

In the name of Allah the Beneficent, the Merciful

Prayer Welcoming the Month of Ramadan

Imam Ali bin Husain A.S.

Praise belongs to God (Allah) who guided us to His praise and placed us among the people of praise, that we might be among the thankful for His beneficence and that He might recompense us for that with the recompense of the good-doers!

And praise belongs to God (Allah) who showed favor to us through His religion, singled us out for His creed, and directed us onto the roads of His beneficence, in order that through His kindness we might travel upon them to His good pleasure, a praise which He will accept from us and through which He will be pleased with us!

And praise belongs to God (Allah) who appointed among those roads His month, the month of Ramadan, the month of fasting, the month of submission, the month of purity, the month of putting to test, the month of standing in prayer, (*in which the Qur'an was sent down as guidance to the people, and as clear signs of the Guidance and the Separator!*)

He clarified its excellence over other months by the many sacred things and well-known excellences which He placed therein. He made unlawful in this month what He declared lawful in others, to magnify it. He prohibited foods and drinks in it to honor it, and He appointed for it a clear time which He (majestic and mighty is He) allows not to be set forward and accepts not to be placed behind. He then made one of its nights surpass the nights of one thousand months, and named it the Night of Decree; In it the angels and the Spirit descend by the leave of their Lord upon every command, a peace, constant in blessings until the rising of the dawn, upon whomsoever He will of His servants, according to the decision He has made firm.

O God (Allah), bless Muhammad and his Household, inspire us with knowledge of the excellence of this month, veneration of its inviolability, and caution against what Thou hast forbidden within it, and help us to fast in it by our restraining our limbs from acts of disobedience toward Thee and our employing them in that which pleases Thee, so that we lend not our ears to idle talk and hurry not with our eyes to diversion.

We stretch not our hands toward the forbidden and stride not with our feet toward the prohibited, our bellies hold only what Thou hast made lawful, and our tongues speak only what Thou hast exemplified, that we undertake nothing but what brings close to Thy reward and pursue nothing but what protects from Thy punishment. Then rid all of that from the false show of those who show falsehood, and rid of the fame seeking of the fame seekers, lest we associate therein anything with Thee or seek therein any object of desire but Thee!

And in the prayers make us alight in the station of the keepers of their stations, the guardians of their pillars, their performers in their times, as Thy servant and Thy messenger set down in his *Sunna* (Thy blessings be upon him and his Household) in their bowings, their prostrations, and all their excellent acts, with the most complete and ample ritual purity and the most evident and intense humility!

Give us success in this month to tighten our bonds with kin with devotion and gifts, attend to our neighbors with bestowal and giving, rid our possessions from claims, purify them through paying the alms, go back to him who has gone far from us, treat justly him who has wronged us, make peace with him who shows enmity toward us (except him who

is regarded as an enemy of Thee, for he is the enemy whom we will not befriend, the party whom we will not hold dear),

And seek nearness to Thee through blameless works which will purify us from sins and preserve us from renewing faults, so that none of Thy angels will bring for Thee the kinds of obedience and sorts of nearness-seeking unless they be less than what we bring!

O God (Allah), I ask Thee by the right of this month and by the right of him who worships Thee within it from its beginning to the time of its passing, whether angel Thou hast brought nigh to Thee, the Prophet Thou hast sent, or righteous servant Thou hast singled out, that Thou bless Muhammad and his Household, make us worthy of the generosity Thou hast promised Thy friends, make incumbent for us what Thou hast made incumbent for those who go to great lengths in obeying Thee, and place us in the ranks of those who deserve through Thy mercy the highest elevation!

O God (Allah), bless Muhammad and his Household, turn us aside from deviation in professing Thy Unity, falling short in magnifying Thee, in Thy religion, blindness toward Thy path, heedlessness of Thy inviolability, and being deceived by Thy enemy, the accursed (Satan).

O God (Allah), bless Muhammad and his Household, and when in every night of this month's nights Thou hast necks which Thy pardon will release, then Thy forgiveness will grant them gift. Place our necks among those necks, and place us among the best folks and companions of this month of ours.

O God (Allah), bless Muhammad and his Household, efface our sins along with the and make us pass forth from the ill effects of our acts with the passing of its days, until it effacing of its crescent moon, leaves us behind, while within it Thou hast purified us of offenses and rid us of evil deeds!

O God (Allah), bless Muhammad and his Household, and should we go off to one side in this month, set us aright; should we swerve, point us straight; and should Thy enemy Satan enwrap us, rescue us from him!

O God (Allah), fill this month with our worship of Thee, adorn its times with our obedience toward Thee, help us during its daytime with its fast, and in its night with prayer and pleading toward Thee, humility toward Thee, and lowliness before Thee, so that its daytime may not bear witness against our heedlessness, nor its night against our neglect!

O God (Allah), make us like this in the other months and days as long as Thou givest us life, and place us among Thy righteous servants, *(those who shall inherit Paradise, therein dwelling forever; those who give what they give, while their hearts quake, that they are returning to their Lord; those who vie in good works, outracing them!)*

O God (Allah), bless Muhammad and his Household in every state, to the number that Thou hast blessed, whomsoever Thou hast blessed, and to multiples of all that, through multiples which none can count but Thee! Surely, Thou art Accomplisher of what Thou desirest.

Adapted from www.al-islam.org
(As-Sahifa Sajjadia, translated by William Chittick)

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