

Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Awqaf
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How Do We Receive the Blessed Month of Ramadan?

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“It was in the month of Ramadan that the Qur’an was revealed as guidance for mankind, clear messages giving guidance and distinguishing between right and wrong.”** I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger. May Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon him, his Household, Companions and upon those who follow their path to the Day of Judgment.

The blessed month of Ramadan is full of divine graces and winds of mercy. It is the best of all months, and it has the best one of all nights. During Ramadan, the Best Scripture was revealed from the Lord of the worlds. Muslims all over the world are preparing themselves for receiving this honorable month by taking advantage of his virtuous days, blessed nights, and its unlimited reward. The Prophet (PBUH) said, **“The reward of good deeds that humans do is multiplied up to 700 times. As for fasting, it is left for Me, and I Alone will give its reward. The person observing fasting abstains from food and drink only for My sake.”** The fasting person has two happy occasions, one at the time of breaking his fast, and the other at the time of meeting his Lord. Surely, the breath of one observing fasting

is better smelling to Allah than the fragrance of musk.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “When the first night of Ramadan comes, the satans and mischievous jinns are chained up, and the gates of the Fire are closed, and none of its gates are opened. The gates of Paradise are opened and none of its gates are closed. And a caller calls out: ‘O seeker of good, proceed, O seeker of evil, stop.’ And Allah has necks (people) whom He frees (from the Fire), and that happens every day.”

The month of Ramadan is a season for hastening to do good deeds, tolerate, and to make reconciliation between people. It is good to start it with compassion, solidarity, and kindness, and giving charity to the poor and needy. The Prophet (PBUH) used to be most generous during the month of Ramadan. Thus, it is a good reception of this blessed month to start it with being generous to the needy in order to help them in this month. The reward of generosity is great. The Almighty Allah said, **“Believe in Allah and His Messenger, and give out of what He has made pass down to you: those of you who believe and give will have a great reward.”** The Prophet (PBUH) said, “In paradise there are rooms the outside of which can be seen from within and the inside from without which Allah has prepared for those who speak gently, provide food, and pray during the night when people are asleep.”

It is necessary for a Muslim to be keen on performing acts of worship, increase his devotional deeds, recite the Glorious Qur’an while

contemplating its meaning, and observe prayers at night. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Whosoever performs (*Tarawih*) prayers at night during the month of Ramadan, with Faith and in the hope of receiving Allah's reward, will have his past sins forgiven." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "Whosoever performs *Qiyam* (night prayers) during *Lailat-ul-Qadr* (Night of Decree), with Faith and being hopeful of Allah's reward, will have his former sins forgiven."

A Muslim should do his best in following the example of our Messenger (PBUH) such as breaking our fasting immediately after the *Maghrib*, and delaying the pre-dawn meal (*suhur*), as our Prophet (PBUH) said, "The people will remain upon goodness as long as they hasten to break their fast and delay their *suhur*." He (PBUH) also said, "Eat *Suhur* Surely, there is a blessing in *Suhur*." A Muslim should avoid extravagance in eating and drinking during this month as the Almighty Allah said, "Eat and drink [as We have permitted] but do not be extravagant: Allah does not like extravagant people." The Prophet (PBUH) said, "No man fills a vessel worse than his stomach. A few mouthfuls that keep his back upright are sufficient for him. If he has to, then he should keep one-third for food, one-third for drink and one-third for his breathing."

There is no doubt that Ramadan is a great opportunity for having good ties with relatives and conveying all that is good for them, either materially or morally. The Almighty Allah has commanded us to

strengthen our ties of kinship, promising great reward in this world and the Hereafter, as He (the Most High) said, **“Be mindful of God, in whose Name you make requests of one another. Beware of severing the ties of kinship: Allah is always watching over you.”** The Almighty Allah also said, **“Worship Allah; associate nothing with Him. Be good to your parents and relatives.”** The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Charity towards a poor person is charity, and towards a relation is both charity and maintaining the ties (of kinship).” He (PBUH) also said, “Anyone who wants to have his provision expanded and his term of life lengthened should maintain ties of kinship.”

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of the Worlds; may Allah’s Peace and Blessings be upon Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), his companions and followers:

Ramadan is the month of diligence and work, and not the month of idleness, laziness, and neglecting people’s interests. There is no contradiction between observing devotional deeds in the month of Ramadan and diligence at work and construction. The Almighty Allah says about Jum’ah Prayer, **“Believers! When the call to prayer is made on the day of congregation, hurry towards the reminder of Allah and leave off your trading--that is better for you, if only you knew. Then when the**

prayer has ended, disperse in the land and seek out Allah's bounty. Remember Allah often so that you may prosper." Once Sufyan al-Thawri passed by some people sitting in the Holy Mosque of Mecca. He asked, "Why do you sit here?" They said: "What should we do?!" He said: "Seek provision from the Almighty Allah, and do not be dependent on Muslims."

How much do we need to be well-prepared for receiving the blessed month of Ramadan, and making use of its time in a way that pleases the Almighty Allah by performing good deeds for the servants of Allah.

May Allah save our country, Egypt and all other countries of the world!