

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

Ramadan ١٩, ١٤٤٠ A.H./May ٢٤, ٢٠١٩ C.E.

Ramadan...the Month of Faith and Making of Men

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Glorious Book, “Among the believers are men who have been true to the covenant they had made with Allah. Some of them have fulfilled their pledge ` with their lives` , others are waiting ` their turn` . They have never changed ` their commitment` in the least..” I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that our Master Muhammad is His servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow him till the Day of Judgment.

Believing in the Almighty Allah is one of the highest blessings that Allah grants to humans as He, the Almighty, says, “But Allah has endeared faith to you, making it appealing in your hearts. And He has made disbelief, rebelliousness, and disobedience detestable to you. Those are the ones rightly guided.” It goes without saying that Ramadan is the month of true faith. This is why the verses on fasting in the Qur’an begin with the call upon believers, as Allah says, “O believers! Fasting is prescribed for you – as it was for those before you – so perhaps you will become mindful ` of Allah` .”

True faith means to believe in all what Allah has revealed and to surrender to His Will. A well-known Hadith, which narrates that Jibril visited the Prophet (PBUH), explains the reality of faith which should be present in the heart of every believer. The Prophet (PBUH) asked Jibril about faith,

and Jibril replied, "To believe in Allah, His Angels, His Books, His Messengers, the Day of Judgement, and Qadar (Pre-Destination), the good of it and the bad of it." Faith is not a word to utter. Rather, it is the belief of the heart reflected in one's actions. Allah says, "Only they are true believers whose hearts fill up with awe when the name of God is mentioned; and their faith is further strengthened when His messages are read out to them; and those who place their trust in their Lord." They are those who establish prayer and donate from what We have provided for them. It is they who are the true believers." The Prophet said, "A Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hands the Muslims are safe; and the believer is the one with whom the people trust their blood and their wealth."

However, those whose manners and actions deviate from the commands of Allah have gone astray from the path of faith. In this regard, the Prophet (PBUH) says, "The adulterer is not a believer at the moment when he is committing adultery, and the wine drinker is not a believer at the moment when he is drinking wine, and the thief is not a believer at the moment when he is stealing."

The Prophet (pbuh) stated that one is not a believer if he harms his neighbour, or when he eats food at night while knowing that his neighbour spends the night in hunger, as these actions are contrary to faith. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "By Allah, he is not a believer! By Allah, he is not a believer! By Allah, he is not a believer." He was asked, "Who is that, O Messenger of Allah?" He said, "One whose neighbour does not feel safe from his evils." The Prophet also said, "He is not a believer who eats to the full, while knowing that his neighbor spends night in hunger."

It is true faith that prevents one from infringing on the rights of others, attacking them, and purifies one's heart of hatred, envy, selfishness,

treachery, betrayal and corruption. It is faith which purifies one's morals, behaviors and conduct. True faith is reflected on one's dealing with all creatures of Allah, in the form of mercy with the humans, animals and even inanimate beings for seeking the pleasure of Allah. Allah 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."

Faith is like a tree whose roots are firm and whose branches reach the sky. If the roots are strong, it will give fruits. True fasting stems from such faith, to fill one's soul with peace and tranquility, and makes him mindful of Allah. This is why a true fasting person does not lie as fasting and lying cannot go together. Fasting is based on being totally mindful of the Almighty Allah in private and public spheres, while lying is the most noticeable signs of hypocrisy. Thus it totally contradicts the very reality of fasting. So, a person is either fasting or lying. Therefore our Prophet (PBUH) says, "Whoever does not give up forged speech and evil actions and does not abandon foolishness, Allah is not in need of his leaving food and drink (i.e. Allah will not accept his fasting)." Also, when the Prophet was asked, "'Can the believer be a coward?' He said, 'Yes.' He was asked, 'Can the believer be a miser?' He said, 'Yes.' He was asked, 'Can the believer be a liar?' He said, 'No.'"

