



# Ramadan Manual; A Guide to its Merits and Practices

By Imam Didmar Faja

Based on the book *Al-Kafi fi al-Fiqh Al-Hanafi*

Written by Shaykh Vehbi Sulejman Gavoci



والحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على نبينا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

**Disclaimer:** Unless stated otherwise, all rulings follow the Hanafi school of Islamic law. Hadiths not specified as weak are either reliable (*hasan*) or authentic (*sahih*).

## Definition of Siyām

Siyām means abstaining from something. It is mentioned in the Quran,

فَكُلِيْ وَأَشْرَبِيْ وَقَرِّيْ عَيْنًا فَإِمَّا تَرَيِنَّ مِنَ الْبَشَرِ أَحَدًا فَقُولِيْ  
إِنِّي نَذَرْتُ لِلرَّحْمَنِ صَوْمًا فَلَنْ أُكَلِّمَ الْيَوْمَ إِنْسِيًّا

“So eat and drink and be contented. And if you see from among humanity anyone, say, 'Indeed, I have vowed to the Most Merciful abstention, so I will not speak today to [any] man.’” (Maryam: 26)

From the Shariah definition is to abstain from food, drink, and sexual relations from dawn until sunset.

In regards to fasting, Allah mentions in the Quran,

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

“O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous.” (Al-Baqarah: 183)

And also,

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

“The month of Ramaḍān [is that] in which was revealed the Qur’ān, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights [the crescent of] the month,[1] let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey - then an equal number of other days. Allāh intends for you ease and does not intend for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allāh for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful.” (Al-Baqarah: 185)

## Significance of Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month in the history of the Muslims. Allah Almighty has chosen it as a remembrance that never fades and a blessing that does not end.

1. In it, Allah Almighty chose Muhammad ﷺ as a Prophet and Messenger to all of mankind, commanding him to convey the message of Allah to the world and its inhabitants.
2. The month of Ramadan marks the beginning of the revelation of the Noble Qur’an.

Allah Almighty says:

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ

“The month of Ramadan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur’an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion.” (Al-Baqarah 2:185)

3. Allah multiplies the rewards for those who fast in it and raises their ranks.

عَنْ سَلْمَانَ الْفَارِسِيِّ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ

:خَطَبَنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فِي آخِرِ يَوْمٍ مِنْ شَعْبَانَ، فَقَالَ

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ، قَدْ أَظَلَّكُمْ شَهْرٌ عَظِيمٌ، شَهْرٌ مُّبَارَكٌ، شَهْرٌ فِيهِ لَيْلَةٌ خَيْرٌ مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ، جَعَلَ اللَّهُ صِيَامَهُ فَرِيضَةً، وَقِيَامَ لَيْلِهِ تَطَوُّعًا، مَنْ تَقَرَّبَ فِيهِ بِخَصْلَةٍ مِنَ الْخَيْرِ، كَانَ كَمَنْ أَدَّى فَرِيضَةً فِيمَا سِوَاهُ، وَمَنْ أَدَّى فِيهِ فَرِيضَةً، كَانَ كَمَنْ أَدَّى سَبْعِينَ فَرِيضَةً فِيمَا سِوَاهُ.

وَهُوَ شَهْرُ الصَّبْرِ، وَالصَّبْرُ ثَوَابُهُ الْجَنَّةُ، وَشَهْرُ الْمَوَاسَاةِ، وَشَهْرٌ يَزَادُ فِيهِ رِزْقُ الْمُؤْمِنِ. مَنْ فَطَرَ فِيهِ صَائِمًا، كَانَ لَهُ "مَغْفِرَةٌ لِدُنُوبِهِ، وَعَتَقَ رَقَبَتَهُ مِنَ النَّارِ، وَكَانَ لَهُ مِثْلُ أَجْرِهِ، مِنْ غَيْرِ أَنْ يَنْقُصَ مِنْ أَجْرِهِ شَيْءٌ".

قَالُوا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، لَيْسَ كُلُّنَا يَجِدُ مَا يُفْطِرُ الصَّائِمَ؟

فَقَالَ: "يُعْطِي اللَّهُ هَذَا الثَّوَابَ مَنْ فَطَرَ صَائِمًا عَلَى تَمْرَةٍ، أَوْ شَرْبَةِ مَاءٍ، أَوْ مَذَقَةِ لَبَنٍ

وَهُوَ شَهْرٌ أَوْلَاهُ رَحْمَةٌ، وَأَوْسَطُهُ مَغْفِرَةٌ، وَآخِرُهُ عَتَقٌ مِنَ النَّارِ. مَنْ خَفَّفَ عَنْ مَمْلُوكِهِ فِيهِ غَفَرَ اللَّهُ لَهُ وَأَعْتَقَهُ مِنَ النَّارِ. وَاسْتَكْبَرُوا فِيهِ مِنْ أَرْبَعِ خِصَالٍ: خَصَلْتَيْنِ تُرْضُونَ بِهِمَا رَبَّكُمْ، وَخَصَلْتَيْنِ لَا غِنَى لَكُمْ عَنْهُمَا

فَأَمَّا الْخَصَلَتَانِ اللَّتَانِ تُرْضُونَ بِهِمَا رَبَّكُمْ: فَشَهَادَةُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ، وَتَسْتَغْفِرُونَ. وَأَمَّا الْخَصَلَتَانِ اللَّتَانِ لَا غِنَى لَكُمْ عَنْهُمَا: فَتَسْأَلُونَ اللَّهَ الْجَنَّةَ، وَتَعُوذُونَ بِهِ مِنَ النَّارِ.

"وَمَنْ أَطْعَمَ فِيهِ صَائِمًا، سَقَاهُ اللَّهُ مِنْ حَوْضِي شَرْبَةٍ لَا يَظْمَأُ بَعْدَهَا حَتَّى يَدْخُلَ الْجَنَّةَ

According to Salmān Al-Fārisī (r.a.), the Prophet ﷺ delivered a sermon on the last day of Sha'bān, saying: "O people! A great and blessed month has approached you. A month in which there is a night better than a thousand months. A month in which Allah has made fasting an obligation and its night prayer a voluntary act. Whoever performs a good deed in it is as if he has performed an obligatory act in any other time, and whoever performs an obligatory act in it is as if he has performed seventy obligatory acts in any other time. It is the month of patience, and patience leads to Paradise.

