

Virtues of Ramadhaan

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

What is Ramadhaan?

Ramadhaan is one of the twelve Arabic months. It is a month which is venerated in the Islaamic religion, and it is distinguished from the other months by a number of characteristics and virtues, including the following:

- Allaah has made fasting this month the fourth pillar of Islaam, as He says (interpretation of the meaning):

["The month of Ramadhaan in which was revealed the Qur'aan, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong). So whoever of you sights (the crescent on the first night of) the month (of Ramadhaan i.e. is present at his home), he must observe Sawm (fasts) that month..."]¹

And it was narrated in al-Saheehayn² from the hadeeth of Ibn 'Umar that the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:

"Islaam is built on five (pillars): the testimony that there is none worthy of worship except Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah; establishing prayer; paying zakaah; fasting Ramadhaan; and Hajj to the House (the Ka'bah)."

- Allaah revealed the Qur'aan in this month, as He says in the verse quoted above (interpretation of the meaning):

["The month of Ramadhaan in which was revealed the Qur'aan, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong)..."]³

And Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

["Verily, We have sent it (this Qur'aan) down in the Night of Al-Qadr (Decree)."]⁴

¹ Soorah al-Baqarah [2:185]

² Saheeh al-Bukhaaree and Saheeh Muslim

³ Soorah al-Baqarah [2:185]

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- Allaah has made Laylat al-Qadr in this month, which is better than a thousand months, as Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning):

["Verily, We have sent it (this Qur'aan) down in the Night of Al-Qadr (Decree). And what will make you know what the Night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is? The Night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allaah in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months, i.e. 83 years and 4 months). Therein descend the angels and the Rooh [Jibreel (Gabriel)] by Allaah's Permission with all Decrees, (All that night), there is peace (and goodness from Allaah to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn"]⁵

["We sent it (this Qur'aan) down on a blessed night [(i.e. the Night of Al-Qadr) in the month of Ramadhaan — the 9th month of the Islaamic calendar]. Verily, We are ever warning [mankind that Our Torment will reach those who disbelieve in Our Oneness of Lordship and in Our Oneness of worship]"]⁶

Allaah has blessed Ramadhaan with Laylat al-Qadr. Explaining the great status of this blessed night, Soorat al-Qadr was revealed, and there are many ahaadeeth which also speak of that, such as the hadeeth of Aboo Hurairah (may Allaah be pleased with him) who said: The Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:

"There has come to you Ramadhaan, a blessed month which Allaah has enjoined you to fast, during which the gates of heaven are opened and the gates of Hell are closed, and the rebellious devils are chained up. In it there is a night which is better than a thousand months, and whoever is deprived of its goodness is indeed deprived."⁷

And Aboo Hurairah (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:

"Whoever spends Laylat al-Qadr in prayer out of faith and in the hope of reward, will be forgiven his previous sins."⁸

- Allaah has made fasting Ramadhaan and spending its nights in prayer out of faith and in the hope of reward a means of forgiveness of sins, as was narrated by Aboo Hurairah according to which the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:

⁴ Soorah al-Qadr [97:1]

⁵ Soorah al-Qadr [97:5]

⁶ Soorah al-Dukhaan [44:3]

⁷ Narrated by al-Nasaa'ee, 2106; Ahmad, 8769. Classed as Saheeh by al-Albaanee in Saheeh al-Targheeb, 999.

⁸ Narrated by Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no. 1910; Saheeh Muslim no.760.

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“Whoever fasts Ramadhaan out of faith and in the hope of reward, his previous sins will be forgiven.”⁹

And Aboo Hurairah narrated that the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:

“Whoever spends the nights of Ramadhaan in prayer out of faith and in the hope of reward, his previous sins will be forgiven.”¹⁰

The Muslims are unanimously agreed that it is Sunnah to pray Qiyaam at night in Ramadhaan. Al-Nawawee said that what is meant by praying Qiyaam in Ramadhaan is to pray Taraaweeh, i.e., one achieves what is meant by Qiyaam by praying Taraaweeh.

