

KHUTBA

Friday 27.08.10

English

Using the chance of Ramadan

Praise to Allah who made constellations in the skies, and placed therein the sun as a lamp and a moon giving light, which made the night and the day to follow each other: for such as have the will to celebrate His praises or to show their gratitude.

I bear witness that there is no god but Allah alone with no partner or associate who says: ***«It is He Who has sent His messenger with Guidance and the Religion of Truth, to proclaim it over all religion: and enough is God for a Witness.»*** [48:28]

And I bear witness that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger, who has called the worlds to Allah by His permission.

Dear Muslims,

Fasting is one of the best acts of worship and obedience. This is indicated by the fact that God has made it part of all the previous religion and has imposed it on them as it has been imposed on Muslim: ***«O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become God-fearing.»*** [2:183]

Due to that, Allah promised great rewards for those who fast and show great degree of submission and worships during this month. Abu Huraira - May Allah be pleased with him – reported that the Prophet (saws) said: **The person who fasts with perfect sense of devotion to faith and accountability, Allah will pardon all the sins which he may have committed in his previous life.** [Al-Bukhari]

With faith means: faith in God and satisfaction with his order of fasting, seeking His rewards.

He also said: **The five [daily] prayers, Friday to Friday, and Ramadan to Ramadan make atonement for what has happened since the previous one when major sins have been avoided.** [Muslim]

Ramadan is one of the great chance and good opportunity that has been provided for us by Allah. The wise and the faithful people will use this opportunity to gain higher degree in the hereafter. They do that because they know that their days are limited in this life and the opportunity might not come again.

So, if you want to be one of those who will be blessed in the Judgment day, you need to work for it. Leave your sleep and comfort for a while and use this opportunity and direct your attention to gain as much rewards as you can.

Prophet Mohammed (saws) has urged us to use the month of Ramadan in doing good deeds, he said: **So increase during this month of four qualities: two with which you shall please your Lord, and two which you cannot do without. The two that shall please Allah are the repetition of La Illaha Ill Allah and Istighfaar (asking forgiveness), and the two qualities you cannot do without are asking Allah to be allowed into Paradise and taking refuge in Him from Hell.** [Taken from the Prophet (saws) khutba on the last day of Sha'baan] [Al-Bukhari]

Fasting is among the discipline practices in Islam. The entire month, day and night hours should be dedicated to the forceful self-discipline. This is to clear your previous sins and help you reforming yourself and prevent you from doing sins and bad deeds. So, while fasting, you should not do bad deeds and sins. This include cheating, including cheating in trade, looking at forbidden things (e.g. TV shows and series that contains forbidden content or views), listening to forbidden things (e.g. music, listening to people talking about others...etc) or saying forbidden things (e.g. lying and cursing). Without doing that, your fast will not be accepted and the rewards will not be awarded.

Abu Huraira reported the Prophet (saws) as saying: **Whoever does not give up forged speech and evil actions, Allah is not in need of his leaving his food and drink (i.e. Allah will not accept his fasting.)** [Al-Bukhari]

Abu Huraira also reported Prophet Mohamed as saying: **«Fasting is a shield, so the one who fasts should avoid obscene speech and ignorant behavior. If someone abuses him or starts to fight with him, he should reply by saying: ‘I am fasting, I am fasting’»** [Al-Bukhari and Muslim]

To avoid doing bad deeds or acts that deprive you from getting the rewards, it is crucial to keep yourself busy with useful things and good deeds. Examples of these deeds are remembrance of Allah, reciting Quran, prayers, doing good for people and spending money for the sake of Allah. Ibn ‘Abbas said: **«The Prophet (saws) was the most generous of all the people and he used to be more generous in the month of Ramadan when Jibril used to meet him...»** [Al-Bukhari]

It is also recommended to train your children and teach them to fast from young age. By doing that you teach them the self discipline from early age, and help them to enjoy and understand the value of the fasting worship.

Dear Muslims,

Nowadays, many Muslims miss the great chance of Ramadan and waste their time in useless thing. They waste their day by sleeping during the daytime and waking up the whole night not to worship but to have fun with their friends. Many spend these nights in doing sinful things and watching TV programs that contains forbidden views. Such people will never benefits from the month and instead of becoming a better person by practicing self strain and reforming themselves, they get out of Ramadan as they have entered it. Some may even acquire more sins and get further away from the right path.

I urge you to work hard and strive to get as much reward as you can. Remember that this chance might not come again as none can be sure that he will live until next year or even next day.

O Allah, help and guide us to do good deeds in Ramadan. We ask You to bestow Your mercy upon us and make us one of those who are blessed and forgiven in this month.
Amen.