

Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of Awqaf
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The Last Ten Days of Ramadan and the Jurisprudence of Priorities in our Modern Time

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“Hurry towards your Lord’s forgiveness and the Paradise which is as wide as the heavens and earth prepared for those who believe in Allah and His Messengers.”** 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.

It is one of the signs of Allah’s Mercy for His servants that He made the last ten days of the blessed month of Ramadan a season to multiply rewards and increase good deeds. People become more active when they approach the end of this month. Our Prophet (PBUH) used to make good use of those virtuous times, as ‘Aisha said, “The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) used to devote himself more (in the worship of Allah) in the last ten nights of Ramadan than he strove in earlier part of the month.” She also said, “With the start of the last ten days of Ramadan, the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) would pray all the night, and would keep his family awake

for the prayers. He would avoid sleeping with his wives, and devoted himself entirely to prayer and supplication.”

It is a sign of following the example of the Prophet (PBUH) to spent the nights of these ten days in prayer, recite the Qur’an, making *Dhikr* (mentioning the Name of Allah), seek forgiveness from Allah, and spend money in charitable causes. The Almighty Allah said about the people of Paradise, **“Their sides shun their beds in order to pray to their Lord in fear and hope; they give to others some of what We have given them. No soul knows what joy is kept hidden in store for them as a reward for what they have done.”**

Allah, the Most High, also described the pious people saying, **“The righteous will be in Gardens with [flowing] springs. They will receive their Lord’s gifts because of the good they did before, sleeping only little at night, and praying at dawn for Allah’s forgiveness.”**

The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Adhere to getting up at night for Prayer, for it was the custom of the pious before you, is a means of bringing you near to your Lord, an atonement for evil deeds and a preventative of sin.”

Though Ramadan is the month of emancipation from the Hellfire, and there is no one of its nights except Allah (Glory be to Him) frees people from the Hellfire, this virtue increases during these last ten nights. Also, though Allah always forgives those who ask forgiveness from him at the

last part of the night, this forgiveness is much expected during these nights because these nights include the best night of the year, as the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Look for *Lailat-ul-Qadr* (Night of Decree) in the last ten nights of Ramadan."

This blessed night is the best of all nights; it is the night on which Allah the Almighty revealed a Book of great status, upon a Prophet of great status, through an angel of great status. It is the night in which mercy and forgiveness are revealed, as Allah said, **"We sent it down on the Night of Glory. What will explain to you what that Night of Glory is. The Night of Glory is better than a thousand months, on that night the angels and the Spirit descend again and again with their Lord's permission on every task. [there is] peace that night until the break of dawn."** The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Whosoever performs *Qiyam* during *Lailat-ul-Qadr* (Night of Decree), with Faith and being hopeful of Allah's reward, will have his former sins forgiven."

However, we affirm that making reconciliation among disputing people is a gate for accepting good deeds, and that differences and disputes are means for depriving of goodness especially in these virtuous nights as the Prophet (PBUH) said, "I came out to inform you about the *Night of al-Qadr*, but as so-and-so and so-and-so quarrelled, so the news about it had been taken away; and may be it was better for you." The Prophet also said,

“In it (Ramadan) there is a night that is better than a thousand months.
Whoever is deprived of it is deprived of all goodness.”

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:

As the types of obedience in these blessed days and nights are numerous and varied, a wise person must arrange his priorities, and give priority to good deeds whose goodness extends to other people not the good deeds whose goodness is limited to himself. This is why *Zakat al-fitr* is highly emphasised in this time. It is good to hurry to give it to the poor, the needy, and orphans in order to enable them to fulfill their needs before the ‘Eid. the Prophet (PBUH) said, “Give them what saves them from asking people on that day.” Zakat al-Fitr may be given in money as this is more useful for the poor to help them fulfill their needs.

Moreover, the jurisprudence of priorities requires giving priority to feeding the poor and needy over the repetition of Hajj or Umrah, as the first case is an obligation, while the latter case is just a recommended act, and it goes without saying that obligations are given preference to recommendations, not to speak about relieving the troubles of other

people, as the Prophet (PBUH) said, “The most beloved people to Allah are those who are most beneficial to people. The most beloved deed to Allah is to make a Muslim happy, or to remove one of his troubles, or to forgive his debt, or to feed his hunger.” The Prophet (PBUH) also said, “Whoever removes the troubles of his brother, Allah will remove one of his troubles on the Day of Resurrection.”

We ask Allah to accept our fasting and Prayers, and save our country, Egypt and all other countries of the world!