

Merits of Ramadhaan

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

From `Abdul-`Azeez ibn `Abdullah ibn Baaz (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹ to all Muslims.² May Allaah guide us all to benefit from all good and to hasten to perform good deeds, Ameen.

As-Salaamu `alaikum wa rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuhu (May Allaah's Peace, Mercy, and Blessings be upon you).

O Muslims, you are in the great sacred month of Ramadhaan, the month of Sawm (Fast), Qiyaam-ul-Layl (optional Prayer at night), and recitation of the Qur'aan. In this month, Allaah opens the door of forgiveness and sets His pious Servants free from the Fire. Ramadhaan is the month of giving Sadaqah (voluntary charity), a month in which the doors of Paradise are opened, rewards of deeds are multiplied, hardships are removed, supplications are answered, ranks are elevated, and sins are forgiven. During this month, Allaah (سُبْحَانَهُ)³ provides His Servants with all kinds of bounties and showers His Aawliyyaa' (pious people) with blessings. It is a month in which Allaah has made observing Sawm in it one of the pillars of Islaam. Also, it is the month in which the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)⁴ observed Sawm and commanded the people to do the same. He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) informed us that whoever observes Sawm in Ramadhaan out of sincere faith and hoping for Allaah's Reward, their previous sins shall be forgiven; and that those who observe Qiyaam-ul-Layl in Ramadhaan out of sincere faith and hoping for Allaah's Reward, their previous sins shall be forgiven. In this month, there is one night that is better than thousand months. Muslims who deprive themselves of its good are really in loss. Honour this month, may Allaah forgive you, by having good intentions, doing your best to observe Sawm and Qiyaam-ul-Layl, competing to do good, and repenting sincerely from all sins and misdeeds. Do your best to advise one another and cooperate in doing good and being pious. Advise one another to enjoin the good and forbid the evil, and invite one another to everything that is good to win dignity and great rewards.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² A speech delivered by the office of His Eminence when he was the Chairman of the Departments of Scholarly Research, Ifta', Daw'ah, and Guidance, published in Okaz newspaper, ed. 1813 on 7/9/1419 A.H.

³ (سُبْحَانَهُ) (Subhanahu) Exalted be He

⁴ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him

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Sawm has many benefits and great wisdom:

Some of these benefits are: Purifying one's soul, disciplining it, ridding it of bad traits and evil attributes, such as insolence, ingratitude, and miserliness, accustoming it to adopt good ethics such as patience, forbearance, and generosity, and struggling to please Allaah and drawing closer to Him.

Other benefits of Sawm: it makes us know our selves, needs, weaknesses, and our dependence on our Lord. It reminds us of Allaah's Blessings and of the needs of the poor; thus, driving us to be grateful to Allaah (سبحانه). We ought to employ Allaah's Blessings in obeying Him and consoling and helping our poor Muslim fellows. Allaah (عزوجل)⁵ refers to these benefits in the following Ayah (Qur'aanic verse): **[O you who believe! Observing as-Sawm (the fasting) is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become al-Muttaqoon (the pious).]**⁶ Allaah (سبحانه) points out that Muslims are commanded to observe Sawm to fear Allaah. This indicates that Sawm is a means to become pious and to fear Allaah as He should be feared. This is translated into obeying Allaah and His Messenger by observing His Commands and Prohibitions out of sincere faith, love of Allaah, fear of Him, and hope for His Reward. In this way, servants will be saved from Allaah's Punishment and Wrath. Sawm is a manifest expression of piety that brings one closer to Allaah (عزوجل). It is a certain way to make one fear Allaah in all spiritual and worldly affairs. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) referred to some benefits of Sawm when he said: **O young people, whoever among you is able to marry should marry, for marriage helps him to lower his gaze and remain virtuous; and whoever is not able to marry is recommended to observe Sawm, for it (i.e. Sawm) diminishes the sexual drive.**⁷ The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) pointed out that Sawm diminishes one's sexual desire and is a way to help one remain pure and chaste. Satan runs in our bloodstream and Sawm narrows the veins and reminds one of Allaah and His Greatness and, thus, the power of Satan diminishes and one's faith is strengthened. Sawm encourages good deeds and decreases bad ones.

