

# MERITS OF RAMADAN



27th Sha'ban 1437

03 June 2016

We are about to receive the master of all months, the best of all months (Ramadan), the month in which gifts constantly pour forth from the ocean of divine generosity.

We should receive Ramadan in three ways:

## **1) We should have joy upon Ramadan's arrival**

Allah says: **Say: "In the bounty of Allah and in His mercy – in that let them rejoice! That is better than the wealth they amass."** (Yunus: verse 58)

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Allah made fasting Ramadan compulsory and made the night prayer recommended. Whoever fasts in it and prays in the night in a state of belief; seeking Allah's reward, will be free of sins like the day on which his mother gave birth to him." (Narrated by Ahmad and al-Nasa'i)

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ informed us that in this month gates of the heavens are opened (Narrated by Bayhaqi), meaning that it is easy for our actions, our prayers and our repentance to find acceptance with Allah. It has also been narrated that when Ramadan enters, Allah orders the angels who carry His throne to stop praising Him and to seek forgiveness for the Ummah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (Narrated by al-Daylami)

## **2) We should be wary of things that prevent us from attaining the gifts that are bestowed**

Fasting was legislated to allow us to attain true taqwa: **O you who believe, fasting was prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you that you may attain taqwa.** (Al-Baqarah: verse 183). The essential meaning of taqwa is to place a barrier between yourself and the anger of Allah by obeying His orders and avoiding that which He has prohibited. Fasting is an act very beloved to Allah as He said "Every deed of the son of Adam is for him except fasting; It is for Me and I shall reward for it" (Narrated by al-Bukhari and Muslim)

We should avoid any false speech. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "If someone does not leave false speech and acting upon it, Allah has no need for him to leave his food and drink." (Narrated by al-Bukhari, Abu Daud, al-Tirmidhi, al-Nasa'i and Ibn Majah)

We should avoid obscene speech and argumentation. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Fasting is a shield. If someone is fasting let him not speak obscenely or argue." He also said: "Fasting is a shield, as long one does not pierce it." He was asked: "How does one pierce it?" "By lying or backbiting," he replied.

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*On the 17th of Ramadan we commemorate the Battle of Badr, which took place on that day in the second year of the Hijrah. It is one of the most important events in the history of the Ummah, and Allah describes it as the Day of Discrimination.*

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"Ramadan is a month whose beginning is Mercy, whose middle is Forgiveness and whose end is Freedom from the Fire."

(Narrated by Ibn Khuzaymah)

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WARRINGTON  
ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION

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### **3) We should strive to do good works to the best of our ability, for Ramadan is an opportunity to take provision and to gain great rewards**

It is narrated that an angel calls every night in Ramadan: "O seeker of good, approach! O seeker of evil, retreat!" (Narrated by Ibn Majah, al-Hakim, al-Bayhaqi and Ibn Hibban). The believer must thus constantly seek good. He must constantly seek to rectify himself and their families and those over whom they have been given authority.

We should recite Qur'an in abundance during Ramadan. Ramadan has a special relationship with the Qur'an as it is the month when the Qur'an was first revealed to the Prophet ﷺ. Allah says: "The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for mankind, and clear proofs of the guidance, and the Criterion (of right and wrong)" [Al-Baqarah: verse 185]. During Ramadan, Imam al-Shafi'i would complete the Qur'an once during the day and once during the night so that by the end of the month he had completed the Qur'an sixty times.

### **Laylat al-Qadr—The Night of Decree**

**Laylat al-Qadr is the greatest night of the year like the Day of Arafat is the greatest day of the year.** It is more virtuous than a thousand months, any act done on this night such as reciting the Qur'an or remembering Allah is better than acting for one thousand months that do not contain this blessed night.

Al-Sayyidah `A'ishah narrated the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said, "Search for the Night of Qadr in the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan." (Narrated by al-Bukhari)

Al-Sayyidah `A'ishah asked the Messenger of Allah ﷺ what she should ask for if she knew that it was Laylat al-Qadr. He replied: "Say: 'O Allah, truly You are all-Pardoning, You love to pardon so pardon us.'" (Narrated by Ahmad, Ibn Majah and Tirmidhi) - **اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوفٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنَّا**

### **The Six Days of Shawwal**

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said that whoever fasts Ramadan and then fasts six days in the month of Shawwal has fasted the whole year, since each good deed is multiplied by ten. Thus, the thirty days of Ramadan equal three hundred days and the six days equal sixty which together make up the whole year of three hundred and sixty days.

*The Prophet would expend great efforts in worship in Ramadan, and particularly in the last ten days, so emulate your Prophet.*

*Beware of striving at the beginning of the month and then becoming lazy towards the end, as "actions are judged by their endings."* (Narrated by al-Bukhari)

I'tikaf is the seclusion and staying in the mosque with the intention of becoming closer to Allah.

Abu Hurairah said: "Allah's Messenger ﷺ used to perform I'tikaf for ten days every Ramadan, then when it was the year in which he was taken (passed away), he performed I'tikaf for twenty days.

(Narrated by al-Bukhari)