

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

Ramadan ١٢, ١٤٤٠ A.H./May ١٧, ٢٠١٩ C.E.

Ramadan is the Month of Generosity, Giving and Victories

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Glorious Book, “Those who spend their wealth in charity day and night, secretly and openly—their reward is with their Lord, and there will be no fear for them, nor will they grieve.” I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that our Master Muhammad is His votary and Messenger, who says, “Everyday two angels descend and one of them says, 'O Allah! Compensate (more) to the person who gives (in charity)'; while the other one says, 'O Allah! Destroy the one who withholds (charity)'. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow him till the Day of Judgment.

Islam is a religion of sublime values, ideals and morals. Among these high morals promoted by our religion is generosity. It is one of the traits of Messengers and devout people. Through generosity, love, affection and brotherhood will prevail among people, and thus creating a strong and cohesive society where solidarity and giving increase and sincerity and loyalty prevail. Such society embodies the statement of the Prophet (PBUH) that, “The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever.”

Generosity is one of the Attributes of the Almighty Allah and one of His Beautiful Names. He, Glory be to Him, is the Most Bountiful Who never closes His gates and His bounties has no end, and He does not reject those asking Him. The Prophet (PBUH) says, "Indeed, Allah is Bountiful and He loves giving, He is Generous and He loves generosity. He loves high morals and hates lowness," and says, "Allah is Generous and He loves generosity...". In a Divine Hadith, Allah says, "O My servants, all of you are liable to err except one whom I guide on the right path, so seek right guidance from Me so that I should direct you to the right path. O My servants, all of you are hungry (needy) except one whom I feed, so ask food from Me, so that I may give that to you. O My servants, all of you are naked (need clothes) except one whom I provide garments, so ask clothes from Me, so that I should clothe you. O My servants, you commit error night and day and I am there to pardon your sins, so beg pardon from Me so that I should grant you pardon....O My servants, even if the first amongst you and the last amongst you and the whole human race of yours and that of jinns also all stand in one plain ground and you ask Me and I confer upon every person what he asks for, it would not, in any way, cause any loss to Me (even less) than that which is caused to the ocean by dipping the needle in it." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "Allah's Hand is full, and (its fullness) is not affected by the continuous spending, day and night. Do you see what He has spent since He created the Heavens and the Earth? Yet all that has not decreased what is in His Hand."

The Glorious Qur'an states that generosity is one of the manners of Prophets and Messengers. When narrating the story of Prophet Abraham (PBUH) Allah says, "Has the story of Abraham's honoured guests reached you 'O Prophet'? When they came to him, they said: "Peace." He answered: "Peace." They were a people he did not recognise. So he hurried to the house and brought a fatted calf. And placing it before them said: "Won't you eat?"

It was due to his generosity, Prophet Abraham was called Father of the guests.

The Almighty Allah has called us to be generous to each other so that we become eligible to receive His Blessings. Allah says, “Do not let the people of virtue and affluence among you swear to suspend donations to their relatives, the needy, and the emigrants in the cause of Allah. Let them pardon and forgive. Do you not love to be forgiven by Allah? And Allah is All-Forgiving, Most Merciful.” Allah also says, “The example of those who spend their wealth in the cause of Allah is that of a grain that sprouts into seven ears, each bearing one hundred grains. And Allah multiplies ‘the reward even more’ to whoever He wills. For Allah is All-Bountiful, All-Knowing.” The Almighty Allah also says, “Piety is not in turning your faces towards the east or the west. Rather, the pious are those who believe in Allah, the Last Day, the angels, the Books, and the prophets; who give charity out of their cherished wealth to relatives, orphans, the poor, ‘needy’ travellers, beggars...” Allah Also says, “And they give food—despite their desire for it—to the poor, the orphan, and the captive. ‘saying to themselves,’ ‘We feed you only for the sake of Allah, seeking neither reward nor thanks from you. We fear from our Lord a horribly distressful Day.’ So God will protect them from the evil of that day, and grant them happiness and joy.” The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Spend [for the sake of Allah], so that Allah will provide you [in return].”

Ramadan has always been the month of giving, generosity and solidarity. Our Prophet (PBUH) was the most generous of humans, and he used to be more generous in Ramadan. Ibn Abbas narrated that “the Prophet (PBUH) was the most generous of all the people, and he used to become more generous in Ramadan when Gabriel visited him every night and recited the Qur'an to him. During this period, the generosity of Messenger of Allah was faster than the rain-bearing wind.”

Our Prophet (PBUH) encouraged us to feed the needy when he said, “O people, promote the greetings, feed (the poor and needy), and perform Prayer when others are asleep so that you will enter Paradise safely,” and said “He who believes in Allah and the Last Day, let him show hospitality to his guest.”

The Prophet (PBUH) showed that feeding people and being hospitable to guests in this month are more rewarding, as he (PBUH) said, “He who provides a fasting person something [to eat at the time of] breaking 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.” This reward will be given whether the fasting person is rich or poor, a friend, or not, because the word “fasting” here is general. Thus, beside the value of feeding the poor and helping them, there is another Shari’ah purpose understood from the words of the Prophet (PBUH) which is to strengthen ties of fraternity among people in the month of righteousness and kindness through meeting with the family, friends, etc.

The implication of the hadith is true whether when providing a breakfast for the fasting person in the real sense though inviting him to have breakfast, or when giving a charity to him. The purposes of the hadith are two things: The first is solidarity, that is there must not be any hungry or needy among us in that holy month; and the second is fostering kindness and strengthening social ties among people in general and in that holy month in particular.

