

KHUTBA

Friday 04.09.09

English

Qualities of Ramadan

Allah (SWT) says: *“O you who believe! Observing As-Saum (the fasting) is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become Al-Muttaqun”* [Quran, 2:183]

Dear Muslims, the month of Ramadan hold a special place in the hearts of Muslims. Allah (SWT) gave the month of Ramadan with its qualities a place more valuable than all other months. Some of them are:

The erase of bad deeds:

Allah (SWT) blessed this nation with goodness (ihsan), favors and delight. In this month He sends His mercy and forgiveness so the nation will be forgiven.

O Muslims, the days of Ramadan are days you get your sins forgiven. Compete in asking for forgiveness.

This month the gates of Paradise are opened and the gates of Hell are closed, and the devils are in chains. We ask the following questions: Where are those who wish to get their sins forgiven? Where are those who cry over their deeds? We must wake up. Some of those who fasted with us last year are gone this year. Use this chance. Maybe we will not experience the next Ramadan. **Djaber Bno Samra (raa) said: The prophet (SAWS) said: “Jibril came to me and said. O Mohammad, one who experience Ramadan and die right after and did not get his sins forgiven. He will end up in hell and Allah (SWT) will push him away. Say amin, so I said amin.”**

“Abu Horayra (raa) said: Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet (SAWS) said : "The time between the five prayers, two consecutive Friday Prayers, and two consecutive Ramadans are expiations for all that has happened during that period, provided that one has avoided the grave (major) sins." [Muslim]

Some from salaf said: “The year is a tree, the months are its branches, the days are its twigs (or smaller branches), the hours are the leaves, and the breaths of people are the fruit. The month of Rajab is when the tree blossoms, the month of Sha'aban is when its branches grow and the month of Ramadan is the time when the fruit ripen and are ready to be picked. The believers are the ones who pick its fruit.” The loser is the one who let this chance pass without struggling to change.

If we could ask the dead to wish for something in earthly life, he would choose one day in Ramadan.

Month of Taraweeh, stand in prayer

Tarawih is a time with great importance with Allah (SWT). Fortunate is he who fasted the day and was awake in prayer.

Some benefits with Taraweeh Salah:

Night prayer is a sign of good faith and forgiveness of all your sins. **The Prophet (SAWS) said: “He who are awake out of faith and hope for reward, will have his previous sins forgiven.”**

A man came to the prophet (SAWS) and said: “O messenger of Allah: If I recognize that there is no other god than Allah, and you are His messenger, I pray the five daily prayers, give Zakat, fast in the month of Ramadan, and I am awake in prayer. Among whom will I be? The prophet (SAWS) said: Among friendly martyrs.” [al-Bazzar, Ibn Khuzaymah]

Omar ibn al-Khattab (raa) said the first night of Ramadan when he performed salah Maghrib: "This month the fast is prescribed for you, while the night prayer is not. It is good for him who is able to do voluntarily night prayer."

Among the benefits of Taraweeh prayer and its blessings is that he who perform Taraweeh prayer with the imam to the end, will be prescribed (konot) night prayer. **Abu Dhar (raa) said that the messenger of Allah said: "If a man pray with the imam until the end will get a reward equal to one who performs night prayer."** Pray with the imam until the end. Be patient a few minutes and you get a reward equal to a whole night.

Fear Allah; keep Allah in your hearts. Half has already past and accept Taraweeh prayer so Allah will accept you, and look at salaf and the Prophets companions.

Saib bin Yazid said: "Omar ibn al-Khattab (raa) asked two men, Omar ibn Ka'b and Tmima Dari to perform Tarawih with 11 rak'ah. In that time the imam used to perform 200 verses until people got tired of standing. Some of us leaned on our stick. We left the place to attain suhoor and came back for Fajr."

The prophet (SAWS) said: "Perform night prayer for it is performed by the friendly, and it gives you closeness to Allah, and stops you from sins and punishment of sins, and give you good health." [Sahih hadith, Tirmidhi and others]

Abu Darda (raa) said: "Pray 2 rak'ah in the darkness of the night. It will give you great benefits in the darkness of the grave. Fast a day with severe heat because you will need it under the day of resurrection, and give in charity today while you are in comfort, because you will need it later while you are uncomfortable."