It is the month of kindness and generosity. It is the month in which a believer's sustenance is increased. Whoever provides food for a fasting person to break his fast, it will be a means of forgiveness for his sins and freedom from the Hellfire, and he will have the same reward as the fasting person without diminishing the reward of the fasting person in the slightest."

The companions asked, "O Messenger of Allah, not all of us can find something to provide for a fasting person to break his fast." The Prophet ﷺ replied, "Allah grants this reward to whoever provides a fasting person with a date, or a sip of water, or a drink of milk.

This month, its beginning is mercy, its middle is forgiveness, and its end is freedom from the Hellfire.

Whoever lightens the burden of his servant in it, Allah will forgive him and free him from the Hellfire.

So increase in four matters: two that please your Lord, and two that you cannot do without."

As for the two qualities that please your Lord, they are: bearing witness that there is no god but Allah, and seeking His forgiveness. And as for the two qualities in which you cannot do without, they are: asking Allah for Paradise and seeking refuge in Him from the Hellfire.

Whoever gives a fasting person water to drink, Allah will grant him a drink from my basin, after which he will never feel thirst again until he enters Paradise.” (Narrated by Ibn Khuzaymah in his *Sahih*. Although scholars have classified this hadith as weak, all the meanings mentioned in it are correct and established through other sounder texts.)

**4. The gates of Paradise are opened to welcome those who seek Allah’s mercy and pleasure, while the gates of Hell are closed as a reward for those who fast, for fasting is a shield from Hellfire.**

Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) mentioned, “The gates of mercy are opened, the gates of Hell are shut, and the devils are chained.” (Bukhārī and Muslim).

Al-Tūrbishtī commented, “The opening of the gates signifies the descent of mercy and the removal of obstacles that hinder the acceptance of good deeds, as well as the success of the believers in righteous actions. The chaining of the devils symbolizes the subjugation of desires and the purification of souls from evil impulses and temptations.”

Al-Tībī explained, “The opening of the gates of heaven indicates the suspension of the angels’ recording of sins for those who fast, and it is a sign of Allah’s great favor upon them.”

‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar (may Allah be pleased with both of them) narrated a hadith supporting this,

إِنَّ الْجَنَّةَ لَتُرْخَرَفُ لِرَمَضَانَ. (رَوَى الْبَيْهَقِيُّ فِي شُعَبِ الْإِيمَانِ)

“Indeed, Paradise is decorated for Ramadan.” (Al-Bayhaqī in his *Shu’ab al-Īmān*)

The following hadith talks about five benefits that can be gained by the believer during Ramadan.

قال رسول الله ﷺ: “أُعْطِيَتْ أُمَّتِي فِي شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ خَمْسًا لَمْ يُعْطَهُنَّ نَبِيٌّ قَبْلِي: أَمَّا وَاحِدَةٌ فَإِذَا كَانَ أَوَّلُ لَيْلَةٍ مِنْ شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ نَظَرَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِمْ وَمَنْ نَظَرَ اللَّهُ إِلَيْهِ لَمْ يُعَذِّبْهُ أَبَدًا، وَأَمَّا الثَّانِيَةُ فَإِنَّ خُلُوفَ أَفْوَاهِهِمْ حِينَ يَمْسُونَ أَطْيَبُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ رِيحِ الْمِسْكِ، وَأَمَّا الثَّلَاثَةُ فَإِنَّ الْمَلَائِكَةَ تَسْتَغْفِرُ لَهُمْ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ وَلَيْلَةٍ، وَأَمَّا الرَّابِعَةُ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ جَنَّتَهُ فَيَقُولُ لَهَا اسْتَعِدِّي وَتَزِينِي لِعِبَادِي أَوْشَكَ أَنْ يَسْتَرِيحُوا مِنْ تَعَبِ الدُّنْيَا إِلَى دَارِي وَكَرَامَتِي، وَأَمَّا الْخَامِسَةُ فَإِذَا كَانَ آخِرُ لَيْلَةٍ غَفَرَ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ جَمِيعًا” (رواه البيهقي في شعب الإيمان)

Jabir ibn Abdullah (may Allah be pleased with them) reported that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "My Ummah was given five things in the month of Ramadan that no Prophet before me was given:

1. When the first night of Ramadan comes, Allah looks at them (with mercy), and whoever Allah looks at, He will never punish them.
2. The smell from their mouths when they fast is more fragrant to Allah than the scent of musk.
3. The angels seek forgiveness for them every day and night.
4. Allah commands His Paradise, saying: 'Prepare yourself and beautify yourself for My servants, for soon they will find rest from the hardships of the world and enter My abode and My honor.'
5. When the last night of Ramadan arrives, Allah forgives them all." (Narrated by Al-Bayhaqī in *Shu'ab al-Īmān* with a weak chain).

Ramadan is the fourth pillar from the pillars of the religion. For indeed, it breaks the dominance of the nafs that commands evil, and it promotes deeds connected to the heart along with abstaining from food, drink, and desires.

## The Wisdom Behind the Legislation of Fasting

### 1. Seeking the reward from Allah

Through fasting, Allah elevates the ranks and multiplies good deeds.