Other benefits of Sawm: It purifies the body of toxins, makes one healthy and energetic, as confirmed by many physicians. Sawm has helped physicians to cure many diseases. Allaah (سبحانه) states in the Qur'aan that He has prescribed Sawm for us as He prescribed it for those before us. Allaah (سبحانه) points out that Muslims are obligated to observe Sawm in Ramadhaan. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) informed that Sawm of Ramadhaan is one of the five pillars of Islaam. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[O you who believe! Observing as-Sawm (the fasting) is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become al-Muttaqoon (the pious).]**⁸ [...a fixed number of days]⁹ until Allaah's Saying: [The

⁵ (عزوجل) (Azza wa Jaal) Glorified and Exalted be He

⁶ سورة البقرة – Soorah al-Baqarah [2:183]

⁷ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.5066 and Muslim no.1400

⁸ سورة البقرة – Soorah al-Baqarah [2:183]

⁹ سورة البقرة – Soorah al-Baqarah [2:184]

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month of Ramadhaan in which was revealed the Qur'aan, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong). So whoever of you sights (the crescent on the first night of) the month (of Ramadhaan i.e. is present at his home), he must observe Sawm (fasts) that month, and whoever is ill or on a journey, the same number [of days which one did not observe Sawm (fasts) must be made up] from other days. Allaah intends for you ease, and He does not want to make things difficult for you. (He wants that you) must complete the same number (of days), and that you must magnify Allaah [i.e. to say Takbeer (Allaahu Akbar; Allaah is the Most Great) for having guided you so that you may be grateful to Him.]¹⁰

In the two Saheeh (authentic) books of Hadeeth (i.e. al-Bukhaaree and Muslim), it was reported on the authority of Ibn 'Umar (رضي الله عنهما)¹¹ that Allaah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **Islaam is based on five pillars: Testifying that none has the right to be worshipped but Allaah and that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allaah, performing Salaah (Prayer), giving Zakaah (obligatory charity), observing Sawm in Ramadhaan, and performing Hajj (pilgrimage).**¹²

O Muslims, Sawm is a good deed for which there is enormous reward, especially Sawm in Ramadhaan which Allaah has made obligatory for His Servants and made it a means to be granted success. It was authentically reported that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **Allaah (سبحانه) says, "Every act of the son of Aadam is for him; every good deed is multiplied from ten to seven hundred times except for Sawm, for it is exclusively for Me and I shall give reward for it. A person observing Sawm abandons their desires, food, and drink for My Sake. A person observing Sawm has two joyful occasions: One when they break their Sawm and another when they meet their Lord. Indeed, the bad odour of the mouth of a person observing Sawm is more fragrant to Allaah than the scent of musk."**¹³

It was reported in the Saheeh Book of Hadeeth that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **When the month of Ramadhaan comes, the gates of Paradise are opened, the gates of the Fire are closed, and the devils are chained.**¹⁴ At-Tirmidhee and Ibn Maajah related that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **On the first night of (the month of) Ramadhaan, the devils and rebellious Jinn (creatures created from fire) are chained up; the gates of Paradise are opened and not one of its gates is closed; and the gates of the Fire are closed and not one of its gates is opened. A caller cries out: 'O seeker of good, proceed; O seeker of evil,**

¹⁰ سورة البقرة – Soorah al-Baqarah [2:185]

¹¹ (رضي الله عنهما) (rad iyallaahu 'anhumaa) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with them both (Ibn 'Umar and his father, 'Umar)

¹² Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.8 and Muslim no.16

¹³ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.1904

¹⁴ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.1899 and Muslim no.1079

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desist.' And Allaah redeems whom He wills from the Fire, and this takes place each night.¹⁵

