

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ، فَرَضَ عَلَيْنَا صِيَامَ رَمَضَانَ، وَسَنَّ لَنَا فِيهِ الْقِيَامَ؛ لِلْمَغْفِرَةِ  
وَدُخُولِ الْجَنَّةِ بِسَلَامٍ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، ذُو الْفَضْلِ  
وَالْإِكْرَامِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ، خَيْرٌ مَنْ صَامَ وَقَامَ  
لِرَبِّهِ بِاللَّيْلِ وَالنَّاسِ نِيَامٌ، فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى  
آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

**All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the Worlds. He prescribed fasting for us and enjoined us to stand for prayer during night so that we may attain His forgiveness and enter His Paradise in peace. I bear witness that there is no deity save Allah, having no associates. He is the Bestower of favours and the Most Generous. I also bear witness that our Master Muhammad is the Servant of Allah and His Messenger. He was the best amongst who observed fasting and stood for prayer at night while people were asleep. May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, his pure blessed family and companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness till the Day of Judgment.**

Allah has divided our day around **5 SALAHS**. The week around **JUMU'AH**, month around the days of **FASTING**, and year around sacred events - **HAJJ, MUHARRAM, MILAAD, MI'RAJ, SHA'BAN, RAMADAN**. In the month of Ramadan especially, Allah has portioned the days of **MERCY, FORGIVENESS & DELIVERANCE**. So as the last 10 days approach, it is important that we reflect and prepare to maximise our reward and correctly seal our intentions and deeds.

**“They used to sleep but little of the night, And in the hours before dawn they would seek forgiveness, And from their wealth was [given] the right of the needy and the deprived.” (51:17-19)**

**PRAYING** at night, **SEEKING** forgiveness before dawn, and **GIVING** to the needy, are three acts of worship that bring us **CLOSER** to Allah.

### **THE FINAL LAP AND THE FINAL PUSH – THE ENDGAME**

**1. PRAYER**, Fasting & Qur'an is Ramadan, we must continuously improve on them during & after Ramadan.

**2. SEEKING - Seclusion**: Dedicate 1,3,5,7,9,10 Nights for I'tikaf, or at least put some time aside every night to be away from family, friends, and distractions, either in prayer, contemplation & supplication.

**2. DU‘A’** - Be true in your apology to Allah - imagine that there was a judge who was willing to drop any charge on any criminal, as long as they admitted it, and promised to change – Allah is that Judge? But what if internally it was business as usual post-Ramadan?

**“Whoever repents verbally whilst his heart is still insistent upon sin, and his intention is to return back to it after Ramaḍān, then his fasting has been rejected and the door of acceptance has been closed in his face.”**

This month, the way we ate, slept, and socialised was flipped upside down. All for what? For Allah, to be happy with us, forgive us, love us.

**“Allah loves the people of Taqwa” (3:76), Muhsinin (2:195) Mutawakkilin (3:59) “Allah loves those who keep turning to Him in repentance.” (2:222)**

**“The Prophet once ascended the pulpit, and as he rose, he said: ‘Amin, Amin, Amin... ‘Whoever lives to experience RAMADAN but does not have his sins forgiven and enters the fire, then may Allah distance him.**

**Whoever lives in the lifetime of a PARENT, or both, but fails to be dutiful to them and ends up going to hell, then may Allah distance him. ‘And whoever hears YOUR NAME being mentioned without sending salutations then goes to hell, then may Allah distance him.” (Ibn Hibban)**

Ramadan has been so densely compressed with countless opportunities that if one fails to change, then he deserves to be supplicated against by Jibrael, and the greatest of all creation, The Prophet Muhammad. Beware of being prayed against this Ramadan.

Say, **ASTAGHFIRULLAH**, Say it from your heart, let Allah know that you are now a different person, with a difference that is not limited by days, months, or seasons, but with a difference that will remain by your side until you are lowered into your grave.

**3. GIVING** – Give your time, your wealth, your experience, knowledge, help, assistance, guidance, advice in the aid of other people. Allah increases your rewards 700x during Ramadan, He grants you the equal reward of the fasting person when you open their fast. He will alleviate your suffering on the day of Qiyamah, as you did for someone on earth. Help orphans, widows, refugees, poor, in debt, struggling...

**“O you who have believed, bow and prostrate and worship your Lord and do good – that you may succeed” (22:77)**