

Perhaps it may be our last Ramadan!

By: Qazi Dr. Shaikh Abbas Borhany

PhD (USA), NDI, Shahadat al Aalamiyah (Al Hawzah, Najaf, Iraq), M.A, LLM (Shariah)

Musheer: Fed. Shariat Court of Pakistan

Member, Ulama Council of Pakistan

The Writer is Attorney at Law & Religious Scholar

Email: qazishkborhany@hotmail.com

Website: www.durrenajaf.com

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/fatemistudies>

Subscription for Updates: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/durrenajaf/>

To solve your problems through spiritual help contact: http://www.durrenajaf.com/spritual_center.php

Published in 'Daily News', Pakistan on 17-08-2009

The month of Ramadan is similar to a divine spring when blessings from Allah instill a new spirit upon the believers who eagerly wait for its advent. It is the month of purification and salvation, but there are some who even in the month of Ramadan are largely involved in activities which are condemned by the Shariah, such as:

- i). Immoral behavior,*
- ii). Unjust actions,*
- iii). Unfair dealings*
- iv). Food festivals on the name of iftaar dinners*
- v). Remain busy in Khurafaat of TV, Internet like Whattsapp or Facebook*
- vi). Window shopping in Bazaar just for fun after iftaar*
- vii). Playing and pleasure activities instead of Ibadah.*

The above mentioned acts of Munkaraat are causes of destruction and destroy piety. Many people spend money in the name of charity in Ramadan in public platform for self glorification which destroys its religious significance. Hadith Literature provides us guidance that charity is offered in the same manner as you would receive from others i.e. in an honorable mode. Ramadan gives us lessons of tolerance and patience, so we can act on it throughout the year with sympathy for the under privileged.

People approach Ramadan in different ways. Its perception differs from people to people. Some people view Ramadan as a period of expressing their undying love for Allah. For them, Ramadan is a valuable, precious, and rare occasion. They spend all their time doing good, convinced that the reward of each act is multiplied .Patience, sympathy, and generosity beautifies the demeanor. They guard their tongues and remain preoccupied in recitation of Qur'an and Dua, seeking Taubah, requesting protection from Jahannam and begging for Jannah. There are others who regard Ramadan as a painstaking task. It is a painful practice and a torturous month for these so called moderates. They reluctantly keep Sawm and offer Salaat. Their concept of Siy'am is limited to physical abstention of food, drink, and marital relationship with wife. They spend their time in chitchat, watching TV, and wasting their nights in markets and restaurants. They are not ever inclined towards Khair'at, nor are they careful of their

Ibadah. Their goal in Ramadan is to prepare for Eid. The following Hadith suitably describes their spiritless actions:

"Many are the ones who keep Sawm attaining nothing except hunger, and many perform Salaat by night attaining nothing except the discomfort of staying awake."

Yet a third group is hardly ever moved by Ramadan. They never believe in Ibadah and remain busy in their worldly activities. They are not concerned with religion, and neither have the will or time to change their daily routines, as per injunctions of the Shariah. The following Hadith should serve as a harsh warning to them:

"Jibrael appeared before me and said: "Woe to him who found the blessed month of Ramadan and let it pass by without gaining forgiveness." Upon which I said: Aameen".

Ramadan is a school which after completion of one month's course gives result to each believer. Ramadan is a sacred training school where a believer learns how to recharge their spiritual batteries to gain provision for Akhirah. If one can not attain advantage from this month then when will he do so? This is the month for renewing our Aqidah, strengthening our willpower, and seeking Taubah; a unique opportunity to fortify the bond of love with our Creator, through Ibadah Zahirah and Aam'al Batinah. Salaat and Zakaat are inter-connected and linked to the category of Ibadah Zahirah. Instructions have been given that Faraid should be done openly, so other people should be inclined towards it. Khair'at is under the head of Aam'al Batinah which has direct link to Allah alone.

It is a noted fact that after each Ramadan, many people indulge in immoral, shameless and indecent activities on Eid holidays which Shariah condemns. People revert to entertainment of music, forbidden films etc. They spend lavishly on gambling, drinking, and profligacy, and consider it as a part of joy of the festival. Involvement of Muslims in such nefarious activities is the major cause of humiliation and fall of the Muslim power worldwide. When non Muslims observe the ugly life style of Muslims, they support them. Ramadan ends with Eid al Fitar but the deeds and actions displayed during Ramadan should serve as facilitator which should be followed throughout the year. Eid is a blissful occasion of Islam which has no concern with the festival of other faiths.

Divine help shall not reach to the corrupt by nature. Rahmah is not conferred upon those who only take the name of Allah and forget true actions. Islam is a religion of qualities, not faces or personalities. It has no concern with any community or locality but it is universal and for all time to come. Instead of improving our own character, we are happy with our own brand of Islam. The teachings of Islam have become so contaminated with foreign customs and un-Islamic ideologies that a convert Muslim has to make an effort to search for the Qur'an and Sunnah brand of Islam or else he/she would remain confused and ignorant. A few days earlier a senior diplomat who converted to Islam a few months ago contacted me and requested to suggest an authentic book of Muslim Customs & Traditions. I advised him that it is better to perform Faraid of Islam and not to confuse himself in customs, as it is not a part of religion.

Know that Ramadan is an appearance of blessings and can be a turning point in an individual's life; an opportunity of transformation towards an improved mode of life; a change from the disgrace of sins to the beauty of submission. We should not lose the blessings of Ramadan by falling back on our previous careless ways. Take hold of this blessing which gives a new shape to our lives, and thus become worthy of being called a Muslim.

May Allah grant us inspiration, strength and spirit to make this Ramadan as a start towards a new phase of our life.

May He grant us the ability to abide by Shariah. Ramadan is the time to practice strongly the true concept of Taqwa (fear of Allah).

May Allah allow us this opportunity to utilize our time in a positive and constructive manner for the pleasure of Allah.

Perhaps it may be our last Ramadan, our last opportunity to benefit from the special blessings and forgiveness that accompanies this month, for who knows whether we may be there or not to receive the blessings next year.

On the following 'Imami Dua' in a form of Farewell Salaam I am closing this discussion:

"Ya Moulaya Allah'humma La Taqalibni Min Muzey'i Hazal Yawma illa Wa'qad Ghafarta Li Jami'a Zunubi Bi'Hawlika wa Quwatika wa Min'nika wa Ra'fatika"

(O my Moula! O Allah! Do not transfer me from this place (world) but in a condition that You have forgiven all my sins with Your power and command and Naimah and affection), A'ameen.

This document may be used, only with this copyright notice included. Permission is granted to circulate among private individuals and groups, to post on internet forums, and include in not-for-profit publications subject to the following conditions: (1) Material used must be produced faithfully in full, without alteration or omission; (2) The author's subject title must remain unchanged, in whole or in part; (3) Material must be attributed to the author. Contact the author for all other rights, which are reserved.
Copyright © 2016 Qazi Dr. Shaikh Abbas Borhany