

The virtues of Ramadaan

فضائل رمضان

(إنجليزي-English)

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What is RAMADAAN?

Praise be to Allaah.

Ramadaan is one of the twelve Arabic months. It is a month which is venerated in the Islamic religion, and it is distinguished from the other months by a number of characteristics and virtues, including the following:

1 – Allaah has made fasting this month the fourth pillar of Islam, as He says (interpretation of the meaning), “The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Qur’aan, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong). So whoever of you sights (the crescent on the first night of) the month (of Ramadan i.e. is present at his home), he must observe *Sawm* (fasts) that month...” [al-Baqarah: 185]

And it was narrated in as-Saheehayn (al-Bukhaari, 8; Muslim, 16) from the *hadith* of Ibn ‘Umar that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, “Islam is built on five (pillars): the testimony that there is no god except Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah; establishing prayer; paying *zakaah*; fasting Ramadaan; and *hajj* to the House (the Ka’bah).”



2 – Allaah revealed the Qur’aan in this month, as He says in the verse quoted above (interpretation of the meaning), “The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Qur’aan, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong)...” [al-Baqarah: 185]

And Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning), “Verily, We have sent it (this Qur’aan) down in the night of *Al-Qadr* (Decree).” [al-Qadr 97:1]

3 – Allaah has made *Laylat al-Qadr* in this month, which is better than a thousand months, as Allaah says (interpretation of the meaning),

Verily, We have sent it (this Qur’aan) down in the night of *Al-Qadr* (Decree).

And what will make you know what the night of *Al-Qadr* (Decree) is?

The night of *Al-Qadr* (Decree) is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allaah in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months, i.e. 83 years and 4 months).

Therein descend the angels and the *Rooḥ* [Jibreel (Gabriel)] by Allaah's Permission with all Decrees,

(All that night), there is peace (and goodness from Allaah to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn. [al-Qadr: 1-5]

"We sent it (this Qur'aan) down on a blessed night [(i.e. the night of *Al-Qadr*) in the month of Ramadan — the 9th month of the Islamic calendar]. Verily, We are ever warning [mankind that Our Torment will reach those who disbelieve in Our Oneness of Lordship and in Our Oneness of worship]." [ad-Dukhaan: 3]

Allaah has blessed Ramadaan with *Laylat al-Qadr*. Explaining the great status of this blessed night, Surat al-Qadr was revealed, and there are many *ahaadeeth* which also speak of that, such as the *hadeeth* of Abu Hurayrah (may Allaah be pleased with him) who said: The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "There has come to you Ramadaan, a blessed month which Allaah has enjoined you to fast, during which the gates of heaven are opened and the gates of Hell are closed, and the rebellious devils are chained up. In it there is a night which is better than a thousand months, and whoever is deprived of its goodness is indeed deprived." Narrated by an-Nasaa'i, 2106; Ahmad, 8769. Classed as *saheeh* by al-Albaani in *Saheeh at-Targheeb*, 999.

And Abu Hurayrah (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "Whoever spends *Laylat al-Qadr* in prayer out of faith and in the hope of reward, will be forgiven his previous sins." Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 1910; Muslim, 760.

4 – Allaah has made fasting Ramadaan and spending its nights in prayer out of faith and in the hope of reward a means of forgiveness of sins, as was proven in as-Saheehayn (al-Bukhaari, 2014; Muslim, 760) from the *hadeeth* of Abu Hurayrah according to which the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "Whoever fasts Ramadaan out of faith and in the hope of reward, his previous sins will be forgiven." And al-Bukhaari (2008) and Muslim (174) also narrated from Abu Hurayrah that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "Whoever spends the nights of Ramadaan in prayer out of faith and in the hope of reward, his previous sins will be forgiven."

The Muslims are unanimously agreed that it is *Sunnah* to pray *qiyaam* at night in Ramadaan. An-Nawawi said that what is meant by praying *qiyaam* in Ramadaan is to pray *Taraaweeh*, i.e. one achieves what is meant by *qiyaam* by praying *Taraaweeh*.