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - " كُلُّ عَمَلِ ابْنِ آدَمَ يُضَاعَفُ لَهُ الْحَسَنَةُ بِعَشْرِ أَمْثَالِهَا إِلَّا سَبْعِمِائَةَ ضِعْفٍ . قَالَ اللَّهُ سَبْحَانَهُ إِلَّا الصَّوْمَ فَإِنَّهُ لِي وَأَنَا أَجْزِي بِهِ ."  
(رواه ابن ماجه)

It was narrated from Abū Hurairah that the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: "Every deed of the son of Adam will be multiplied for him, between ten and seven hundred times for each merit. Allah said: 'Except for fasting, for it is for Me and I shall reward for it.'" (*Sunan Ibn Majah*)

### 2. Drawing closer to Allah's love

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى قَالَ: " مَنْ عَادَى لِي وَلِيًّا فَقَدْ آذَنْتُهُ بِالْحَرْبِ، وَمَا تَقَرَّبَ إِلَيَّ عَبْدِي بِشَيْءٍ أَحَبَّ إِلَيَّ مِمَّا افْتَرَضْتُهُ عَلَيْهِ، وَلَا يَزَالُ عَبْدِي يَتَقَرَّبُ إِلَيَّ بِالنَّوَافِلِ حَتَّى أُحِبَّهُ، فَإِذَا أَحْبَبْتُهُ كُنْتُ سَمْعَهُ الَّذِي يَسْمَعُ بِهِ، وَبَصَرَهُ الَّذِي يُبْصِرُ بِهِ، وَيَدَهُ الَّتِي يَبْطِشُ بِهَا، وَرِجْلَهُ الَّتِي يَمْشِي بِهَا، وَلَئِنْ سَأَلَنِي لِأَعْطِيَنَّهُ، وَلَئِنْ اسْتَعَاذَنِي لِأُعِيذَنَّهُ ."  
رواه البخاري

On the authority of Abū Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) who said, The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “Verily Allah the Almighty said: ‘Whosoever shows enmity to a friend (*wali*) of Mine, then I have declared war against him. And My servant does not draw near to Me with anything more loved to Me than the religious duties I have obligated upon him. And My servant continues to draw near to me with supererogatory (*nawāfil*) deeds until I Love him. When I Love him, I am his hearing with which he hears, and his sight with which he sees, and his hand with which he strikes, and his foot with which he walks. Were he to ask [something] of Me, I would surely give it to him; and were he to seek refuge with Me, I would surely grant him refuge.’” (Al-Bukhārī)

### 3. Training the soul to fear Allah and to be conscious of Him in all situations

This applies to one whether traveling or staying, in private or public, in good company or alone, whether young or old. Allah Almighty says: “O you who have believed, fasting has been prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may attain piety (*taqwā*).” (Al-Baqarah: 183)

### 4. Protecting the soul from immoral acts and safeguarding it from sins – This is because hunger disciplines the soul, elevates it, and weakens the urges of desire.

فقال عُثْمَانُ بْنُ أَبِي الْعَاصِ الثَّقَفِيِّ: سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - يَقُولُ: " الصَّيَامُ جُنَّةٌ مِنَ النَّارِ كَجُنَّةِ أَحَدِكُمْ مِنَ الْقِتَالِ ". (رواه ابن ماجة)

‘Uthmān bin Abū al-‘Ās Ath-Thaqafī said, “I heard the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) say: ‘Fasting is a shield against the Fire just like the shield of anyone of you against fighting.’” (Ibn Mājah)

### 5. Training the soul in patience and strengthening willpower

Patience with fasting is enduring what one dislikes for the sake of achieving what one hopes for. Training the soul in determination and willpower for the sake of Allah is also essential. Fasting helps develop this trait.

This is because fasting is an act of secret worship—don’t you see that a fasting person can be alone with food and drink but does not consume them because Allah sees him? What an excellent form of self-discipline fasting is!

## 6. Training to keep the promise

A believer needs discipline in their thoughts, work, and social interactions. They must also maintain their promises, whether in matters between them and their Lord or between them and people.

Fasting reinforces this through self-restraint and time management, safeguarding people's hearts and their commitments.

See how every fasting person abstains at dawn, regardless of their hunger, and how they break their fast as soon as night falls, no matter how occupied they are.

## 7. Giving the body and the stomach a break and helping with some diseases.

Even modern medicine encourages fasting for people who are qualified to do so.

American Heart Association: In 2021, a study published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association* linked Ramadan fasting to lower blood pressure. The study found that both healthy individuals and those with hypertension experienced reductions in blood pressure after the fasting period.

[https://www.heart.org/en/news/2021/10/08/fasting-during-ramadan-may-lower-blood-pressure-at-least-temporarily?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.heart.org/en/news/2021/10/08/fasting-during-ramadan-may-lower-blood-pressure-at-least-temporarily?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

World Health Organization (WHO): The WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office notes that there is evidence suggesting fasting during Ramadan can have positive effects on health, including boosting mental well-being, improving mood, and relieving stress, anxiety, and depression.

[https://www.emro.who.int/noncommunicable-diseases/campaigns/stay-healthy-during-ramadan.html?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.emro.who.int/noncommunicable-diseases/campaigns/stay-healthy-during-ramadan.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

Additionally, a review article in the *Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal* highlighted that systematic reviews of Ramadan fasting have shown weight reduction and improved blood lipid profiles, suggesting potential benefits for cardiovascular health.

[https://www.emro.who.int/emhj-volume-25-2019/volume-25-issue-4/comparison-of-time-restricted-feeding-and-islamic-fasting-a-scoping-review.html?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.emro.who.int/emhj-volume-25-2019/volume-25-issue-4/comparison-of-time-restricted-feeding-and-islamic-fasting-a-scoping-review.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com)



Hārith bin Kaldah, the physician of the Arabs said,

فَإِنَّ الْمَعِدَةَ بَيْتُ الدَّاءِ؛ وَالْحَمِيَّةُ رَأْسُ الدَّوَاءِ

“The stomach is the home of disease, and restraint is the head of medicine.”

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: "...وَصُومُوا تَصِحُّوا..." (رواه الطبراني في المعجم الأوسط)

From Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him), he said: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: "...Fast, and you will be healthy..." (Tabarānī) Suyūṭī considers it reliable (*hasan*). Many others, such as Al-Irāqī and Ibn Hajar consider the chain as a weak one.

