

## Blessings of the month of Ramadan

The holy month of Ramadan is here. In this blessed month in which Muslims all over the world observe Fasting each day of the month from before sunrise until after sunset. During the day they forgo food even though it is available. They have water, but they stay thirsty. They forgo intimacy with spouses while fasting. They avoid actions like; backbiting, lying, unnecessary arguments, vain discourses, etc. All permitted foods and other lawful activities are allowed after breaking the Fast after sunset. This is the month of Charity giving, spiritual pursuits, daily recitation of the Qur'an, optional Salaat, seeking atonement, many acts of worship and striving to get closer to Allah SWT.

This is the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. It brings many spiritual, social and health benefits for its observers.

Allah (God) says in the Qur'an: "*O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may guard (against evil.)* **Chapter 2: Verse 183**

*"...And Fasting men and Fasting women ... Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a mighty reward."* **Chapter 33: Verse 35**

The often-quoted Hadith Qudsi defines the exalted station of the obligatory act of fasting in the month of Ramadan in these words of Allah swt: "*Fasting is for My sake, and I am the reward*" (of it.)

It is related that Imam Ja'far as Sadiq A.S. said this: "Your day of fasting should not be like ordinary days. When you are Fasting all your senses, eyes, ears, tongue, hands and feet must fast with you"

Sheikh Saddooq R.A. quotes Imam Ali bin Moosa ar Ridaa A.S. that he received from his holy ancestors, on the authority of Imam Ali bin Abi Talib A.S. that **Prophet Muhammad pbuh&p** used to deliver this Sermon on the last day of the month of Sha'baan on sighting the moon of the month of Ramadan:

"O people, the month of Ramadan has come to you with Blessings, Mercy, and forgiveness. It is a month which is the best of all the months in the sight Allah. It is the month in which you are invited to be *Allah' guests*, and in this month you will be made among the honored ones. In it your breaths are Glorification (Tasbih of Allah), your sleep is *worship*, your (good) deeds are accepted, and your supplications (Dua) are answered.

So, ask Allah your Lord, with sincere intentions and pure hearts, so that He may give you success in Fasting and in the recitation of His Book (Qur'an), for the most unfortunate is the one who will be deprived of Allah's forgiveness in this great month.

Remember the hunger and thirst of the Day of Judgment (Qiyamah) with hunger and thirst (when you are Fasting.)

Give Alms to the needy and poor, honor your elders, show kindness to your young, keep contact with your relatives, guard your tongues, avoid looking at what is not permitted to look at, avoid listening to what is not permissible to hear, show compassion to the orphans, so that your orphans may receive compassion.

Repent to Allah for your sins, and raise your hands in Dua (supplication) during the times of Salaat, for those are the best of times, and Allah looks upon His servants with (a look of) Mercy; and responds to them if they call on Him, and gives them what they ask for, and grants them if they supplicate to Him"

**This is another part of the same Sermon:**

“In this month:

- One, whose morals are good, will on the day (of Judgment), be able to pass the *Siraat* (the bridge) on which feet will slip.
- One who is lenient with his servants, Allah will be lenient in taking his account.
- One who honors an orphan, Allah will honor him on the day he meets with Allah.
- One who connects ties with his relatives, Allah will connect him with His Mercy, and who severs ties with his relatives, Allah will sever him from His Mercy on the day he meets Allah.
- Whoever performs an obligatory prayer (Salaat) in this month, Allah will give him reward of seventy prayers (done in other months).
- Whoever performs a recommended (optional) prayer (Salaat) in this month, Allah will keep the fire of hell away from him...
- In addition, whoever sends plenty of Blessings on me (Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and his progeny) Allah will make his scales (of good deeds) heavy on the day when the scales will belight.
- He who recites one verse of Holy Qur'an in this month, he will be given the rewards equal to that of reciting the whole Qur'an.” The Sermon continues ...

**In conclusion:** This is the month of great opportunity, the opportunity to gain Allah's Good Pleasure and Nearness, for Allah's good pleasure is higher than the material benefits of the world, even the non-spiritual pleasures of the Hereafter.

Allah says in the Qur'an: “Allah has promised to the believing men and the believing women, gardens beneath which rivers flow, to abide in them, and goodly dwellings in the gardens of perpetual abode; and the best of all is Allah's Good pleasure (Ridwaan minal-laahi Akbar); that is a Grand Achievement.” (Chapter IX: verse 72)

(The End)

A Prayer for the month of Ramadan

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ صِيَامِي فِيهِ صِيَامَ الصَّائِمِينَ، وَ قِيَامِي فِيهِ قِيَامَ الْقَائِمِينَ، وَ  
تَبَهَّنِي فِيهِ عَنْ نَوْمَةِ الْغَافِلِينَ، وَهَبْ لِي جُزْمِي فِيهِ يَا إِلَهَ الْعَالَمِينَ، وَاعْفُ  
عَنِّي يَا عَافِيَا عَنِ الْمُجْرِمِينَ -

*Allahummaj'al siyaami fihi siyamas'-saameen, wa qiyami fihi qiyamal qaai  
meen, wa nab'bih'ni fihi an naomatil ghaafileen, wa habli jurmee fihi yaa Ilaahal  
Aalameen, wa'fu anni yaa aafiyan anil'mujrimeen.*

O Allah, make my Fast (in this month) like those who fast (sincerely), and make my nightly prayers like those who pray (sincerely.) Awaken me from the sleep of the heedless. Overlook my wrongdoings, O' God of the universe; and Grant me forgiveness, O' He, who forgives the wrongdoers.