

Ramadhan: Seeking the Love of Allah [swt]

Purify, Cleanse and Strengthen the Heart

إِذَا حَضَرَهُ الْمَوْتُ بُشِّرَ بِرِضْوَانِ اللَّهِ وَكَرَامَتِهِ، فَلَيْسَ شَيْءٌ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِمَّا أَمَامَهُ، فَأَحَبُّ لِقَاءِ اللَّهِ وَأَحَبُّ اللَّهُ لِقَاءَهُ

“When death attends the Believer, he will be given the good news of the pleasure of Allah [swt] and His honouring him, so that nothing will be more beloved to him than that which is before him and he will love to meet Allah [swt] and Allah [swt] will love to meet him.”

[Bukhari]

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Duas seeking Love of Allah [swt]

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ حُبَّكَ، وَحُبَّ مَنْ يُحِبُّكَ، وَالْعَمَلَ الَّذِي يُبَلِّغُنِي
حُبَّكَ، اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ حُبَّكَ أَحَبَّ إِلَيَّ مِنْ نَفْسِي وَأَهْلِي، وَمِنْ الْمَاءِ

الْبَارِدِ

“O Allah, I ask You for Your love and the love of those who love You and love of the action which will make me reach Your love. O Allah make Your love more beloved to me than myself, my family and cold water”¹

اللَّهُمَّ ارْزُقْنِي حُبَّكَ وَحُبَّ مَنْ يَنْفَعُنِي حُبُّهُ عِنْدَكَ، اللَّهُمَّ مَا رَزَقْتَنِي مِمَّا أَحِبُّ
فَاجْعَلْهُ قُوَّةً لِي فِي مَا تُحِبُّ، اللَّهُمَّ وَمَا زَوَيْتَ عَنِّي مِمَّا أَحِبُّ فَاجْعَلْهُ فَرَاغًا لِي
فِي مَا تُحِبُّ

“O Allah, provide me with Your love and the love of those whose love will benefit me with You. O Allah, that which you have provided me of that which I love, then make it strength for me in that which you love. O Allah, that which you have removed of what I love, then make it a free space for me for that which you love.”²

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْ حُبَّكَ أَحَبَّ الْأَشْيَاءِ إِلَيَّ وَاجْعَلْ خَوْفَكَ أَخْوَفَ الْأَشْيَاءِ إِلَيَّ
وَاقْطَعْ عَنِّي حَاجَاتِ الدُّنْيَا بِالشَّوْقِ إِلَى لِقَائِكَ وَإِذَا أَقْرَرْتَ أَعْيُنَ أَهْلِ الدُّنْيَا
مِنْ دُنْيَاهُمْ فَأَقِرَّ عَيْنِي مِنْ عِبَادَتِكَ

“O Allah, make your love the most beloved of things to me, and your fear the most fearful of things to me and sever for me the needs of the dunya by longing for meeting You and when You give delight to the eyes of the people of the world in their dunya, then give my eye delight in your worship”³

¹ Tirmidhi #3490 [Hasan Ghareeb]

² Tirmidhi # 3491

³ Abu Naym, *Hilyat alAwliya*

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Set daily portion of the Qur'an – Set target for how many times you intend to complete the Qur'an in the month of Ramadhan [this should be at **the least more** than last year].
- 2) Memorize some **new portions** of the Qur'an and then pray Nafl salah and recite these new portions in it.
- 3) Each day [**before** going to Taraweeh to pray behind the Imam and listen to approx. 1 juzz of the Qur'an] try doing any/all of the following:
 - a) Read the English translation of that 1 juzz of the Qur'an
 - b) Read up on the Tafsir of the 1 juzz – hence you will understand better context of the Ayat you will hear in Taraweeh – e.g. you read about the Battle of Badr, then you hear the Ayat recited to you while standing before your Lord in Salah in the month of Ramadhan – *the feeling is indescribable*
 - c) Linguistic Analysis - Go through and highlight words you do not know the meaning of and learn the meanings etc
- 4) **Dhikr** – Increase in your Remembrance of Allah [swt]. When you will remember Him – He will remember you. Your proximity [*qurb*] to Allah [swt] is in proportion to your remembrance of Him [so your distance to Him is in proportion to your heedlessness [*ghaflah*]]. Let **not any** moment pass except that you are engaged in one form of Dhikr or another. The best Salah, Fasting, Sadaqah etc is the one that has the best quality Dhikr in it.

