



PARADISE

A Monthly Publication of Huntsville Islamic Center

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EDITORIAL

"So take a straight course to Him and seek His forgiveness." [Fussilat 6]

"Say 'I believe in Allah', then be steadfast." [Muslim]

Ramadan is a school of faith, taqwa, and recharging of one's spirit. But what after Ramadan? We do not want to return to sinning and evildoing nor to a state of laziness and poor faith; rather, we seek steadfastness upon our faith, obedience, and straight course until we meet our death.

In addition to avoiding Haram and committing without delay to obligatory worships at all times, dedication and steadfastness are achieved by training one's self on regular worship actions throughout the year. Those include voluntary fasting (six days in Shawwal, Mondays and Thursdays, three days in the middle of the month, `Aashoora and `Arafat), voluntary night prayer, charity, as well as reading and contemplating the Qur'an. "O Allah, Who turns the hearts, keep our hearts steadfast upon Your Deen."

Remembering the Destination of Mankind in the Hereafter – a Cure for Weak Iman

When one's mind is clear, he will be able to see clearly, thus giving such a person a light in his heart that will allow him to almost witness the Warning and the Promise, Paradise and Hell, and what Allah has prepared in this (Paradise) For His Awliyaa` (loyal friends) and in that (Hell) for His enemies. He will then witness people rushing out of their graves following the call of the Truth (Resurrection). The angels in the heavens will descend and will surround them (creation). Allah will then come to judge (between creation) and His Kursi (literally a footstool or chair) will be raised. The earth will shine with the Light of its Lord (Allah, when He comes to judge between His creation), the Book (of Records) will be opened and the Prophets and the witnesses will be brought forward. The Mizan (Scale) will then be established, the books of (individual) records will fly around and the foes will converge, each holding to its foe. Al-Houdh (the pool that runs outside the gates of Paradise from a river inside it) will then appear and its cups will appear close by. Thirst will intensify, but those who are allowed to drink are

few. Al-Jisr (the bridge over Hell that everyone must pass over into Paradise) will then be laid (over Hell) so that (mankind and the Jinn) can pass over it (as for the disbelievers and those whose sins outweigh their good deeds, they will fall into Hell, where only the disbelievers will reside for eternity). People will then be gathered in its direction. The Fire (Hell) will appear, each part harshly consuming the other parts beneath it. Those who fall into it are far more than those who are saved from it. Then, an eye will be opened in his (the man who is thinking about these scenes) heart with which he will be able to see clearly. His heart will then witness some scenes of the Last Life, along with imagining the various stages of the Last Life which will last for eternity, as compared to this Dunya (the life of this world) and its briefness.

- Imam Ibn ul Qayyim al Jawziyyah

Al-Malik The Sovereign

"So high exalted be Allah, the Sovereign (Al-Malik)..." (20:114).

The Sovereign is the quality of being independent of all existing things while everything in existence is dependent upon it. Nothing can exist without Allah whether it be in respect of essence, qualities, existence, or continued being (baqâ'). Each and every thing derives its being from Allah or from something which is derived from Allah. Everything other than Allah is subject to Allah in respect to both its qualities and essence. But Allah has no need for anything. Allah, indeed, is the Sovereign in the absolute sense. In the sense of incomparability, Allah is absolutely independent of us. As an active quality, everything else is dependent upon Allah. Allah's kingdom consists of all possible things, including human beings. "To Him belongs the kingdom of the heavens and the earth" (2:107). The Messenger said, "Allah is the Lord and Sovereign of everything."

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Greatness of Allah subhaanahu wa ta`aalaa

Ibn Al-Qayyim described Allah's Greatness, saying:

He governs the affairs of the various kingdoms and He commands and forbids, creates, sustains, gives death, gives life, gives power, strips power (to and from whom He wills) and alternates the night and day. He gives varying fortunes to people and alternates governments (and states), destroying some and bringing some into existence. His Command and Power are dominant in the heavens and their zones, the earth and all that which is on and in it, in the seas and in the air. His Knowledge has encompassed everything and He counted everything. He hears all types of voices and they do not confuse Him. Rather, He hears each voice in its distinct language and need, and no voice will make Him busy from fulfilling the need of another, and no need will ever escape His Perfect Knowledge (and His Power to deliver). He does not become bored because of the many needs of those who need. His Sight encompasses all that which there is. He sees the movement of a black ant on a barren rock during a dark night. To Him, the Unseen is uncovered and the secret is secret no more, "Whosoever is in the heavens and on Earth begs of Him (its needs from Him). Every day He has a matter to bring Forth (such as giving honor to some, disgrace to some, life to (some, death to some, etc.)." [55:29] He forgives an evil deed, makes depression vanish and brings reprieve from disasters, relief for whoever needs it, wealth for the poor, guidance for the misguided, light for the lost, help for he who is desperate, fullness for the hungry, cover for the barely clothed, cure for the ill and ease for he who suffers. He accepts he who repents, gives reward for he who does good, gives aid for he who was dealt with injustice, destroys an arrogant person, covers mistakes, gives safety after fear and elevates some people and humiliates others. If those who inhabit His heavens and His earth and all those whom He created, whether mankind or the Jinns, had hearts similar to the most pious heart, His Kingdom will not increase. If all His creation, whether mankind or the Jinns, had hearts similar to the heart of the most wicked heart, this will not decrease from His Kingdom. Also, if all those who inhabit His heavens and His earth, all mankind and all the Jinns, the dead and the living, stand up on one strip of land and each asks Him for his need, and He then fulfils their needs, this will not decrease from what He has a bit. He is the First, nothing is before Him, the Last, nothing is after Him, the Most High, nothing is above Him, and the Most Near, nothing is nearer than Him. He, Exalted and Ever High as He is, is the Best Whom one can and should remember, the only One Who deserves to be worshiped and thanked, the Kindest of all those who own and the Most generous of all those who are asked to give. He is the King Who has no partner, the One Who has no competitor, the Samad (Self-Sufficient) Who has no offspring, and the Ever High, none like unto Him. Everything perishes save His Face and every kingship is bound to perish except His. He will only be obeyed by His Leave, and His Knowledge uncovers all disobedience to Him. When He is obeyed, He thanks for it, and when He is disobeyed, He grants forgiveness (for those who truly repent to Him). Every punishment from Him is just and every bounty is a grace. He is the Closest Witness and the Nearest One with His Perfect Care. He controls the forelocks of everything and has the full records of all deeds and the books of all ages. The hearts are unmasked to Him and the secret is unveiled. His giving and punishing is merely a Command, "Verily, His Command, when He intends a thing, is only that He says to it, 'Be, and it is!'" [36:82].

