

The Holy Month Of Ramadan



We should deem this month an opportunity. We should perform as many acts of worship as we can. We should do the deeds which Allahu ta'ala likes. We should deem this month an opportunity for earning the next world. The Qur'an descended in the month of Ramadan. The night of Qadr is in this month. In holy Ramadan it is a sunnat [1] to have the iftar [2] early and to have the sahur late. (Sahur is the meal which is eaten towards dawn before beginning the fast). Rasulullah 'sall-Allahu 'alaihi wa sallam' was careful about performing these two sunnats. Maybe hurrying for the iftar and being late for the sahur shows man's incapacity and that he needs to eat and drink and, consequently, everything. And this is the meaning of worshipping. It is a sunnat to have the iftar with a date. It is an important sunnat to recite the prayer, "Zahabazzama' wabtallat-il uruq wa thabat-al-ajr inshaallah-u ta'ala" after the iftar, to perform the salat of tarawih [3] and to read a khatm , (that is, to read the entire Qur'an al-karim).

In this month, thousands of those Muslims who are to go to Hell are forgiven and emancipated every night. In this month the gates of Paradise are opened. The gates of Hell are closed. The satans are chained. The doors of Compassion are opened. May Allahu ta'ala bless us all with the lot of worshipping Him in a manner worthy of His greatness and with being on the right way which He likes! Amin [4]

[Those who fast at places where it is difficult to fast and who do not break their fast as a result of believing the lies of the enemies of religion will be given more thawabs [5]. The holy month of Ramadan is the chastity of the Islamic religion. He who does not fast in this month is not respectful to this month. He who has not respected this month has torn Islam's honesty veil. Even a person who does not perform salat should fast and avoid the harams [6] . Such people's fasting is accepted and is a symptom of their iman [7] .]

GLOSSARY

[1] 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.

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

[3] tarawih the optional prayer performed in the month of Ramadan after the isha (a time about two hours after sunset) salat

[4] amin: "accept my prayer, my Allahu ta'ala the Greatest".

[5] thawab: Muslims will be rewarded in the Hereafter for all their pious actions which they have done in the world. The rewards which Muslims will be given in the Hereafter are called thawab. The word is used as an adjective as well as a noun. For example, when we say that an action is very thawab we mean that Allahu ta'ala will give many rewards for the action. Rewards which Muslims will be given in the Hereafter.

[6] haram: an action, word or thought prohibited by Allahu ta'ala.

[7] iman: faith, belief, beliefs of Islam; kalam, i'tiqad.