

After Ramadan - Factors of faith

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In the name of Allah most gracious most Merciful.

Dear brothers in faith, only yesterday Ramadan was with us. Today it is just a memory after it had been a reality. This of you, who worships Ramadan, let them know that Ramadan has gone to pass. And this of you, who worships Allah, let them know that Allah is alive who never dies. The month of fasting, the month of night praying, the month of goodness, generosity, and kindness has gone. The winners have won, and losers have lost. People come out of Ramadan in either of two groups, either the group of the deprived and denied; they gave in into their temptations, and to them our commiserations. And the other group who had hope in Allah, and gave what Allah rightfully demanded of them. They fasted the month in faith, and prayed the nights in expectations. Both groups need to question themselves and bring themselves to an account. The desperate group should be sorry, feel remorse, repent and ask forgiveness and return to Allah. They may live their

days in obedience waiting on the new year and the next Ramadan. While the obedient group; should pay attention so that their deeds be accepted. Allah in His Koran described them as: **{Those who do the good deeds and their hearts are anxious about the acceptance, and to their Lord they go back}** Mouminoos-60.

Ebn Obeid said: "if I knew that Allah has accepted a grain of mustard is better to me than this entire life". Allah says: **{Allah only accepts from the fearing ones}** Maeedah-27. Malik ebn Dinar said: "the worry that the deed may not be accepted is tougher than the doing the deed itself. "

Some of the early Muslims used to show sadness on Eid day worrying whether their work was accepted or not.

What is surprising is that as soon as Ramadan is over we seem to be certain of the acceptance of our deeds. None of us seems to think of their deed, or have a look at it, or analyse its sincerity. Even that dua we used to say every night during Ramadan: "God accept our deeds, you hear and you know all. And God, forgive us you are the most forgiving, and the most merciful.". Our early ancestors used to make dua for six months after

Ramadan so Allah may accept their deeds they did on the previous Ramadan.

Wohaib ebn El-Ward (وَهَيْبُ بْنُ الْوَرْدِ) saw a crowd on an Eid day laughing their head off possibly in joy. He said: "if their fasting was accepted, then that is no way those who are thankful should show their gratitude. And if their fasting was not accepted, then that is no way those who are in fear show their fear". This is by no means a call to hopelessness and despair. This is a call to bring your self to an account. Because it is the character of those who fear Allah are those who question their deeds, and worry whether it will be accepted.

Even though only Allah knows whether the deeds have been accepted or not.; but there are signs which indicate the acceptance of deeds. One of the signs that deeds have been accepted is the continuation of doing the good deeds. Early Muslims used to say: "the reward of a good deed is another good deed which follows it". The messenger (PPBU) said: **{the most loved of the deeds to Allah is the persistent or continuous deed, even if it was little}**. Alqama (علقمة) asked the wife of the messenger (PPBU): "if he gave more attention to

some days over others?" she answered: "No, his deeds were on continuous basis. Who of you people can tolerate what the messenger (PPBU) used to tolerate."

A-asha (عائشة) used to do the Dhuha prayer of eight rakaas. She used to say: "I would not give it up even if I see my dead parents came back to life".

Dear Muslims, it is shameful for a Muslim to build a tower of faith and decorate it during the month of Ramadan, and then once Ramadan is over, he goes demolishing what he had built. Allah says: **{and do not be like this lady who undoes her knitted yarn, from firmness to looseness}**. Unfortunately, that is the state of most of us this year. The Muslim ought to continue the way he used to be during Ramadan. Ought to continue the acts of obedience, and refrain from the sinful acts. What a shame to go back to offences of bad sins after being cleared from it. And how shameful for those who repented to go back to wicked deeds. Faith has a number of permanent factors which a faithful person can not do without up until the time of his/her death, for example the five prayers. Is there a true believer who could do without the prayers? Look at the mosques during Ramadan, and look at the same mosques

after Ramadan. Prayers are the second pillar of Islam. Do not loose your prayers, for it is your contact with Allah. It helps you be cleansed from sins and bad deeds. The messenger said: **{whoever goes to the mosque and returns from it, Allah prepares a place of residence (or a guest house) for him/her every time he/she comes or goes}**.