### Warning for those who abstain from Fasting with no excuse.

وَعَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: "مَنْ أَفْطَرَ يَوْمًا مِنْ رَمَضَانَ مِنْ غَيْرِ رُخْصَةٍ وَلَا مَرَضٍ لَمْ يَقْضِ عَنْهُ صَوْمَ الدَّهْرِ كُلِّهِ وَإِنْ صَامَهُ." (رواه أحمد والترمذي وأبو داود وابن ماجه والدارمي والبخاري)

Abu Huraira reported God’s messenger as saying, “If anyone breaks his fast one day in Ramadan without a concession or without being ill, a perpetual fast will not atone for it even if he observes it. (Ahmad, Tirmidhī, Abū Dāwūd, Ibn Mājah, Dārimī and Bukhārī)

### Conditions of Fasting

The following conditions make a Muslim eligible to fast:

1. Being a Muslim
2. Sound Reason
3. Puberty (*bulūgh*)
4. Possessing the senses (*salāmat al-abwās*)
5. Knowing about it
6. Health
7. Residency
8. Intention
9. Ritual Purity for women (*tubr*)

## What does and doesn't break Fasting?

### 1. Requires Only Makeup Fast (*Qadā'*)

- a) Eating, drinking, or smoking unintentionally but then continuing after realizing.
- b) Swallowing a non-nutritive substance (like paper or thread) intentionally.
- c) Vomiting a mouthful intentionally.
- d) Water entering the throat accidentally while rinsing the mouth.
- e) Ejaculation due to touching, kissing, or foreplay (without intercourse).
- f) Swallowing phlegm after it reaches the mouth deliberately.
- g) Breaking the fast due to illness or travel.

### 1. Requires Both *Qadā'* and Expiation (*Kaffārah*)

- a) Eating, drinking, or having intercourse intentionally without a valid excuse.
- b) Consuming any form of nourishment (food, drink, medicine) intentionally.

### 2. What does Not Break the Fast

- a) Eating or drinking forgetfully (as long as one stops upon remembering).
- b) Vomiting involuntarily, even if a mouthful.
- c) Unintentional swallowing of dust, smoke, or saliva.
- d) Wet dreams or ejaculation due to thoughts alone.
- e) Using tooth-stick (*miswak*) or brushing teeth without swallowing toothpaste.

## Disliked Actions during fasting according

- 1. Excessive Tasting
- 2. Swearing or Using Profanity
- 3. Excessive Sexual Activity
- 1. Excessive kissing or fondling with the spouse, even if it does not lead to ejaculation.
- 4. Being Overly Engaged in Worldly Affairs
- 5. Overindulgence in Food at Iftar
- 6. Inserting Anything into the Body Without Necessity
- 7. Intentionally Making Oneself Vomit
- 8. Sleeping Too Much

## Social benefits of Ramadan

- 1. Increase of Worship. It is related that Imam Abū Hanīfah, Al-Shāfi'ī and
- 2. others would complete the entire Quran twice a day and once during the night of Eid.

3. Decrease of immoralities and focus on positive deeds
4. Increase of visits, brotherhood, joy, and pleasure among the people.
5. Increase of donations, help and support.
6. Increase of respect and sensibility from non-Muslims towards Muslims, particularly in Muslim countries.
7. Increase in praying in the mosques during the night prayers and creating a stronger bond among the community members.
8. Performance of Umrah during Ramadan.
9. Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) mentioned,

عَنْ عَطَاءٍ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ ابْنَ عَبَّاسٍ - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا - يُخْبِرُنَا يَقُولُ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ لِامْرَأَةٍ مِنَ الْأَنْصَارِ سَمَّاهَا ابْنُ عَبَّاسٍ، فَانْسَيْتُ اسْمَهَا " مَا مَنَعَكَ أَنْ تَحْجِيَّ مَعَنَا " . قَالَتْ كَانَ لَنَا نَاضِحٌ فَرَكِبَهُ أَبُو فُلَانٍ وَابْنُهُ - لِزَوْجِهَا وَابْنِهَا - وَتَرَكَ نَاضِحًا نَنْضَحُ عَلَيْهِ قَالَ " فَإِذَا كَانَ رَمَضَانُ اعْتَمِرِي فِيهِ فَإِنَّ عُمْرَةً فِي رَمَضَانَ حَجَّةٌ " . أَوْ نَحْوَهُمَا قَالَ . (رواه البخاري ومسلم)

I heard Ibn `Abbās saying, "Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) asked an *ansāri* (helpers of Madina) woman (Ibn `Abbās named her but `Atā' forgot her name), 'What prevented you from performing Hajj with us?' She replied, 'We have a camel and the father of so-and-so and his son (i.e. her husband and her son) rode it and left one camel for us to use for irrigation.' He said (to her), 'Perform `Umrah when Ramadan comes, for `Umrah in Ramadan is equal to Hajj (in reward),' or said something similar." (Al-Bukhārī and Muslim)

## Ramadan Ethics

Prior to the arrival of Ramadan, one must plan and prepare well. The following points are some ethics based on the Prophetic tradition (*sunnah*) of the Messenger of Allah (pbuh).

### 1) Preparing for Ramadan before its arrival

عَنْ أَنَسٍ قَالَ: كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِذَا دَخَلَ رَجَبٌ قَالَ: «اللَّهُمَّ بَارِكْ لَنَا فِي رَجَبٍ وَشَعْبَانَ وَبَلِّغْنَا رَمَضَانَ» البيهقي في الدعوات الكبير

Anas bin Mālik narrated that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) used to supplicate before the arrival of Ramadan, saying, “O Allah, bless us in Rajab and Sha’bān, and allow us to reach Ramadan.” Reported by Al-Bayhaqī in his *Al-Da’wāt al-Kabīr* (with a weakness in the chain).

