

Bidding Farewell to Ramadan

Friday Khutbah (12th October 2007) delivered by Shaykh Muhammad Taher

DISCLAIMER: This reminder was originally delivered in Arabic. Any meanings lost in translation are not to be attributed to the speaker as reminders are translated by volunteers. The mosque has no official translator and volunteers often have no formal qualifications to translate on the day. Please forgive any errors as they are from our human weakness and any right guidance is from God.

Muslims encounter many stations or pit-stops in their lives that enable them to strengthen their faith. These passing stations are a chance to gather spiritual fuel and facilitate the path to obeying Allah the most High.

The month of Ramadan is one of these stations that come in the year; a garden from the gardens of Paradise where the believing, obedient souls enjoy the delight of being close to Allah and having a close connection to Him.

Ramadan is a small drop of the many mercies Allah Almighty grants to those who turn to Him and repent and are obedient. It is a school which teaches us to be patient in the obedience of Allah, it is a reminder to the heedless to renew their contract with their Lord and to protect and maintain their promise to the best of their ability.

O Muslim! - Ramadan is bidding you farewell by saying: "Your life consists of days and nights, hours and minutes. Not a day goes by without it (the day) saying to you- O Son of Adam, I am a new day, I am a witness to your deeds, so make the most of me, for I will not return to you except on the day of Judgement..."

Wisdom calls out to you and says: "O son of Adam, you are just a number of days"... So, the days of your life in this world are numbered. If a day of your life passes by, then see it as a part of you passing by, as with each day that goes by, your life shortens. These passing days carry forward the deeds that you did to the next life- so look to what you fill your days with.

Ramadan continues [its advice to you] by emphasising that it is a month chosen by Allah "Allah made me a great means for worship in Islam- this means is fasting. Muslims beautify me with their fasting, their prayers [in congregation], their night prayers and by doing various good deeds that bring them closer to Allah. Allah Almighty has beautified me by giving me the night which is better than a thousand months- Laylatul Qadr (the night of decree). How fortunate is the person who gains the blessings and goodness of this month and how unfortunate is the person who was heedless and too pre-occupied in other things to gain nearness to his Master. How unfortunate is the person who passes by one year to the next without any change, finding each year as he left the previous one!

O Muslim! - Ask yourself: What did you gain from this month? What acts of obedience and extra good deeds did you do in this month that you did not do prior to it? But the most important question is: Did you change in Ramadan? Did you better your state?

Did you leave your bad habits? Did you leave off those things which would not please Allah Almighty? Did you get closer to your Lord? Did you cry and repent for your sins? Did you do good to those around you (your family and friends)

There are many questions which we need to ask ourselves and answer individually. If your answers are in the positive then this is good news, as this is a sign of deeds and repentance being accepted.

If your answers to these questions are in the negative then ask Allah for forgiveness, blessings and refuge and help against your desires and Satan.

O Muslim

Islam does not want you to be seasonal people- obeying Allah in certain months and then cutting your link immediately after [they are finished]. One of the pious forerunners said: The most miserable of communities are those who don't know Allah except in Ramadan, so be people of divine characteristics and not people of Ramadan only"

So do not be people who follow Islam in Ramadan only, be obedient to Allah in all months and at all times. Continue with your good deeds and acts of obedience after Ramadan ends, this will be a proof that Allah has accepted your fasts and prayers. A sign of your good deed being accepted is that you are granted the blessing of being able to follow it up with another good deed, as Allah Almighty says in Surah Maryam : 76:

"Allah increases the guidance of those who choose to be guided"

And likewise, one of the signs of being punished for doing a bad deed is that you follow it up with another bad deed, and this is a punishment that is here in this worldly life before the life to come after. But if you repent this causes Allah the Merciful to be pleased with you and you increase following up your good deeds with more good acts.

Steadfastness and consistency in doing good is from the characteristics of a believer. The Prophet (pbuh) would constantly ask Allah the following: "O Turner of the hearts, make my heart firm on your religion"

And from the supplications in the Qur'an there is:

"Our Lord, let not our hearts waver, now that You have guided us. Shower us with Your mercy; You are the Grantor." (Surah Ale' Imran: 8)

In this way we ask Allah not to let us waver after guidance, not to let us deviate after You have granted us steadfastness, let us remain straight on Your path.

Second Khutbah

O Muslims- Zakat-ul-fitr is an obligation upon you. It is purification for the one who fasted from bad or false speech. It is to feed the poor and acts as a seal to seal off the worship performed in the month. It is like a plaster, covering over your shortcomings for the month. It is prescribed that Zakat-ul-fitr should be given before the Eid prayer. If it paid after the prayer, then it is regarded as charity but is not considered to be the obligatory Zakat-ul-fitr.

It is permitted to pay this before Eid so do not leave this to the last minute just before the Eid prayer; doing acts of worship early in their time has more blessing in it.

Zakat-ul-fitr is a charity/purification of the body, it is obligatory for every child and adult that depends on you financially, be it your child, wife, you (poor) father or mother. Unborn children are excluded from this.

Zakat-ul-fitr is commonly taken from food stuffs; from the main staple food of the particular country or region currently used. It is permitted to calculate its value in the form of money of this is more beneficial for the poor. Giving Zakat-ul-fitr as money is now common practice with the aim that needs of the poor are met in this way on the day of Eid.

The value of Zakat-ul-fitr for this year is **£3.00 sterling**.

We ask Allah to shower His mercy on us, to bestow on us His abundant bounty and favour, to accept us and our deeds and for us to meet our end as Muslims. Amin