Believing in Allah has a taste and sweetness that only the people of contentment whose hearts are filled with faith will experience. The Prophet said, "Whoever is pleased with Allah as (his) Lord, and Islam as (his) religion, and Muhammad as (his) Prophet, then he has tasted the sweetness of faith," and also said, "There are three qualities whoever has them, will taste the sweetness of faith: To love Allah and His Messenger (PBUH) more than anyone else; to love a slave (of Allah) only for (the sake of) Allah; and to abhor returning to infidelity after Allah has saved him from it as he would abhor to be thrown into the fire."

Moreover, faith and good manners are dependent on one another. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "The dearest and the closest of you to me on the Day of Resurrection will be those who are the best in behaviour and the humble people, who like people and people like them; no good in one who does not like others and other do not like him." Faith is light and worship is light. Whoever tastes the sweetness of faith and worship will know only forgiveness, ease and good treatment. So, he will not be arrogant and will not behave badly or deal with others in haughtiness. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "When any one of you is observing fasting, he should neither indulge in obscene language nor should he raise the voice; and if anyone reviles him or tries to quarrel with him he should say: 'I am observing fast.'"

Every mindful person has to realize that he may not enter paradise because of his worship, but he may enter it due to his morals, noble behaviour and good treatment with people. Regarding this, the Prophet (PBUH) says, "A person from amongst the people who lived before you was called to account by Allah on the Day of Resurrection. No good deeds were found in his credit except that he being a rich man who had (financial) dealings with people and he used to command his servants to show leniency to those who were in straitened circumstances. Upon this Allah, the Exalted, said: 'I am more entitled to this attribute, so waive (his faults).'"

However, we affirm that true faith is a light that Allah puts in the heart of His slave, which gives him wisdom and certainty. Anas Ibn Malik narrated that the Prophet (PBUH) once came out and met Harithah Ibn Al-Nu'man Al-Ansary and asked him, "How are you Harithah?" Harithah said, "O Messenger of Allah, I'm a true believer." The Prophet (PBUH) said, "For everything there is a reality, so what is the reality of what you said?" He said, "O Messenger of Allah I turned away from the world. I have stayed up late at night [in worship]. I have made thirsty many days [in fasting]. Now, as if I see the Throne of my Lord and. It is like as if I see the people of heaven visiting each other in heaven, and I hear the howling of the people

of the Hell in Hellfire.” The prophet (PBUH) said, “You have realized the truth, so keep on that path. [You are] a servant whom Allah has lightened [his heart] with faith.”

Faith is of various branches that should be adhered to by Muslims. In this regard, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: “Faith has over seventy branches - or over sixty branches - the uppermost of which is the declaration: 'None has the right to be worshipped but Allah'; and the least of which is the removal of harmful object from the road, and modesty is a branch of faith.” Also, when a man asked Al-Hassan Al-Basri (Allah be pleased with him): “Are you a believer?” He replied: “faith is of two kinds; so if you are asking me about belief in Allah, His Angels, Scriptures, Messengers, the Paradise, the Hell, the Resurrection and holding people accountable for their deeds, I am a believer; yet if you are asking me about the Saying of Allah, Most High, ‘The believers are only those who, when Allah is mentioned, their hearts become fearful, and when His verses are recited to them, it increases them in faith; and upon their Lord they rely - (۞) The ones who establish prayer, and from what We have provided them, they spend. (۞) Those are the believers, truly,’ I do not know whether I am of them or not.”

True belief provides the person with security and safety, and good life cannot be realized but through it. Allah, Glorified is He, says: “Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life.” He, the Exalted, also says: “Those

abstention, a kind of cultivation through hunger, an act of showing humiliation and surrender to Allah; every religious duty implies wisdom; the apparent aspect of fasting may be seen as inflicting torture, yet its essence truly implies mercy, provokes compassion, urges others to give charity, shatters arrogance, teaches patience, and established righteousness until a person feels the bitterness of hunger and is deprived from the means of enjoyment, he truly knows how deprivation is, and how bitter it is!”