Month of Ramadan opens the gates of Paradise:

Narrated Abu Huraira: 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." [Bukhari, Muslim]

The opening of the gates of Paradise in Ramadan is a fact that does not need interpretation, and it is a great blessing and a gift from Allah. Verily, in this month He is merciful and kind to His slaves.

O slaves of Allah, it is the Paradise which He has created with His own hands.

It is the Paradise that only Allah can give.

It is the Paradise which is a sanctuary.

It is the Paradise which is worth our entire struggle. So struggle.

It is the Paradise you look forward to.

It is the Paradise which was most longed for by the righteous of this nation; Jaafar At Tayar, Omair Bno ElHamam, Haram Ibno Milhan, Anas ibn Nadar, Amer bin Abi Fahira, Amro bin Jamooh and Abdullah bin Rawaha, so ask for it.

Yes, it is the Paradise which opens its gates these days, but how strange, how can those who look forward to enter these gates sleep away this chance to do good deeds? Who prefer to live in this house after hearing this news, it is Paradise, home for those who believe in Allahs promise, pray at night in Ramadan, fast in the day and feed the needy.

The prophet (SAWS) said: "In Paradise there are apartments whose outside can be seen from the inside, and whose inside can be seen from the outside. Allah has prepared them for those who give away food, who speak to people with kindness, who keep up regular fasting, and who pray at night when people are asleep."

The Paradise are prepared and decorated for the nation. Mohammad's (SAWS) Nation deserves it more than any other nation.

Allah (SWT) says:

"Some faces that Day shall be Nadirah (shining and radiant). Looking at their Lord (Allah). And some faces, that Day, will be Basirah (dark, gloomy, frowning, and sad), Thinking that some calamity is about to fall on them." [Quran, 75:22-25]

The gates of Hellfire is closed in Ramadan

Allah (SWT) says: *"Truly, Hell is a place of ambush. A dwelling place for the Taghun (those who transgress the boundary limits set by Allah like polytheists, disbelievers in the Oneness of Allah, hypocrites, sinners, criminals)"* [Quran, 78:21-22]

The prophet (SAWS) said: "By Him who has my soul in His hand, if you understand what I have seen, you would have laughed less and cried a lot". They asked: "what did you see O messenger?" He answered: "I saw Paradise and Hell."

The flames that the Prophet (SAWS) saw destroys everything and verily it is worse than you can imagine. The flames are established, existing and ready. Be aware that you do not end up in it. Each and every one of us will somehow experience the Hell fire at the Day of Resurrection.

Allah (SWT) says: "There is not one of you but will pass over it (Hell): this is with your Lord; a Decree which must be accomplished. Then We shall save those who used to fear Allah and were dutiful to Him. And We shall leave the Zalimun (polytheists and wrongdoers) therein (humbled) to their knees (in Hell)." [Quran, 19:71-72]

O Allahs slave, it is real and it will happen. Imagine this: fire, dark clouds, intense heat, punishment, painful affliction, suffering, and chains.

We seek refuge with Allah. When we hear this we might loose courage. Do not despair for it will be a way out. Seek refuge with Allah, ask for forgiveness, do not commit severe sins and do not cross Allahs (SWT) lines.

Ramadan is the month of Quran

Ramadan is the month of the Quran, and the month of all heavenly books.

Waila Ibn Asqa (raa) said than the messenger of Allah (SAWS) said: "Ibrahim (AS) got his Scripture the first day of Ramadan, the Torah the sixth day of Ramadan, and the Gospel the thirteenth, Psalms the eighteenth and the Koran was revealed to the twenty-fourth day of Ramadan." [hasan hadith, Ahmad, Tabaraani]

Allah (SWT) says about the Quran: *"The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance..."* [Quran, 2:185]

It exist a special relationship between fasting and the Quran. Muslims use this time for reading, listening and recite the Quran. This way the faith (piety) strengthens.

Ibn Rajab said: "Salaf used the time of Ramadan to recite the Quran in prayer and daily life." He also said: "Qatada studied the Quran in the month of Ramadan, and Zehri used to say that the month of Ramadan is used for reading the Quran, and feeding poor."

Ibn Al Hakem said: "When Ramadan began, Imam Malik would cease narrating Hadith and sitting with the people of knowledge, and stick to reciting the Quran from its pages, while Sufyan al-Thawri would leave other acts of worship and stick to reciting the Quran."

I ask Allah to accept our good deeds.

Khutba by Sidi Mohamed Ould Cherif