

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الْكَرِيمِ الْمَنَّانِ، أَكْرَمَنَا بِشَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ، وَفَتَحَ لَنَا فِيهِ  
أَبْوَابَ الْجَنَانِ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ،  
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا وَنَبِيَّنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولُهُ، فَاللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ  
وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا وَنَبِيِّنَا مُحَمَّدٍ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ،  
وَعَلَى مَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ إِلَى يَوْمِ الدِّينِ.

**All Praise be to Allah, the Most Generous, the Most Bountiful  
Who honored us with the Month of Ramadan and opened for us  
the Gates of the Gardens of Paradise. I bear witness that there is  
no deity but Allah Alone, Who has no partner, and I bear witness  
that our Master and Prophet, Muhammad, is the Servant and  
Messenger of Allah. O Allah, send blessings, salutations and  
benedictions on our Master and Prophet, his family, all of his  
Companions, as well as those who follow them in goodness until  
the Day of Reckoning.**

**“You who believe, fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may be mindful of God” (2:183)**

- Every year we go through the same routine, Ramadan sneaks up on us & we’re always caught off guard & just go through the motions – is that the goal/objective? is that the best we can give?
- **Taqwa** - The goal of fasting is to cultivate Taqwa – to create a barrier between yourself and the punishment of Allah by **following His commands and abstaining from His prohibitions**. The consciousness and awareness that Allah is watching over you at all times.
- We refrain from the Halal in this month, but must always refrain from the Haram throughout our lives.

**“Whoever does not leave the dialogue of falsity and such action, then Allah does not require him to leave food and water for His sake” (Bukhari)**

- **Patience** - **“Fasting is half of patience”** We have patience during the day and we are rewarded with Iftar. We fast during the entire month and we are then rewarded with Eid. Likewise, if we spend a lifetime in the obedience of Allah then we are rewarded with Paradise.
- The effort comes first and then the reward

- **Antidote to Greed** - in his Duas, the Prophet used to seek refuge from a **'heart that is never satisfied'**. After 11 months of demanding and expecting more, Ramadan teaches us to suffice on less.

- **Appreciation of Allah's Favours** - We only truly appreciate light in the darkness of night. The value of health when we're ill. Likewise, we only appreciate the value of food and water when we are deprived of it.

**"Have Taqwa of Allah, perhaps you will be grateful" (3:123)**

### **3 Steps to Reconnect with the Qur'an After a Year of Disconnect**

- The month of Ramadan is the month of the Qur'an, beginning of Islam **'Verily We have sent down the Qur'an on the night of Qadr.'** (97:1)
- Revealed in Makkah, in the cave of Hirah, the Prophet would go there for seclusion, reflection and the Zikr of Allah.
- In this month each year Gibrael would descend and revise the Qu'ran with the Prophet.
- We need to enter the month with a singular focus on the Qur'an.
- **Read, Understand, Listen, Memorise - Apply & Transform.**

- **READ** - Your goal is to complete the entire Qur'an during Ramadan.
- Plan, prepare, & persist. Even if you miss/have a day where you only read one page - make it up with another day.
- Don't let yourself down or lower the goal to half of the Qur'an. Push.
- **UNDERSTAND** – Everyday read the summary of the Surahs or **ATTEND THE DAILY SURAH SUMMARY AFTER ASR IN THE MASJID.**
- **LISTEN** - Don't miss Tarawih, listen to your spouse, children and listen to a Qari at home or to/back work. Discard podcasts, music & audiobooks this month. Devote your listening time to the Qur'an.
- The Qur'an is a living thing, if you want its blessings, guidance, protection, illumination, then you need to spend time with it.
- **MEMORISE** - Do your best to memorize some portion of the Qur'an this month, even if it is a little bit. For e.g. the last 2 Ayaat of Surah Baqarah, Surah Mulk, Ya-Sin, Qahf ...
- These steps will enable you to faithfully apply the teachings of the Qur'an and transform you and your life.