

KHUTBA

English

Friday 21. August 2009

The month of Ramadan

The Month of Ramadan is upon us. Muslims anticipate the arrival of the month of mercy, forgiveness from Allah and emancipation from their sins and wining of the paradise, and prepare to receive it as if it is a chance that might not come back.

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, used to celebrate and receive Ramadan by increasing and doubling the worshiping as recorded in Al-Bukhari that Ibn `Abbas said: **"The Prophet was the most generous of people, but he would be his most generous during Ramadan when he would meet with [the angel] Gabriel. He would meet with him every night and recite the Qur'an. When Gabriel met him, he used to be more generous than a fast wind."**

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, after being blessed with so much by Allah and living a life reflecting the right way to worship Allah, was so active in increasing the activities and worshiping during Ramadan and Muslims indeed should follow the good example.

Allah Almighty prescribed Ibadat (worship) to raise the behaviour and attitude to the right level, and He says: ***"You shall seek help through steadfastness and the Contact Prayers (Salat). This is difficult indeed, but not so for the reverent."*** (2:45), and says: ***"Hajj shall be observed in the specified months. Whoever sets out to observe Hajj shall refrain from sexual intercourse, misconduct, and arguments throughout Hajj."*** (2:197), and says: ***"Take from their money a charity to purify them and sanctify them."*** (9:103)

Allah says in the Qur'an: ***"O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so perchance you may attain Allah-consciousness."*** (2:183)

The Prophet peace be upon him said **"Whoever does not give up false statements (i.e. telling lies), and evil deeds, and speaking bad words to others, Allah is not in need of his (fasting) leaving his food and drink."** [Bukhari].

All worships should conclude with the indication of that there is no God but Allah, and this should appear on behaviour and actions of the Muslim. Therefore, if fasting will not result in Taqwa and abandon of false speech or acting, it will lose its value and meaning, and the person will only gain hunger and thirst.

Muslims take the opportunity of Ramadan to seek nearness to Allah, Abu Huraira Narrated: Allah's Apostle said, **"When the month of Ramadan starts, the gates of the heaven are opened and the gates of Hell are closed and the devils are chained."**

So if the Muslim imagines that the gates of the heaven are opened and the gates of Hell are closed and the devils are chained, he will joy doing good deeds the bring him close to Paradise and distance him from Hell, and this indicates the available opportunity, mercy and forgiveness in this month. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said: **"Whosoever reaches the month of Ramadan and does not have his sins forgiven, and so enters the fire, then may Allah distance him"** (Al Termizi).

And the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said: **"whoever catch Ramadan and not be**

forgiven and entered Hell, Allah distance him.” (Al Termizi). (And of the three persons that Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him cursed, one is the unfortunate Muslim who finds Ramadan in good health but does not use the opportunity to seek Allah’s mercy.)

Ramadan is the most important month of the year. It is the month that the believers await with eagerness.

The month of Ramadan is the month of fasting and prayer. It is the month that provides an opportunity for forgiveness from Allah and emancipation from our sins. It is the month for performing good deeds and giving in charity. It is the month wherein prayers are answered and the status of the worshipper is elevated. It is the month wherein sins are forgiven.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: Allah says: **‘Except for fasting, for truly it is for Me and I alone will reward it, for verily he abandoned his desires, his food, and his drink for my sake.’ The one who fasts experiences two joys, one upon breaking his fast and one when he meets his Lord. Surely the breath of the fasting person is sweeter to Allah than the fragrance of musk.**”
[*Sahîh al-Bukhârî* and *Sahîh Muslim*]

Therefore, in a month with such secrets and descriptions, Muslims should embrace it with happiness and joy and compete in doing righteous deeds to gain its benefits and rewards. And among people are those who do not know from Ramadan except the meals and different types of food and restaurants, spending the daytime sleeping and the night stray with ignorance of the virtue of fasting.

The fasting person is training himself to remember that Allah is always watching, so he gives up the things that he desires even though he is able to take them, because he knows that Allah can see him. It also makes the Muslim get used to doing a great deal of acts of worship, because the fasting person usually does more acts of worship and gets used to that.

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said: **“There is a gate in the Paradise called Al-Rayian, through it enter the fasting people and no one else in the day of Judgment, and it is closed after them.”**

Ramadan is indeed a very special month. The servant fasts it obeying Allah’s command and gains the blessings and the great rewards of Ramadan.

Welcome this month and embrace it with happiness and joy and engage in virtuous deeds and call to what is right and forbid what is wrong.

May Allah accept from all of us the fast and good deeds during this month, Ameen.

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