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MUHAMMAD ﷺ THE REVELATION!...

"And what will tell you what is the Night of Power? The Night of Power is better than a thousand months!"

Better than a thousand Ramadaans too? How? And why? This whole month became blessed and special because of one night.

"Certainly it was revealed on the Night of Power!"...

Revealed! Something hidden was revealed. Something was disclosed. Something was made known. An announcement of great magnitude. Gabriel, the ambassador of the Divine and Hidden, from the angelic world, had to manifest into Apparent form, bringing from the Invisible towards Manifestation, a message.

What was this Message, that arrived with such awesome ceremony, that the time and occasion of its delivery, is the Night of Power? God, Almighty Allah. His Power!

What message then would be so Great as to communicate the absolute Power of the Lord of Might and Creation?

On this night, the official divine. declaration and announcement that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the Messenger of God.

Reciting the first verse of the Holy Book of God, al-Quran, the Rasool ﷺ thus commenced with the process of Revelation, which was to become the full and final Message to Creation, revealing and making Apparent that which was previously Hidden.

"Read!... Read, in the name of your Lord who Created!"

A statement wherein lies the secret of God, the Creator. A message of Mercy. A Mercy unto all of creation.

"Certainly, it was revealed in the Night of Power. And what will tell you what is the Night of Power? The Night of Power is better than a thousand months!"

Revealing angels and the Spirit, unto every mission of accord...peace prevails until the onset of dawn!"

The Message was delivered and Muhammad ﷺ witnessed it, and became it. He was the Messenger who lived the Message. *He was the Quran*, as was described by his most intimate associate, Aa'isha "the Truthful", his honorable wife.

Muhammad ﷺ described as "Mercy unto all the worlds!" by the Quran is the reason why you are deriving any Mercy from Allah at all. And this holy month of Mercy, Ramadaan, could only have been so, because of that one special night dedicated to the Beloved of Allah as a commemoration of the ultimate Divine revelation,

"From Allah has come to you Light and a clear Book!" (Quran)

May this Ramadaan reveal to your heart and soul Truth by the Light of Muhammad ﷺ and may the Mercy of Laylatul Qadr reverse every adversity and bring peace into these troubled times.

Ramadaan Mubarak!

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HAZRAT SAYYIDAH FATIMA ﷺ

(THE PRINCESS OF PARADISE)

Glancing at the Beloved Family of our Master ﷺ, our eyes lower down in the respect of Sayyidah Fatima ﷺ, the youngest and most beloved daughter of the Blessed Prophet ﷺ

She is one that innocence adores her, chastity ventures pride in her, and modesty with folded hands stands before her. Her name is Fatima and Zahrah (having gleaming and luminous face), Batool (aloof from the worldly pleasures), Tahirah (chaste and modest) are her titles. Hadrat Sayyidah Fatima ﷺ was very calm, serene and sober even in her childhood and she never participated in games etc. She would spend most of her times in the exalted company of her Parents and ask such questions, which bespeak her intelligence and maturity. She showed her full detachment from all allurements and fascinations of worldly life. As a child, she used to accompany Him ﷺ through the narrow streets of Makkatul Mukarrama, visiting the Ka'bah or attending the secret meetings of the early Muslims who had embraced Islam and pledged allegiance to her father. Once, she accompanied her father to the Masjid al-Haraam. Sayyiduna Rasulullah ﷺ began to pray in front of the Ka'bah. A group of Quraysh chiefs gathered around the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Uqbah bin Abi Mu'ayt brought the entrails of a slaughtered animal and threw it on the shoulders of the Beloved Habeeb ﷺ. Sayyidah Fatima ﷺ, a ten year old girl, went up to her father and removed the filth. Then, in a firm and angry voice she lashed out against Abu Jahl and his colleagues. They could not utter a single word.

The Beloved Prophet ﷺ loved Hadrat Fatima ﷺ very much. Sayyida Fatima ﷺ took after her father Nabi ﷺ from head to toe. She resembled her father in looks, manners, gait, articulation and character. In other words, she was a living picture of her father. Hadrat Aisha ﷺ says: "I did not see any one resembling the Blessed Prophet ﷺ, regarding all manners, more perfectly than Fatima, the daughter of the Messenger of ALLAH." On another occasion Hadrat Aisha ﷺ narrates: "Then came Fatima whose gait resembles that of the Beloved Messenger ﷺ." (MUSLIM) It was the routine of the Beloved Prophet ﷺ that whenever he returned from a journey: after offering prayer in the Masjid, he went straight to Hadrat Fatima ﷺ house. In short, the love of the Beloved Prophet ﷺ for his cherished daughter was really enviable. "Whenever she visited the Beloved Prophet ﷺ, he stood up for her, kissed her and seated her on his place." (Tirmidhi)

The following event also throws light on the extreme love of the Beloved Prophet ﷺ for his daughter. Once Hadrat Ali ﷺ received a proposal to marry the daughter of Abu Jahl. He ﷺ mounted his pulpit and delivered the following sermon whose each and every word bears witness that the Messenger of

ALLAH loved his daughter to the core of his heart: "Banu Hashim have sought my consent to marry their daughter to Ali bin Talib. I do not give the consent; I do not give the consent. I do not give the consent. Yes, if Ali wishes, he should first give divorce to my daughter and then marry their daughter. Because my daughter is a part of my body. The thing which disturbs her disturbs me and the thing which distresses her, distresses me." (Muslim)

You can simply perceive the intensity of love of Hadrat Fatima ﷺ for the Beloved Prophet ﷺ that she did not smile after the death of her August Father till she breathed her last breath. (Usdul Ghaba, V: 5, P: 634) It is also reported By Sayyida Aisha ﷺ that while the Blessed Prophet ﷺ was on his deathbed, he whispered to Hadrat Fatima two times. The first time she wept and the second time she smiled. On inquiry she replied: "He ﷺ informed me that he was leaving this world due to this disease. So, I began to weep, then he informed me that I would be the first in his family to meet him, at this I gave a smile." (Tirmidhi) It is also one of the unique excellences of Hadrat Fatima ﷺ that her progeny resumed the line of descendance of the Blessed Prophet ﷺ and it will remain up to the last Day. The Beloved Prophet ﷺ said: "All the offspring of Adam ﷺ is attributed to their paternal relatives except the progeny of Fatima, that I am their Father and their paternal link."

