qadr* during this month, which is better than a thousand months.
- Every night during Ramaḍān, Allah releases many people from Hellfire.
- Doors of heaven are opened in Ramaḍān.
- Doors of hellfire are closed.
- *Shayāḍīn* are chained.
- Ramaḍān inculcates within a person very noble qualities such as patience, forbearance, fear of Allah, guidance, compassion and self-purification.
- Ramaḍān is a month to get closer to Allah ﷻ.
- Ramaḍān is the best month to bring a positive change in your character and replace vices with good deeds.
- Ramaḍān is the month to achieve mental, physical and spiritual health. Therefore:
- Be happy on the advent of Ramaḍān, be grateful to Allah and consider every moment of Ramaḍān precious.

The Prophet ﷺ said:

إِذَا كَانَ رَمَضَانُ فُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُ الرَّحْمَةِ

‘When Ramaḍān comes, The Doors of Mercy are opened’.

[Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim: 2496]

**Allah ﷻ has opened the doors of His benevolence...**

**Now is there anyone who wants to enter?**