## 2- Remembering the great virtue of fasting

It is recommended to reflect on the immense reward of fasting as mentioned in the hadith narrated by Abū Hurairah (r.a.),

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - قَالَ: " إِذَا كَانَتْ أَوَّلُ لَيْلَةٍ مِنْ رَمَضَانَ صُفِّدَتِ الشَّيَاطِينُ وَمَرَدَةُ الْجِنِّ وَعُلِّقَتْ أَبْوَابُ النَّارِ فَلَمْ يُفْتَحْ مِنْهَا بَابٌ. وَفُتِحَتْ أَبْوَابُ الْجَنَّةِ فَلَمْ يُغْلَقْ مِنْهَا بَابٌ. وَنَادَى مُنَادٌ: يَا بَاغِيَ الْخَيْرِ أَقْبِلْ. وَيَا بَاغِيَ الشَّرِّ أَقْصِرْ. وَلِلَّهِ عِتْقَاءُ مِنَ النَّارِ. وَذَلِكَ فِي كُلِّ لَيْلَةٍ ". رواه الترمذي

“When the first night of Ramadan comes, the devils and mischievous jinn are chained up, and the gates of the Fire are closed, and none of its gates are opened. The gates of Paradise are opened and none of its gates are closed. And a caller cries out: ‘O seeker of good, proceed, O seeker of evil, stop.’ And Allah has necks (people) whom He frees (from the Fire), and that happens every day.” (Al-Tirmidhī)

## 3- Sincerity in fasting for Allah alone

One must fast with pure intentions for Allah, seeking His pleasure and reward.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى فَرَضَ صِيَامَ رَمَضَانَ عَلَيْكُمْ وَسَنَنْتُ لَكُمْ قِيَامَهُ فَمَنْ صَامَهُ وَقَامَهُ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا خَرَجَ مِنْ ذُنُوبِهِ كَيَوْمٍ وُلِدَتْهُ أُمُّهُ ". رواه النسائي

The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said, “Allah, may He be blessed and exalted, enjoined the fast of Ramadan upon you, and I have made it Sunnah for you to spend its nights in prayer. Whoever fasts it and spends its nights in prayer out of faith and in the hope of reward, he will emerge from his sins as on the day his mother bore him.” Nasāī (with a weak narration)

## 4- Eating Sahūr (pre-dawn meal)

Suhūr is encouraged, as it is a blessed meal that strengthens one in their worship.

عَنْ أَنَسٍ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: « تَسَحَّرُوا فَإِنَّ فِي السَّحُورِ بَرَكَةً » رواه البخاري

The Prophet (ﷺ) said: “Eat Sahūr, for in Suhūr there is blessing.” (Al-Bukhārī)

## 5. Hastening the breaking of the fast

عَنْ سَهْلِ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: « لَا يَزَالُ النَّاسُ بِخَيْرٍ مَا عَجَّلُوا الْفِطْرَ »  
رواه البخاري ومسلم

Sahl (r.a.) reported God's messenger as saying, "The people will continue to prosper as long as they hasten the breaking of the fast." This refers to each day during Ramadan, and recommends that the fast should be broken as early as that may lawfully be done. (Bukhari and Muslim.)

## 6. Hastening to perform the Maghrib prayer after eating dates and/or drinking some water

حَدَّثَنَا ثَابِتُ الْبُنَانِيُّ، أَنَّهُ سَمِعَ أَنَسَ بْنَ مَالِكٍ، يَقُولُ كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يُفْطِرُ عَلَى رُطَبَاتٍ قَبْلَ أَنْ يُصَلِّيَ فَإِنْ لَمْ تَكُنْ رُطَبَاتٍ فَعَلَى تَمْرَاتٍ فَإِنْ لَمْ تَكُنْ حَسَا حَسَوَاتٍ مِنْ مَاءٍ. سنن أبي داود

Anas bin Mālik narrated, "The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) used to break his fast before praying with some fresh dates; but if there were no fresh dates, he had a few dry dates, and if there were no dry dates, he took some mouthfuls of water." (Sunan Abī Dāwūd)

## Wisdom Behind Breaking the Fast with Something Sweet

Scholars have explained that consuming a small amount of something sweet (like dates) on an empty stomach helps activate the digestive system and prepares it for food. Drinking too much water at once can fill the stomach and might be harmful.

## 7. The Importance of Supplication (Du'a) at Iftār Time

It is encouraged to make a supplication when breaking the fast, as it is a moment of accepted supplication.

ثَلَاثَةٌ لَا تُرَدُّ دَعْوَتُهُمُ الصَّائِمُ حَتَّى يُفْطِرَ وَالْإِمَامُ الْعَادِلُ وَدَعْوَةُ الْمَظْلُومِ يَرْفَعُهَا اللَّهُ فَوْقَ الْغَمَامِ وَيَفْتَحُ لَهَا أَبْوَابَ السَّمَاءِ وَيَقُولُ الرَّبُّ وَعِزَّتِي لِأَنْصُرَنَّكَ وَلَوْ بَعْدَ حِينٍ. رواه الترمذي

Abu Hurairah narrated that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "There are three whose supplication is not rejected: The fasting person when he breaks his fast, the just leader, and the supplication of the oppressed person; Allah raises it up above the clouds and opens the gates of heaven to it. And the Lord says: 'By My might, I shall surely aid you, even if it should be after a while.'" (Al-Tirmidhī)

Ibn ‘Umar mentioned that the Prophet (pbuh) said when he broke his fast,

وَعَنْ ابْنِ عُمَرَ قَالَ: كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِذَا أَفْطَرَ قَالَ: «ذَهَبَ الظَّمَأُ وَابْتَلَّتِ الْعُرُوقُ وَثَبَتَ الْأَجْرُ إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ». رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ

“Thirst has gone, the arteries are moist, and the reward is sure, if God wills (*Dhababa al-dham’u wab-tallat al-urūq wa thabata al-ajr in shā’ Allāh*).” (Abū Dāwūd)

What’s obvious based on the text is that the Prophet (pbuh) would supplicate after breaking the fast. Here is another supplication narrated by Mu‘ādh bin Zuhrah that when Prophet (pbuh) broke his fast he said,

عَنْ مُعَاذِ بْنِ زُهْرَةَ قَالَ: إِنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ كَانَ إِذَا أَفْطَرَ قَالَ: «اللَّهُمَّ لَكَ صَمْتُ وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ». رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ

“O God, for You I have fasted and with Your provision I have broken my fast (*Allahumma laka sumtu wa ‘alā rizqīqa aftar*).” (Abū Dāwūd)

## 8. Encouragement to Offer Iftar to Others

It is recommended to provide food for someone to break their fast, even if it is just a sip of water. The Prophet (ﷺ) said:

عن زيد بن خالد الجهني، رضي الله عنه عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال: "من فطر صائماً، كان له مثل أجره غير أنه لا ينقص من أجر الصائم شيء." . رواه الترمذي

Zayd bin Khālid Al-Jūhānī (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "He who provides a fasting person something with which to break his fast, will earn the same reward as the one who was observing the fast, without diminishing in any way the reward of the latter."