5 – In this month, Allaah opens the gates of Paradise and closes the gates of Hell, and chains up the devils, as is stated in as-Saheehayn (al-Bukhaari, 1898; Muslim, 1079), from

the *hadeeth* of Abu Hurayrah who said that the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "When Ramadaan comes, the gates of Paradise are opened and the gates of Hell are closed, and the devils are chained up."

6 – Every night Allaah has people whom He redeems from the Fire. Imam Ahmad (5/256) narrated from the *hadeeth* of Abu Umaamah that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "At every breaking of the fast, Allaah has people whom He redeems." Al-Mundhiri said: there is nothing wrong with its *isnaad*.

It was classed as *saheeh* by al-Albaani in *Saheeh at-Targheeb*, 987.

Al-Bazaar (*Kashf* 962) narrated that Abu Sa'eed said: The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "Allaah has people whom He redeems every day and night – i.e. in Ramadaan – and every Muslim every day and night has a prayer that is answered."

7 – Fasting Ramadaan is a means of expiation for the sins committed since the previous Ramadaan, so long as one avoids major sins. It was proven in *Saheeh Muslim* (233) that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "The five daily prayers, from one *Jumu'ah* to the next and from one Ramadaan to the next are expiation for (sins committed) in between, so long as you avoid major sins."

8 – Fasting in Ramadaan is equivalent to fasting ten months, as is indicated by the *hadeeth* in *Saheeh Muslim* (1164) narrated from Abu Ayyoob al-Ansaari that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Whoever fasts Ramadaan then follows it with six days of Shawwaal, it will be like fasting for a lifetime." Ahmad (21906) narrated that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "Whoever fasts Ramadaan, a month is like ten months, and fasting six days after *al-Fitr* will complete the year."

9 – Whoever prays *qiyaam* in Ramadaan with the imam until he finishes, it will be recorded for him that he spent the whole night in prayer, because of the report narrated by Abu Dawood (1370) and others from the *hadeeth* of Abu Dharr (may Allaah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "Whoever prays *qiyaam* with the imam until he finishes, it will be recorded for him that he spent the whole night in prayer." Classed as *saheeh* by al-Albaani in *Salaat at-Taraaweeh*, p. 15

10 – 'Umrah in Ramadaan is equivalent to *haji*. Al-Bukhaari (1782) and Muslim (1256) narrated that Ibn 'Abbaas said: The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said to a woman among the Ansaar, "What kept you from doing *haji* with us?" She said, "We only had two camels that we used for bringing water." So her husband and son had gone for *haji* on one camel, and he left the other for them to use for bringing water. He said, "When Ramadaan comes, go for 'Umrah, for 'Umrah in Ramadaan is equivalent to *haji*." According to a report narrated by Muslim, "... is equivalent to doing *haji* with me."

11 – It is *Sunnah* to observe *i'tikaaf* (retreat for the purpose of worship) in Ramadaan, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) always did that, as it was narrated in the *hadeeth* of 'Aa'ishah (may Allaah be pleased with her) that the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) used to spend the last ten days of Ramadaan in *i'tikaaf* until he passed away, then his wives observed *i'tikaaf* after him. [Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 1922; Muslim, 1172]

12 – It is *mustahabb* in the sense of being strongly recommended in Ramadaan to study the Qur'aan together and to read it a great deal. You may study the Qur'aan together by reciting it to someone else and by having someone else recite it to you. The evidence that this is *mustahabb* is the fact that Jibreel used to meet the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) every night in Ramadaan and study the Qur'aan with him. Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 6; Muslim, 2308.

Reading Qur'aan is *mustahabb* in general, but more so in Ramadaan.

13 – It is *mustahabb* in Ramadaan to offer *iftaar* to those who are fasting, because of the *hadeeth* of Zayd ibn Khaalid al-Juhani (may Allaah be pleased with him) who said: The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said, "**Whoever gives *iftaar* to one who is fasting will have a reward like his, without that detracting from the fasting person's reward in the slightest.**" Narrated by at-Tirmidhi, 807; Ibn Maajah, 1746; classed as *saheeh* by al-Albaani in *Saheeh at-Tirmidhi*, 647. See question no: [\(12598\)](#)

And Allaah knows best.

Islam Q&A