

# FRIDAY MESSAGE

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**Embrace the transformative power of Ramadan, a sacred time for spiritual renewal and profound connection.**

As the crescent moon graces the night sky, it beckons us to embark on a journey of self-discovery, reflection, and growth. More than just abstaining from food and drink, Ramadan is an invitation to purify our hearts, minds, and bodies, aligning ourselves with divine guidance and compassion.

Ramadan is not just a month; it is a transformative experience that can shape our lives forever. Let us embrace its power, unlock its potential, and emerge from this holy month as better versions of ourselves, ready to make a positive impact on the world around us, emulating the dedication and piety of the Salaf in our own lives. Embrace the whispering dawn of Ramadan, a time when the veil between the earthly and the divine thins, inviting us to a deeper communion with the sacred. It's not merely a month of abstention, but a carefully orchestrated symphony of spiritual renewal, a chance to rewrite the narrative of our souls. Imagine Ramadan as a cosmic reset button, a chance to declutter the noise of daily life and tune into the quiet whispers of our hearts.

When Ramadan began, the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) would exert himself more in worship." (Bukhari & Muslim from A'siha)

This is not just about fasting; it is about becoming. It's a month to shed the layers of complacency and reconnect with the essence of our being. Think of the Salaf, those luminous examples of devotion. Uthman ibn Affan (RA), whose heart was so intertwined with the Quran that he would reportedly complete its recitation daily during Ramadan – a testament not just to his dedication but to the transformative power of engaging deeply with divine words.

This Ramadan, let's not just read the Quran, let's allow it to read us, to illuminate the hidden corners of our hearts.

Ramadan whispers a secret: true abundance lies not in what we accumulate, but in what we give away. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the epitome of generosity, exemplified this, his generosity amplified during Ramadan like a river overflowing its banks. Recall Abdullah ibn Abbas's narration, describing the Prophet (PBUH) as more generous than a nourishing and refreshing wind. This Ramadan, let's open our hands and hearts, remembering that every act of kindness, however small, is a seed planted in fertile ground.

Picture this: the stillness of the night, the hushed whispers of prayer, the soul taking flight in the quiet intimacy of Qiyam. The Salaf understood the power of these sacred hours. They were not just praying; they were conversing with the Divine, their tears flowing like a testament to the depth of their connection.

This Ramadan, let's reclaim the night, not for idle pursuits, but for intimate conversations with our Creator.

Ramadan is a mirror, reflecting back to us our truest selves. It's a time for introspection, for taking stock of our spiritual landscape. Where have we strayed? Where do we need to course-correct? It's a time for sincere repentance, a chance to wipe the slate clean and begin again, stronger and more determined.

The physical act of fasting is a powerful metaphor. As our stomachs growl, our hearts soften, reminding us of the plight of those less fortunate. It's a lesson in empathy, a call to action to extend our hands to those in need. This Ramadan, let's not just feel compassion, let's act on it.

But let's be real: Ramadan isn't just about grand gestures. It's about the small, everyday acts of devotion. It's about controlling our tongues, guarding our thoughts, and striving for sincerity in all that we do. The Salaf understood that true piety lies in the details, in the quiet acts of self-discipline and unwavering focus on the Divine.

Let's approach Ramadan not as a burden, but as a precious opportunity, a chance to reset, renew, and rise. Let's prepare our hearts to receive its blessings, to soak in its spiritual rain, and to emerge from this holy month transformed, our souls polished and gleaming with divine light. Let this Ramadan be a turning point, a moment where we choose to live with intention, compassion, and unwavering devotion.

Ibn Umar would fast and not break his fast except with the needy. He would come to the mosque, pray, then go to his house with a group of needy people

It was said to Hasan al-Basri (may Allah have mercy on him): "Why are those who pray at night among the most handsome of people?" He replied, "Because they commune with the Most Merciful, so He clothes them with His light."

**Example of generosity:** Hammad ibn Abi Sulayman, who possessed considerable wealth, would provide Iftar for five hundred people during the month of Ramadan, and that he would give each of them one hundred dirhams after Eid.

Abdullah ibn Abbas was known for his generosity and would often give away large sums of money during Ramadan.

**Examples of Ibadah:** Sufyan al-Thawri, when Ramadan arrived, would abandon all other activities and devote himself to reading the Quran.

Muhammad ibn Ismail al-Bukhari would complete a recitation of the Quran every day during Ramadan in the daytime, and after the Tarawih prayers, he would complete a recitation every three nights.

Hasan al-Basri said: "Indeed, Allah has made Ramadan a racecourse for His creation, in which they compete for His pleasure. Some people went ahead and won, while others lagged and lost. How strange it is for one to be playful and laughing on a day when the virtuous are winning and the idle are losing!"

Ali ibn Abi Talib said: "Whoever is concerned with what enters his stomach, his value is what comes out of it."

Umar ibn al-Khattab on the eve of Ramadan would say: "Welcome to the cleanser of our sins."

Imam Malik ibn Anas, whose lessons in the Prophet's Mosque were continuous, would suspend them during Ramadan, as he dedicated himself to the Quran. When Ramadan arrived, he would refrain from teaching Hadith and engaging with scholars, instead focusing on reciting the Quran from the Mus'haf.