Sayyidah Fatima ﷺ learnt from her father the manners and gentle speech. She was kind to the poor. She often gave her food to the needy preferring herself to remain hungry. She had no inclination the materialistic world. She had no craving for the ornaments of this world or the luxuries and comforts of life. Her days and nights would be spent entirely in ibaadah and the glorification of ALLAH. Sayyidah Fatima Zahra was the epitome of piety, the encapsulation of modesty, the leader of sacrifice....- On the day of resurrection that a herald will announce :

"O People! Lower down your gaze so that Fatima ﷺ the Daughter Of Muhammad ﷺ may pass from here". (Usdul Ghaba, V: 5, P: 524)

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EXCELLENCE OF QURAAN AL-KAREEM

BY MOULANA BASHIR - MAKTABA QADRIA RAZVIA POTCHEFSTROOM

Hazrat Abdullah Bin Mas'ud ؓ, narrated, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, whoever recited even one letter of the Holy Quran he will receive the Sawaab one letter but it (the sawaab) will be equal to ten sawaab, it does not mean that the Arabic letters (Alif, Laam, Meem) is one letter but Alif is separate and Laam is separate and Meem is separate all these are individual letters.

1. Ala Hazrat Imam Ahmad Raza states that this reward does not depend on understanding. Imam Ahmad Bin Hambal ؓ states, that he saw Allah Taala in his dream and asked, O my Lord! What are the things that can free your servants from the punishment? Allah Taala said: My Book (The Holy QURAN) asked again, "O my Lord! With understanding or without understanding then, Allah Taala said, understand or not, He still rewards.

Hazrat Abu Saeed Khudri ؓ narrated that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, "Allah Taala" said, whosoever is engrossed in the recitation of the Holy Quran and does not have time to make Zikr or Dua meaning he is always engrossed in the recitation of the Holy Quran everything given (granted to him is better than the one who seeks for Zikr or Dua, and the Book of Allah Taala (the Holy Quran) is greater than all the other Books revealed. (Fataawa-Razvia 3-87)

THE GREATNESS OF THE HOLY QURAN

Hazrat Abu Hurairah ؓ narrates that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that, one thousand years before the creation of the earth and the skies the recitation of the Surah Taha and Yaseen was made, on hearing it the angels said that, "glad tidings upon whom shall these Surahs be revealed and glad tidings be upon those hearts which shall memorize these Surahs and recite it and glad tidings upon the mouth which will continuously recite these Surahs.

Hazrat Ali ؓ narrated, the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, that the Holy Quran contains the news of those things that was before you and is going to be after you and also contains the command that is in your present life.

Hazrat Ali ؓ narrates that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, the disliked command and the miracles of the Holy QURAN will never end. (Fataawa Razvia 2-264)

Ala Hazrat Imam Ahmad Raza ؓ states Hazrat Abdullah Bin Abbas ؓ has narrated that if my camel's rope gets lost I can search for it through the QURAN and I will definitely find it, Hazrat Ali Murtaza ؓ says that if I intend to laden 70 camels through the commentary of Surah Fatiha. A camel can lift a Mann (weight) and there are thousand parts of each Mann? In total approximately 2.5 million parts this is just the commentary of Surah Fatiha. Then what would be the measurement of the glorious QURAN, this is just the knowledge of Hazrat Ali ؓ, then what about the knowledge of Hazrat Umar ؓ and what about the knowledge of Hazrat Siddique Akbar ؓ.

Hazrat Umar ؓ had nine parts of knowledge and the most knowledgeable was Hazrat Abu Bakr ؓ. The knowledge of the Holy Prophet ﷺ is most superior to the knowledge of all the Nabis and everything is mentioned in the Holy QURAN and the greater the knowledge the greater the understanding. The manner in which one understands, the greater the knowledge will be. (Fataawa Razvia Part 1-

page 11/110).

INVITATION OF THE RECITATION

Hazrat Abdullah Bin Masood ؓ narrates that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said that indeed this Holy QURAN is a invitation from Allah Taala. Where so ever possible accept the invitation.

Hazrat Samora Bin Jundab ؓ narrates that Rasoolallah ﷺ said a person who invites, keeps a friend, people should accept do not leave it. Fataawa Razvia Chapter 1 page 9/74

RECITATION OF THE QURAN IN ABUNDANCE

Hazrat Ubaid Maliki ؓ narrates, Rasoolallah ﷺ said, "Oh QURAN readers don't make the QURAN a pillow, do not just read, memorize and keep it aside, do not forget about it. But recite frequently 24 hours (day and night) as you are supposed to read it and make it a common practice amongst yourself and call the people to read and memorize, and encourage its reading and memorization, don't stop and prevent one whom Allah Taala granted divine help. Read it with sweet and a nice voice and ponder about its meaning so that you can get success. Don't ask reward in this world, its reward is a mounting treasure of hereafter. One will see on that day the price and respect for himself. Fataawa Razvia, chapter 1 page 9/10.

QURAN IS A GUIDANCE FOR THE SERVANTS

Hazrat Abu Shareeh ؓ narrated that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, "undoubtedly the Holy QURAN is a sacred Book and one relation is with Allah Taala that it 'is the word of Allah and the second relation is with you that it's the guidance for you, therefore hold it firmly, that you never be destroyed.

SALUTATIONS OF QURAN AND HADIS

Hazrat Samorah Bin Jundab ؓ narrates that the Holy Prophet ﷺ said keep your mouth clean with miswaak because your mouth is a path of the Holy QURAN.

Ala Hazrat Imam Ahmad Raza ؓ states that, while reciting the Holy QURAN eating beetle leaf, smoking Hookah or a cigar at that moment is a form of disrespect. While teaching Hadis, when taking or giving or listening at the time of revising or sitting in a gathering of Meelad Shareef, Hookah, Tobacco and Cigar are disrespectful. If you are not learning or teaching just sitting and talking with friends. While giving advice, should one or two Hadis be mentioned in between than there is no problem, to say one or two words from the Hadis is not prohibited this won't be called as rendering Hadis, this is a general common practice.

