

Arab Republic of Egypt

Ministry of Awqaf

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Preparation for Ramadan through Solidarity, Assemblies of Knowledge, and Recitation of the Qur'an

All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of all worlds, Who says in His Ever Glorious Book to His Prophet, **“Recite the Qur'an slowly and distinctly,”** and said, **“Allah will raise up, by many degrees, those of you who believe and those who have been given knowledge: He is fully aware of what you do.”** 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.

In fact, assemblies of acquiring knowledge are among the best and most beloved assemblies that the Almighty Allah loves. It is in these assemblies, useful knowledge is studied, and this purifies peoples' minds, builds awareness, and guides to the straight path. The Almighty Allah says, **“Know that there is no god but Allah.”** Scholars said, **“Seeking knowledge should precede worshipping Allah, so that one would worship Allah in a correct manner.”** Al-Hasan al-Basri said: **“One who acts without**

knowledge is like one who travels off the path; and the one who acts without knowledge corrupts more than he rectifies. So seek knowledge in a way that does not harm your worship, and seek to worship Allah in a way that does not harm your seeking of knowledge.”

The Almighty Allah has raised the status of knowledge and the people of knowledge in His Glorious Book, as He (Glory be to Him) said, **“Allah bears witness that there is no god but Him, as do the angels and those who have knowledge.”** The Almighty Allah also said, **“Say, ‘How can those who know be equal to those who do not know?’ Only those who have understanding will take heed.”** Allah also said, **“It is those of His servants who have knowledge who stand in true awe of Allah.”** The Almighty Allah did not command His Prophet (PBUH) to ask for an increase in anything except in knowledge, when He, the Almighty, said, **“And Say [O Prophet]: ‘Lord, increase me in knowledge!’”**

The assemblies of knowledge represent one of the highest forms of the assemblies of *Dhikr* (remembrance of Allah), as Abd Allah Ibn Masoud said, “If you pass through the gardens of Paradise, stay at it... It is the sessions of knowledge.” Ata al-Khorasani said, “The assemblies of *Dhikr* are the assemblies of discussing the *Halal* and *Haram*.” Therefore, the Almighty Allah has called the people of knowledge as the people of *Dhikr*, as He (Glory be to Him) said, “Ask the people of *Dhikr* (i.e. knowledge) if you do not know.” The Prophet (PBUH) said, “Whoever goes out seeking knowledge, then he is in Allah’s cause until he returns.” Sahl al-Tustari

says: "Whoever wants to look at the assemblies of Prophets let him look at the assemblies of scholars."

With the approach of the blessed month of Ramadan, we should prepare our hearts to receive its blessings and utilize its goodness, by reciting the Glorious Qur'an and attending the assemblies of knowledge. It is the month of the Glorious Qur'an, as the Almighty Allah has linked the fasting of Ramadan with the revelation of the Glorious Qur'an, in His saying, **"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. So, any one of you who is present that month should fast."** Moreover, the great night of *Laylat al-Qadr* was given that great status due to the fact that it was the night on which the Qur'an was sent down, as the Almighty 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."**

There is no doubt that the virtues of the assemblies of reciting the Qur'an, studying it, and the assemblies of knowledge are great. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, "Those persons who assemble in the house among the houses of Allah (mosques) and recite the Book of Allah and they learn and teach the Qur'an (among themselves) there would descend upon them tranquility and mercy would cover them and the angels would surround them and Allah mentions them in the presence of those near Him." The

Prophet (PBUH) also said, "Allah has His own people among mankind'. They (the companions) said: 'O Messenger of Allah, who are they?' He said: 'The people of the Qur'an, the people of Allah and those who are closest to Him.'" The Prophet (PBUH) also said, "The best among you are the ones who learn the Qur'an and teach it," and said: "If Allah wants to do good to a person, He makes him comprehend the religion."

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:

Among the most important things with which we receive the blessed month of Ramadan are solidarity, compassion, and spending generously for the sake of the Almighty Allah. Whoever makes things easy for others in difficult times, Allah will make things easy for him; and whoever brought his (Muslim) brother out of a discomfort, Allah will bring him out of the discomforts of the Day of Resurrection; and whoever screened a Muslim, Allah will screen him on the Day of Resurrection. Our Prophet (PBUH) said, "Every day two angels come down from Heaven and one of them says, 'O Allah! Compensate every person who spends in Your Cause,' and the other (angel) says, 'O Allah! Destroy every miser.'"

How beautiful it is to expose ourselves to the breaths of mercy of the blessed month of Ramadan by preparing for it through the assemblies of knowledge and reciting the Qur'an, through which hearts are purified, souls find tranquility, and rational awareness is established!

O Allah, we ask You to bless us to attend Ramadan!

We ask You to protect our country Egypt and all other countries of the worlds!