

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Hazrat Ameer's Ramadan Message

(1434 Hijrah, July 2013)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿١٨٣﴾

"O you who believe, fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may guard against evil." (Al Baqarah 2:183)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Assalaam-o-Alaikum Wa Rakhmatullahi Wa Barakaato Hoo.

At the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan, we must reflect upon the reason for fasting being prescribed to Muslims. Translation of the Arabic word *Kutibah* as 'prescribed' is most appropriate, as fasting is a treatment for the ills of the human soul.

The sole purpose of revelation of the Holy Qur'an, which commenced in this blessed month, was to guide us on the path of *taqwah*. The reason for fasting given in the above verse is to make us *muttaqeen* or observers of *taqwah*. *Taqwah* is a way which, if adopted, makes us better persons. Thus if fasting is observed in its true sense, it brings changes in us and we become better beings. When each individual who fasts improves, the end result is an overall improvement in the society.

The gain from fasting is not only in this life but also success in the hereafter, which is the ultimate goal of every believer. Islamic teachings lay equal emphasis on worldly life and the life hereafter.

Fasting is spiritually beneficial as it gives a person the chance to seek nearness to Allah by enduring hardship for this sole purpose. The hunger and thirst that is voluntarily endured for Allah's sake makes a person think of Him and thus be aware of His nearness. Besides, endurance of hunger and thirst and refraining from all human desires that are forbidden during fasting inculcates in a person the habit of complete submission to the will of Allah. This may be likened to a spiritual exercise which is undertaken to develop the 'spiritual muscle'.

Fasting is a form of *Jihad* against all the inner temptations that take a person away from the path of goodness or *Taqwah*. The founder of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad stressed the observance of *Taqwah* by all his followers and this was the reason that those who followed him became saintly individuals and within a short time a Jama'at of pious people came into being, a fact universally acknowledged.

I advise all those who read and hear this message to seize the opportunity Allah has provided us in Ramadan and exert to the utmost to transform our souls and seek nearness to Allah. Let us strive to be better Muslims, that is, to submit fully to Allah and be peaceful people. Let us by our example continue to show the world that Islam is a religion of peace and tolerance, thus dispelling the wrong impression created by the acts of some misguided individuals.

Please join me in praying for peace in the world and love amongst all its peoples. I pray that Allah brings a real and long lasting change in our lives. *Aameen.*

I request you to share this message with all your friends and family and members of your communities and Jama'ats. Finally I wish you a HAPPY RAMADAN and hope that you will remember me in your prayers.

Professor Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed

Ameer and President

Worldwide Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement

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