It was narrated on the authority of `Ubadah ibn as-Samit (رضي الله عنه)¹⁶ that Allaah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **Ramadhaan came to you as a month of blessing in which Allaah spreads His Mercy, forgives sins, and answers supplications. Allaah (سبحانه) sees your competition and speaks proudly of you to the angels. So show Allaah that you are doing good as the deprived one is he who deprives himself of Allaah's Mercy (in this month).**¹⁷ It was narrated on the authority of Aboo Hurairah (رضي الله عنه) that Allaah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **Allaah has enjoined you to fast the month of Ramadhaan and I have made it a Sunnah (supererogatory act of worship following the example of the Prophet) for you to observe Qiyaam-ul-Layl during it. Whoever observes Sawm and Qiyaam-ul-Layl (optional Prayer at night) out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allaah's rewards (not for showing off), they will emerge as sinless as a new-born child.**¹⁸

Qiyaam-ul-Layl in Ramadhaan has no specified number of Rak`ahs (units of Prayer). The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) did not specify a certain number of Rak`ahs for Muslims, but urged them to observe Qiyaam-ul-Layl without specifying a set number of Rak`ahs. When the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was asked about Qiyaam-ul-Layl, he said: **(The night Prayer is offered as) two Rak`ahs followed by two Rak`ahs, and so on. If anyone fears the approach of Fajr (Dawn) Prayer, they should offer one Rak`ah and this will be a Witr for all the Rak`ahs which they offered before.**¹⁹ This indicates that the issue is flexible. It is permissible to offer twenty Rak`ahs and then conclude with three Rak`ahs as Witr (Prayer with an odd number of units). Likewise, it is permissible to offer ten Rak`ahs and conclude with three Rak`ahs as Witr, and it is permissible to offer eight Rak`ahs and conclude with three Rak`ahs as Witr. It is permissible to increase or decrease the number of Rak`ahs, but it is preferable to follow the example of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ). He used to offer eight Rak`ahs, saying Tasleem (salutation of peace ending the Prayer) after each pair of Rak`ahs, and then conclude with three Rak`ahs as Witr while observing tranquillity, solemnity, and Tarteel (slow recitation of the Qur'aan). It was authentically reported in the two Saheehs on the authority of `Aaishah²⁰ (رضي الله عنها)²¹ that she narrated: **The Messenger of Allaah (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) did not offer more than eleven Rak`ahs in Ramadhaan or at any other time. He used to offer four (Rak`ahs), but do not ask how excellent and long they were.**

¹⁵ At-Tirmidhee no.682 and Ibn Maajah no.1642

¹⁶ (رضي الله عنه) (rad iyallaahu `anhu) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with him

¹⁷ Reported by at-Tabaraanee

¹⁸ Reported by an-Nasaa'ee no.2210

¹⁹ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.991 and Muslim no.749

²⁰ Umm-al-Mumineen `Aaishah, the Mother of The Believers (رضي الله عنها)

²¹ (رضي الله عنها) (rad iyallaahu `anhaa) May Allaah the Most High be pleased with her

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Then he would offer four (Rak`ahs), but do not ask how excellent and long they were. And then he would offer three (Rak`ahs).²²

It was reported in the two Saheehs on the authority of `Aaishah (رضى الله عنها) that she said: The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) used to offer ten Rak`ahs at night. He would say Tasleem after every two (Rak`ahs) and end them by offering one (Rak`ah) as Witr.²³

It was also authentically reported in other Hadeeths that the Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) observed Qiyaam-ul-Layl with less number of Rak`ahs. It was also authentically reported that he (صلى الله عليه وسلم) offered thirteen Rak`ahs on some nights, saying Tasleem after each pair of Rak`ahs. These authentic Hadeeths indicate that there is no specific number of Rak`ahs for observing Qiyaam-ul-Layl. This is from Allaah's Mercy, making things easy for His Servants, so that every Muslim can do what they are able to do during Ramadhaan and other months as well.

