

FRIDAY MESSAGE

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Ramadan: A Gateway to Paradise, a Shield from the Fire

Ramadan, the blessed month of fasting, is a time of immense spiritual significance for Muslims. It is a period of intense devotion, reflection, and purification, where the gates of Paradise are flung open, the gates of Hell are shut, and the Shayateen are chained.

The Gate of Rayyan: A Special Reward for the Fasting

Imagine a gate in Paradise, reserved exclusively for those who observe the fast. This is the Gate of Rayyan, a symbol of honour and distinction for those who have endured hunger and thirst for the sake of Allah. It is a testament to their unwavering faith and commitment to their Creator.

The very name "Rayyan" evokes a sense of refreshment and satiation, a fitting reward for those who have abstained from worldly pleasures. It is a reminder that true fulfilment lies not in indulging our physical desires, but in seeking the pleasure of Allah.

Ramadan: A Time for Increased Worship and Forgiveness

Ramadan is a time to strengthen our connection with Allah through increased acts of worship. The nights are alive with the recitation of the Quran, the whispers of prayers, and the yearning for forgiveness. It is a time to turn away from distractions and focus on our spiritual growth.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "When Ramadan enters, the gates of Paradise are opened, the gates of

Hell are closed, and the devils are chained." (Bukhari from Abu Huraia) This creates an environment conducive to spiritual progress, where the whispers of Satan are weakened and the path to righteousness is illuminated.

The Night of Decree: A Night Better Than a Thousand Months

Hidden within the nights of Ramadan is Laylat al-Qadr, the Night of Decree, a night of immense spiritual power and blessings. It is a night when the Quran was first revealed, a night when the angels descend to earth, and a night when supplications are answered.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Whoever stands in prayer during the Night of Decree with faith and expectation will have their past sins forgiven." (Bukhari from Abu Huraia). This is an opportunity for immense spiritual renewal, a chance to wipe the slate clean and start anew.

Fasting: A Beloved Act of Worship

Fasting is a deeply personal act of worship, a sacrifice made solely for the pleasure of Allah. It is a shield against temptation, a means of purifying the heart, and a way to cultivate empathy for those less fortunate.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Allah says, 'Every deed of the son of Adam is for him, except fasting; it is for Me, and I shall reward for it.'" (Bukhari from Abu Huraia) This highlights the special status of fasting in the eyes of Allah, a testament to its profound spiritual significance.

Ramadan: A Month of Emancipation and Forgiveness

Ramadan is a month of immense mercy and forgiveness. It is a time when Allah frees countless souls from the fire of Hell, a time when supplications are answered, and a time when hearts are softened.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Indeed, Allah has those whom He emancipates every day and night—meaning in Ramadan—and every Muslim has a supplication that is answered every day." (Ibn Maja from Jabir ibn Abdullah). This is a reminder of Allah's boundless mercy and His willingness to forgive even the gravest of sins.

Umrah in Ramadan: A Hajj with the Prophet

Performing Umrah, the minor pilgrimage, during Ramadan holds special significance. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "When Ramadan comes, perform Umrah in it, for an Umrah in Ramadan is equivalent to a Hajj." (Bukhari and Muslim from Ibn Abbas) This is a unique opportunity to earn the reward of performing Hajj with the Prophet himself.

Ramadan: A Source of Joy in This World and the Hereafter

Ramadan is not just a month of deprivation and hardship. It is also a time of immense joy and spiritual fulfilment. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "The fasting person has two joys: a joy when he breaks his fast and a joy when he meets his Lord."

The joy of breaking the fast is a tangible reminder of the blessings of Allah, while the joy of meeting Him in the Hereafter is the ultimate reward for a life of faith and devotion.

Conclusion

Ramadan is a truly blessed month, a time of spiritual renewal, forgiveness, and immense

blessings. It is a gateway to Paradise, a shield from the fire, and a source of joy in this world and the Hereafter. Let us embrace this opportunity to strengthen our connection with Allah, purify our hearts, and earn His pleasure.

Actions that will invalidate fast:

- Intentional eating or drinking, includes receiving nourishing substances via a needle.
- To eat and drink after Subha Sadiq or to break the fast before sunset due mistake in timings.
- Engaging in sexual intercourse or masturbation leading to ejaculation.
- Vomiting deliberately.
- Bleeding due to menses or Nifas
- Accidental entry of water into the throat when performing Wudu or Gusul

Actions that do not invalidate fast:

- To eat or drink due to forgetfulness.
- Applying oil or cream on the body.
- Rinsing the mouth or gargling, as long as the water does not enter the throat.
- Swallowing saliva.
- Using a miswak or toothbrush.

Actions disliked in fast:

- Tasting or chewing something provided its flavour does not enter the throat.
- Any actions that would weaken a fasting person such as cupping blood.
- To rinse the mouth or gargle excessively during Wudu or Gusul.

Schools of thought differ on some actions that may or may not invalidate a fast. Seek clarification from your Imam.