Afterthoughts on Ramadan

'Narrated, Abdullah bin 'Amr (r)

Allah's Apostle (saw) was informed that I had taken an oath to fast daily and to pray every night all the night throughout my life, so Allah's Apostle, (saw) came to know it and asked me whether it was correct; I replied, "Let my parents be sacrificed for you! I said so." The Prophet (saw) said, "You do not have the power to do it, so fast for a few days and give it up for a few days, and pray & sleep. Fast three days a month as the reward of good deeds is multiplied ten times and that will be equal to one year fasting" I replied, "I can do better than that." The Prophet said to me, "Fast one day and give up fasting for two days". I replied, "I can do better than that." The Prophet said, "Then fast a day and give up fasting for a day and that is the fasting of Prophet Da'wud (David), and that is the best fasting." I said, "I have the power to fast better (more) than that." The Prophet said, "There is no better fasting than that". (*Sahih Muslim*)

As Ramadan comes to an end, how can Muslims continue to remain in the spiritual state of fasting throughout the year? We must always remember that, Shaytan is lying in wait for us to return us all to our old routines, and bad habits. He wants to keep us away from Allah (swt), His book, and the Masjid for as much as he can. Let us work hard at keeping the spirit of Ramadan with us daily and throughout the year!

Fasting Daily Throughout Life

All praise is due to Allah who has blessed the Muslims with the Month of Ramadan. Aaah! What glorious blessings come with it. In it the believers seek nearness to Allah. They spend their days in denial and restraint, and their nights in contemplation and prayer. They rest their hopes in Allah's mercy and look forward to His rewards. What better object in this life should Muslims strive for? What other aim should can they hope to achieve? Indeed, fasting should not end with Ramadan, for the rewards of Allah are not limited to this month alone. Allah has promised that the rewards of good deeds will continue. He says "As to those who believe and work righteousness, Verily, We shall not suffer to perish the reward of any who do a (single) righteous deed... (HQ 18:30) Although fasting in Ramadan is *fard* (obligatory), Prophet Muhammad (saw) encouraged the believers to make the following days of (voluntary) fasting a way of life:

➤ **Six days in the Month of Shawwal.** Abu Ayyub al-Ansari reported that the Prophet, upon whom be peace, said: "Whoever fasts during the month of Ramadan and then follows it with six days of fasting in the month of Shawwal will be (rewarded) as if he had fasted the entire year."

➤ **The First 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah,** especially the day of Arafah, for those who are not performing the pilgrimage.

➤ **Mondays & Thursdays.** Abu Hurairah reported that the most PM (s) would fast would be on Mondays & Thursdays. He was asked about that and he said. "The actions are presented on every Monday & Thursday, Allah forgives every Muslim or every believer, except for those not boycotting each other.

➤ **Three Days of Every Month.** Abu Dharr al-Gharari reported: "The Messenger of Allah ordered us to fast for three days of every month – that is, on the days of the full moon (13th, 14th, & 15th of the lunar month). And he said: "It is like fasting the whole year."

➤ **During the Month of Muharram** (especially the day of Ashurah and the days immediately preceding and following it)

➤ **Fasting during the "forbidden" months.** The forbidden months (during which killing is forbidden) are Dhul-Qidah, Dhul-Hijjah, Muharram, and Rajab. It is preferred to fast a lot during these months.

➤ **Alternate days.** Ahmad related from 'Abdullah ibn 'Amr that the Prophet (s) said, "The fast most beloved by Allah is the fast and prayer of David. He would sleep half the night, pray for a third of the night, and then sleep during the last sixth of the night. He would also fast one day and then eat on the next."

(Ref: *Fiqh-us-Sunnah, Volume III, Voluntary Fasts*)

HIC Activities

Friday Night Study Circles: 7:00 p.m. -8:30 p.m.

Two study circles for brothers and sisters.

Sunday Study Circle: 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Study circle for brothers and sisters.

Prayer Times at the Masjid

Fajr:	5:45 a.m.
Duhur:	12:15 p.m.
Asr:	2:30 p.m.
Maghrib:	Sunset
Isha:	7:30 p.m.
Jumu'a (Friday):	12:30 p.m.

Eid Mubarak

Eid will be, insha'a Allah, either on Thursday 12/5 or Friday 12/6.

Please check our web site (www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org) for announcement on Wednesday night, or call HIC (721-1712) after 8:30 p.m.

Eid Prayer will be held at 8:30 a.m.

Eid Dinner and Party

Eid dinner will be on Sunday, 12/8/2002 at HIC at 5:00 p.m.

Quran Memorization and Ramadan Contests awards will also be distributed during the party.

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