

Ramadhaan

RAMADHAAN BLESSINGS

Ramadhaan is a month of countless blessings and virtues.

There are number of meanings given from Ramadhaan.

1. Ramadhaan is one of the names of Allah like Rahman (the most merciful).

According to a hadith Ramadhaan is the month Allah. In Masjid, house of Allah, is specific for worship of Allah, similarly Ramadhaan is month of Allah and the worship of Allah is intensified.

In Ramadhaan we fast in hidden and cannot be seen. There is kept sincerely for Allah and this is not show-off compared to other forms of worship.

2. It is derived from RamDhaa Un

RamDha means rainy season - in which heavy rain falls. The intense rain of Allah's mercy falls on those fasting and doing good deeds and which washes away all the spiritual filth and sins.

3. It is derived from Ramdhun - which means heat or to burn.

The heat from the thirst and hunger due to fasting, burns away the sins.

The word Ramadhaan is derived from "ramdh" which means "burning of the feet from heat" This is because of the fast, which burns the sins of a Muslim.

Ramadhaan has been given the name of blessed month because:

1. In this month, the whole Qur'aan was sent down to the first sky from Lauh-e-Mahfooz.
2. In this month, there is the night of Qadr which is better than 1,000 months.
3. In this month, the reward of good deed is equal to the Fardh of another month.
4. This is the month of patience and the reward of this patience is Jannah.
5. This month teaches the lesson of kindness towards others.
6. In this month, the rizq of Muslims is increased.
7. In this month, the first ten days are of mercy, second ten days are of forgiveness and the last ten days are of being freed from Hell.
8. The month of Ramadhaan is a month in which the Mercy and Blessings of Allah ta'alaal descend upon us continuously.

This month is so precious that one should fast, recite Qur'aan and keep himself engaged in worship (Ibaadah) day night. One should perform Taraaweeh, NafI Salaat, make du'aa etc. In this way, by giving preference to religion over self-desires, a person can acquire the Pleasure and Nearness of Allah. Each day and night of this blessed month can bring the reward of Ibaadah of years.

RAMADHAAN IN THE LIGHT OF AHAADITH

Ka'b Ibne 'Ujrah radhiyallahu anhu relates that the Rasoolullah sallallahu alayhi wasallam said,

"Come near the pulpit," and we came near the pulpit.

When he ascended the first step of the pulpit, he said, "Aameen."

When he ascended the second step, he said, "Aameen."

When he ascended the third step, he said, "Aameen."

When he descended, we said, "O Prophet of Allah sallallahu alayhi wasallam, we have heard from you today something which we never heard before."

He said, "When I ascended the first step, Jibra'eel appeared before me and said,

'Woe to him who found the blessed month of Ramadhaan and let it pass by without gaining forgiveness.' Upon that I said: Aameen.

When I ascended the second step, he said, 'Woe to him before whom your name is mentioned and he does not read durood (Salaat) on you.' I replied: Aameen.

When I ascended the third step he said, 'Woe to him in whose presence his parents or either one of them attains old age, and (through failure to serve them) he is not allowed to enter Paradise.'

I said: Aameen." (Bukhaari)

Salmaan radhiyallahu anhu relates that Rasoolullah sallallahu alayhi wasallam said,

"Ramadhaan is a blessed month. In this month is a night better than a 1000 months. Fasting has been made compulsory and Taraaweeh Sunnah. Whosoever tries drawing nearer to Allah by performing any virtuous deed in this month, for him shall be such reward as if he had performed a 'Fardh' in any other time of the year. And whoever performs a 'Fardh' for him shall be the reward of seventy 'Fardh' in any other time of the year. This is indeed the month of patience, and the reward for patience is Paradise; it is the month of sympathy with one's fellowmen; this is the month wherein a true believer's Rizq is increased." (Bayhaqee)

In this month the doors of Paradise are opened and the doors of hell are closed. And the Shayaateen are chained. (Bukhaari, Muslim)

This is a month, the first part of which brings Allah's Mercy, the middle of which brings His forgiveness and the last part of which brings emancipation from the fire of Hell. (Bayhaqee)

During each day and night of this month, Allah sets free a great number of souls from Hell. And for every Muslim during each day and night, at least one prayer (du'aa) is certainly accepted. (Bazzaaz)

In this month, the Ummah of Rasoolullah sallallahu alayhi wasallam are given these things specially:

1. The smell from the mouth of a fasting person is more sweeter in the sight of Allah than the fragrant smell of musk.
2. On their behalf the fish in the sea seek forgiveness until they break their fast.
3. For them, Paradise is decorated everyday.
4. For them, the evil minded Shaytaan is chained.
5. On the last night of Ramadhaan they are forgiven. (Ahmad)

THINGS TO DO IN THIS MONTH

Four things have been instructed in the Hadith which one should continue to practice in abundance:

1. Recite the Kalimah Tayyibah.
2. Make Istighfaar.
3. Ask for Jannah.

4. Seek refuge in Allah from Hell.

In this month one should fast, perform all Salaah, engage in recitation of the Qur'aan, perform Taraaweeh, give charity and do whatever is possible to acquire the pleasure of Allah. One should make sure that he does not do anything contrary to the Command of Allah and the teachings of His beloved Prophet sallallahu alayhi wasallam.

FASTING

In Ramadhaan, Allah has made fasting compulsory. It is one of the five pillars of Islaam. It is one of the most accepted forms of Ibaadah, because Allah Himself will give the reward for fasting.

Abu Hurayra (*RadhiAllahu Anhu*) relates that Rasulullah (*Sallallahu Alayhi Wasallam*) said:

"Many of those who fast obtain nothing through such fasting except hunger, and many a one performs "Salaat" by night but obtains nothing by it, except the discomfort of staying awake."

Commentary:

With regard to this Hadith, the "Ulama" have mentioned three different interpretations:

1. This Hadith may refer to those who fast during the day and then for "Iftaar" eat food that is "Haraam"; all the reward for fasting is lost because of the greater sin of eating 'Haraam' and nothing is gained except remaining hungry.
2. It may mean those who fast duly but, during fasting, engage themselves in backbiting and slandering.
3. The person referred to may be one who, while fasting, did not stay away from evil and sin. In this Hadith all such possibilities are included. Similar is the case of the person performing 'Salaat' all night voluntarily; because of backbiting or any other sinful act (e.g. missing, Fajr salaah or keeping Awake for show), his night of devotion goes unrewarded.

SUHUR

Allah and His Angels send Mercy upon those who eat Suhur (Sehri). Allah has made Suhur full of mercy and blessings. Suhur is a Sunnah of our beloved Prophet sallallahu alayhi wasallam.

IFTAAR

Many virtues have been narrated for those who feed others when breaking fast. A person who feeds another who fasted in order to break the fast (at sunset), for him there shall be forgiveness and emancipation from the fire of Hell. Allah grants the same reward to him who gives a fasting person a mere date or a drink of water to break his fast.

TARAAWEEH

In Ramadhaan, Allah has made 20 rak'at Taraaweeh Sunnah. It is also Sunnah to complete the full Qur'aan in Taraaweeh.

LAYLATUL QADR

This is a night of great blessings. It is better than a thousand months. The people of the past had very long lives compared to the much shorter lives of this Ummah. If this Ummah then wished to compete with them in doing of the good deeds, it would mean that because of the shorter lives it would be impossible for this Ummah to either emulate or surpass them. For this reason, Allah in His Infinite Mercy granted this Ummah, this night of great blessing. This night has great virtues i.e.

1. The Qur'aan was revealed in this night.
2. The reward of worship in this night is better than the reward of 1000 months.
3. On this night, Jibra'eel descends to the earth with a group of angels, reciting salaam and praying for the blessings for those they see in Worship and Praises Allah.
4. This is a night of peace. The blessings and mercy descends right until the break of day. The author of Mazahir-e-Haqq states the following significance and virtues of this auspicious night:
 - a) On this night, the angles were created.
 - b) On this night, the matter from which Adam alayhis salaam was created had been collected.
 - c) On this night, Jannah and Jahannam were created.
 - d) On this night, 'Eesaa alayhis salaam was raised up bodily into the heavens.
 - e) On this night, the repentance of Banoo Israa'eel was accepted.

It is stated in a Hadith:

Whosoever stands in Ibaadah on this night with sincere faith and with genuine hopes of gaining reward, his previous sins will be forgiven.

(Bukhaari, Muslim)

I'TIKAAF

It was the general practice of Rasoolullah sallallahu alayhi wasallam to perform i'tikaaf in the last ten days of Ramadhaan. The women should also try to perform i'tikaaf in their homes. It is stated in a Hadith: Whoever performs i'tikaaf in the final ten days of Ramadhaan, for him is the reward of Hajj and Umrah.