Hazrat Abdullah bin Mas'ud ؓ narrates that he said, "O people! One such era has passed that we could not decide (rules) or its interpretation but now Allah Taala has granted us that status which is before you. Therefore if you are to decide (judge) something judge it according to the Book of Allah or if any Maslah arises that you can't find in the Holy QURAN than turn towards the Hadis of Rasoolallah and if you cant find in both of it than solve it according to the pious people. Maalil Habib – 50.
May Allah Keep Us Steadfast In Attaining Blessings From Reading And Understanding The Beautiful Quran Ameen



BY MOULANA
SHAH FAISAL
KHAN SAHEB

1. Kindly brief us regarding this Glorious Month of Ramadaan.

The Noble Prophet ﷺ told us about this month: Sayyidina Salman Farsi ؓ narrates that on the last day of Shabaan, the Prophet of Rahmah, the Intecessor of the Ummah, the Owner of Jannah ﷺ said, "Oh people! An auspicious and blessed month has approached you. In this month, there is a night that is better than a thousand months. Allah has made it compulsory (Fard) to fast in this sacred month. To offer Taraweeh Salaah in its nights is Sunnah. If you do a good deed in this month, it will be equivalent to carrying out a Fard in any other and if you perform a Fard act in this month, it will be equivalent to carrying out 70 Fard Acts in any other month. This is the month of patience whose reward is heaven. This is the month of sympathy and in this month the believers sustenance are increased."

In this month, the one who serves a fasting person with something to eat at Iftaar, will be forgiven for his sins and his neck will be free from the fire of Hell and he will be rewarded the same as the one who fasted without any reduction in the rewards of the fasting person. The companions asked humbly, "Ya Rasoolullah ﷺ, not all of us possess enough money to present a meal to the fasting person for Iftaar." He ﷺ replied, "Allah will give this reward to the one who offers a sip of milk, a date, or a sip of water to the fasting person and the one who serves the fasting person with a mean so that his stomach is full will be given water from my pond (Kausar) such that he will never feel thirsty and will enter Heaven."

The first 10 days of this month are mercy, the middle 10 days are forgiveness and the last 10 days are freedom from the fire of hell. One who treats his slave leniently in this month (by not burdening him with heavy duties) will be forgiven and freed from the fire of hell. In this month there are four things which you should do in abundance, two of them will earn you the pleasure of Allah and you cannot do without the

other two.

The two which will earn you the pleasure of Allah:
1) Testifying that there is none worthy of worship besides Allah.

2) Asking forgiveness

The two which you cannot do without:

1) Asking Allah for heaven.

2) Seeking refuge from hell by Allah.

Five Special Blessings:

Sayyiduna Jabir bin Abdullah ؓ narrates that the beloved and blessed Prophet ﷺ said, "In Ramadaan, my ummah has been gifted five such things which were not given to any other Prophet before me".

1. On the first night of Ramadaan, Allah showers special mercy upon them and the one upon whom Allah showers special mercy will never be punished.
2. In the evening, Allah likes the smell emanating from their mouths (due to hunger) more than musk.
3. Angels pray for their forgiveness every night and day.
4. Allah orders heaven to be adorned for His righteous people and says "soon they will get rid of the grief of the world and find solace in My House and My Bouties".
5. On the last night of Ramadaan, Allah forgives them all.

Standing up, a person asked, "Ya Rasoolullah ﷺ, is that Lailatul Qadr?". He Rasoolullah ﷺ replied, "No, do you not see that a labourer is given his wage when he finishes his job?" (At-Targhib wat-Tarhib, vol 21)

May Allah shower His Divine Blessings upon all of us, Ameen. Ramadhaan Mubarak!

YOUM-UL-FURQAAN

A DAY TO REMEMBER

We Salute the shuhada of Badr who were the noble martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the greatest battle towards the preservation of Islam. This holy day enshrined in the Quran as Youm-ul-Furqaan (day of the criterion) bears testimony to their greatness and superiority of all martyrs.

17th Ramadaan also marks the wisaal of the noble wife of Rasulullah ﷺ, Hazrat Ayesha Siddiqah ؓ



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I'TIKAF- Seclusion For The Remembrance Of Allah

The meaning of I'tikaf is to seclude oneself in the masjid with the express intention (niyyah) of I'tikaf, for the remembrance of Allah, even though for a few seconds only.

Objects and Advantages of I'tikaf

The reward of I'tikaf is great. The mere fact that Rasulullah ﷺ always performed it is sufficient to explain the virtues that are attached to it. The example of the one that resides in the masjid in I'tikaf is like the person who, having gone to a high personage to appeal for his needs, remains there until it is granted. He thus says to Allah: "O Allah! I have placed my humble request before You and have faith in Your generosity; and I shall not move from here until my request is granted by You." When someone comes begging at the door and then refuses to leave until his request is granted, it is certain that even the most selfish person will eventually accede to one's request; and how much more Merciful is Allah.

In every moment of I'tikaf one remains in Ibadah (worship), even when asleep, one is still in His service, striving for nearness to Him. Allah says, according to a hadith, "Whoever draws near to Me an arms length, then I draw nearer to him two arm lengths; and whoever draws nearer to Me by walking, I draw nearer to him by running."

It is also deduced from the various narrations that one of the major objects of I'tikaf during Ramadan is to search for Laylatul Qadr (the Night of Power). What better manner can there be than to remain in Ibadah at all times, whether one is awake or asleep, to obtain the reward of 1,000 months (over 83 years) of worship. Furthermore, in I'tikaf one is free from all daily tasks and thus has all the time to devote to zikrullah (remembrance of Allah) and meditation.

Virtues of I'tikaf

Ibn 'Abbas relates that the Messenger of Allah said: "The person performing I'tikaf remains free from sins and he is indeed given the same reward as all those who do righteous deeds (in spite of his not having done those deeds as a result of having been secluded in the masjid)."

