



A PRODUCTIVE *Ramadhan*

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A PRODUCTIVE RAMADHAN

The morning breeze blows softly, carrying the scent of Ramadhan. Our hearts, blackened with sin, yearn for the crescent to be sighted. Ramadhan for most of us, is more than just the average month. It is a chance of revival, redemption. It is a desperate hope for the trudging, lost seekers. With soiled souls and broken hearts we await the blessed month - hoping, praying that we may find our way back to our Rabb. However, we need to ensure that our Ramadhan is not merely a repetitive cycle of actions carried out by lethargic limbs and aloof hearts. We have been blessed to witness the month of Ramadhan over and over in our lives, each Ramadhan regrettably almost indistinguishable from the last. Our goals and routines remain lamentably identicle, as though every second of this month is not a precious goldmine.

Before undertaking any project, we invest a great deal of effort and time into ensuring its success. Major projects are always initiated, planned out, executed and carefully monitored. After completion, the project then has to be evaluated. The more important the project is, the greater its planning has to be. Ramadhan is our dream project; a project for lost souls seeking a path to redemption. A project for broken hearts, hoping for healing at His doorstep.. Since Ramadhan is now our "project", we need to prepare a plan which will help us to successfully complete this project. The first step in preparing our plan will be to list down our goals for this month. These goals are aimed at providing the framework for a successful Ramadhan, bi ithnillah.

Ramadhan Goals



ONE

Build your Imaan and Ma'rifah



TWO

Understand and embody Ubudiyyah



THREE

Taste the sweetness of Ibaadah



FOUR

Work on your Akhlaq



FIVE

Nurture a relationship with the Qur'an



SIX

Be consistent - in & after Ramadhan

Build your Imaan

Ramadhan is the perfect opportunity to rejuvenate our Imaan and accelerate our journey towards our Creator. The more Ma'rifah you gain of your Rabb, the more you will effortlessly, beautifully fall in love with Him. Let this Ramadhan be a month of getting to know your Rabb. Memorise His perfect names, learn His flawless attributes, Read His wondrous words.

Embody Ubudiyyah

Ubudiyyah is the state of being a true and complete servant of Allah ﷻ. It is for a servant to understand and internalise the essence of his servitude before his Master. We all claim to be slaves of Allah, but do we live the life of a slave?... Ramadhan is the perfect opportunity for us to nurture this Ubudiyyah by devotedly submitting ourselves before Him, implicitly, unquestioningly.

Taste the sweetness

The goal of Ramadhan should not be to just perform x number of good deeds. Every act of worship in Islam consists of both an outer manifestation (action of the limb) and an inner reality (action of the heart). Strive to worship Allah ﷻ - not only with your limbs - but with your entire heart. When a servant focuses on the inner dimensions of Ibaadah, he begins to taste the incomparable sweetness of worshipping his Rabb. Let your Ibaadah be more than routine this Ramadhan. Pause to savour every hopeful rak'ah, every whispered tasbeeh, every aching Duaa.

Build your character

All too often in this day and age, we hear mantras like "a better you." However, these slogans unfortunately remain just that - slogans. Becoming a better person requires much more than posting a few pictures or throwing around a few mantras. This Ramadhan, make it a goal to consciously work on your Akhlaq. Deep down, we are all aware of our personality weaknesses. Single out those weaknesses. Write them down, if need be and begin working on creating a better version of yourself. Change begins with purposeful action, not a catchy phrase.

Bond with the Qur'an

The Quran is an ocean of wonder, its delights only known to those who venture deep. In it lies the all the knowledge that we thirst for, all the solutions that we desperately seek. Alhamdulillah, we do make an effort to increase our recitation of the Quran every Ramadhan, but is this all there is to it? One of the primary objectives of the revelation of the Quran is لِيَدَّبُرُوا آيَاتِهِ, "so that they may ponder over its verses." Let this not be another Ramadhan of mindlessly reading the Ayaat in a quest to finish as much as possible. Whilst it is undoubtedly virtuous to make as much Tilaawah as possible, it is equally important to ponder over the meaning of the Ayaat. Each Ayah is a bottomless ocean of wonder, brimming with wisdom and love.. Pause, reflect, endeavour to understand the striking message in every Ayah. After all, is this not but an extraordinary letter, delivered from the most Merciful Rabb ﷻ specially for His sinful slave...

Consistency is key

Ramadhan is like a bootcamp for enriching our hearts, souls and morals. It is not, as many deem it, a temporary increment in Ibaadah. The goals that we set for ourselves in this month are supposed to carry forward beyond the crescent of Eid. If the month of Shawwal results in us falling back into our pre-Ramadhan lifestyles, we need to question ourselves. The purpose of Ramadhan is not to burn ourselves to the maximum for 30 days and then fall back into the same old pattern. Ramadhan is here to give us a chance at creating and nurturing a better version of ourselves. Remember, consistency is key. Use the old but trusted checklist method. Mark your achievements every day and identify your weaknesses. Most importantly, do not enter Ramadhan with an underlying mindset of temporality. Enter it with hopeful optimism, and it will insha Allah, paint a new dawn in your life.



Set doable goals



Keep track of your progress



Identify your weaknesses



Make up if you miss anything



Don't lose focus

