



RAMADAN IS ALMOST HERE!

Ramadan is almost upon us, mashAllah. This is a time for our Ummah to reflect upon the year that has just passed. We must ask ourself, has the past year been spent doing good actions?

Fasting has been prescribed for Muslim to remember Allah aza wa jel.

“O you who believe, fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you so you can learn taqwa.” (2:183)

The Month of Ramadan instills within all Muslims a feeling they very rarely achieve at any other time of year, they achieve a level of ebadah that they very rarely achieve at any other time of the year & it prepares us for the year ahead.

For those who are wise, they will take full advantage of the opportunity given to us by Allah.

In the month of Ramadan it is very important that we spent a few moments to understand some of the wisdoms and lessons that we can learn from this month of fasting.

Unfortunately, many Muslims come in to this month and they are as a companion of the Prophet, peace be upon him, said: "Let it not be that the day that you fast and the day that you break fast be equal." Meaning, one's behaviour, attitude and outlook are the same whether one fasts or not, i.e. fasting has no effect upon that person. This is why we need to reflect on some of these lessons.

LESSON 1: Gaining Taqwa (piety)
 God legislated fasting for gaining Taqwa, "O you who believe, fasting has been prescribed upon you as it has been prescribed upon those before you, so that you may attain Taqwa." (meaning of Soraatul Baqarah (2):183) Taqwa in this case means to make a shield between oneself and God's anger and Hell-fire. So we should ask ourselves, when we break our fasts, 'Has this fasting day made us fear God more? Has it resulted that we want to protect ourselves from the hellfire or not?

LESSON 2: Drawing closer to God
 This is achieved by reciting and reflecting on the Quran during night and day, attending the taraaweeh prayers, remembering God, sitting in circles of knowledge and, for those who can, making `umrah. Also for those who can, making l`tikaaf (seclusion) in the last ten nights of Ramadan, so as to leave all worldly pursuits and seclude oneself in a masjid just thinking of God, so as to bring oneself closer to God. When one sins, one feels distant from God. That is why one might find it heard to read the Quran and come to the masjid. However, the obedient worshipper feels closer to God and wants to worship God more, because he is not shy from his sins.

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DUA TO SAY DURING RAMADAN

WHAT TO SAY WHEN BREAKING THE FAST

Umar said: The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) used to say when breaking his fast: "Dhahaba al-zama' wa abtalat al-'urooq wa thabata al-ajr in sha Allaah (Thirst is gone, the veins are moistened and the reward is certain if Allaah wills)."

Narrated by Abu Dawood, 2357; al-Daaraqutni, 25. Ibn Hajar said in al-Talkhees al-Habeer (2/202): al-Daaraqutni said, its isnaad is saheeh.

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LESSON 3: Acquiring patience and strong will

God has mentioned patience more than seventy times in the Quran and has commanded patience in more than sixteen ways in His Book. So when one fasts, and gives up one's food and drink, and one's marital sexual relations for those hours, one learns restraint and patience. This Ummah needs men and women that are strong-willed, who can stand upon the Sunnah and the Book of God and not waver in front of the enemies of God. We do not need emotional people, who just raise slogans and shout, but when the time comes to stand upon something firm, they cannot do so, they waver.

LESSON 4: Striving for Ihsaan

(righteousness and sincerity) and staying away from riya' (showing off)

Ihsaan means to

worship God as if one seeks Him, and even though one does not see Him, He sees all. Hasan al-Basree said, "By God, in the last twenty years, I have not said a word or taken something with my hand or refrained to take something with my hand or stepped forth or stepped back, except that I have thought before I have done any action, 'Does God love this action? Is God pleased with this action?' So when one is fasting, one should gain this quality of watching oneself and also staying away from riya' (showing off). That is why God said in a hadeeth qudsi, "Fasting is for Me and I reward it." (al-Bukhaaree) God singles out fasting from all other types of worship saying, "Fasting is for Me", because no one knows whether you are fasting or not, except God. For example, when one is praying or giving charity or making tawaaf, one can be seen by the people, so one might do the action seeking the praise of the people. Sufyaan ath-Thawree used to spend the nights and the days crying and the people used to ask him, "Why do you cry, is it due to the fear of God? He said, 'No.' They said, 'Is it due to the fear of the Hellfire?' He said, 'No. It is not the fear of Hellfire that makes me cry, what makes me cry is that I have been worshipping God all these years and doing scholarly teaching, and I am not certain that my intentions are purely for God.'"

