

Arab Republic of Egypt  
Ministry of Awqaf  
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### Having a Good Ending

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book, **“As for those who say, ‘Our Lord is Allah,’ and take the straight path towards Him, the angels come down to them and say, ‘Have no fear or grief, but rejoice in the good news of Paradise, which you have been promised.”** 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 about to leave us, after we enjoyed the sweetness of obedience and the pleasure of approaching Allah, and after we experienced the spirit of solidarity and compassion. This is a norm, that every time comes to an end. It was just a couple of days ago that we were congratulating each other for the coming of Ramadan, and now we are bidding farewell to its blessed days and nights. Life is nothing but a few breaths, and limited age for each person. The Almighty Allah said, **“It is He who made the night and day follow each other- so anyone who wishes may be mindful or show gratitude.”**

As we are bidding farewell to the blessed month of Ramadan, we should realize the importance of the ending deeds. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, "Judgment is given according to one's final actions." This requires us to increase our *Dhikr* (mentioning the Name of Allah), reciting the Qur'an, asking Allah for forgiveness, and giving charity so that we may be entitled to get the favor from Allah and be among those whom Allah will free from the Hellfire. The Almighty Allah said, **"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."** Allah also said, **"Whatsoever you expend in the way of Allah shall be repaid to you in full; and ye shall not be wronged."** Umar Ibn Abd al-Aziz used to send to people in different territories to end the month of Ramadan with making *Istighfar* (seeking forgiveness from Allah) and giving charities. Al-Hasan al-Basri said, "Make much *Istighfar*, for you do not know at which time the mercy of Allah descends."

There is no doubt that speaking about paying attention to perfecting our deeds at the end of Ramadan, reminds every wise person with perfecting his deeds at the end of his life. Allah (Glory be to Him) said, **"You who believe, be mindful of Allah, as is His due, and make sure you devote yourselves to Him, to your dying moment."** Having a good end of one's life was the hope of All Prophets and pious people. The Qur'an reports a statement from Prophet Joseph (PBUH) saying, **"Let me die in true devotion to You. Join me with the righteous."** The Prophet (PBUH)

used to say “O You Who turns the hearts about, establish my heart in Your Religion.”

However, we affirm that having a righteous end of life is not a ruling owned by anyone, for no one person is a guardian over others. Ali Ibn Abu Talib said, “Do not decide that the obedient persons will enter Paradise, nor the sinful ones will enter the Hell until the Almighty Allah judges their cases Himself. The end of one’s life is known only to Allah, for at that moment He may forgive the sinner or guide him to a righteous deed, and no one knows when he will die.” Our Prophet (PBUH) said, “When Allah wants good for a slave, He puts him in action. It was said: How does He put him in action O Messenger Of Allah?’ He said: ‘By guiding him to righteous deeds before death.’”

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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:

The pursuit to have a righteous end of one’s life is not restricted to prayer, fasting, and praying at night. Rather, it goes beyond all of that to include performing every work that benefits the society in terms of charitable and good deeds, as these deeds are beloved to Allah (Glory be to

Him). Our 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." All these deeds are reasons for having a righteous end. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "Good works protect from evil fates; maintaining family ties increases life span, and every good deed is charity. The people of good in the world are the people of good in the Hereafter." The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "Charity extinguishes the wrath of the Lord, and protects against evil death."

One of the forms of perseverance of good deeds is that whoever was caring for an orphan in Ramadan, should not abandon him in the middle of the way. Rather, he should continue caring for him till the orphan reaches his maturity and becomes able to shoulder his responsibilities. Likewise, whoever was feeding the hungry in Ramadan, should continue to feed them after Ramadan. Allah (Glory be to Him) said about the people of Paradise, **"They give food to the poor, the orphan, and the captive, though they love it themselves, saying, 'We feed you for the sake of God alone: We seek neither recompense nor thanks from you.'"** The best deed in the Sight of Allah is the continuous one even if it is little deed. The Prophet (PBUH) said, "The acts most pleasing to Allah are those which are done continuously, even if they are small."

One of the forms of good ending in the month of Ramadan is to celebrate the night of the *Eid* (feast) with righteous deeds and to give charity to the poor to help them meet their needs, and to continue performing good deeds during the month of Shawwal by fasting six days during it. One has to avoid neglecting the righteous deeds he used to perform in Ramadan including night prayers, making *Dhikr*, reciting the Qur'an and all other good deeds.

We ask Allah to grant us a righteous end of our lives, and to save our country Egypt and all other countries of the world!