Also, in another narration from Salmān Al-Fārisī (r.a.) it is mentioned that Prophet (pbuh) mentioned,

"... مَنْ فَطَّرَ فِيهِ صَائِماً كَانَ لَهُ مَغْفِرَةٌ لِدُنُوبِهِ وَعَتَقَ رَقَبَتَهُ مِنَ النَّارِ وَكَانَ لَهُ مِثْلُ أَجْرِهِ مِنْ غَيْرِ أَنْ يَنْقُصَ مِنْ أَجْرِهِ شَيْءٌ" قُلْنَا: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ لَيْسَ كَلْنَا يَجِدُ مَا نَفْطِرُ بِهِ الصَّائِمَ. فَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ:

« يُعْطِي اللَّهُ هَذَا الثَّوَابَ مَنْ فَطَّرَ صَائِمًا عَلَى مَذْقَةٍ لَبِنٍ أَوْ تَمْرَةٍ أَوْ شَرِبَةٍ مِنْ مَاءٍ وَمَنْ أَشْبَعَ صَائِمًا سَقَاهُ اللَّهُ مِنْ حَوْضِي شَرِبَةً لَا يَظْمَأُ حَتَّى يَدْخُلَ الْجَنَّةَ... » صحيح ابن خزيمة

"If someone gives one who has been fasting something with which to break his fast it will provide forgiveness of his sins and save him from hell, and he will have a reward equal to his without his reward being diminished in any respect." Some of them remarked to God's messenger that they did not all have the means to give one who had been fasting something with which to break his fast, and he replied, "God gives this reward to him who gives one who has been fasting some milk mixed with water, or a date, or a drink of water with which to break his fast, and anyone who gives a full meal to one who has been fasting will be given a drink from any tank by God and will not thirst till he enters Paradise..." (Reported by Ibn Khuzaymah with a weak narration)

### Etiquette of Hosting a Fasting Person

It is recommended for the host to supplicate for their guest.

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ الزُّبَيْرِ، قَالَ أَفْطَرَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - عِنْدَ سَعْدِ بْنِ مُعَاذٍ فَقَالَ " أَفْطَرَ عِنْدَكُمْ الصَّائِمُونَ وَأَكَلَ طَعَامَكُمْ الْأَبْرَارُ وَصَلَّتْ عَلَيْكُمْ الْمَلَائِكَةُ " رواه أبو داود

It was narrated that 'Abdullāh bin Zubayr said: "The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) broke his fast with Sa'd bin Mu'adh and said: 'Aftara 'indakum al-sāimūn, wa akala ta'amakum al-abrār, wa sallat 'alaykum al-malā'ikah (May fasting people break their fast with you, may the righteous eat your food, and may the angels send blessing upon you).'"

### 9. Avoiding Sins and Prohibited Actions While Fasting

Fasting is not just about avoiding food and drink, but also about staying away from sinful behavior, otherwise the rewards can all be rejected.

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - " رُبَّ صَائِمٍ لَيْسَ لَهُ مِنْ صِيَامِهِ إِلَّا الْجُوعُ. وَرُبَّ قَائِمٍ لَيْسَ لَهُ مِنْ قِيَامِهِ إِلَّا السَّهَرُ " . رواه ابن ماجه

It was narrated from Abu Hurairah that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "There are people who fast and get nothing from their fast except hunger, and there are those who pray and get nothing from their prayer but a sleepless night." (Ibn Mājah)

وَعَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: «مَنْ لَمْ يَدَعْ قَوْلَ الزُّورِ وَالْعَمَلَ بِهِ فَلَيْسَ لِلَّهِ حَاجَةٌ فِي أَنْ يَدَعَ طَعَامَهُ وَشَرَابَهُ». رَوَاهُ الْبُخَارِيُّ

Abu Huraira reported God's messenger as saying, "If one does not abandon falsehood and action in accordance with it, God had no need that he should abandon his food and his drink." (Al-Bukhārī)

### Examples of Falsehood That Invalidate the Reward of Fasting

- Lying and false testimony.
- Slander and spreading corruption.
- Looking at prohibited things.
- Listening to unlawful speech.
- Harboring envy and hatred in the heart.
- Dealing with what Allah has prohibited, such as a man going to places of immorality and sin, or taking people's wealth unjustly.

#### 10. Maintaining self-discipline and good character, even with those who mistreat you

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، - رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ - رِوَايَةٌ قَالَ " إِذَا أَصْبَحَ أَحَدُكُمْ يَوْمًا صَائِمًا فَلَا يَرِفُثُ وَلَا يَجْهَلُ فَإِنَّ أَمْرًا شَاتَمَهُ أَوْ قَاتَلَهُ فَلْيَقُلْ إِنِّي صَائِمٌ إِنِّي صَائِمٌ " . رواه مسلم

Abū Hurayrah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: When any one of you gets up in the morning in the state of fasting, he should neither use obscene language nor do any act of ignorance. And if anyone slanders him or quarrels with him, he should say: " I am fasting, I am fasting." (Muslim)

#### 11. Reciting the Noble Qur'an frequently

The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to recite the Qur'an with Jibrīl every Ramadan. In the last Ramadan of his life, he reviewed the Qur'an twice with Jibrīl (peace be upon him).

كَانَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ أَجْوَدَ النَّاسِ بِالْخَيْرِ، وَكَانَ أَجْوَدَ مَا يَكُونُ فِي رَمَضَانَ، حِينَ يَلْقَاهُ جِبْرِيلُ، وَكَانَ جِبْرِيلُ - عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ - يَلْقَاهُ كُلَّ لَيْلَةٍ فِي رَمَضَانَ حَتَّى يَنْسَلِخَ، يَعْرِضُ عَلَيْهِ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ الْقُرْآنَ، فَإِذَا لَقِيَهُ جِبْرِيلُ - عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ - كَانَ أَجْوَدَ بِالْخَيْرِ مِنَ الرِّيحِ الْمُرْسَلَةِ . رواه البخاري



It was narrated by Ibn `Abbās, “The Prophet (ﷺ) was the most generous amongst the people, and he used to be more so in the month of Ramadan when Gabriel visited him, and Gabriel used to meet him on every night of Ramadan till the end of the month. The Prophet (ﷺ) used to recite the Holy Qur'an to Gabriel, and when Gabriel met him, he used to be more generous than a fast wind (which causes rain and welfare). (Reported by Al-Bukhārī)

It is also important to know that the Qur'an will intercede for its reciters on the Day of Judgment.

