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Good tiding for the approaching Ramadan

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All thanks be to Allah who made for His slaves seasons during which they can become closer to Him through acts of obedience. So, He will forgive their sins, and elevates them many levels.

I testify that there is not other God but Allah. He decreed, and He made the best allocation, and He laid his laws and He considered easiness. He keeps on overwhelming His slaves with goodness and kindness. And I testify that Muhammad is the slave of Allah and His messenger. Allah's prayers are upon him and his people and companions whom used to keep up doing acts of obedience at all times. And they used to do even more on Allah's special times.

People, you ought to know that a Muslim should worship His God and be obedient to Him all his or her life. Allah says: **{and worship your God until the certain (or death) comes to you}** 99:99. Allah made reward worth many times more during certain times or seasons. Therefore, those good seasons deserve more attention and effort by the Muslim. Some of these special seasons is the holy month of Ramadan. It is the month during which Koran was brought down to the people as guidance and clarification and differentiation. It is a season of great status and it about to approach you as a blessed guest and an honorable visitor. It is the master of all months in the year which comes with godly gifts and donations. It alert the unaware and reminds the forgetful, it renews the determination those who seek to do good, and it assembles the scattered people behind one Imam (leader of prayer) who recites Allah's verses which addresses them: **{Tell my slaves who have done far too many sins, do not give up on the mercy of Allah. For Allah forgives all sins, He is the most forgiving the most merciful.}** Therefore, welcome this month with delight and happiness. Give your thanks to Allah who lengthened your life to reach this month. Ask Him to support you and help you to do good deeds in it. Ask Him the acceptance of your work. When the month or

Rajab starts (that's two months before Ramadan) the messenger (ppbu) used to make this prayer (duaa): {Dear God, make Rajab and Sahaba months blessed months for us, and grant us life or living to make it to Ramadan}. The early Muslims used to pray to Allah to grant them life to Ramadan, and when Ramadan starts they used to pray to Allah so that He may accept from them their deeds.

The messenger (ppbu) gave a talk on the last day of the month of Shaban, he said: {People, a great and blessed month is coming upon you. It is a month that has the night of Qadr. This night is better than a thousand months. Fasting this month was made compulsory, and praying its nights is voluntary. This who seeks getting closer to Allah with one voluntary good deed, it will count for doing a compulsory worship in other times. And whosoever does a compulsory worship in Ramadan will count for seventy worships in other times. It is the month of patience and perseverance. Patience and perseverance are rewarded by Paradise. It is the moth of consoling and comforting. It is a month when income is made plentiful. Whosoever feeds someone who is fasting, that deed will be forgiveness to his/her sins, and setting himself free from fire and he/she will gain the same reward as the person who is fasting without loosing any of that reward.} They said to the messenger (ppbu): "But we don't all have food to feed someone who is fasting". The messenger (ppbu) said: {Allah grants this reward to those who feed someone who fasts even with some milk, or a date fruit, or a drink of water; And this who gives a drink to someone who was fasting then Allah shall give him/her a drink from my pool or basin on the day of resurrection one drink after which he or she will never go thirsty. And this who would take it easy with slave of his/her during this month, then Allah will forgive his/her sins and Allah will pardon him/her from fire until he/she will enter paradise. It is a month that its beginning is mercy, and at its middle is forgiveness and its end is a pardon from fire. So, during this month do a plenty of four things. Two of them are to get your God satisfied, and the other two you couldn't do with out. The two deeds which will gain your God's satisfaction are: *Shabadah* or to testify that there is no other God but Allah, and to ask Him for forgiveness; while the two deeds which you couldn't do without are to ask Allah for Paradise and to protect your self through Him from Hellfire}.

Slaves of Allah, the messenger of Allah (ppbu) had made clear the benefits of this month and the goodness it contains. He also urged you to do a plenty of good deeds, both compulsory and voluntary. Prayers, donations, acts of kindness and favors, patience and perseverance, constructing an enriching the days of Ramadan with fasting and its nights with prayers, and with being diligent in remembering Allah and asking Allah for rewards; And seeking out the night of Qadr which alone is better than a thousand months. Do not waste Ramadan through forgetfulness and refusal just as the miserable and ungodly. Those who forget Allah and Allah makes them forget about themselves. They never benefit from those seasons of goodwill. They do not know its sanctity, and they know not their value. You who have been disobedient to Allah, do repent, and be careful with your self. Meet this month with coming to Allah, for He forgives all sins. Continue to repent and to keep your self a straight regularly and often for the rest of your life. May Allah grant you happy ending, and may you be written during this month amongst those who shall be pardoned from being touched by fire. It is during the month of Ramadan that doors of Paradise are opened, and the doors of Hellfire are shut and Satan are chained, and goodness and blessings are sent down by the most Gracious Himself. Ramadan is the month of glory for Allah so Glorify Him. And Ramadan is an honorable guest who will visit you so honor it. Give your thanks to Allah that you made it alive to Ramadan.

So, what is the month of Ramadan?

Many people do not know this month. For many Ramadan is a time to have variety of foods and drinks at their tables. They over do satisfying their desires and go for unnecessary luxuries; it is well known that too much food makes one lazy. During this month a Muslim need to reduce the intake of food in order to be active for worship.

Some others know Ramadan as a month of sleep and idleness. During the day they sleep even through the compulsory prayers. Others know Ramadan as time for staying up late messing and playing. When they tire they eat a meal and sleep through the dawn prayer. They forget the compulsory and they commit the forbidden. They pay no attention to Allah and they do not fear Him. Ramadan has no value to those.

Some know Ramadan as the season for business and they get more active in doing business transactions, spending most of their time at the markets. Very if any time is spent at mosques. To them Ramadan becomes a season of benefit for this life not for the next.

Slaves of Allah, the messenger (ppbu) used to be more active during this month than in others. In fact he used free himself from many other matters and used to dedicate himself to worship of Allah. Early Muslims used to put much attention into doing good deed in order to get closer to Allah during this month. They used to pray the nights and fill the times with acts of obedience. They used to recite a lot of Koran and give food to the needy. They used to sit in the mosques, they believed that will be better at keeping their fast remain pure and they avoid committing backbiting and slandering. They used to make sure they attended the Taraweeh or Quiam prayers at the mosque and not to leave until after the Imam had left. The messenger (ppbu) said: {whoever prays the nights of Ramadan in faith and expectation all his/her past sins shall be forgiven}.

Dear Muslims fear Allah, look after your month of Ramadan, and make plenty of acts of obedience during it, for you may be written as winners.

Allah says: **{The month of Ramadan when Koran was brought down as guidance to the people and clarification of guidance and differentiation. Whoever of you witnesses the month then let them fast. And whoever is sick or is on a travel then let them fast other days. For Allah wants the ease with you and does not want difficulties. And finish the month and glorify and magnify Allah for what He guided you so you may be thankful. And if my slaves ask you about me, then let it be known that I am near by, I answer the prayer or the call of a caller if he/she calls upon me. Let them respond to me and believe in me so they may be wise}** 2:185-186