LESSON 5: Refinement of manners, especially those related to truthfulness and discharging trusts.

The Prophet (may God send His blessing and peace upon him) said, "Whoever does not abandon falsehood in word and ac-

tion, then God has no need that he should leave his food and drink." (al-Bukhaaree) What we learn from this, is that we must pay attention to the purification of our manners. The Prophet (may God send His blessing and peace upon him) said, "was sent to perfect good manners." (Maalik) So we must check ourselves, are we following the behaviour of the Prophet (may God send His blessing and peace upon him)? For example: Do we give salaam to those we don't know and those we do know? Do we follow the manners of Islam, by telling the truth and only telling the truth? Are we sincere? Are we merciful to the creation?

sense that the unity of possible. It is possible for Muslims to be a single body, but this will only be achieved when obedience is only to God and His Messenger.

LESSON 9: Learning discipline

The Prophet (may God send His blessing and peace upon him) made us adhere to discipline and strictness, strictness that does not lead to fanaticism or going outside the bounds that God has laid down. One cannot knowingly break the fast before the sunset, as this will not be accepted by God. Muslims should learn to be very strict in their lives, because they are people of an important message, which they mold their lives around.

LESSON 10: Teaching the young to worship God

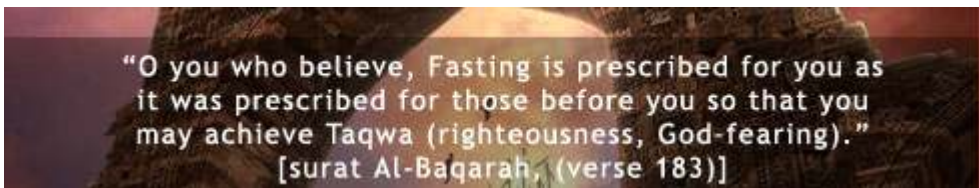
It was the practice of the people of Madina that during the fast of

`Aashooraa (which is

now a recommended fast of one day) to get their children to fast with them. When the children would cry of hunger and thirst, their parents would distract their attention by giving them some sort of toy to play with. The children would break their fast with their parents. (as mentioned in al-Bukhaaree). So the young should be brought to the masjid and they should pray with their parents, so that they are able to get into the habit of becoming worshippers of God. If one does not encourage children to fast when they are young, they will find it very difficult to fast for thirty days at the age of puberty. This is why the Prophet (may God send His blessing and peace upon him) said, "Command your children to pray at the age of seven and beat them at the age of ten (if they do not pray)." (Haakim)

LESSON 11: Caring for one's health

Fasting has many medical benefits and it teaches Muslims to take care of their health and to build strong bodies. The Prophet (may God send His blessing and peace upon him) said, "A strong believer is better and is more beloved to God than a weak believer, and there is good in everyone." (Muslim)



"O you who believe, Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may achieve Taqwa (righteousness, God-fearing)."
[surat Al-Baqarah, (verse 183)]

LESSON 6: Recognizing that one can change for the better

The Prophet (may God send His blessing and peace upon him) said, "Every son of Adam sins and the best of the sinners are those who repent." (Ibn Maaajah) God provides many opportunities to repent to Him and seek His forgiveness. If one was disobedient they can become obedient.