The one who carefully reads the Noble Quran knows for certain that manhood is not applied except upon those people who meet its requirements, which includes being true to the covenant with Allah, without any alteration, corruption or deviation. Allah, Most High, says: “Of the believers are men who are true to the covenant which they made with Allah: so of them is he who accomplished his vow, and of them is he who yet waits, and they have not changed in the least.” Also, true men are those who sell their souls and properties to Allah, Lord of the Worlds, a matter which is embodied in sacrificing one’s self and property for the sake of religion, or home or honor to get the Contentment of Allah “Surely Allah has bought of the believers their persons and their property for this, that they shall have the garden; they fight in Allah's way, so they slay and are slain; a promise which is binding on Him in the Taurat and the Injeel and the Quran; and who is more faithful to his covenant than Allah? Rejoice therefore in the pledge which you have made; and that is the mighty achievement.”

Ramadan is a month where Masjids are full of worshippers, day and night, which is one of the most essential factors in building characters and men. Addressing His Prophet (PBUH), Allah, Glory be to Him, said: “O you who have wrapped up in your garments! (١) Rise to pray in the night except a little, (٢) Half of it, or lessen it a little, (٣) Or add to it, and recite the Quran as it ought to be recited. (٤) Surely We will make to light upon you a weighty Word. (٥) Surely the rising by night is the firmest way to tread and the best corrective of speech.” and “In houses which Allah has permitted to be exalted and that His name may be remembered in them; there glorify Him therein in the mornings and the evenings, (٣٦) Men whom neither merchandise nor selling diverts from the remembrance of Allah and the keeping up of prayer and the giving of poor-rate; they fear a day in which the hearts and eyes shall turn about.” While describing the Dwellers of the Paradise, He, Most High, says: “They used to sleep but little in the night. (١٧) And in the morning they asked forgiveness” and “Their sides draw away from (their) beds, they call upon their Lord in fear and in hope, and they spend (benevolently) out of what We have given them. (١٨) So no soul knows what is hidden for them of that which will refresh the eyes; a reward for what they did.”

Offering worship to Allah at night is one of these acts of worship we should be keen on, especially in the last ten days of Ramadan, so as to follow the Sunna of the Prophet (PBUH). It is reported that he (PBUH) used to offer more acts of worship in these days. ‘Aisha (Allah be pleased with her) said: “With the start of the last ten days of Ramadan, the Messenger of

Allah (PBUH) used to tighten his waist belt (i.e. keep away from his wives) and used to stay up praying all night, and he would also wake his wives (to pray and recite Qur'an, etc.)." The statement "tighten his waist" indicates that he exerts more acts of worship in these days; other scholars yet believe that it means that he (PBUH) used to keep away from women during these days. In the same connection, 'Aisha (Allah be pleased with her) said: "The Prophet of Allah (PBUH) used to offer prayers and sleep during the first twenty days of Ramadan; yet when it is the last ten days, he used to exert more efforts and to tighten his waist." In another narration, she (Allah be pleased with her) is reported to have said: "The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) used to strive more in worship during Ramadan than he strove in any other time of the year; and he would devote himself more (in the worship of Allah) in the last ten nights of Ramadan than he strove in earlier part of the month."

Ramadan is a month that builds men through curbing the reins of the self, achieving serenity, stirring conscience, cultivating manners, raising more and humanitarian values, as well as the best of ethics that organizes man's behavior and makes him on the straight path in all his affairs, thus preserves the due rights, fulfills the duties and seeks to achieve all kinds of good for his own self, society, home and nation, which positively reflects on the stability and progress of the society and which spreads the spirit of affection, love and mercy, as well as other noble values that contribute to making progress and advancement of nations.

So, we should be keen on seizing the opportunity of these days in making invocations to Allah, reciting the Quran and striving in doing all what makes us get closer to Allah, Most High, so that we would not be from those who are deprived from the mercy of Allah, Most High, in these blessed days as Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "Your Lord has days wherein His Infinite Mercy immensely showers His slaves, so expose to it so that one of you might be showered with it, thus not be from the deprived to the end of time."

Our Lord! Accept from us; surely Thou art the Hearing, the Knowing; grant us repentance for you are the Oft-returning (to mercy), the Merciful.