

RAMADHAN IS HERE!

رمضان
الكريم

Binte Ismail

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ أَنْزَلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنَ هُدًى لِلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن
شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ
بِكُمْ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَيْكُم وَلَعَلَّكُمْ
تَشْكُرُونَ ۝۱۸۵

Ramadhan is the month in which the Quran was revealed as a guide for humanity with clear proofs of guidance and the decisive authority. So whoever is present this month, let them fast. But whoever is ill or on a journey, then let them fast an equal number of days after Ramadhan. Allah intends ease for you, not hardship, so that you may complete the prescribed period and proclaim the greatness of Allah for guiding you, and perhaps you will be grateful.

(Surah Baqarah, Ayah 185)

There comes a time in life, a period of intense need, when the thirsty hearts of man are aching for a spiritual change of season, but need a little push to get there.

The heart yearns for its solace. The souls are stifled. Hearts are undeniably ill, and Ramadhan is the solution to it all!

The beautiful month of Ramadhan is just at our doorstep, knocking softly on our barren and dry hearts, to water us with the true essence of spirituality.

Ramadhan is a special month which comes in a span of 12 months - a mere 30 days which need our consciousness to fix our life and bring alive our spirituality and build a connection with our Rabb making most of the opportunity...

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَفْعَلُوا الْخَيْرَ دَهْرَكُمْ وَتَعَرَّضُوا لِنَفَحَاتِ رَحْمَةِ اللَّهِ فَإِنَّ لِلَّهِ نَفَحَاتٍ مِنْ رَحْمَتِهِ يُصِيبُ بِهَا مَنْ يَشَاءُ مِنْ عِبَادِهِ وَسَلُوا اللَّهَ أَنْ يَسْتَرَّ عَوْرَاتِكُمْ وَأَنْ يُؤَمِّنَ رَوْعَاتِكُمْ

(المعجم الكبير الطبراني 719)

Anas ibn Malik RA said that Nabi SAW said, "Do good deeds in the time that you have and take advantage of the moments of gentle breeze from the mercy of Allah. Verily, Allah has moments of gentle breeze from his mercy that he sends upon whomever he wills among his servants. Ask Allah to cover your faults and protect you from your anxieties."

(al-Mu'jam al-Kabir 719)

This hadeeth highlights the importance of striving and using our time productively to it's fullest. Ramadhan, a priceless bounty of Allah SWT, the month of mercy and mercy, where shaytaan is chained off, and every deed is multiplied 70 times, is the most beautiful opportunity and a chance to change. A chance to become our better selves and reform ourselves, which can't be just left off. Otherwise, no one would be as reckless as us if we spend the coming month indulging in sin and displeasing our Rabb...

Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said:

إِذَا دَخَلَ شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ فَتُفْتَحُ أَبْوَابُ السَّمَاءِ وَغُلِّقَتْ أَبْوَابُ جَهَنَّمَ وَسُلِسِلَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ

When the month of Ramadan begins, the gates of the heaven are opened, the gates of Hellfire are closed, and the devils are chained.

(Sahih Al Bukhari 1899)

As we all may know, Ramadhan is a month we strive in our ibadah and try to kill the urge of desires, the desires we unfortunately aim for and nourish the entire year pleasing our nafs.

Nabi SAW would exert himself in devotion during the last ten nights to a greater extent than at any other time, where Nabi SAW's feet used to swell.

Also, the taraweeh and Qiyaamul layl of our Akabireen would go on till so long, and they would enjoy their indulgence in ibadah as they had tasted the unique essence of Imaan.



Nabi SAW would say:

Abu Hurayrah RA said that Nabi SAW encouraged standing for night prayer in the month of Ramadan, without imposing it on them, Nabi SAW would say :
مَنْ قَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ

Whoever stands in prayer during Ramadan due to faith and seeking reward, his previous sins will be forgiven.
(Sahih Al Bukhari 2009)

Ibn Umar RA said Nabi SAW said:

التَّمَسُّوْهَا فِي الْعَشْرِ الْاَوْاٰخِرِ يَغْنِي لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ فَاِنْ ضَعْفَ اَحَدُكُمْ اَوْ عَجَزَ فَلَا يُغْلَبَنَّ عَلَى السَّبْعِ الْبَوَاقِي

Look for Laylatul Qadr in the last ten nights of Ramadan. If one of you is weak or unable, then do not be overcome by the remaining seven nights.
(Sahih Muslim 1165)

Food, as we believe, is an incumbent part of Ramadhan, but we need to understand, it is not the month of dasatarkhaan. Rather, Ramadhan is the month of Quran.

Somehow, during Ramadhan, everything gets put on hold and the heart just has a natural affinity to goodness. Somehow, the Tilawah is so intense that the heart is polished, where the one reciting abundant Quran can actually feel the presence of the angels surrounding, protecting and walking alongside the one who is spending their days in the company of the Book. It is no surprise that- due to this very fact- the Ahlul Quran find their lives blossoming, their affairs being taken care of, their illnesses being removed, and their hearts contented

Abu Hurayrah RA said:

كَانَ يَعْرِضُ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ كُلَّ عَامٍ مَرَّةً فَعَرَّضَ عَلَيْهِ مَرَّتَيْنِ فِي الْعَامِ الَّذِي قَبِضَ فِيهِ وَكَانَ يَعْتَكِفُ كُلَّ عَامٍ عَشْرًا فَأَعْتَكَفَ عِشْرِينَ فِي الْعَامِ الَّذِي قَبِضَ فِيهِ

Nabi SAW would review the Quran once every year in Ramadan, and he reviewed it twice in the year he passed away. Nabi SAW would retreat in the mosque for ten days every year, and he secluded himself for twenty days in the year he passed away.
(Sahih al Bukhari 4998)

It is also a month where our Akabireen strived in building their connection with Allah SWT and Nabi SAW. Their continuous engagement in istighfaar and durood as well as a setting up a schedule will reap immense benefits of finding out days productive and so promising that we will feel the light entering our hearts...

And duaas, the most amazing thing is Ramadhan is a month filled with Saate Istijabah, the times of acceptance of duaas.. Also, increasing in acts of kindness and khidmah as is mentioned in a number of ahadeeth, by giving sadaqah and feeding iftars to the needy and worrying about the needy this Ramadhan.

Zayd ibn Khalid RA said Nabi SAW said, "Whoever helps break the fast of a fasting person, he will have the same reward as him without decreasing anything from the reward of the fasting person."

(Sunan al-Tirmidhi)

عَنْ زَيْدِ بْنِ خَالِدٍ الْجُهَنِيِّ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ مَنْ فَطَّرَ صَائِمًا كَانَ لَهُ مِثْلُ أَجْرِهِ غَيْرَ أَنَّهُ لَا يَنْقُصُ مِنْ أَجْرِ الصَّائِمِ شَيْئًا
سنن الترمذي 807

Also, never forgetting to include the all our brothers and sisters in pain, adversity and darkness of this world in our heartfelt duaas will just make this Ramadhan like no other.

The irony of this is it comes like a ray of sunshine in our darkness worlds and it flies by without even realising!

if we don't plan we plan to fail!
May Allah SWT grant us hidayah and bless us with the opportunity of making this Ramadhan productive to the fullest. Aameen