LESSON 7: Being more charitable

Ibn `Abaas said, "The Prophet (may God send His blessing and peace upon him) was the most charitable amongst the people, and he used to be more so in the month of Ramadan when Jibreel used to meet him on every night of Ramadan till the end of the month." (al-Bukhaaree) The Prophet (may God send His blessing and peace upon him) said, "He who gives food for a fasting person to break his fast, he will receive the same reward as him, without nothing being reduced from the fasting person's reward." (at-Tirmidhee)

LESSON 8: Sensing the unity of the Muslims

The Prophet (may God send His blessing and peace upon him) said, ".Those of you who will live after me will see many differences. Then you must cling to my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the rightly guided khaleefahs. Hold fast to it and stick to it." (Aboo Daawood) In this month we sense that there is a possibility for unity, because we all fast together, we break fast together, we all worship God together, and we pray Salaatul-`Eid together. Therefore we





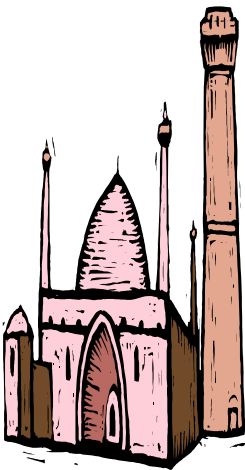
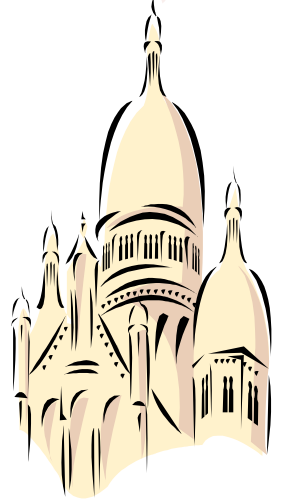
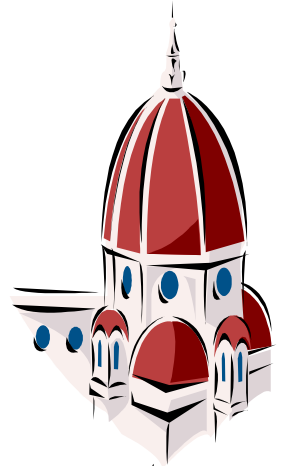
Poem about Ramadan!

The Month of Ramadan is almost here,
It is a time for our Ummah to be clear,
From the temptations of shayon,
And to worship Allah as He Command,

O Allah we thank you for this time,
For which we spend with family & friends,
O Allah we cherish the opportunity you give,
For us to earn your Pleasure to the end,

O Allah, please accept our efforts during this
Month,

Giving to those with less,
Yaa Allah let our recompense,
Be Your Mercy on Yawm Al Qiyameh!



Child Birthing Kits & Humanitarian Aid Shipment

Unity For Sisters Inc has sent 1500 child birthing kits to Somalia in a humanitarian Aid shipment Unity For Sisters Inc has sent through a company called **Pack & Send based in Footscray, Melbourne.**

The Aid shipment is 44 boxes of Medical, clothing and shoes, alhumdolillah. Part of the medical supplies are syringes to feed babies and children when illness has taken hold of their little bodies.

Maryam Bint Kamal International School Project, Hergaysa, Somalia.

To date Unity For Sisters Inc has raised \$21,000 with the support of the communities of Melbourne

and Brisbane, with the Will & Permission of Allah. For anyone wanting detailed information about this project please feel free to email info@unity4sisters.org

JazakomAllahu khair for all of your on going support.



Aid shipment on its way to Somalia

Pack & Send

197 Barkley Street

Footscray

Phone:03 9396 1882

Fax:03 9396 1668

Email:footscray@packsend.com.au





A Unity For Sisters Inc Project

Open your heart this Ramadan.

Maryam Bint Kamal International School

Unity For Sisters Inc is inviting you to purchase the precious reward of educating the poor and needy in Somalia.



YOUR KIND DONATION CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A CHILD



100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TOWARDS THE SCHOOL PROJECT

For Zakat & other donations during the blessed Month of Ramadan:

Bank Name: Commonwealth Bank

Account Name: Unity For Sisters Inc

BSB & Account Number: 063620 10368712

For Enquires:

Telephone: 0401 413 727

Email: info@unity4sisters.org

Website: www.unity4sisters.org/Charity

[Unity For Sisters Inc is a registered non-profit association
Association Number: A0048251N ABN: 712 67095900]

Target: \$100,000

\$90,000

\$80,000

\$70,000

\$60,000

\$50,000

\$40,000

\$30,000

Money raised so far is:

\$20,000

\$10,000