

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي بَلَّغَنَا شَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ، وَجَعَلَهُ مَوْسِمًا لِلْخَيْرِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ، وَتِلَاوَةِ  
الْقُرْآنِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا  
مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ، بَعَثَهُ اللَّهُ تَعَالَى رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ، وَاخْتَارَ لَهُ صَحَابَةً  
أَكْرَمِينَ، فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ  
أَجْمَعِينَ، وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

**All praises are due to Allah who has allowed us to reach the month of Ramadan. Who has made it a season for good and Ihsan as well as the recitation of the Qur'an. And I bear witness, with every facet of my being, that there is nothing worthy of absolute love and adoration, except Allah, the Uniquely One, having no competing second in that Oneness. And I bear witness that our Leader and Master, our Prophet Muhammad, is the perfect example of servanthood unto Allah, sent as a Mercy unto the entire universe, with the noblest of companions chosen to accompany his mission. O Allah: We ask you to bestow Your peace, blessings upon him; his family; all of his companions; and whomsoever follows him in the best of ways till the Last Day.**

Travellers prepares for journeys, students for exams, chefs for their service, & employees for work; Ramadan is no exception **“Preparation is The Key To Success”** If you prepare for the **DUNYA**, why not for **DEEN**?

**1) Allah has made it MANAGEABLE. “A Limited Number Of Days” (2:184)**

Through His infinite Mercy, an unlimited reward for **‘Limited’** days

**2) The FIERCEST** enemies to man – the devils & jinns – are shackled in chains to make this season of worship easier and lighter for us.

**“On the first night of Ramadan, devils & rebellious jinn are chained up”**

**3) “And ALL the gates of Hell are closed, not one remains open, and ALL the gates of Paradise are opened and not one remains closed”**

**4) On EVERY single nights, Allah frees those bound for the Hellfire.**

**“And there are those who were destined for the fire whom Allah ransoms from it every single night”**

**5) Allah has placed within it a treasured night wherein worshipping Him is GREATER than the worship of 1,000 months - 83 years and 4 months.**

**“During Ramadan is a night that is better than a thousand months, and whoever is deprived of its goodness is deprived indeed” (Trimidhi)**

People of the **DUNYA/GHAFLA** fail to prepare & appreciate Allah's favours

**1)** Their prime focus is to stack up the fridge & kitchen with food, making it a month of feasting, not fasting. Failing to regulate their diet & intake, thus wasting food, gaining weight & burdening their wives/mothers...

**The fullest bellies will be the hungriest on the day of Judgement (Hakim)**

**2)** They show signs of displeasure and irritation as it begins. Not fasting at all, finding excuses not to fast, or fasting only due to expectations...

**“They hated what Allah revealed, so He rendered their deeds null.”(47:9)**

**3)** They prepare for Ramadan by regulating their working hours, not for the sake of making time for worship and Qur'an, but to maximise sleep.

**4)** They prepare for a month of catch up TV, gossip, and evenings of **IFTAAR** with the people & places of disobedience.

**5)** They search for the **SHORTEST** Tarawih, as Salah is a heavy burden

**“It is difficult except for the humbly submissive.”(2:45)**

This is how the people of Dunya prepare for Ramadan. Compare how Allah treats them and how they treat Allah; how He calls them but they run away; how He opens doors of opportunity but they slam them shut.

People of the **IMAAN, TAQWA** eagerly anticipate & prepare for Ramadan

**1)** They prepare by making passionate Du‘a to Allah for Ramadan, another month of much needed opportunity and unmissable prizes.

**2)** They prepare & continuously purify their intentions, recognising opportunities in Ramadan of having their sins forgiven.

**“Whoever fasts the month of Ramadan out of belief and hope for the reward, all of his previous sins will be erased.”(Muslim)**

**3)** They prepare by creating & strengthening their connection with the Qur'an, fasting and Tarawih. No athlete participates without warm ups, similarly, the people of **THE IMAAN & TAQWA** warm up & excel.

**4)** They prepare by evaluating and reflecting on every sin they struggle with and repent for them before & during of Ramadan. The body fails to taste the sweetness of food when it is ill, similarly the heart will fail to taste the sweetness of worship with sins.

**5)** They prepare for Ramadan by putting together an action plan. They do not settle with targets such as “I will read as much Qur'an as possible”. Instead, they take control, knowing exactly what they want from the month of Ramadan.