Ibn al-Qayyim reports from the Prophet [saw], "...let anyone who wishes to know his place with Allah [swt] behold what place he has given Allah [swt], for verily Allah [swt] will give to a servant the [same] place with Him that the servant has given to Allah [swt] within himself."⁴

"*dhikr* [remembrance] is of two types: **habitual vs. conscious**, and only **one** of these types will bring about Allah's recognition. Ibn al-Jawzi illustrates this: "The heedless one says "*Subhan Allah*" [glory to Allah] out of habit. As for the conscious one, he is constantly thinking about the wonders of creation, or the awesome nature of the Creator, and this thinking drives him to say: '*subhan Allah*.' So, this *tasbeeh* [glorification] is the fruit of these thoughts, and this is the *tasbeeh* of the conscious... Likewise, they think about the ugliness of past sins, and this leads them to ponder, to have anxiety, to have regret. The fruit of this thought is that they say: '*astaghfirullah*.' [I

⁴ Wabil as-Sayyib – Invocation of God, Ibn al-Qayyim [hadith reported by Ibn Abi Dunya]

seek Allah's Forgiveness]. This is the true *tasbeeh* [glorification] and *istighfar* [seeking forgiveness]. As for the heedless, they merely utter these out of habit. And what a difference there is between the two types..."⁵

- 5) How you feel in your Salah will give you an indication of the level of your Imaan and how you feel during the recitation of the Qur'an will give you an indication of the condition of your Heart. The Prophet [saw] once remarked: "Surely, these hearts get rusted as iron gets rusted in water." He was asked how the heart's rust could be rubbed off. He replied: "By frequent remembrance of death and the recitation of the Qur'an."⁶

The Heart

This is the month to realise the **state of our hearts**. Are we yearning for Jannah or content with the life of this world. Are we restless and simply cannot wait to meet Allah [swt] or is this thought the furthest things from our minds.

The Prophet [saw] said, مَنْ أَحَبَّ لِقَاءَ اللَّهِ أَحَبَّ اللَّهُ لِقَاءَهُ، وَمَنْ كَرِهَ لِقَاءَ اللَّهِ كَرِهَ اللَّهُ لِقَاءَهُ
“Whoever loves to meet Allah [swt], Allah [swt] loves to meet him and whoever hates to meet Allah [swt], Allah [swt] hates to meet him.”⁷

The Prophet [saw] [also said] إِذَا حَضَرَهُ الْمَوْتُ بُشِّرَ بِرِضْوَانِ اللَّهِ وَكَرَامَتِهِ، فَلَيْسَ شَيْءٌ أَحَبَّ إِلَيْهِ مِمَّا
“When death attends the Believer, he will be given the good news of the pleasure of Allah [swt] and His honouring him, so that **nothing** will be **more beloved** to him than that which is before him and he will **love to meet Allah** [swt] and **Allah** [swt] **will love to meet** him.”⁸

Indeed, the issues around the heart are paramount. If it is sound the whole body is sound, if it is corrupt the whole body is corrupt. Allah [swt] does not look at our bodies [exterior] but he looks at the state of the heart.

Indeed it is the heart that in reality communicates with Allah [swt] – If it is therefore diseased, corrupt, dead or alive [in varying degrees] will determine the outcome of any dua we make and any worship that we perform.

⁵Tariq Mehanna – The Qur'an and You

⁶ Bayhaqi [may have weak isnad]

⁷ Bukhari #6507

⁸ Bukhari #6507

The Prophet [saw] said, **وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يَسْتَجِيبُ دُعَاءَ مَنْ قَلْبٍ غَافِلٍ لِآهِ**, “...and know that Allah [swt] does **not answer** a **dua** [supplication] that comes from a careless and **inattentive heart.**”⁹

- 6) Pray **all your Salah in congregation** in the Masjid – there is reward for every step you take
- 7) **MP3 player** – Select a series of lectures to listen to and complete in the month [you can begin this before Ramadhan – in order to complete in Ramadhan] – Recommendation – **‘The Hereafter Series** – by Imam Anwar al-Awlaki’
- 8) Try reading books about the following topics – Purification of the Heart and Paradise and Hell Fire
- 9) **Increase in Charity** – A scholar¹⁰ said [paraphrase] **‘If Allah [swt] forgave someone for quenching the thirst of a dog then imagine someone who quenches the thirst of a Believer’** [send money for Somalia and Eritrea – Ummah Welfare Trust and/or Ethar Relief]

