

# KHUTBA

Friday 29.07.11

English

## Virtues of the Month of Ramadan

All thanks are due to Allah, the Most-Generous. I bear witness that there is nothing worthy of worship except Him. He has no partners. May Allah send peace and blessings upon His final messenger.

Muslims! Fear Allah and obey Him. I give you glad tidings as the month of Ramadan is approaching. This is the month in which the Quran was revealed as guidance for mankind, as well as a clarification and differentiation between truth and falsehood. During this month, the gates of mercy are opened and the gates of hell are sealed. Satan and all other jinn are chained during this blessed month. Rewards for good deeds performed in this month are multiplied, sins forgiven and supplications responded to and answered. It is the month of perseverance, mercy, compassion and charity.

The Prophet (saws) was asked which the best type of charity was, he (saws) replied:  
**"The charity of Ramadan (or given during Ramadan)." [Tirmidhi]**

Salman Al-Farisi, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that the Prophet (saws) gave a speech on the last day of Sha'baan, and said: **"O people! You are being approached by a great and blessed month. A month which contains a night that is better than one thousand months. Allah made fasting within it an obligation and made praying in that night an optional act of worship. He who performs any righteous voluntary act within it, will be rewarded like one who does an obligatory act at any time other than during Ramadan. He who performs an obligatory act of worship within it will be rewarded like he who performs seventy acts of worship at any time outside this month. It is the month of perseverance - and perseverance is rewarded with Jannah (Paradise). It is the month of compassion, in which the sustenance of a believer increases. He who feeds a fasting person within this month has his sins forgiven and he will be protected and released from the hellfire. He also gets the reward of that person's fasting without decreasing the reward of the fasting person."** Then the companions, may Allah be pleased with them, said: **"O messenger of Allah! Not all of us can find the extra food needed to feed another fasting person."** So the Prophet (saws) responded: **"Allah will give you the reward of feeding a fasting person even if you were to give him just a sip of milk, a date, or a sip of water. He who feeds a fasting person until he is full, Allah will make him drink out of my river, a sip of which will never allow him to be thirsty until he enters Jannah."** Then he continued: **"...This is the month the beginning of which is mercy, the middle part is forgiveness and the last part of it is release from hellfire."** [Al-Bayhaqi]

So, pay attention, may Allah be merciful to you all.

Pay attention, O believers, to the speech of the Prophet (saws) in which he gave glad tidings of the month of Ramadan to his companions and informed them of its virtues and how the reward of righteous deeds performed therein is multiplied.

Indeed, it is a great and blessed month. The Prophet (saws) said, referring to the month of Ramadan: **"Never has a better month arrived for the believers and never has a worse month come to pass for the hypocrites."** (Ahmad)

Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet (saws) said: **"All the (rewards of the) deeds of the son of Adam are for him, (he is aware that) the reward of performing them will be multiplied by ten to seven-hundred times. Allah has said, 'Except for**

**fasting, as it is for Me. I shall reward it. (i.e. I will decide what the reward will be) This is because the fasting person leaves his desires, food and drink purely for My sake.' The fasting person has two times of great pleasure: once when he breaks his fast and the other when he meets his Lord. The smell emanating from the mouth of a fasting person is better in the scale of Allah than the smell of musk".** [Ahmad]

The Prophet (saws) referred to Ramadan as the 'month of perseverance' due to the necessity of perseverance and patience during this month.

Due to this, as well as the suffering from the pain of hunger, thirst and weakness of the body due to fasting, 'Abdullah Ibn 'Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, reported that the Prophet (saws) said: **"No one knows the reward of fasting except Allah."** [Al-Bayhaqi]

The reward for righteous deeds varies due to different reasons, for example, due to the sanctity of specific places such as Makkah and Madeenah. The Prophet (saws) said: **"Praying in my Masjid is one thousand times greater (in reward) than prayer elsewhere - except for Al-Masjid Al-Haraam (in Makkah)."** [Bukhari]

Among the virtues of this blessed month is that the reward for good deeds is multiplied by up to seven hundred times, for those who purify their intentions and perform their actions purely for the sake of Allah – such as those who spend in charity from their wealth, provided that their wealth comes from lawful means.

Allah only accepts charity which is from Halal (lawful) means. The Prophet (saws) said: **"Allah accepts charity with His Right Hand and then increases it in reward for the person giving it, just like one of you bring up his colt, until the reward for it becomes the size of a mountain."** (Bukhari & Muslim)

Anas ibn Malik, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet (saws) said: **"Charity extinguishes the anger of the Lord and protects the giver of it from an evil end."** [Tirmidhi]

The Prophet (saws) said: **"The shade of the believer on the Day of Judgment will be his charity."** [Ahmad]

Charity given in secret is better than that given openly because Allah said, which means: ***If you disclose your charitable expenditures, they are good; but if you conceal them and give them to the poor, it is better for you, and He will remove from you some of your misdeeds (thereby). And Allah, with what you do, is (Fully) acquainted.*** [2: 271]

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Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet (saws) said: **"Nobody should fast the two days immediately preceding Ramadan, except for a man who is a habitual faster; if these two days happen to fall among the days in which he fasts - then let him fast these days."** [Bukhari & Muslim]

Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet (saws) said: **"If half of the month of Sha'ban remains - then do not fast."**[Tirmidhi & Abu Dawod]

Abu Al-Yaqdhan 'Ammar Ibn Yasir, may Allah be pleased with him, said that the Prophet (saws) said: **"He who fasts on the day which people are in doubt as to whether it is within Ramadan or not - then he has disobeyed Abul-Qasim (i.e. Muhammad (saws))."**

[Abu Dawod & Tirmidhi]

Abu Hurayrah, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet (saws) said: **“The five daily prayers between two Fridays and between two Ramadan’s will wipe out all the sins committed between them if the major sins are avoided.”** [Muslim]

Terminating or avoiding fasting in Ramadan is allowed for four categories of people:

The first category is the sick, who will be harmed if they fast. The traveler, who is also allowed to shorten his Salah. It is better for the two in this category to not fast and to make up for it at a later date. Nevertheless, if they choose to fast then it will be accepted of them.

The second category is a woman in her menstrual period or one just out of pregnancy who is having post-natal bleeding. Women attempting to fast in this category would actually nullify their fast – even if they were to continue abstaining from food and drink. They must make up for such days in the future.

In the case of the pregnant or breast-feeding mother, if there is fear for the safety and well-being of the baby, they may terminate their fast. However, they must make up for each fast missed like this and in addition, feed one needy person for each day that they miss.

For the rest of the categories of people who terminate their fast, nothing is required except making up for that day.

This applies to all except for those who break their fast by having sexual intercourse. Those who do this must make it up and free a slave. If they cannot find a slave then they must fast for two consecutive months. If they are unable to do this then they must feed sixty poor people. If they cannot even do this, because they are too poor, then the penalty is waived.

If a man were to have sexual intercourse with his wife, during the daytime in Ramadan, and not pay the Kaffarah (penalty) for it, and then has sexual intercourse again with his wife, while he should have been fasting, then the Kaffarah must be given twice. But if he has already given the Kaffarah once for the first offense, then he only needs to give it once more for the second offense (i.e. each offense requires a separate Kaffarah to be paid). This is what is mentioned in the book Al-Iddah Fi Sharh Al-‘Umdah.

Abu Sa’eed Al-Khudri, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Prophet (saws) said: «Anyone who fasts a day for the sake of Allah (whilst in Jihad), then Allah distances his face from hellfire by seventy years.»