

# The Virtues of Ramadan

Let this month be a month where we draw closer to Allah, help the poor and rectify our lives. Crisis Aid hopes that you will benefit from the below article.

## The Hellfire is locked and the gates of Paradise are opened

Prophet Muhammad (*sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam*) said:

**“When Ramadaan comes the gates of Paradise are opened and the gates of the Fire are locked and the devils are chained...”** [Bukhari Eng, # 123]

## Sins are Forgiven

He (*sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam*) said:

**“He who fasts in Ramadan due to eemaan and hoping for reward from Allah then his previous sins are forgiven.”** [Bukhari 125]

Furthermore, in this month people are freed from the Hellfire every day and night, due to Allah’s extreme Mercy. The Prophet (*sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam*) told us in this regard that:

**“There are in the month of Ramadan in every day and night, those whom Allah grants freedom from the Fire, and there is for every Muslim a supplication which he can make and it will be granted.”** [Ahmad]

This supplication, which is never rejected occurs at the time of breaking the fast. (See Sunan ibn Maajah, 1/557)

## Lailatul-Qadr

Another virtue of this blessed month is that in it falls the night that is better than a thousand months, in which descends the angels and the Rooh and in which if one is standing in prayer out of faith and seeking reward, then his previous sins are forgiven. This is the Night of Decree – Lailatul-Qadr [97: 4]

## The Virtues of Fasting:

Fasting itself is an action which has many virtues and rewards, Allah – the one free from all imperfections – revealed in His Book **“..and fast, it is better for you if you did but know.”** [Soorah al- Baqarah (2) : 184]

To try and help us understand just how valuable it is, the Messenger of Allah (*sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam*) informed us that it is a shield against the Hellfire, a protection against

desires, a cause to enter Paradise and a gate from the gates of Paradise has been particularized for it, as well as other merits.

## **A shield**

**‘Fasting is a shield with which a servant protects himself from the fire.’** [Ahmad]

Our noble prophet also said:

**“O youths, whosoever amongst you is able to marry then let him do so, since it restrains the eyes and protects the private parts, and he who is unable, then let him fast because it is a shield for him.”** [Bukhari 129]

## **A Cause for Entering Paradise.**

Since fasting distances one from the fire, it brings one closer to Paradise. The Messenger (*sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam*) was asked by his Companion Abo Umaamah (*radhi allahu anhu*): “O Messenger of Allah tell me an action by which I may enter Paradise.” He (*sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam*) said: **“Take to fasting, there is nothing like it.”** [Nisaaee 4/165]

## **An Immense Reward**

Allah the Most High has said:

**“Except for fasting, for it is for Me and I will recompense it, he leaves of his desires and his food for Me. For the fasting person there are two times of joy; a time of joy when he breaks his fast and a time of joy when he meets his Lord, the smell coming from the mouth of a fasting person is better with Allah than the smell of Musk..”** [Bukhari 2567].

## **An Intercession**

He (*sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam*) said:

**“Fasting and the Qur’aan intercede for a servant on the Day of Resurrection. Fasting will say: “O my Lord I prevented him from food and desires so accept my intercession for him” and the Qur’aan will say: “I prevented him from sleep at night, so accept my intercession for him” So their intercessions will be accepted.”** [Ahmad]

## **An Expiation for Various Sins**

Fasting is an expiation for:

**(i) Shaving the head while in a state of ihraam [i.e. while one is performing the rites of Hajj or Umrah.] due to some illness] [(2) :196]**

(ii) One who is unable to carry out the obligatory sacrifice during Hajj – [Soorah al-Baqarah (2) : 196]

(iii) And many other sins.

### ***Ar-Rayaan* is for the Fasting People**

Allah – the One free from all imperfections – has particularized a gate from the gates of Paradise for those who fast. The Prophet (*sallallahu alaihi wa-sallam*) said:

**“Indeed, there is a gate of Paradise called *ar-Rayaan*. On the Day of Resurrection those who fast will enter through it; no one enters it except for them, and when they have entered, it is closed so that no one (else) enters it.”** [Bukhari 120]

### **Let us reflect**

Talha ibn ‘Ubaydallah (radhiallahu `anhu) reported that two men came to the Prophet (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) who had accepted Islam at the same time. One of them used to partake in Jihad more-so than the other, and so (one day) he fought in a battle and was martyred therein. The other remained behind him for another year, and then he passed away.

Talha said, ‘I saw in my dream that I was at the door of Paradise when behold, I was with both of them (the two men). Someone came out of Paradise and allowed the man who passed away later to enter first. Then he came out again and allowed the martyred one to enter. Then he returned and said to me, *‘Go back, for your time has not come yet.’*

Talha woke up and began to inform others about this and they were all surprised. This reached the Messenger of Allah (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) and when they informed him of it, he said:

He (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) said, ***‘What are you surprised about?’*** They said, *‘O Messenger of Allah! Out of them both, this one strove harder (in Jihad) then he was martyred but this other one was entered into Paradise before him.’* The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) said, ***‘Did he not remain behind him for one year?’*** They said, *‘Yes (he did).’* He said, ***‘Did he not reach Ramadan, fast and pray with such and such number of prostrations in the year?’*** They said, *‘Yes.’* The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu `alayhi wa sallam) said, ***‘So the difference between them is greater than what is between the heavens and the earth.’***

[Ibn Majah 346]

**We pray that you benefited from this article and that it helps you in some way this Ramadan. Ameen**