عَنْ أَبِي أُمَامَةَ قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ: «أَقْرَأُوا الْقُرْآنَ فَإِنَّهُ يَأْتِي يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ شَفِيعًا لِأَصْحَابِهِ... رواه مسلم

Abū Umāmah said he heard Allah's Messenger ﷺ say, “Recite the Qur'an, for on the Day of Resurrection it will come as an intercessor for those who recite it.” (Muslim)

In another Hadith it is reported,

وَعَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو: أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ: " الصِّيَامُ وَالْقُرْآنُ يَشْفَعَانِ لِلْعَبْدِ يَقُولُ الصِّيَامُ: أَيْ رَبِّ إِنِّي مَنَعْتُهُ الطَّعَامَ وَالشَّهَوَاتِ بِالنَّهَارِ فَشَفَّعْنِي فِيهِ وَيَقُولُ الْقُرْآنُ: مَنَعْتُهُ النَّوْمَ بِاللَّيْلِ فَشَفَّعْنِي فِيهِ فَيُشْفَعَانِ " . رواه البيهقي في شعب الإيمان

Abdullāh b. ‘Amr reported God's Messenger (pbuh) as saying, “Fasting and the Qur'an will intercede for a man. Fasting will say, ‘O my Lord, I have kept him away from his food and his passions by day, so accept my intercession for him.’ The Qur'an will say, ‘I have kept him away from sleep by night, so accept my intercession for him.’ Then their intercession will be accepted.” (Bayhaqī transmitted it in *Shu'ab al-Īmān*)

## 12. Increasing charity and good deeds in Ramadan

It is encouraged to increase acts of charity and good deeds in this month. Ramadan is a great month for giving Zakat (almsgiving), as the rewards for good deeds are multiplied in this month.

## 13. Increasing the sending of prayers upon the Prophet (pbuh)

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: «مَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ عِنْدَ قَبْرِي سَمِعْتُهُ وَمَنْ صَلَّى عَلَيَّ نَائِبًا أُبْلِغْتُهُ» . رواه البيهقي في شعب الإيمان

Abū Huraira reported God’s Messenger as saying, “If anyone invokes a blessing on me at my grave I shall hear him, and if anyone invokes a blessing on me at a distance, I shall have it conveyed to me.” (Bayhaqī transmitted it in *Shu‘ab al-Īmān*.)

وَعَنْ ابْنِ مَسْعُودٍ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: «إِنَّ لِلَّهِ مَلَائِكَةً سَيَّاحِينَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يُبَلِّغُونِي مِنْ أُمَّتِي السَّلَامَ». رَوَاهُ النَّسَائِيُّ وَالدَّارِمِيُّ

Abdullāh bin Mas’ūd (r.a.) reported that God’s Messenger (pbuh) mentioned, “God has angels who travel about in the earth and convey to me greetings from my people.” (Nasāī and Darimī transmitted it)

The most honored believer is the one who is remembered for his good deeds before the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him).

## Specifics of Ramadan

### 1) Tarawīh Prayer

The Tarawīh prayer is an emphasized Sunnah for both men and women. It is called “Tarawīh” because there is a rest (*istirāḥah*) after every four units (*rak‘ah*).

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، قَالَ كَانَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يُرْعَبُ فِي قِيَامِ رَمَضَانَ مِنْ غَيْرِ أَنْ يَأْمُرَهُمْ بِعَزِيمَةٍ قَالَ " مَنْ قَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ " . رواه النسائي

It was narrated that Abu Hurairah (r.a.) said: "The Messenger of Allah used to encourage (us) to pray Qiyām during Ramadan, without insisting on that, and he said: 'Whoever spends the nights of Ramadan in prayer (*qiyām*) out of faith and in the hope of reward, he will be forgiven his previous sins'" (Al-Nasāī)

Al-Kirmānī, in his commentary on *Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī*, said: “There is consensus that the intended prayer in the hadith is the Tarawīh prayer of Ramadan.” This was affirmed definitively by Al-Nawawī and others.

Al-Bājī, the Mālikī scholar, said: “It is necessary that this prayer be exclusive to Ramadan, even if it was common in all times, as its practice was distinguished in Ramadan and attributed specifically to it.”

In *Al-Iqna‘* of the Ḥanbalī school, it is stated: “There is consensus that what is meant by the statement of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), ‘Whoever stands (in prayer) during Ramadan...’ would be referring to the Tarawīh prayer.”

## 2. I'tikāf

The types of I'tikāf are three:

- a) **Obligatory (Wājib):** This refers to vowed *i'tikāf*, meaning that which a person obligates upon themselves. It is required that fasting be observed for this type of *i'tikāf*. The vow may be specified or left open-ended. For example, if someone says, “It is upon me to perform I'tikaf for a day if Allah heals my sick person,” then they must perform I'tikaf on the specified day if the sick person is healed.
- b) **Sunnah Mu'akkadah (Emphasized Sunnah):** This is the *i'tikāf* of the last ten days of Ramadan.

وَعَنْ عَائِشَةَ: أَنَّ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ كَانَ يَعْتَكِفُ الْعَشْرَ الْأَوَّخِرَ مِنْ رَمَضَانَ حَتَّى تَوَفَّاهُ اللَّهُ ثُمَّ  
اعْتَكَفَ أَزْوَاجُهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ. روا البخاري ومسلم

Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) narrated: “The Prophet ﷺ used to perform *i'tikāf* during the last ten days of Ramadan until Allah took his soul. Then, his wives continued performing *i'tikāf* after him.” (Al-Bukhārī and Muslim)

- c) **Recommended (Mustahabb):** This refers to voluntary I'tikaf, which is not tied to fasting, as fasting is not a condition for it. However, it is preferable for I'tikaf to be complete, meaning the person remains in the mosque continuously, even while waiting for prayer, so long as they are inside the mosque.

