

# Khutba

Friday 06.08.10

English

## Receiving Ramadan

Dear Muslims,

In these days, an honorable guest is preparing to visit you. He is coming carrying to you diverse blessings and mercies. In turn he requires you only to be generous and good host not by giving him food, drinks or housing, but rather in another unique way (i.e. by investing your time in worships and good deeds). Are you ready to receive and host him?

This guest is “*Ramadan is the (month) in which was sent down the Qur'an as a guide to mankind also clear (Signs) for guidance and judgment (between right and wrong)...*” *Al-Baqarah 185*; the month of repentance, forgiveness, patience and worships. It is a month surrounded with mercies, forgiveness and salvation. Its virtues and goodness are well known and unquestionable.

Abu Huraira reported Prophet Mohammed as saying: *(When Ramadan comes, the gates of Heaven are opened, the gates of Hell are closed, and the devils are chained.)* **Narrated by Albukhari and Muslim.**

Allah made fasting obligatory during Ramadan for Muslims. However, fasting is not something exclusive for Muslims but it has also been a part of the worships in the previous religions. The wisdom behind fasting this month is to practice the full submission, to Allah, and self restraint in order to reform yourself and become a better person. “*ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that ye may (learn) self-restraint*” *Albaqarah 183*.

As in the way they receive Ramadan, people can be divided in three types; two are pleased with Ramadan and one type is not happy with it.

**The first type:** Those are people with true faith; they receive Ramadan with celebration and welcome considering it one of the happy occasions that worth their celebration. They behave like that because of three reasons:

- 1- It is easy for them to fast, as they are used to it. They fast in many days other than Ramadan as a part of their worship to their Lord.
- 2- They know that the blessings of this life are fleeting; and if they abandon them, because of their fear and worship to their lord, they will find greater and better blessings in the Judgment Day.
- 3- They have great regards to it and they know how much great rewards can be collected during the fasting month. Therefore, you find them competing in performing worships and good deeds during the month of Ramadan.

**The second type:** Those who are happy and welcoming to Ramadan not because of worships but because they consider it a good season for their trade and other pleasure of this fleeting life. They want to use the month in maximizing their profit. So, while others are busy worshipping and reciting Quran to collect rewards, they are busy in the market with their trade to collect more money. That is not to say that we have to leave our trade and jobs during Ramadan, because Ramadan is a month for both work and worships. However, our trade and work should not take all our time and made us not to work for our next life.

There are also other forms for this type:

- Some are happy because of the special food they find in Ramadan.
- Some are happy because it is a chance to sell the TV programs which are full of sins. They

compete in broadcasting the TV series, movies and organize many musical festivals promoting for sinful and evil things.

- Some are happy because they consider Ramadan as a luxury month. You find them sleeping the whole day doing nothing and waking the whole night with their friends or in the clubs. They don't perform any extra worship or do more good deeds but rather spending their time sleeping or having fun with their friends, missing the great rewards that given in this month. Some might even not perform the prayers in time because they are sleeping the whole day.

**The third type:** Those who receive the month of Ramadan as if it is a great calamity or problem. You find them unhappy because they are following their lust and desire. They are not happy because there chance of finding their pleasure (food, drinks,...etc) and freedom are minimized in Ramadan.

Dear Muslims,

Don't you want to be among the people to whom Ramadan intercede in the Judgment Day?

Do you want to be looking at the people who fast entering Paradise from the door of *Al-Rayan* while you are not among them?

Don't you want the great rewards that are given to those who fast Ramadan?

So, why don't you prepare yourself to perform worships and good deeds during Ramadan?

Why don't we prepare ourselves to welcome Ramadan and receive it with pleasure and happiness?

So I urge you to prepare yourself to utilize these great days of Ramadan to collect as much rewards and do as much good deeds and worship as you can.

O' Allah, we ask You to confer Your mercy on us, bless us and help us worship you and perform good deeds in Ramadan.

Amen