In Kashful-Ghumma, Allamah Sha'rani relates a hadith wherein Rasulullah ﷺ said: "Whoever performs I'tikaf for the final ten days of Ramadan, for him is the reward of two Hajj and two 'Umrah, and whoever performs I'tikaf from Maghrib until 'Isha, doing nothing else except performing salah and reciting the Qur'an, Allah will prepare a place for him in Jannah."

Conditions of I'tikaf

1. to be a Muslim. 2. To be sane, 3. To be pure and clean from major impurity, monthly menses, and bleeding of childbirth, 4. To perform I'tikaf in a masjid (for males only), 5. To form the niyyah (intention) for I'tikaf. 6. To fast for

Note: Women may observe I'tikaf in the home. It is also not necessary to have reached the age of puberty to observe I'tikaf; therefore an intelligent child (male or female) may observe I'tikaf.

It is advisable for everyone who comes to join the congregational prayers to form an intention of I'tikaf upon entering the masjid. This will mean that as long as he remains busy with salah, dhikr, listening to religious lectures, etc. He also receives the reward for I'tikaf.

Itikaf for Females

Females should perform I'tikaf in the room set aside for prayer inside their homes. Where, however, no such room exists, and the desire to observe I'tikaf is present, the room where salah is normally performed should be set aside for this seclusion. If salah is performed in the bedroom, I'tikaf could be performed there. The domestic duties should be carried out by the daughters or servants while the person in I'tikaf remains constantly in 'ibadah in her room.

I'tikaf is a much easier task for women, for in fact, she remains in the confines of her room at home and receives the same great rewards of I'tikaf. It is very unfortunate that in spite of this ease, our womenfolk still remain deprived of the blessings of I'tikaf. Generally this Sunnah is neglected so much so that many have not even heard of it!

Additional Rules for Females in I'tikaf In addition to the general rules of I'tikaf that apply to men, there are some rules that apply to women only:

- A woman may perform I'tikaf in the room that is used for her daily salah.
- A woman must have the permission of her husband for I'tikaf. Once the husband has consented to his wife's I'tikaf, he then cannot withdraw his permission.
- If there is no person to serve her meals during I'tikaf, the woman is allowed to go to the kitchen to prepare a quick simple meal.
- If, during the I'tikaf, the woman has her haiz (monthly menses) or nifas (bleeding after child birth), the I'tikaf is nullified. She has to observe make-up of the remaining days after she is pure again. This is if the I'tikaf was a wajib or Sunnah, in which the vowed number of days was fixed. In the case where the I'tikaf was a wajib in which the days vowed for were not fixed in number, she will have to observe make-up of the full I'tikaf.
- A woman is allowed to sleep on her bed and use a chair while she is in I'tikaf. She could also walk around in the room for a short while to relieve the stiffness in her limbs.

When a Mu'takif could leave the Masjid or place of Itikaf

The Mu'takif (a person in I'tikaf) could leave the defined masjid area for the following reasons only. If he/she leaves for any reason other than the under mentioned then the I'tikaf will terminate forthwith. When going out for these necessities do not spend more time than is absolutely required. Return as soon as possible.

- To answer the call of nature when necessary.
- To perform wudu when the wudu' terminates (breaks). It is not permissible to leave the masjid to perform wudu' when one still has wudu'. When out of the masjid for these necessities it is permissible for one to greet others and to reply to their Salam.
- To perform the wajib bath (due to a wet dream).

When going out for wudu' it is permissible to have a wash while performing wudu', provided it is done in the same time during which wudu' is made.

TOWARDS UNDERSTANDING ZAKAAT

BY MUFTI SHAMSULHAQ MISBAHI

Who is a Malike Nisab?

Nisab is a certain declared amount of wealth which makes a person liable to pay Zakaat and anyone who possesses this amount is called a "Malik e Nisab".

It should be noted that Zakaat is compulsory in three things. 1. Gold / Silver/ money 2. Business wealth. 3. Cattle on graze

As very few people have cattle liability for Zakaat, so only gold/silver/money and business wealth will be discussed in the following.

The Nisab for Gold is seven and half Tola i.e. 93 gram, 300 mg gold.

The Nisab for Silver is fifty two and half Tola i.e. 653 gram, 100 mg silver. So, anyone who has the mentioned amount of gold or silver, he is a Malik e Nisab.

Similarly, if someone does not have gold or silver but he has money which can buy him the above mentioned amount of Silver, or he has the business that value to buy the mentioned amount of Silver, he is also a Malik e Nisab.

Sometimes, one has neither the complete amount of Gold nisab, nor he has the amount of Silver Nisab, but if both are put together then it will complete the Silver Nisab. In this circumstance, the Zakaat is Wajib.

For instance, one lady was given a chain of two Tola Silver, on her wedding by her father and she was given another chain of two Tola Gold. So here, both the Gold and Silver are not reaching their Nisab amount.

But, if the price of that chain of gold is used to buy the silver, and now this silver which is bought and that chain of silver, if they are put together, they will now become more than the declared amount of Silver

Nisab i.e. 653 gram, 100 mg silver. So, the Zakaat will be Wajib upon this lady on the completion of one year of Islamic Calendar.

It should be noted that the gold and silver will be put together only when one has both gold and silver, but if he has only gold or silver and he does not have any business, then there will be no Zakaat upon that person, as it will not be calculated on rice.

Likewise, if one has jewelry, money and business commodity, but none of them is completing the Nisab, but if they all are put together then it makes a Silver Nisab, so, in this circumstance, Zakaat is wajib upon that person.

Similarly, if one has money and business both but separately none of them is completing the Nisab but together it reaches the value of Silver Nisab i.e. 653 gram, 100 mg. So, the Zakaat will be Wajib.

Many people are working and earning a good salary but most of the time they do not possess the amount of Nisab but sometime in the year they do possess the Nisab, in this circumstance Zakaat is Wajib upon such a person.

For instance, someone started work for six thousand Rand monthly. He received his first payment on 5th Sha'abaa. Now, he became Malik e Nisaab. If next year on 5th Shaban he possesses the amount of Nisab or more, the Zakaat is compulsory upon him, regardless of his possession of the complete amount of Nisab in between. Even if he possessed less than the Nisab amount in some months, still Zakaat is Wajib upon him.