Muslims should know that it is prescribed, when observing Qiyaam-ul-Layl in Ramadhaan or any other Salaah, to offer it with tranquillity and submissiveness when standing, bowing, prostrating and reciting the Qur'aan. One must not rush as the heart of Salaah is to offer it as Allaah has commanded us to offer it, that is, to be sincere and submissive, hope for Allaah's Reward, fear Him, and have an attentive heart. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[Successful indeed are the believers.]²⁴ [Those who offer their Salaah (prayers) with all solemnity and full submissiveness.]²⁵** The Prophet (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said: **My utmost pleasure is Salaah.**²⁶ He (صلى الله عليه وسلم) said to the one who did not offer his Salaah properly: **When you get up to offer Salaah, perform Wudoo' (ablution) properly, face the Qiblah (Ka`bah-direction faced in Prayer), say Takbeer (saying: "Allaahu Akbar [Allaah is the Greatest]"), recite what you know from the Qur'aan, bow down until you feel at ease, then rise from bowing until you stand erect, then prostrate calmly (and remain in prostration) until you feel at ease, then raise (your head) and sit calmly until you feel at ease, then prostrate calmly (and remain in prostration) until you feel at ease, then raise (your head) and sit calmly until you feel at ease in the sitting position, and do likewise throughout the entire Salaah.**²⁷

Many people who observe Qiyaam-ul-Layl in Ramadhaan do so without contemplation or tranquillity. Rather, they only hit the ground and this is not permissible. It is Munkar (that which is unacceptable or disapproved of by Islaamic law and Muslims of sound intellect) and renders Salaah null and void since tranquillity is a pillar in Salaah as evidenced by the abovementioned Hadeeth. Hence, it is a must to be mindful of this. It was reported that the

²² Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.1,147, no.2,013 and no.3,569 and Muslim no.1,211

²³ Muslim no.1,211

²⁴ سورة المؤمنون – Soorah al-Mu'minoon [23:1]

²⁵ سورة المؤمنون – Soorah al-Mu'minoon [23:2]

²⁶ Narrated by Imaam Ahmad no.13,623 and an-Nasaa'ee no.3,940

²⁷ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.6,251 and Muslim no.397

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Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **The worst of thieves is one who steals from their Salaah.** They said: "O Messenger of Allaah, how do they steal from their Salaah?" He replied, "**They do not perform Rukoo` (bowing) or Sujood (prostration) properly.**"²⁸

It was also authentically reported that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) commanded the one who hit the ground while performing his Salaah in haste to repeat it. O Muslims, glorify your Salaah by performing it as Allaah commands, and seize the opportunity to gain every benefit from this great month by performing good deeds and all acts of worship.

Hasten to obey Allaah as it is a great month in which Allaah gives His Servants a chance to compete in doing good deeds in obedience to Him. May Allaah forgive you and have mercy on you. Offer as much Salaah as you can, give Sadaqah, recite the Qur'aan with contemplation and thought, glorify and praise Allaah, say Takbeer and Tahleel (saying: "Laa ilaaha illaallaah [There is none worthy of worship except Allaah]"), and ask Allaah for forgiveness. Invoke peace and blessings to Allaah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) as much as you can and do good to the poor, needy, and orphans. Allaah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) was the most generous of all people and was even more generous during Ramadhaan. So follow in his footsteps, may Allaah have mercy on you, by increasing your Sadaqah and good deeds in Ramadhaan. Help your poor brothers to observe Sawm and Qiyaam-ul-Layl, and hope for Allaah's Reward, the King and All-Knower. Guard your Sawm from what Allaah forbids. It was authentically reported that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **Whoever does not give up false speech and acting accordingly, Allaah does not need them to leave their food and drink.**²⁹ He (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) also said: **Sawm is a shield (from the fire and from committing sins). When one of you is observing Sawm, he should avoid intimate relations (with his wife) and quarrelling, and if someone insults him, he should say, "I am observing Sawm."**³⁰