You may also decide to sponsor an orphan or a copy of the Qur’an Project etc. [www.quranproject.org]

- 10) Invite for others for Iftar – you will get the reward of their fast without their reward being decreased.
- 11) Helping local families – poor families, children whose fathers are imprisoned, etc.
- 12) Learn some new duas –i.e., to use in Sajdah or Ruku
- 13) Set clear post Ramadhan Targets

⁹ Tirmidhee: Hasan

¹⁰ This may be Ibn al-Qayyim

REQUIRED DAILY ACTIVITIES

	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FRI	COMMENTS
Got up for Fajr on time and prayed Fajr with its Sunnah							
Made my morning Dhikr							
Prayed all prayers on time and on earliest time possible							
Made the recommended Dhikr after every prayer							
Prayed all the 13 rakah of Sunnah prayers							
Made Qunut/Dua for the Muslim Ummah in a prayer							
Made Dua for my parents							
Commanded one good							
Forbade one evil							
Prayed more than 1 fard prayer in a mosque (males)							
Read the Tafsir of one verse of the Quran							
Read one new Hadeeth and its meaning							
Read 1 page of the Quran as a minimum (with understanding)							
Attempted to increase in knowledge (reading/listening)							
Attempted to practise one rare Sunnah of Rasulullah							
Made one Muslim smile							
Made my parents smile, hugged and kissed them							
Did not argue, nor backbite with anyone							
Did not harbour ill feelings in my heart against anyone							
Did not do anything I was unsure about its permissibility							
Tried my best to take care of my body							
Gave charity (monetary)							
Preserved or removed a harm from the environment							
Made Dua for the Prophet (SAWS)							
Make Tawbah & Istighfaar 100 times							
Pondered 10 minutes about struggling for this Deen							
Did a special deed that is secret between myself & Allah							
Gave some of the extra food from Iftar to my neighbours							
Made my afternoon Dhikr							
Prayed my taraweeh prayers							
Prayed the Witr prayer							
Read Surah Mulk before going to sleep							
Wrote down/updated my will							
Pondered about my Death and of the Day of Judgement							
Prayed absolute minimum 2 rakah Tahajjud prayer							
Asked Allah for Jannah and refuge from Jahannam (X3)							
Went to sleep in a state of Wudu							
Went to sleep without ill feelings towards any Muslim							

REQUIRED SPECIFICALLY ON FRIDAYS

Read Surah Kahf								.....
Attempted to pray Jumah earliest time & best gathering								.....
Pondered 5-10 minutes about the khutbah & its message								.....
Took extra care to groom & maintain myself								.....
Made Dua only for Rasulullah (SAWS)								.....

WEEKLY REQUIREMENTS

Memorized minimum 1/4 page of the Quran (with understanding)								.....
Memorized 1 hadeeth of Rasulullah								.....
Memorized 1 Dua from the Sunnah								.....
Fed/Clothed one needy person or gave a gift to one								.....
Made Istikharah about an important matter								.....
Attempted to join the hearts between two Muslims								.....

- Ramadhan – Purify, Cleanse and Strengthen the Heart

"The month of Ramadaan in which the Qur'aan was revealed, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance of the Criterion between right and wrong. So whosoever of you sights the crescent for the month of Ramadaan, he must fast that month."

[Surah al-Baqarah2:185]

The Prophet [saw] said, "There has come to you Ramadhan, a blessed month, in which Allah has made it obligatory to fast. During it the gates of Paradise are opened and the gates of Hellfire are closed, and the rebellious devils are chained. In it is a night (Laylatul-Qadr) which is better than a thousand months. He who is deprived of its good truly has been deprived." [Nisa'i]

Month of the Qur'an Month of Developing the Love of Allah [swt]

No single article can fully convey the many treasures that Ramadhan holds for a Believer. It is a time when one can cut him/herself from worldly norms and renew themselves to Allah [swt] – their Creator. They discipline their minds, hearts, hands, feet, tongues and stomachs to act only in accordance to that which Allah [swt] loves. In the process the Believer's Heart is cleansed and washed to its deepest and most innermost parts not from earthly water but from divine rain – the final revelation – The Qur'an.