However, if he did not have money at all, anytime in this period of one year, then Zakaat is not Wajib upon him. (kutub e Ammah)

Almighty Allah and His Messenger know Best



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HAZRAT SAYYIDUNA ALI ﷺ

Name and Parentage

Hadrat Ali ﷺ was born some thirty years after the birth of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. He belonged to the most respectable family of Quraish, the Banu Hashim (i.e. Hashmites). His father Abu Talib was the real uncle of the Holy Prophet ﷺ who brought him up after the death of the Holy Prophet's grandfather. Ali's mother was Fatimah bint Asad, who belonged to Banu Hashim. Hadrat Ali's patronymic name was "Abul Hasan". The Holy Prophet gave him another name, "Abu Turab" which was most liked by Hadrat Ali. The Holy Prophet ﷺ took Ali in his childhood from his father, Abu Talib, and brought up him like his own son.

First youth to accept Islam

When the Holy Prophet ﷺ started revelations Hadrat Ali ﷺ was about ten years old. The Holy Prophet ﷺ disclosed his mission before Ali and he accepted it immediately, thus he became the first youth to enter the folds of Islam. When the Holy Prophet started to preach openly, he invited all of his family members to a feast and announced his mission before them. Nobody listened to him, but young Ali stood up and said, "Though my eyes are sore, my legs are thin and I am the youngest of all those present here yet I will stand by you, O Messenger of Allah." Hearing this all the leaders of Quraish laughed but Ali proved his words to be true after supporting the Holy Prophet ﷺ in his mission from the beginning till the end.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ loved him very much. The night when the Holy Prophet was migrating to Medina, his house was surrounded by the bloodthirsty tribesmen, who had plotted to assassinate him. They were ready to kill any person who came out of the house. In such a situation, the Holy Prophet ﷺ asked Hadrat Ali ﷺ to sleep in his bed. He followed the command gladly and immediately jumped in the bed.

Although the Meccans did not accept his mission, they considered the Holy Prophet the most trustworthy man of Mecca and continued keeping their trusts (cash and gold etc.) with him. It was Ali ﷺ to whom the Holy Prophet ﷺ gave the deposits to return to the owners, when he was leaving Mecca for Medina. Ali ﷺ migrated to Medina after returning the deposits.

Life in Medina

Hadrat Ali ﷺ also had the distinguished honour that the progeny of the Holy Prophet continued through Hadrat Ali's sons from Fatimah ﷺ namely Hadrat Hasan and Husain ﷺ. The two children were the most beloved of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

When the Holy Prophet ﷺ went to the expedition of Tabuk in 9 A.H. he left Hadrat Ali in charge of Medina. On this some hypocrites remarked that the Holy Prophet did not like Hadrat Ali. On this the Holy Prophet ﷺ remarked, "You are in the same position in relation to me as Aaron was with relation to Moses. But the only difference is: there is no prophet after me."

His Bravery and the "Zulfiqar"

In the first battle of Islam at Badr, he was holding the flag of Islamic army. When three famous warriors of Quraish challenged the Muslims, according to Arab tradition, Hadrat Ali ﷺ along with Hadrat Hamzah ﷺ and Abu Ubaidah ﷺ accepted the challenge. He killed his opponent, Walid only with one thrust of his sword and cut

him in two pieces. Then he helped Hadrat Abu Ubaidah ﷺ to kill the next Quraishi warrior.

In the battle of Uhud when Hadrat Mus'ab bin 'Umayr ﷺ, the bearer of the Islamic flag, was martyred, it was Hadrat Ali ﷺ who held it up. Seeing this one of the non-believers, Abu Sa'd challenged him. Hadrat Ali attacked him and he fell down on the ground.

In the battle of the Trench, all-Arabia fame warrior, 'Abdwood challenged the Muslims after jumping on his horse across the trench. Nobody dared to accept his challenge except Ali. The Holy Prophet ﷺ warned Ali about 'Abdwood but Ali insisted on going and fighting with him. Then the Holy Prophet ﷺ gave him his famous sword "Zulfiqar" and put a turban on his head before he went to fight with 'Abdwood. A few minutes later people saw 'Abdwood's head was cut off from his body by Ali.

The title of Asadullah

In the battle of Khaibar against Jews, the Muslims tried to conquer the strongest Jewish fort, Qumus, but were not successful in the beginning. Then the Holy Prophet ﷺ said, "I will give the command and the standard tomorrow to such a brave person who loves Allah and His Prophet and whom Allah and His Prophet love. Everybody was desiring to be that fortunate man. The people were rather surprised when the next morning the Holy Prophet ﷺ called Ali who was sick and his eyes were sore. The Holy Prophet ﷺ applied his finger, wet with his saliva, over the eyes of Ali ﷺ and they were cured immediately. Then he gave the standard, and advised him, "First of all call them towards Islam. Even if one man is guided towards Islam because of you, it would be better than red camels."

Hadrat Ali invited the Jews towards Islam. Instead of accepting the Right Path they sent their commander Marhab, the great warrior of Arabia and one of the bravest men of his time. He challenged Hadrat Ali to fight. Ali ﷺ accepted the challenge and slew him in one attack. His famous sword cut Marhab's body into two pieces.

A great scholar of Islam

The Holy Prophet ﷺ said about him, "I am the city of knowledge and Ali is its gate." He was one of the great jurists among the Companions. The Holy Prophet appointed him as the Qadi (Judge) of Yemen during his life time. He was a master of Arabic and his writings were as effective as his speech.



A DOCTOR'S HINT FOR FASTING

DR FAROUK HAFEEJEE -IMA- SOUTH AFRICA

AVOID:

Fried and fatty foods. Foods containing too much sugar. Over-eating especially at suhoor. Too much tea at suhoor: Tea makes you pass more urine taking with it valuable mineral salts that your body would need during the day.

EAT:

Complex carbohydrates at suhoor so that the food lasts longer making you less hungry. Dates are excellent source of sugar, fibre, carbohydrates, potassium and magnesium. Almonds are rich in protein and fibre with less fat. Bananas are a good source of potassium, magnesium & carbohydrates.