It was reported that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **Sawm is not abstinence from food and drink, but (true) Sawm is abstinence from bad language and intimate relations (with the wife).**³¹ Ibn Hibbaan reported in his Saheeh Book of Hadeeth on the authority of Aboo Sa'eed (رضي الله عنه) who narrated that Allaah's Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **Whoever observes Sawm in Ramadhaan, knows its ordinances, and observes what should be observed during it will have all their previous sins forgiven.**³² Also, Jaabir ibn `Abdullah al-Ansaaree (رضي الله عنهما) said: When you observe Sawm, let your ears, eyes and tongue abstain from lying and other unlawful acts. Do not harm your neighbours. Be characterised

²⁸ Imaam Ahmad no.22,136, al-Muwatta of Imaam Maalik no.403 and ad-Daarimee no.1,328

²⁹ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.1903

³⁰ Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.1904

³¹ Al-Haakim in al-Mustadrak no.1604 and Ibn Khuzaimah no.1995

³² Imaam Ahmad no.11,130

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by solemnity and calmness. Let there be a difference between the days of observing Sawm and the days when you are not observing Sawm.³³

Among the matters which Muslims should maintain are the Five Obligatory daily Salaahs. Muslims are obligated to offer them on time during Ramadhaan and other months. Salaah is the foundation of Islaam and the greatest pillar after the Shahadah (Testimony of Faith). Allaah has made it great and mentioned it repeatedly in His Book. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[Guard strictly (five obligatory) as-Salawaat (the prayers) especially the middle Salaat (i.e. the best prayer - 'Asr). And stand before Allaah with obedience [and do not speak to others during the Salaat (prayers)].]**³⁴ He (سبحانه) also says: **[And perform as-Salaat (Iqaamat-as-Salaat), and give Zakaat and obey the Messenger (Muhammad (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)) that you may receive mercy (from Allaah).]**³⁵ There are many Ayahs in this regard. The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **That which differentiates us from them (i.e. disbelievers and hypocrites) is our performance of Salaah. Anyone who abandons it becomes a disbeliever.**³⁶ It was authentically reported that he (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **Whoever observes Salaah, it will be a light and a proof saving them on the Day of Resurrection; and whoever does not observe it, it will not be a light, a proof, or a salvation for them. On the Day of Resurrection, they will be with Fir'awn (Pharaoh), Haman, Qaroon, and Ubayy ibn Khalaf.**³⁷

One of the most important obligations for men with respect to Salaah is that they are obligated to offer it in congregation. It was reported that the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said: **Whoever hears the call (i.e. Adhaan) and does not come to it (i.e. Salaah), there is no Salaah for him except with an excuse. A blind man came to the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) and said, "My home is very far from the mosque and I find no one to lead the way for me. Is it permissible for me to offer Salaah at home?" The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) asked, "Do you hear the call to Salaah?" The blind man said, "Yes." The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) said, "Then you must respond to it."**³⁸

Also, `Abdullah ibn Mas'ood (رضي الله عنه) said: **I have seen the time when no one failed to attend it (i.e. Salaah), except a hypocrite who was well known for his hypocrisy.**³⁹ O Servants of Allaah, fear Allaah, observe Salaah in congregation, and advise one another to do so in Ramadhaan and in other months as well to be granted forgiveness, have your rewards multiplied, be saved from Allaah's Wrath and Punishment, and differ from Allaah's enemies from among the hypocrites.

³³ Musannaf of Ibn Abee Shaybah no.8,981

³⁴ سورة البقرة – Soorah al-Baqarah [2:238]

³⁵ سورة النور – Soorah an-Noor [24:56]

³⁶ Imaam Ahmad no.22,428, at-Tirmidhee no.2,621 and Ibn Maajah 1,079

³⁷ Imaam Ahmad no.6,540 and ad-Daarimee 2,721

³⁸ Saheeh Muslim no.653 and an-Nisaa'ee 850

³⁹ Saheeh Muslim no.654

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Zakaah is the most important act of `Ibaadah (worship) after Salaah. It is the third pillar of Islaam and is always mentioned together with Salaah in the Qur'aan and the Sunnah. So glorify it as Allaah made it glorious and hasten to pay it when it is due for those who deserve it out of sincere faith, generosity, and gratitude to Allaah Who bestows His Blessings on you.