The Companions of the Prophet gave us the most wonderful examples in the generosity, giving and spending for the sake of Allah, especially at times of hardships. The Prophet praised the tribe of Ash’ari saying, “When the people of Ash’ari tribe ran short of food during Jihad, or the food of their families in Medina ran short, they would collect all their

remaining food in one sheet and then distribute it among themselves equally by measuring it with a bowl. So, these people are from me, and I am from them."

Anas Ibn Malik (Allah be pleased with him) narrated: "Out of all the Ansar, living in Medina, Abu Talha had the largest number of (date palm trees) gardens, and the most beloved of his property to him was Bairuha garden which was standing opposite the Mosque (of the Prophet). Allah's Messenger (PBUH) used to enter it and drink of its good water. When the Verse:--"By no means shall you attain righteousness unless you spend (in charity) of that which you love." (۳.۹۲) Abu Talha got up and said, "O Allah's Messenger (PBUH), Allah says:--"By no means shall you attain righteousness unless you spend (in charity) of that which you love." (۳.۹۲) and the most beloved of my property to me is the Bairuha garden, so I give it (as a charitable gift) in Allah's Cause and hope to receive good out of it, and to have it stored for me with Allah. So, O Allah's Messenger (PBUH)! Dispose it of (i.e. utilize it) in the way Allah orders you (to dispose it of)." Allah's Messenger (PBUH) said, "Bravo! That is a fruitful property! That is a fruitful property! I have heard what you have said and I think that you should distribute that (garden) amongst your relatives." The Abu Talha distributed that garden amongst his relatives and his cousins."

Ibn 'Umar (Allah be pleased with him) said: "One of the Companions of the Prophet (PBUH) was presented a goat's head, yet he said, 'My brother so and so needs it more than me', so he distributed it to the people of seven houses (i.e. one passing to the other) until it came back to the first, whereupon the Saying of Allah, "They love those who emigrated to them and find not any want in their breasts of what the emigrants were given but give [them] preference over themselves, even though they are in privation." This clearly indicates they used to compete in being generous and benevolence and in giving charity in response

The efforts exerted by soldiers defending our borders, home, land and honor- not for anything but seeking the pleasure of Allah- is of the greatest forms of presenting soul in sacrifice. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: “Observing Ribat (e.g., guarding the Islamic frontier for the sake of Allah) for a single day is far better than the world and all that it contains”; “Two eyes will never be touched by the fire of Hell; an eye which weeps out of Fear of Allah and an eye which spends the night in guarding in the Cause of Allah”; and “It will not happen that the feet soiled with dust while (doing Jihad) in the way of Allah, will be touched by the fire (of Hell).” In actuality, presenting one’s soul in sacrifice guarantees success for him in this life and the life to come; Allah, Most High, says: “O you who have believed, persevere and endure and remain stationed and fear Allah that you may be successful.”

There is no doubt that Ramadan is the month of victories for Muslims. It was in this blessed month that the great battle of Badr took place. During this battle, Allah granted His Succor to the believers who were few in numbers in comparison to the disbelievers. Allah, Glorified is He, says: “When two parties among you were about to lose courage, but Allah was their ally; and upon Allah the believers should rely. (١٢٢) And already had Allah given you victory at [the battle of] Badr while you were few in number. Then fear Allah; perhaps you will be grateful. (١٢٣) [Remember] when you said to the believers, "Is it not sufficient for you that your Lord should reinforce you with three thousand angels sent down? (١٢٤) Yes, if you remain patient and conscious of Allah and the enemy come upon you [attacking] in rage, your Lord will reinforce you with five thousand angels having marks [of distinction] (١٢٥) And Allah made it not except as [a sign of] good tidings for you and to reassure your hearts thereby. And victory is not except from Allah, the Exalted in Might, the Wise.”

Also, the Opening of Mecca occurred in the ٨th year after Hijra. During this incident, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) offered the highest and loftiest of morals, especially

pardoning, tolerance, and mercy. It is narrated that he (PBUH) gathered those who hurt him, expelled him and plotted to kill him, and said to them, “What do you think I am going to do with you?” They replied, “Nothing but good, you are a good man, so of a good man,” whereupon he (PBUH) said to them, “Go! You are free.”

It was also during the month of Ramadan that the ١٠th of Ramadan/ ٦th of October War took place- it is the war of dignity and pride, as Allah, Most High, enabled our veteran armed forces to destroy the legend of the army of the enemy that used to claim that it is invincible. It was a war that made the entire world show respect for Egypt and its armed forces. The slogan of the Egyptian soldier who was fasting, observing night prayer, reciting the Quran and making invocation to Allah was “Allah is Great!” So, Allah enabled us to achieve crushing victory and to expel the aggressors. At that point, it is of great importance to recall what our armed forces and beloved Egypt presented including the great martyrs who sacrificed their blood in defense of the religion, home, land and honor.

Our armed forces is still the safety valve of our beloved Egypt and our Muslim and Arabic Ummah; its faithful men are still bravely fighting against the forces of terrorism and evil, presenting their soul in sacrifice for defending their country’s security, safety, dignity and honor; they are even keen on martyrdom just as others are clinging to life; they are all ready to sacrifice everything, expensive and precious, in defense of the land of that country; they are all ready to cut off the hand of anyone who wants to undermine the security and stability of this country. Throughout its history, the Egyptian Armed Forces proves to be the Shield and Sword of that Ummah.

O Allah! Grant piety to our souls, purify them for you are the best to do that; You are our Supporter and Master