DRINK:

As much water or fruit juices as possible between iftar and bedtime so that your body may adjust fluid levels in time.

Common health issues faced in Ramadhan, their causes, and their remedies:

CONSTIPATION:

Constipation can cause piles (haemorrhoids), fissures (painful cracks in anal canal) and indigestion with a bloated feeling.

Causes: Too much refined foods, too little water and not enough fibre in the diet.

Remedy: Avoid excessive refined foods, increase water intake, use bran in baking and brown flour when making flatbread.

INDIGESTION AND WIND

Causes: Over-eating. Too many fried and fatty foods, spicy foods, and foods that produce wind e.g. eggs, cabbage, lentils. Carbonated drinks like Cola also produce gas.

Remedy: Do not over-eat, drink fruit juices or better still, drink water. Avoid fried foods, add ajmor to wind-producing foods.

LETHARGY ('low blood pressure')

Excessive sweating, weakness, tiredness, lack of energy, dizziness, especially on getting up from sitting position, pale appearance and feeling faint are symptoms associated with "low blood pressure". This tends to occur towards the afternoon.

Causes: Too little fluid intake, decreased salt intake.

Remedy: Keep cool, increase fluid and salt intake.

Caution: Low blood pressure should be confirmed by taking a blood pressure reading when symptoms are present. Persons with high blood pressure may need their medication adjusted during Ramadhan. They should consult their doctor.

HEADACHE:

Causes: Caffeine and tobacco-withdrawal, doing too much in one day, lack of sleep, and hunger. Usually occur as the day goes by and worsens at the end of the day. When associated with "low blood pressure", the headache can be quite severe and can also cause nausea before Iftar.

Remedy: Cut down caffeine and tobacco slowly starting a week or two before Ramadhan. Herbal and caffeine-free teas may be substituted. Reorganise your schedule during the Ramadan to have adequate sleep.

LOW BLOOD SUGAR:

Weakness, dizziness, tiredness, poor concentration, perspiring easily, feeling shaky (tremor), unable to perform physical activities, headache, palpitations are symptoms of low blood sugar.

Causes (in non-diabetics): Having too much sugar i.e. refined carbohydrates especially at suhoor. The body produces too much insulin causing the blood glucose to drop.

Remedy: Eat something at suhoor and limit sugar-containing foods and drinks.

Caution: Diabetics may need to adjust their medication in Ramadhan. Consult your doctor.

MUSCLE CRAMPS

Causes: Inadequate intake of calcium, magnesium and potassium foods.

Remedy: Eat foods rich in the above minerals e.g. vegetables, fruit, dairy products, meat and dates.

Caution: Those on high blood pressure medication and with kidney stone problems should consult their doctor.

PEPTIC ULCERS, HEART BURN, GASTRITIS AND HIATUS HERNIA

Increased acid levels in the empty stomach in Ramadhan aggravate the above conditions. It presents a burning feeling in the stomach area under the ribs and can extend up to the throat. Spicy foods, coffee, and Cola drinks worsen these conditions. Medications are available to control acid levels in the stomach. People with proven peptic ulcers and hiatus hernia should consult their doctor well before Ramadhan.

KIDNEY STONES

Kidney stones may occur in people who have less liquids to drink. Therefore, it is essential to drink extra liquids to prevent stone formation.

JOINT PAINS

Causes: During Ramadhan, when extra Salaah are performed, the pressure on the knee joints increases. In the elderly and those with arthritis, this may result in pain, stiffness, swelling and discomfort.

Remedy: Lose weight so that the knees do not have to carry any extra load. Exercise the lower limbs before Ramadhan so that they can be prepared for the additional strain. Being physically fit allows greater fulfillment, thus enabling one to be able to perform Salaah with ease.

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CRESCENT OF SALVATION AND FORGIVENESS

BY SHEIKH ZUZE ISHAAQ - HEAD OF DAWAH ACTIVITIES AT ORANGE FARM

Muslims live pure at all times, Muslims stay pure at all times & they do not stay impure, we are the Muslims who are loved by Allah and Allah is loved by us.

The essence of Ramadhan is already running into our veins as we dedicate our time during this Holy month, to be closer to Allah Almighty through prayers, self restraint and good deeds.

Marhabaan Yaa Ramadhan, Marhabaan Yaa shahurulswiyaam,

Fasting in this month is one of the five pillars of Islam, compulsory upon every adult male and female. Allah has promised great rewards for those who fast and for those who do not fast without a valid excuse would be severely punished. My question is what is its greater purpose as it dawn upon us? Is for the discovery of our true nature of us as human beings.

Nabi Muhammad ﷺ said "Whoever fast the month of Ramadhan on the basis of faith and seeking the pleasure of Allah, his past errors are forgiven, above all- fasting is an act of obedience and submission to Allah. One should avoid disobedience and free oneself from all bad attitudes, to protect one's tongue from lies, backbiting and protect eyes and ears from looking at or listening to that which is not permitted. Likewise a fasting person should protect his/her body from falling into misdeeds.

It enhances the feeling of inner peace and contentment; train the behavior in sincerely and faithfulness. Fasting indeed promotes Islamic sociability as Muslims invite others to break the fast and gather for Qur'an study, prayers and visits. This however provides a better chance for realization in a brotherly and spiritual atmosphere.

Many elements indeed as we can see in which the spirit of humanity is exercised before Allah, spirit of charity and sympathy towards the poor and the needy, and

the spirit of unity and belonging within any community because all Muslims all over the world fast during the same month, following the same rules & observances.

I hope to believe to say fasting during his month every year should in-calculate in us the acknowledgment that Allah is the only Master and the Sustainer of the universe and it is He only through His bounties that we have our existence and sustenance.

We beseech the Almighty Allah by this grace, salvation and ability to embrace its tidings as we will be extolling through a different and exciting experience that breaks the normal routine of life.