Know that Zakaah purifies you and your money and is a way to thank Allaah Who has provided you with money. It is a way to console your poor brothers. Allaah (عزوجل) says: **[Take Sadaqah (alms) from their wealth in order to purify them and sanctify them with it]**⁴⁰ Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[Work you, O family of Daawood (David), with thanks!]" But few of My slaves are grateful.]**⁴¹ The Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) instructed Mu'adh ibn Jabal (رضي الله عنه), when he sent him to Yemen, saying: **You will go to a community of the People of the Book, so first call them to testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allaah, and that I (Muhammad) am the Messenger of Allaah. If they accept this, tell them that Allaah has enjoined upon them five Prayers during the day and night. If they accept that, tell them that Allaah has made Zakaah obligatory for them that it should be collected from the wealthy and distributed among the poor. If they agree to this, do not take (as a share of Zakaah) the best items of their wealth. Beware of the supplication of the oppressed for there is no barrier between it and Allaah.**⁴²

In this month, Muslims should be generous and spend as much as they can, paying much attention to the poor and those who do not ask for charity. Muslims should help them observe Sawm and Qiyaam-ul-Layl, following the way of the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) to please Allaah (سبحانه) and as a way of thanking Him for His Blessings. Allaah (سبحانه) has promised His Servants who spend their money for the Sake of Allaah a great reward and many children. Allaah (سبحانه) says: **[And whatever good you send before you for yourselves, (i.e. Nawaafil non-obligatory acts of worship: prayers, charity, fasting, Hajj and 'Umrah), you will certainly find it with Allaah, better and greater in reward.]**⁴³ Allaah (سبحانه) also says: **[...and whatsoever you spend of anything (in Allaah's Cause), He will replace it. And He is the Best of providers.]**⁴⁴ Beware, may Allaah grant you mercy, any sins that might affect your Sawm negatively, diminish your reward, or incur Allaah's Wrath such as usury, adultery, theft, murder without justification, unjust consumption of the property of orphans, and all forms of injustice against persons, money, or honour. You should also avoid cheating in dealings, not keeping trusts, being ungrateful to parents, and severing ties of kinship. Also, enmity and hostility without a just cause, intoxicants and drugs, such as hashish and tobacco, backbiting, slander, lying, false testimony, false claims, and perjury should all be avoided. Men should not shave or cut off their beards, allow their moustaches to grow long, act proudly, or make Isbaal (lengthening and trailing clothing below the

⁴⁰ سورة التوبة – Soorah at-Tawbah [9:103]

⁴¹ سورة سبأ – Soorah Saba [34:13]

⁴² Saheeh al-Bukhaaree no.1,496 and Muslim no.19

⁴³ سورة المزمل – Soorah al-Muzzammil [73:20]

⁴⁴ سورة سبأ – Soorah Saba [34:39]

Merits of Ramadhaan

ankles). Muslims should not listen to songs and music. Muslim women should abstain from Tabarruj (dressing immodestly in violation of the Islaamic dress code) and imitating disbelieving women in wearing revealing clothes or other things that Allaah and His Messenger (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) have forbidden.

These sins are forbidden at all times and all places, but are more forbidden during Ramadhaan and more grievous because of the sanctity of this month. O Muslims, you must fear Allaah and avoid what He and His Messenger have forbidden. Be steadfast in obeying Allaah in Ramadhaan and in other months as well, and advise one another to do that. Enjoin others to do good and forbid evil to gain honour, happiness, and dignity and to be saved in this world and in the Hereafter. May Allaah protect us, you, and all Muslims from that which incurs His Wrath. May Allaah accept our Sawm and Qiyaam-ul-Layl, rectify the affairs of Muslim rulers, and make them a means to defend Islaam and defeat His enemies. May Allaah guide us all to comprehend Islaam, hold fast to it, and judge according to it in all our affairs. Allaah has power over all things.

Peace be upon His Servant and Messenger, Muhammad, his family, Companions, and whoever follows his way until the Day of Resurrection. As-Salaamu `alaikum wa rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuhu.

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