

What is Ramadan?

The junior asked his father, "Dad, what is Ramadan?" His father replied:

Ramadan is like a University that offers an annual one month practical course during the ninth month of Islamic calendar. Its curriculum has several subjects including;

- Fasting of the stomach (Go without food or drinks)
- Fasting of the tongue, speak not the prohibited, etc.
- Fasting of the eyes; see not the prohibited,
- Fasting of the ears; hear not the prohibited,
- Fasting of hands and feet; avoid haram (prohibited) acts,
- Quranic reading more than ordinary times,
- Dikr and praise of Allah much throughout the waking hours,
- Supplications, optional Salat, night vigil,
- Charity giving,
- Striving to avoid un-Islamic habits and vain discourses,
- Connecting with relatives, service to the needy, seeking nearness to God,
- Cheerfulness when interacting with others,
- Practice God-Consciousness, and more.

At the conclusion of the one month intensive training, and having successfully completed the course, the attendees receive a "certificate" (saved in their book of deeds) which attests that the student has increased in Taqwa (God-Consciousness) and achieved greater nearness to Almighty God.

Below is an important notice to those who are unable to observe the Fast of the stomach due to health reasons. They are also eligible to enroll. They must successfully complete all other required subjects. Upon successfully completing the course they receive a certificate like others.

- A stomach fasting person in Ramadan commonly says this: "I am observing the Fast, I don't want to talk about 'this and that and about him or her etc. I fear that my Fast might get spoiled."
- A non-stomach Fasting person, who is observing Ramadan, could say this: "I am observing **Ramadan**, I don't want to talk about "this and that, and about him or her, etc. I am afraid my Ramadan might get spoiled."
- Suggestion. If we do not know a person well, it is better to ask "How is your Ramadan going", instead of asking "How is your Fast going?"

See you all on the day of the "convocation," the day of Eid-ul-Fitr!

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