Remember there is no beautiful word as Allah, no example as beautiful as our Nabi Muhammad ﷺ, no lesson as beautiful as Islam, no song so melodious as Adhaan, no charity as meaningful as Zakaat, no encyclopedia as perfect as Al-Qur'an, no prayers as perfect as Salaah, no diet as perfect as Fasting, no journey as perfect as Hajj, so lets remember that Islam is forever beautiful and perfect and these are its fundamental beliefs.

"Oh Allah help us to fast in this month to please you" Ameen!

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SADAQATUL- FITRA

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Hadith narrated by Ibn Umar ؓ: Allah's Apostle ﷺ enjoined the payment of one Sa' of dates or one Sa' of barley as Sadaqa-tul-Fitr on every Muslim slave or free, male or female, young or old, and he ordered that it be paid before the people went out to offer the Eid prayer. (Bukhari Sharif)

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

1. It must be paid before Eidul Fitr Salaah
2. It must be paid by those that have the minimum of nisaab of zakaat over and above their need on the day of Eidul Fitr
3. If the Sadaqatul Fitr is not paid on the date due then the reward for it is lost but the obligation remains.
4. The fidyah for lost fasts (expiation) is calculated at the rate of the Sadaqatul Fitr per day of fasts missed.

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DAWAH

HYGIENE AND FOOD (Part 2)

MOULANA ABDUL WAHAB WOOKAY

As was mentioned in the previous article, major food producers implement stringent hygiene systems in their factories to ensure food safety. The primary reason that such stringent measures are employed at food manufacturers is to ensure that the products they have produced do not lead to food poisoning.

Hygiene and cleanliness is not foreign to Islam and it was also mentioned in the previous article that the Holy prophet Sallallahu Alaihi Wassallam encouraged us by way of example, to wash our hands before consuming any food. We therefore also need to ensure that care is taken in the preparation of food for our families.

On a daily basis our hands come into contact with millions of micro-organisms called bacteria. Hence, our hands are populated with bacteria and given the proper conditions, these organisms multiply to a level from where it can only be seen under a microscope to where it can be seen by the naked eye. While not all bacteria is bad, there are some that can make us sick. Raw foods including meat, poultry, fish and shellfish, eggs, unpasteurized milk and dairy products, and fresh produce often contain bacteria that cause food poisoning. This however, it must be noted, is not the only cause of food poisoning.

Listed below are some of the bacteria that cause sickness:

- * Salmonella, a bacterium found in many foods, including raw and undercooked meat, poultry, dairy products, and seafood. Salmonella may also be present on egg shells and inside eggs.
- * Campylobacter jejuni (C. jejuni), found in raw or undercooked chicken and unpasteurized milk.
- * Shigella, a bacterium spread from person to person. These bacteria are present in the stools of people who are infected. If people who are infected do not wash their hands thoroughly after using the bathroom, they can contaminate food that they handle or prepare. Water contaminated with infected stools can also contaminate produce in the field.

- * Escherichia coli (E. coli), which includes several different strains, only a few of which cause illness in humans. E. coli O157:H7 is the strain that causes the most severe illness. Common sources of E. coli include raw or undercooked hamburger, unpasteurized fruit juices and milk, and fresh produce.
- * Listeria monocytogenes (L. monocytogenes), which has been found in raw and undercooked meats, unpasteurized milk, soft cheeses, and ready-to-eat deli meats and hot dogs.
- * Vibrio, a bacterium that may contaminate fish or shellfish.
- * Clostridium botulinum (C. botulinum), a bacterium that may contaminate improperly canned foods and smoked and salted fish.

The simple manner in which food poisoning can be avoided is to follow a few simple steps:

1. Avoid cross contamination as this is how bacteria can spread. Separate fresh or frozen, raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs from produce and ready-to-eat foods. Food items that need to be stored should be put in a fridge or freezer within two hours.
2. Wash the food items properly.
3. It is very important to keep kitchen surfaces such as appliances, countertops, cutting boards and utensils clean. Use hot, soapy water to wash.
4. Wash and disinfect dish cloths and sponges.
5. Wash your hands thoroughly prior to preparation of foods. It is recommended that at least twenty seconds be spent on washing the hands. Thereafter dry the hands using a paper towel.
6. The hands should be washed after handling raw meat, chicken or fish.
7. Leftover foods from a meal should not stay out of the fridge for longer than two hours.

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SADAQATUL FITR

MEANING: Zakaah al-Fitr is often referred to as Sadaqah al-Fitr. The word Fitr means the same as Iftaar, breaking a fast and it comes from the same root word as Futoor which means breakfast. Thus, Islamically, Sadaqa tul-Fitr is the name given to charity which is distributed at the end of the fast of Ramadaan.

CLASSIFICATION: Sadaqah al-Fitr is a duty which is Waajib on every Muslim, whether male or female, minor or adult as long as he/she has the means to do so.

The proof that this form of charity is compulsory can be found in the Sunnah whereby Ibn `Umar reported that the Prophet ﷺ made Zakaah al-Fitr compulsory on every slave, freeman, male, female, young and old among the Muslims; one Saa` of dried dates or one Saa` of barely. [collected by Bukhaaree - Arabic/English, vol. 2, p. 339, no. 579]

The head of the household may pay the required amount for the other members. Abu Sa'eed al-Khudree said, "On behalf of our young and old, free men and slaves, we used to take out during Allaah's Messenger's ﷺ lifetime one Saa` of grain, cheese or raisins". [Muslim - English transl. vol. 2, p. 469, no. 2155]

SIGNIFICANCE: The significant role played by Zakaah in the circulation of wealth within the Islamic society is also played by the Sadaqa tul-Fitr. However, in the case of Sadaqa tul-Fitr, each individual is required to calculate how much charity is due from himself and his dependents and go into the community in order to find those who deserve such charity. Thus, Sadaqa tul-Fitr plays a very important role in the development of the bonds of community. The rich are obliged to come in direct contact with the poor, and the poor are put in contact with the extremely poor. This contact between the various levels of society helps to build real bonds of brotherhood and love within the Islamic community and trains those who have, to be generous to those who do not have.

PURPOSE: The main purpose of Sadaqa tul-Fitr is to provide those who fasted with the means of making up for their errors during the month of fasting. Sadaqa tul-Fitr also provides the poor with a means with which they can celebrate the festival of breaking the fast (Eid ul Fitr) along with the rest of the Muslims.

