

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Hazrat Ameer's Ramadan ul Mubarak Message

(1436 Hijrah, June-July 2015)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ ﴿٢١٨﴾

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

Dear sisters and brothers,

Assalaamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakaato Hu.

I wish you all a VERY HAPPY RAMADAN and pray that each one of us benefits from it to the best of our ability. I pray that may Allah accept our efforts to attain nearness to Him. *Aameen.*

The verse I have cited above shows how Allah not only prescribes a thing but also gives the reason for doing so. He states the purpose of fasting as 'to guard against evil', that is, to become a *mutaqee*.

A *mutaqee* is someone who lives a life that pleases Allah. The way to live such a life is laid down in the Holy Qur'an, which is a 'guide to those who keep their duty'.

As we resolve to fast, we must do so with clearly focused minds. Our fast should not be mere refraining from food, water and failings best known to ourselves. We should live a whole month of abstinence from all bad deeds and performance of all good ones. The Qur'an has about seven hundred commands for us to follow, which include both things we have to do and those that we have to shun.

We should also resolve that once we have accomplished a month of exercise in following the Qur'anic teachings, we will continue living a life in the light of what we have achieved at the end of this holy month. Only then will we be able to say that we have fulfilled the real purpose of Ramadan and have embarked on a journey that will make us *Mutaqee* - the ones who experience nearness to Allah and His pleasure.

I pray that each one of us is successful in achieving the real goal of Ramadan. *Aameen.*

Please remember to pray for peace and harmony among all peoples and nations of the world, for the health of those who are unwell and for the blessings of Allah for those who have left us to join their Maker. *Aameen.*

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