## 3. The Night of Qadr (The Night of Decree)

The Night of Qadr it is a night of great significance due to the revelation of the Quran in it, or because of what descends during it from the angels, or because of the blessings, mercy, and forgiveness that occur in it, or because the one who worships in it attains a high rank.

Malik narrated in *Al-Muwatta*, and Al-Bayhaqī narrated in his *Shuab Al-Īmān*, that the Prophet ﷺ was shown the lifespans of past nations and saw that the lifespans of his followers were shorter. So, Allah gave him Laylatul Qadr, which is better than a thousand months. (*Anjaz Al-Masālik*)

Ibn Jarīr narrated from Mujahid, who said “There was a man from the Children of Israel who would spend the night in prayer and then fight the enemy during the day until evening. He continued this for a thousand months. So Allah revealed: The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months. (Al-Qadr: 3)

The worship of that night is better than the deeds of that man for a thousand months.”  
(*Anjaz Al-Masālik*)

وَعَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ: « مَنْ صَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ . وَمَنْ قَامَ رَمَضَانَ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ . وَمَنْ قَامَ لَيْلَةَ الْقَدْرِ إِيمَانًا وَاحْتِسَابًا غُفِرَ لَهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِهِ » رواه البخاري ومسلم

Abu Huraira reported God's messenger as saying, "He who fasts during Ramadan with faith and seeking his reward from God will have his past sins forgiven; he who prays during the night in Ramadan with faith and seeking his reward from God will have his past sins forgiven; and he who passes Laylah al-Qadr [Night of Decree] in prayer with faith and seeking his reward from God will have his past sins forgiven." (Al-Bukhārī and Muslim)

### When is the Night of Qadr?

Ibn Hajar also stated: "After reviewing all the narrations, I found that there are over fifty opinions regarding the specific night of Laylah al-Qadr. The strongest view is that it falls within the last ten nights of Ramadan and shifts between nights, as inferred from several hadiths. The most likely nights are the twenty-first, twenty-third, or twenty-seventh, with the latter being the most widely accepted among scholars." (*Anjaz Al-Masālik*)

### What to say during the Night of Qadr?

وَعَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا قَالَتْ: قُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ أَرَأَيْتَ إِنْ عَلِمْتُ أَيُّ لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ مَا أَقُولُ فِيهَا؟ قَالَ: " قُولِي: اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفُوفٌ تَحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي " . (رواه الترمذي وأحمد)

‘Aisha (r.a.) said she asked God’s messenger to tell her what prayers to say on Laylah al-Qadr if she knew which night it was, and he told her to say, “O God, You are forgiving and loves forgiveness, so forgive me.” (Ahmad, Ibn Mājah, and Tirmidhī)

### Signs of the Night of Qadr

... أَخْبَرَنَا رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِنَّهَا تَطْلُعُ يَوْمَئِذٍ لَا شُعَاعَ لَهَا . رَوَاهُ مُسْلِمٌ

Ubay bin Ka’b (r.a.) was asked how he could tell that the night of Qadr was on the 27th night of Ramadan "...By the indication (or sign) of which God’s messenger informed us, viz. that the sun rises on that day without rays." (Muslim)

Abū Dāwūd mentioned the similar narration by adding:

تُصْبِحُ الشَّمْسُ صَبِيحَةً تَلِكَ اللَّيْلَةِ مِثْلَ الطَّسْتِ لَيْسَ لَهَا شُعَاعٌ حَتَّى تَرْتَفِعَ .

“The sun rises that morning like a copper dish, without strong rays until it fully rises.”

#### 4. Sadaqah or Zakāt Al-Fitr

It is called Zakat al-Fitr because it is obligatory (*wājib*) upon ending the fast of Ramadan. Zakat al-Fitr is obligatory for a person who possesses at least the amount of *nisab* (not necessarily in saving threshold for the whole year, as that would be the case of zakāt) and is proven by the Sunnah. It must be given before the Eid prayer and should not be delayed until after the prayer. The amount of Zakat al-Fitr is:

- Wheat: 3.85 lbs (half a *ṣāʾ*)
- Barley, Dates, or Raisins: 7.7 lbs (one *ṣāʾ*)

Alternatively, one may give the monetary equivalent based on local market prices.

For the correct monetary value of Zakat al-Fitr, please consult your local mosque, imam, or Islamic institution.

The following hadith elaborates on the role of Zakat al-Fitr,

عَنْ ابْنِ عَبَّاسٍ، قَالَ فَرَضَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ - صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ - زَكَاةَ الْفِطْرِ طُهْرَةً لِلصَّائِمِ مِنَ اللَّغْوِ وَالرَّفَثِ وَطُعْمَةً لِلْمَسَاكِينِ فَمَنْ أَدَّاهَا قَبْلَ الصَّلَاةِ فَهِيَ زَكَاةٌ مَقْبُولَةٌ وَمَنْ أَدَّاهَا بَعْدَ الصَّلَاةِ فَهِيَ صَدَقَةٌ مِنَ الصَّدَقَاتِ .  
(رواه ابن ماجه)

It was narrated that: Ibn ‘Abbās said: “The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) enjoined Zakat al-Fitr as a purification for the fasting person from idle talk and obscenities, and to feed the poor. Whoever pays it before the (Eid) prayer, it is an accepted Zakat, and whoever pays it after the prayer, it is (ordinary) charity.” (Ibn Mājah)

### Historical Events in Ramadan

1. Prophethood of the Messenger of God (pbuh)
2. Revelation of the Quran
3. The Battle of Badr on the 17th of Ramadan, 2nd year of Hijrah
4. Liberation of Makkah on the 8th year of Hijrah
5. Conquering of Andalusia on the 92nd year of Hijrah by Tāriq bin Ziyād
6. Salāhūddīn Al-Ayyūbī destroyed the crusades in Syria in the year 582 Hijrah