Ibn Abbaas reported, "The Prophet ﷺ made Sadaqa tul-

Fitr compulsory so that those who fasted may be purified of their idle deeds and shameful talk (committed during Ramadaan) and so that the poor may be fed. Whoever gives it before Salaah will have it accepted as Sadaqa tul-Fitr, while he who gives it after the Salaah has given Sadaqah." [Abu Dawood - Eng. transl. vol. 2, p. 421, no. 1605]

Hence, the goal of Sadaqa tul-Fitr is the spiritual development of the Believers. By making them give up some of their wealth, the believers are taught the higher moral characteristics of generosity, compassion (sympathy for the unfortunate), gratitude to God and the righteousness. But, since Islaam does not neglect man's material need, part of the goal of Sadaqa tul-Fitr is the economic well-being of the poorer members of society.

CONDITIONS: Sadaqa tul-Fitr is only Waajib for a particular period of time. If one misses the time period without a good reason, he has sinned and can not make it up. This form of charity becomes obligatory from sunset on the last day of fasting and remains obligatory until the beginning of Salaah tal-Eid (i.e. shortly after sunrise on the following day). However, it can be paid prior to the above mentioned period, as many of the companions of the Prophet ﷺ used to pay Sadaqa tul-Fitr a couple days before the Eid.

Naafi reported that the Prophet's ﷺ companion Ibn `Umar used to give it to those who would accept it and the people used to give it a day or two before the Eid. [Bukhaaree - Arabic/English, Vol. 2, p. 339, no. 579]

Ibn `Umar reported that the Prophet ﷺ order that it (Sadaqa tul-Fitr) be given before people go to make the Salaah (Eid).

And Ibn `Abbaas reported that the Prophet ﷺ said, "Whoever gives it before the Salaah will have it accepted as Sadaqa tul-Fitr, while he who gives it after the Salaah (will not, for it will only be considered as) ordinary charity. Therefore, one who forgets to pay this Sadaqa tul-Fitr on time should do so as soon as possible even though it will not be counted as Sadaqa tul-Fitr

RATE: The amount of Zakaah is the same for everyone regardless of their different income brackets. The minimum amount is one Saa` (two handfuls) of food, grain or dried fruit for each member of the family.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS FOCUS

BY FAKIR HASSEN

Cairo, EGYPT – At the time of going to print, Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi had rejected a 48-hour ultimatum from the military to resolve the political crisis in the country, hinting at a possible takeover if he could not. On-going protests have drawn at least 14 million people into the streets, with a large number of them demanding Morsi's resignation. The stalemate has triggered a series of resignations by cabinet ministers, leaving Morsi isolated.

Geneva, SWITZERLAND - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has again called for an end to the violence in Syria, appealing to all those with influence to act now to end what he calls "Syria's huge and heart-rending humanitarian crisis". "The people of Syria want peace and hope. Yet all they see is death upon death," he said. "All they hear is talk after talks. People are dying. Families are fleeing. Syria's fires are spreading. They may soon engulf the whole region." It is estimated that more than 100,000 people in Syria have been killed in more than two years of war. Millions of people are displaced inside Syria and well over 1.5 million refugees have sought asylum in neighbouring countries.

Doha, QATAR - The Emir of Qatar has transferred power to his son, who is set to become the youngest sovereign of any of the Gulf Arab monarchies. Former Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani abdicated in favour of his 33-year-old son Sheikh Tamim as the new leader of the gas-rich nation which is a major diplomatic broker in regional politics. Tamim is the second son of the Emir and his second wife Sheikha Mozah. The British-educated leader, who

attended the Sandhurst Royal Military Academy, is deputy commander of the armed forces and head of the National Olympic Committee. He also chairs the Qatar 2022 Supreme Committee in charge of presenting the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Dubai, UAE - Dubai has added a new item to its top ambitions - a site honouring the Qur'an. The estimated \$7.3 million project will include a garden with plants mentioned in the Qur'an and an air-conditioned tunnel depicting events from the Qur'an. The park should be ready in September 2014. It is a departure from Dubai's emphasis on Western-style tourism, which draws millions of visitors from around the Muslim world but has its detractors. Recently a Saudi mufti issued a Fatwah saying it was a "sin" for Saudi women to visit Dubai, but later retracted the opinion after an outcry.

Jeddah, SAUDI ARABIA - King Abdullah has extended an amnesty for foreign workers to obtain legal status in the country until the end of the Hijri year on November 3, from the previous deadline of July 3. Earlier this year, the Kingdom began to crack down on the many foreign workers who have violated their visa terms with surprise inspections on streets and in company offices. The government then announced an amnesty during which workers would be exempted from any fees or fines for visa violations such as overstaying or switching jobs, but bureaucratic delays mean many have still not regularised their status, facing immediate deportation.

Makkah, SAUDI ARABIA - Police have announced an integrated

security plan to ensure the safety of the large number of pilgrims and visitors expected to converge on the holy city during Ramadan. Lt. Col. Abdulmuhsin Al-Maiman said the plan includes three basic aspects - public order, pedestrian security and a traffic plan. He said security patrols and plainclothes officers will be deployed throughout the city around the clock. There will be supplementary plans for the last 10 days of the holy month, especially for the Night of Power and the Khatam Al-Qur'an (completion of the recitation of the Qur'an) prayers on the nights of Ramadan 27 and 29, when enormous crowds of worshippers and pilgrims are expected in the city.

Makkah, SAUDI ARABIA - The general manager of the Haji and Mu'tamer's Gift Charity Association, Mansour Al-Aamer, said that the charity will provide more than 1.5 million free Iftar meals during Ramadan this year. The meals will be distributed by nearly 1,150 employees at Al-Haram, entry points to Makkah, and car parking areas. The society has opened an office this year in Madinah, and the Iftar meal will include yogurt and other Madinah specific food items. 100,000 Suhoor free meals will be distributed in Makkah's central area, and 250,000 Iftar and Suhoor meals will be distributed at the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah.

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