- In this month, Allaah opens the gates of Paradise and closes the gates of Hell, and chains up the devils, as is stated from the hadeeth of Aboo Hurairah who said that the Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:

“When Ramadhaan comes, the gates of Paradise are opened and the gates of Hell are closed, and the devils are chained up.”¹¹

- Every night Allaah has people whom He redeems from the Fire. Imaam Ahmad¹² narrated from the hadeeth of Aboo Umaamah that the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:

“At every breaking of the fast, Allaah has people whom He redeems.”¹³

Al-Bazzaar¹⁴ narrated that Aboo Sa’eed said: The Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:

“Allaah has people whom He redeems every day and night – i.e., in Ramadhaan – and every Muslim every day and night has a prayer that is answered.”

- Fasting Ramadhaan is a means of expiation for the sins committed since the previous Ramadhaan, so long as one avoids major sins. The Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:

⁹ Narrated by Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no. 2014; Saheeh Muslim no.760.

¹⁰ Narrated by Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no. 2008; Saheeh Muslim no.174.

¹¹ Narrated by Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no. 1898; Saheeh Muslim no.1079.

¹² Ahmad (5/256)

¹³ Al-Mundhiree said: there is nothing wrong with its isnaad; and it was classed as Saheeh by al-Albaanee in Saheeh al-Targheeb, 987.

¹⁴ Kashf no.962

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“The five daily prayers, from one Jumu’ah to the next and from one Ramadhaan to the next are expiation for (sins committed) in between, so long as you avoid major sins.”¹⁵

- Fasting in Ramadhaan is equivalent to fasting ten months, as is indicated by the hadeeth in Saheeh Muslim narrated from Aboo Ayoob al-Ansaaree:

“Whoever fasts Ramadhaan then follows it with six days of Shawwaal, it will be like fasting for a lifetime.”¹⁶

Imaam Ahmad narrated that the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:

“Whoever fasts Ramadhaan, a month is like ten months, and fasting six days after al-Fitr will complete the year.”¹⁷

- Whoever prays Qiyaam in Ramadhaan with the Imaam until he finishes, it will be recorded for him that he spent the whole night in prayer, because of the Hadeeth of Aboo Dharr (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:

“Whoever prays Qiyaam with the Imaam until he finishes, it will be recorded for him that he spent the whole night in prayer.”¹⁸

- ‘Umrah in Ramadhaan is equivalent to Hajj. Ibn ‘Abbaas said: The Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said to a woman among the Ansaar,

“What kept you from doing Hajj with us?” She said, “We only had two camels that we used for bringing water.” So her husband and son had gone for Hajj on one camel, and he left the other for them to use for bringing water.” He said, “When Ramadhaan comes, go for ‘Umrah, for ‘Umrah in Ramadhaan is equivalent to Hajj.”¹⁹

According to a report narrated by Muslim, “... is equivalent to doing Hajj with me.”

¹⁵ Saheeh Muslim no.233.

¹⁶ Saheeh Muslim no.1164.

¹⁷ Ahmad no.21906.

¹⁸ Aboo Daawood (1370); Classed as Saheeh by al-Albaanee in Salaat al-Taraaweeh, p.15

¹⁹ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.1782 and Saheeh Muslim no.1256.

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- It is Sunnah to observe I'tikaaf (retreat for the purpose of worship) in Ramadhaan, because the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) always did that, as it was narrated in the hadeeth of 'Aa'ishah²⁰ (may Allaah be pleased with her) that the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) used to spend the last ten days of Ramadhaan in I'tikaaf until he passed away, then his wives observed I'tikaaf after him."²¹
- It is strongly recommended in Ramadhaan to study the Qur'aan together and to read it a great deal. You may study the Qur'aan together by reciting it to someone else and by having someone else recite it to you. The evidence that this is strongly recommended is the fact that Jibreel used to meet the Prophet (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) every night in Ramadhaan and study the Qur'aan with him.²²
- It is strongly recommended in Ramadhaan to offer Iftaar to those who are fasting, because of the hadeeth of Zayd ibn Khaalid al-Juhanee (may Allaah be pleased with him) who said: The Messenger of Allaah (*May the peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him*) said:
"Whoever gives Iftaar to one who is fasting will have a reward like his, without that detracting from the fasting person's reward in the slightest."²³

²⁰ 'Aa'ishah, the Mother of The Believers, May Allaah be pleased with her

²¹ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.1922 and Saheeh Muslim no. 1172.

²² Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.6 and Saheeh Muslim no. 2308.

²³ Narrated by al-Tirmidhee no.807; Ibn Maajah no.1746; classed as Saheeh by al-Albaanee in Saheeh al-Tirmidhee no.647.