



# The Blessed Occasion of Ramadhan

## Works Associated with the Month of Ramadhan

It is related from Salman al-Farsi (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace be upon him) said in a khutbah at the end of the month of Sha‘ban, “O people, a great month has provided you with shade. It is a blessed month in which the performance of even a small amount of goodness is worth the performance of a mandatory act of obedience (farida) outside of it. Whoever performs a mandatory act of obedience during it, it is as though he has performed 70 mandatory acts of obedience in any other month. It is the month of patience (sabr) and the reward of patience is the Garden. It is the month of charity and giving. In it the provision (rizq) of the believer is increased. In this month whoever gives something to eat or drink to someone who is fasting receives the reward of freeing a slave and forgiveness for his sins.”

We (the companions) said, “O Messenger of Allah, not all of us can find what to give to a fasting person.”

He (Allah bless him and grant him peace) said, “Allah gives this reward to whoever gives to a person who is fasting even if it is but a taste of milk, some water, or a date. Whoever quenches the thirst of a fasting person has received forgiveness of his sins and his Lord will give him a drink from His pool after which he will never feel thirst again. He receives the reward of the one for whom he provided the breaking of his fast without the reward of that person being diminished in any way. The beginning of this month is mercy (rahmah), its middle is forgiveness, and the last part of it is freedom from the fire. In this month those who increase are distinguished by four traits or actions: two of them are performed to please Your Lord; and two others are required of you in Ramadhan. As for the two actions which please your Lord, they are declaring and witnessing that ‘There is no god but Allah’ and asking for forgiveness from Him. As for the two actions which are required of you, they are asking your Lord for the Garden and seeking refuge through Him from the Fire of Hell.”

Concerning other traits associated with those fasting Ramadhan, he (Allah bless him and grant him peace) said, “In this month, my ummah has been given five qualities that have not been given to any ummah before it: with Allah the breath of the one fasting is better than the scent of musk and the angels ask forgiveness for them until they break their fast; the devils (shayateen) are tied up; every day the Garden is beautified more for them; evil and harm are not allowed to touch my righteous servants; and He grants them forgiveness at the end of the night.”

It was asked, “O Messenger of Allah, is it the Night of Power (laylat al-qadr)?”

He (Allah bless him and grant him peace) replied, “No, rather [it is the time when] the one who has been working is rewarded for completing his work.”

The Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him and grant him peace) said, “In the Garden there are eight doors. One of the doors is called Rayan. No one enters it except those who are fasting.”

He (Allah bless him and grant him peace) also said, “The sins of the believer who fasts Ramadhan are forgiven – those which he has committed and those which he has yet to commit.”

### **Recommended Acts of Worship During This Generous Month**

1. Consistent reading of the Qur’an. It has been related that Imam al-Baqr (may Allah be pleased with him) said, “Everything has a spring and the spring of the Qur’an is the month of Ramadhan.” It is recommended to complete the Qur’an numerous times during Ramadhan.
2. Increase in the performance of *du‘a*, prayer, and asking forgiveness.
3. Increase in saying “*la ilaha illa Allah*” and sending blessings upon Muhammad and his family.

### **What Is Recommended Concerning Breaking the Fast**

One should say at the breaking of the fast, “In the name of Allah, the Merciful, the Compassionate, O Wide in Forgiveness, forgive me.”

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ يَا وَاسِعَ الْمَغْفِرَةِ اغْفِرْ لِي

Also, you should say, “O Allah, for You I fast, upon Your *rizq* I break, and upon You I rely.”

اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ صُومْتُ وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ وَعَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْتُ

It is also recommended that at the time of breaking fast one give *sadaqa*. And, as previously mentioned, one is encouraged to provide *iftar* for those fasting, even if it is but a few dates or some water.

### **Some of the Important Events in the Month of Ramadhan**

- On the tenth of Ramadhan Sayyida Khadija (may Allah be pleased with her) died.
- On the 15<sup>th</sup> of Ramadhan Imam al-Hasan (may Allah be pleased with him) was born.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup> of Ramadhan the Battle of Badr took place.
- On the 21<sup>st</sup> of Ramadhan the Prince of the Believers, Ali (may Allah ennoble his countenance) was martyred.
- On one of the last ten days of Ramadhan the Night of Power occurs. It contains great benefit. During this night the Qur’an was revealed. It is better than a thousand months and many recommended acts of worship are associated with it.

## **Prayers (Du'as) Receiving the Month of Ramadhan**

### **The Prayer of the Messenger of Allah upon Seeing the New Moon of Ramadhan**

When the Messenger of Allah (Allah bless him and grant him) would see the new moon of the month of Ramadhan, he would turn in the direction of qiblah, raise his hands and say, "O Allah, bring the new moon to us with security and belief, with peace and submission (islam), clothed richly in well being and bountiful provisions (rizq), with a protection from illness. O Allah, provide us with the provision of its fasting, its standing in prayer, its reading of the Qur'an. Surrender it to us; accept it from us; and give us safety and security in it."

### **The Prayer of Imam Ali (may Allah ennoble his countenance)**

O Allah, I ask You for the goodness (khair) of this month, its secrets (fath), its light (nur), its support (nasr), its blessings (barakat), its purity (tuhur), and its provision (rizq). I ask You for the goodness (khair) of what is in it and the goodness (khair) of what is after it. I seek refuge with You from the evil of what is in it and what is after it. O Allah, cause us to enter this month in security, belief, peace, submission (islam), blessing (baraka), fear [of You] (taqwa), and grant us success in performing what You love and are pleased with.

### **The Prayer of Imam al-Ridha (may Allah be pleased with him)**

Our Lord and your Lord is Allah, Lord of the Worlds. O Allah, make the new moon of Ramadhan blessed for us. Cause us to devote ourselves to fasting in it; grant us peace and security within it; from it give us ease and well being; and make us obedient to You in this month. Surely, You are able to do all things.