

Virtues Of Ramadan



This letter, written to Naqib Shaikh Ferid 'rahmatullahi 'alaih', again, thanks him, informs that man is needy, explains the holy month of Ramadan, fast and salat (prayer).

The valuable letter, which you were so kind to write, honoured us in the blessed month of Ramadan. Therefore, I have remembered to write a few lines of the virtues of this great month: The blessed month of Ramadan is very honourable. The thawabs (rewards) that are given for the supererogatory salat, dhikr [1], alms and all other such worships done in this month are like those that are given for the fard [2] ones done in other months. One fard done in this month is like seventy fards done in other months. If a person gives (the supper called) Iftar [3] to a fasting person in this month, his sins will be forgiven. He will be emancipated from Hell. In addition, he will be given as many thawabs (rewards) as those which the fasting person receives. The thawabs (rewards) of that fasting person will not decrease. In this month, also those bosses who facilitate the work of those under their commands and who make it easy for them to worship will be forgiven. They will be emancipated from Hell. In the holy month of Ramadan, Rasulallah 'sall-Allahu 'alaihi wa sallam' used to emancipate the slaves and would give whatever was asked from him. Those who can do good deeds in this month will be blessed with doing such deeds all the year round. If a person disrespects this month and commits sins in this month, he will spend all the year sinning. 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 [4] to have the iftar early and to have the sahur late. (Sahur is the meal which is eaten towards dawn before beginning the fast). Rasulallah '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-ajrinshaallah-u ta'ala" after the iftar, to perform the salat of tarawih and to read a khatm, (that is, to read the entire Qur'an al-kareem).

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! Ameen.

[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 deen will be given more thawabs. The holy month of Ramadan is the chastity of the Islamic deen. 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 (prohibitions). Such people's fasting is accepted and is a symptom of their iman (belief).]

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

[2] **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).

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

[4] **sunnat**: i) (when used alone) The Shari'at; ii) (when used together with the name Book) The hadith of

the Prophet. iii) (when used together with the word Fard) Any action, word or thought liked and commanded by the Prophet.