

One Must Take Ramadan-i Sherif As An Opportunity



Hadrat ^[1] Imam-i-Rabbani 'quddisa sirruh' wrote in the forty-fifth letter of the first volume:

"The thawab (reward) given for all nafila worships, such as supererogatory salat, dhikr ^[2], and alms that are performed during the month of Ramadan-i sharif, is like that which is given for the fard ^[3]worships performed during other months. One fard performed in this month is like seventy fard performed in other months. A person who serves (the meal called) iftar ^[4] to a fasting person will be forgiven his sins. He will be freed from Hell. Also, he will be given as many blessings as the fasting person is given, while the blessings of the fasting person will not decrease at all. Sins of those commanders who provide facilities for people under their command will be forgiven. They will be freed from Hell. During the month of Ramadan-i-sharif Rasulullah would manumit slaves and give whatever he was asked for. Those who perform worships and good deeds during this month are given the blessings for performing them all the year round. He who disrespects this month and commits sins in it spends the whole year committing sins. One must deem this month a good opportunity. One must perform as many worships as one can. One must perform the deeds that Allahu ta'ala likes. One must take this month as an opportunity to earn the Hereafter. The Qur'an was revealed during Ramadan. The night of Qadr is in this month. It is sunna ^[5] to make the iftar [to break fast] with dates in Ramadan-i-sharif. Some important sunnats during Ramadan are to say the prayer (**Dhahabazzama' wabtallatil 'uruk wa thaba-tal-ajr inshaa-Allahu ta'ala**) when making the iftar [as noted in the Shalbi annotation to Tabyin], to perform the salat of tarawih, and to read the entire Qur'an. "

[1] Hadrat: title of respect used before the names of great people like and Islamic scholars.

[2] dhikr: (phrase of) remembering, keeping in mind, Allahu ta'ala every moment.

[3] fard: an act or thing that is commanded by Allahu ta'ala in the Qur'an al-karim. Fard (or fard) means (any behaviour or thought or belief which is) obligatory. Islam's open commandments are called fard (pl. faraid).

[4] iftar: the act of breaking a fast. Fasting is done for thirty days in Ramadan. Iftar is done when the sun sets.

[5] sunnat: **i)** act, thing that was, though not commanded by Allahu ta'ala, done and liked by the Prophet ('alaihi 's-salam) as an 'ibada (there is thawab if done, but no sin if omitted, yet it causes sin if continually omitted and disbelief if disliked; the Sunna; **i)** (with fard) all the sunnas as a whole; **ii)** (with the Book or Qur'an al-karim) the Hadith ash-sharif; **iii)** (alone) fiqh, Islam.