

Ramadan and Spiritual Elevation



In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful,

Praise be to Allah Almighty; and blessings and peace be upon the Messenger of Allah, Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), all his kinsfolk, companions, and followers till the Day of Judgment.

Now to the topic:

In just a few hours, this holy month will grace us with its blessings and sublime spirituality. And with the appearance of the crescent moon of Ramadan, we supplicate to Allah Almighty with the supplication words that were narrated from the noble Prophet Mohammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, saying: "Allah is the Greatest. O Allah, bring us this new moon with security and Faith, with peace and in Islam, and in harmony with what our Lord loves and what pleases Him. Our Lord and your Lord is Allah."

Then we prepare ourselves to perform this great duty, in compliance with the command of Allah Almighty: ﴿O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous.﴾ (Al-Baqara: 183)

During Ramadan, we abstain from food, drink, and bodily needs throughout the daylight hours for thirty consecutive days, so that we may give the soul the opportunity to ascend, transcend, and connect with Allah, the Most High, the Exalted, who has made performing this duty one of the greatest acts of devotion to Him, Glory be to Him. In this regard, the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) says: "Allah the Mighty and Majestic says, "Every

act of the son of Adam is for him except Fasting (Sawm), for it is exclusively for Me and I shall give reward for it.”

When a Muslim fasts during the day and occupies his time with remembrance, supplication, and seeking forgiveness, he prepares himself to receive another provision of spiritual nourishment by reciting the verses of the Great Book throughout the night and day. Allah Almighty says: ﴿The month of Ramadhan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it...﴾ (Al-Baqara: 185)

It is as if we fast during the day in order to pray at night; thus, the entire month becomes a great spiritual extension for man, bringing him closer to his Lord, so that his soul may be purified, his conduct elevated, and his dealings with people refined; so that he may respond to kindness with kindness, and to wrongdoing with forgiveness and pardon. The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) says, “When any one of you is observing Saum (fasting) on a day, he should neither indulge in obscene language nor should he raise the voice; and if anyone reviles him or tries to quarrel with him he should say: 'I am observing fast.'”

Fasting is a refined school that Muslims enter individually and collectively, emerging with more elevated thought, purer heart, more virtuous conduct, a cleaner soul, and closer to Allah Almighty. Even the angels of the Most Merciful pray for them: ﴿Those [angels] who carry the Throne and those around it exalt [Allah] with praise of their Lord and believe in Him and ask forgiveness for those who have believed, [saying], 'Our Lord, You have encompassed all things in mercy and knowledge, so forgive those who have repented and followed Your way and protect them from the punishment of Hellfire. Our Lord, and admit them to gardens of perpetual residence which You have promised them and whoever was righteous among their fathers, their spouses and their offspring. Indeed, it is You who is the Exalted in Might, the Wise. And protect them from the evil consequences [of their deeds]. And he whom You protect from evil consequences that Day — You will have given him mercy. And that is the great attainment.'﴾ (Ghafir: 7-9).

The foundation of success in this life is willpower and resisting one's desires: ﴿But as for he who feared the position of his Lord and prevented the soul from [unlawful] inclination, Then indeed, Paradise will be [his] refuge.﴾ (Al-Naziat: 40-41). So, Ramadan is a golden opportunity to prioritize spiritual nourishment over physical nourishment, by reducing food intake and indulgence in desires.

How much we need this great spiritual provision at a time when (materialism) has overwhelmed everything; and the world has become like a blazing furnace in which people are burned by the fires of desires and pleasures, and the reprehensible competition for dominance, oppression and aggression. As a result, wars broke out everywhere, blood was shed, lives were lost, sanctities were violated; children, women, and elderly people were killed; homes, schools, universities, and hospitals were destroyed; land and crops were bulldozed; and all aspects of life were destroyed.

The Muslim countries suffered the greatest share at the hands of the criminal Zionists, oppressive Western leaders, and those who aided them from among the tyrants and oppressors from among the Muslim rulers.

The whole world knew who was behind these evils and sins, and who had plunged the world's leaders and elders into the furnace of lusts and pleasures. Even if they lead them into vice, they control them and drive them to achieve their goals of destroying the world and controlling what remains of it with iron and fire.

The ‘scandal of the century’ not only revealed the downfall of individuals but also exposed the fragility of the moral

and ethical system. If values remain mere slogans without internal validation, money and influence can easily penetrate them.

How much the world needs to know their evil reality!

— They are the killers of the prophets and messengers.

— They are (those who have evoked [Allah's] wrath) until the Day of Judgment.

— They are the avid listeners to falsehood, the devourers of [what is] unlawful.

— They are bloodthirsty, usurers, warmongers, and spreaders of corruption on earth. ﴿...Every time they kindled the fire of war [against you], Allah extinguished it. And they strive throughout the land [causing] corruption, and Allah does not like corrupters.﴾ (Al-Maidah: 64)

It won't be long before the world knows their true nature and wakes up to cleanse the earth of their filth, and restores to the earth its security, safety and tranquility.

And as Imam Hassan Al Banna said, that our mission is to "stand against this overwhelming wave of materialism and the civilization of pleasures and desires that has swept away Muslim nations, distancing them from the leadership of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and the guidance of the Quran, depriving the world of its guiding light, and delaying its progress by hundreds of years – until this wave recedes from our land and our people, indeed the entire world, are freed from its affliction."

Oh Ramadan! We long for you now to purify our souls with your breezes, heal our hearts, and spread your fragrant scent throughout this troubled and sorrowful world.

We urge our Muslim nation to thank God Almighty for the great blessing of Islam, to cherish it, and to enter this month with unwavering resolve, turning to worship, purifying souls, refining morals, elevating spirits, attaining piety, and seeking Allah's mercy. Allah Almighty says: ﴿...Indeed, the mercy of Allah is near to the doers of good.﴾ (Al-A'raf: 56)

— We must extend a helping hand to the needy, the deprived, and the afflicted around the world, especially in Gaza, Palestine, Yemen, Sudan, Kashmir, and Turkestan; and in every corner of the world where the oppressed are suffering.

— Let us work to end injustice and free prisoners and those unjustly imprisoned throughout the world; for the affliction will not be lifted from this world until justice, freedom and equality are achieved among all people.

— We will never forget our brothers and sisters, old and young, who were hidden away by the prison walls and the injustice of the jailer. Peace be upon their patience when the night grows long. Peace be upon mothers who soak their pillows with tears as they pray to Allah. Peace be upon hearts that still believe that God's dawn is nearer than the chains of humankind.

We hope that the whole world will return to this great religion, the religion of truth, justice, equality, unity, and mercy. Allah Almighty says: ﴿And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the worlds.﴾ (Al-



Anbiya: 107). He also says: ﴿And Allah invites to the Home of Peace and guides whom He wills to a straight path.﴾ (Yunus: 25).

May you be well every year, Allah willing

Allah is the greatest, and praise be to Allah,

Dr. Salah Abdel Haq

Acting Muslim Brotherhood General Guide

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