

**In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful**

# **Importance and Virtues of Ramadan**

**By Qazi Fazlullah**

The Prophet of Allah (SAS) said, “Rajab (the month before Shaban) is the month of Allah, Shaban (the month before Ramadan) is my month, and Ramadan is the month of my Ummah (followers).” When the Prophet (SAS) sighted the crescent of Rajab, he made Dua (supplication) that "Oh Allah bless us in the month of Rajab and Shaban and take us (alive) to the month of Ramadan.”

Ramadan is the month of Qur’an as the Holy Qur’an came from ‘Lau-I-Mahfuz’ (the preserved tablet in a sacred place upon the seven heavens) to the nearest heaven in the month of Ramadan.

Fasting has been an obligation in every revealed religion, but in different ways and different months. Fasting in the month of Ramadan has been made mandatory for Muslims. The Prophet (SAS) used to give due importance to this month and would fast therein.

Salman (RA) reports: “On the last day of Shaban, the Prophet (SAS) addressed us and said, ‘Oh people, there has come to you now a great month, a most blessed month, in which there is a night which is greater than one thousand months (indicating that worship for one night is more rewarding than the worship of 1000 nights).”

Ramadan is a month in which Allah has made fasting mandatory and He has made the ‘qiyam’ at night (taraweeh prayers) as a Sunnah. Whosoever attempts to draw nearer to Allah by performing any virtuous deed in this month, for him shall be a great reward as if he had performed a ‘fardh’ (mandatory practice) in any other month, and whosoever performs a fardh, for him will be a reward equivalent to seventy fardh in any other month. This is indeed the month of patience and stability, and the reward for true patience and stability is Jannah

(paradise). It is the month of sympathy with one's fellow men; it is a month wherein a true believer's provision is increased.

In order to please your Lord, one should endeavor towards two things: 1) Recite the "Kalima Tayyib" (La Ilaha Illallah) in great quantity and, 2) Make as much "Istighfar" as you can (requesting Allah to forgive you and your sins). Also, one must always request Allah for entry into paradise, and seek refuge with Him from the Hellfire.

In another Hadith, it is said that fasting is a shield (to protect one from torment). Also Allah (SWT) said, "Fasting is for Me alone (to please Me) and I give its reward", or, "Fasting is for Me alone, and I am its reward (meaning His pleasure)."

The wisdom in fasting is to sanctify one's inner self, to strengthen his will power to break the fast (at sunset), for him there shall be forgiveness and emancipation from the fire of Hell, and the same reward applies to the one who was fed without his reward diminishing in the least.

Thereupon, the companions of the Prophet (SAS) said, "O Messenger of Allah, not all of us possesses the means to provide enough for a fasting person to break his fast." The Messenger of Allah (SAS) replied, "Allah grants this same reward to one who gives a fasting person a single date, or a drink of water, or a sip of milk to break the fast."

The first part of this month is mercy (of Allah), the middle part is forgiveness, and the last part is emancipation from the hellfire. Whosoever lessens the burden of his servants (bondsmen) in this month; Allah will forgive him and free him from the fire. And whosoever gave a person

who fasted water to drink, Allah shall grant him a drink from a fountain, which after drinking from; a person will never feel thirsty again until he enters Paradise.

The philosophy of fasting is as follows: 1) To sanctify one's inner self; 2) To strengthen his willpower; 3) To control his libido; 4) to gain patience and stability; 5) To find and feel the pain of hunger and thirst, and to sympathize with the poor as they feel the same pain all the time; and 6) To gain much more fear of Allah as this feeling is amplified in Ramadan.

There are also many rewards to fasting, among these being the Messenger (SAS) said, "Whosoever observed the fast combined with faith and the expectation of reward from Allah, all his past sins are forgiven".

In another Hadith it is said, "Whosoever did not give up lying and falsehood, Allah is in no need for him to give up food and water."

**May Allah (SWT) empower us to worship Him in the ways shown by Prophet Muhammad (SAS), and may Allah (SWT) accept our worship and forgive our faults and defects therein. Ameen.**