

FRIDAY MESSAGE

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Ramadan: A Journey of Renewal, Mercy, and Nearness to God

There are moments in life when a person pauses, reflects, and realizes that the heart awakens most deeply in seasons chosen by God. Ramadan is one of those rare and sacred seasons. It enters gently, yet it stirs the soul with a transformative force that few experiences can match. In this blessed month, Allah offers His servants a precious gift, a gift wrapped in mercy, clothed in spiritual intimacy, and elevated by divine honour: the fast. Among all acts of worship, fasting holds a unique and mysterious status, for Allah Himself proclaims, "Fasting is for Me." This extraordinary attribution fills the heart with reverence, for when the Most Magnificent claims something as His own, He raises it beyond measure and beyond human imagination.

Fasting is unlike any other act of devotion. Prayer is performed with the body and witnessed by others. Charity is seen, counted, and recorded. Pilgrimage is a journey shared with multitudes. But fasting is an intimate secret hidden between the heart of the believer and the gaze of the Creator. Only Allah knows whether you truly withheld yourself from desires, whether you resisted temptation when no one else could see, whether you chose His pleasure over your own comfort. This secrecy is what gives fasting its purity and makes it a worship unmarred by vanity. Early scholars understood this deeply; Sufyān ibn ‘Uyaynah described the Day of Judgment as a moment when every deed a person has

done is examined and used to settle the wrongs committed against others, except fasting. Fasting remains untouched, preserved, exalted. And when nothing remains of a person's good deeds except his fast, Allah Himself, out of limitless mercy, will take responsibility for settling what remains of the servant's injustices, and then guide that servant into Paradise through the honour of fasting.

This worship becomes a shield, a spiritual armour carried by the believer, as the Prophet ﷺ described. It is a protection not merely from hunger, but from anger, sin, desire, and the sparks of wrongdoing that surround a human being every day. A shield is something held close, trusted, and relied upon in moments of vulnerability, and fasting becomes just that: a companion in weakness, a source of inner strength, and a sanctuary for the soul.

The Prophet ﷺ painted a remarkable scene of the afterlife, one that ignites the imagination and inspires hope. On the Day when excuses fade and every limb speaks the truth, fasting will step forward as an advocate for the believer. It will say, "My Lord, I prevented him from food and desire throughout the day, allow me to intercede for him." What a breathtaking moment: an act of worship speaking on your behalf when your own words may fail you. And beside it will stand the Qur'an, saying, "I kept him awake at night, permit me to intercede." Two companions of Ramadan—the fast and the Qur'an, standing like loyal, unwavering friends, pleading for your success.

Yet for fasting to rise to this level, it must be protected, nourished, and honoured. Jābir ibn ‘Abdillāh taught that the ears, eyes, and tongue must also fast. True fasting means restraining the tongue from lies, restraining the eyes from what is forbidden, restraining the limbs from harm, and cultivate a demeanour of serenity and dignity. This is the fast that transforms; the fast that softens the heart and cleanses the soul.

Now, as Ramadan reaches its midpoint, the days behind us feel as though they have passed like a fleeting breeze. But the beauty of Ramadan is not limited to its first days, it lies also in the awakening that comes in its middle and in the resolve that strengthens in its end. Blessed is the one who has risen to the challenge, who has fought the battles within, and who has honoured this month with sincerity. Blessed is the one who realizes that the doors of mercy remain wide open, inviting, and welcoming. If you have excelled, then continue. If you have faltered, return. If you have fallen, rise. The early Muslims used to say, “Whoever is not forgiven in Ramadan, when will they be forgiven?” For Ramadan is not merely a month, it is an opportunity unlike any other.

As the month progresses, fatigue may attempt to settle over the heart. The initial excitement softens, the body tires, and the mind becomes accustomed to the routine. But this is where true devotion emerges. This is where faith deepens, and the sincere distinguish themselves. The ending of the month matters more than its beginning. It is the final sprint that determines one’s victory, the closing chapter that seals the story. Many begin strong but end weak; many begin quietly but finish gloriously. Let your ending be beautiful. Let the last days be your best days.

Ramadan nights are among the most extraordinary gifts God bestows upon humanity. Every night, in the last third of the night, the Creator descends in a manner

befitting His majesty and calls: “Who is calling upon Me so I may answer him? Who is asking of Me so I may give him? Who is seeking forgiveness so I may forgive him?” This is not metaphor, it is reality. A promise from the One who never breaks His promise. The doors of heaven are open; the gates of mercy are unlocked; the King of Kings is inviting you to ask. So ask. Ask for forgiveness that washes away the past. Ask for strength to transform the future. Ask for guidance that illuminates the present. Ask for your family, for your heart, for your wounds, for your dreams. Ask, for the fasting person’s supplication at the moment of breaking the fast is never rejected.

Ramadan reveals who you are and who you can become. It exposes the distance between you and your Lord, but also gives you a path to close that distance entirely. With every fast, your heart returns. With every prayer, your soul rises. With every verse, your spirit trembles. This month is a season of renewal and a chance to rewrite your destiny.

So plant sincerity in your heart. Water it with prayer. Nurture it with hope. Protect it with patience. Watch how Allah transforms exhaustion into strength, weakness into resilience, doubt into unwavering faith. As you move through the final half of Ramadan, remember: this is not about being perfect, it is about striving, returning, and loving the One who is more merciful to you than you are to yourself. The Prophet ﷺ promised that whoever fasts Ramadan with faith and expectation of reward will have his past sins forgiven. What greater motivation could there be? This is a month of cleansing, of mercy descending, of destinies being rewritten by the Most Merciful.

Ramadan is passing—but forgiveness is near, mercy is near, Paradise is near, and above all, your Lord is near.