We can describe Ramadhan in so many ways – every description only enhancing its beauty –
It is the month of Mercy where sins are forgiven,
It is the month of Salvation where people are saved from the Fire,
It is the month of Bliss where people are granted Jannah,
It is the month of Victory for the Mujahideen,
It is the month of Layl tul Qadr – The Night of Power – the night when the Qur'an was revealed and where the annual decree descends for people.

Abu Bakr al-Balkhi said, 'The likeness of the month of Rajab is that of the wind, the likeness of Sha'baan is that of the clouds and the likeness of Ramadaan is that of the rain [and]..is the month of harvesting the crops.'

Points to Remember

1) Attain Taqwa [fear, regard of Allah [swt]

"O you who believe! Observing As-Sawm (fasting) is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become Al-Muttaqun (the people of Taqwa)." [2:183]

2) Seeking closeness to Allah [swt] – [Culminating in I'tikaaf]

Allah [swt] says [in hadith Qudsi], '.....My servant does not draw near to Me with anything more beloved to Me than the obligatory duties that I have placed upon him. My servant continues to draw nearer to Me with optional deeds so that I shall love him.' [Bukhari]

'So drawing closer to Allah – the Most Perfect – in this blessed month, can be achieved by fulfilling one's obligatory duties; and also reciting the Qur'aan and reflecting upon its meanings, increasing in kindness and in giving charity, in making du`aa (supplication) to Allah, attending the taraweeh Prayer, seeking out Laylatul-Qadr (the Night of Power and Pre-Decree), a night which is better than a thousand months, attending gatherings of knowledge, and striving in those actions that will cause the heart to draw closer to its Lord and to gain His forgiveness. Our level of striving in this blessed month should be greater than our striving to worship Allah in any other month, due to the excellence and rewards that Allah has placed in it. Likewise from the great means of seeking nearness to Allah in this month is making I'tikaaf (seclusion in the mosque in order to worship Allah) – for whoever is able.' [Istiqamah 1417]

Ibn al-Qayyim said: "Allah also prescribed I'tikaaf for them, the objective being that the heart becomes fully preoccupied with Allah – the Most High – concentrated upon Him alone, and cut-off from being preoccupied with the creation. Rather, the heart is only engrossed with Allah – the Most Perfect – such that loving Him, remembering Him, and turning to Him takes the place of all the heart's anxieties and worries, so that he is able to overcome them. Thus all his concerns are for Allah, and his thoughts are all directed towards remembering Him and thinking of how to attain His Pleasure and what will cause nearness to Him and what leads him to feel contented with Allah instead of people. This in turn prepares him for being at peace with Allah alone, on the day of loneliness in the grave, when there will be no one else to give comfort, nor anyone to grant solace, except Him. So this is the greater goal of I'tikaaf. (8)

3) Opportunity for Mercy and Forgiveness

The Prophet said, "The five prayers, and from Friday to the next Friday, and Ramadhan to the next Ramadhan, are erasers for what occurs between them, as long

as major sins are avoided." [Muslim]. Also, the Messenger of Allah said, what translated means, "Whoever fasts Ramadhan with Iman and Ihtisab, will have his previous sins forgiven." [Al-Bukhari & Muslim].

"As-Siyam [fasting] and the Quran will intercede on behalf of the slave. As-Siyam says, 'O Lord! I prevented him from food and obeying his desires in the morning. Therefore, accept my Shafa`ah on his behalf.' And the Quran says, 'I prevented him from sleeping at night. Therefore, accept my Shafa`ah on his behalf,' and they will be accepted as intercessors.'" [Ahmad, Al-Hakim & Al-Bayhaqi].

The Prophet [saw], said "Whosoever reaches the month of Ramadaan and does not have his sins forgiven, and so enters the fire, then may Allah distance him." [Ahmad]

The Prophet said, "And Allah has those whom he frees from the Fire, and this occurs every night (meaning in Ramadhan)." [At-Tirmithi & Ibn Majah]

4) Pay your Zakat in this month

Use the benefits of this month by paying your annual Zakat. In addition to this there is a specific Zakat for this Month which is called Zakat al-Fitr. This should be given in food and not money [although money can be given to buy the food]