The messenger (PPBU) said: **{Deeds which Allah uses to wipe off sins and elevate the grades are: 1) refreshing the pre-prayer wash (Wado) despite difficulties, and 2) the steps walked to mosques, and 3) staying after a payer in a waiting state for the next prayer. That's the bond, that's the bond that is the bond.}**

The messenger (PPBU) said: **{the first deed the slave is judged for on the day of judgement is his prayers. If it comes out good, then he/she is successful, and if it fails, then he is a loser and a failure.}**

Dear Muslims, another factor of faith is the Koran.

Koran is the life of hearts and souls. A believer can not do without the Koran. Koran guides to the straight path. One end of the Koran is in the hand of Allah, and the other end is in your hands. If you hold tight to this solid link you shall not go astray. And you shall not be

destroyed. This who wants to talk to Allah, then let him/her start a prayer. And this who wants Allah to talk to him, then let them read the Koran. During Ramadan you recited much of the Koran on daily basis, why have you stopped reading it after Ramadan. Why have you put it back in storage as if you no longer need it until next Ramadan.

Dear brother and sister; read the Koran and live by it. The Koran shall come on the day of resurrection speaking on your behalf. The messenger (PPBU) said: **{No jealousy or envy is permitted except in two situations. One, is to a man Allah bestowed him with the Koran, so he recites it during the night and during the day. And the other is a man Allah gave him much money, he spends it during the night and during the day}**.

Another factor of the factors of faith is Remembering Allah the most merciful and uttering his name.

Dear brother and good sisters, if you kept up uttering the name of Allah, glorifying Allah, and praising Allah, and giving thanks to Allah, and asking for Allah's forgiveness during Ramadan. Could you do without this sustenance for the rest of the year? Keep your tong

always freshened and dampened in speaking of the most gracious. Calling of Allah gives you health from many sicknesses, and it brings you the satisfaction of Allah, and it expels and repels Satan.

The messenger (PPBU) said that remembering and praising and glorifying Allah is the best and purest of deeds which you can do, and has the highest honour, and is better than you donating gold and silver, and better than fighting the enemy and killing them or getting killed.

Another factor of faith is kindness to people.

Many people are generous and giving during Ramadan. And as soon as Ramadan is over, all you can see is frowning into the face of the poor and needy. They go stingy and tight. The messenger (PPBU) said: **{Allah shall talk to each and every one of you, when no interpreter will be needed. And each shall look to his/her right and to his/her left and shall see only the deeds he did, and shall look in front of him and shall see fire opposite his face. Do protect yourselves from that fire, by making a donation even as little as a piece of a date}.**

More factors of faith are the night prayers.

During Ramadan you did Taraweeh prayers and the Qiam prayers. Why not continue this deed? The messenger (PPBU) said: **{keep up the night prayers, it is the practice of the righteous men before you, and it is closeness to Allah, and deterrence from sin and a cleanser of misdeeds}**. Be amongst those who pray at night even if you do just one rak3a (one single prayer).

One other factor of faith is Repentance.

We all did repent to Allah during Ramadan. Does that mean that the time of repentance is over? Does it mean we no longer need to repent? Many Muslims go back to doing the wrong and go after their evil desires. As if they were released from detention. Detention resembling that they were held from committing wrong during Ramadan. A true believer spends all his life in worship of his Lord; the Lord of the heavens and the earth. Going from one act of worship to another; and from one act of obedience to another. Always be in some act of worship until you meet your creator. The messenger (PPBU) said: **{People, repent to Allah, and**

ask His forgiveness. I do repent to Him and ask His forgiveness a hundred times a day}. If that is the case with the best of all creation, the messenger (PPBU), then what should we need to do? No believer can do without repentance during or after Ramadan.

These were some factors of faith with which I wished to remind my self and all my brothers and sister. For Ramadan was like a school to us. Ramadan taught us that our eyes can cry in fear of Allah, and taught us that we can do prayers at night, and fast the day, and regularly recite the Koran. Ramadan also taught us that we can spend more time at the Mosque. Ramadan taught us that we can ignore our desires and lusts.

Dear brothers and sisters, time passes quickly. It feels like only yesterday we were expecting the start of Ramadan, and today we are saying our goodbyes to Ramadan. Between this time and that; days went by fast. Soon death will approach each of us. And we shall leave this life, carrying with us only the deeds we did; and no clothes to wear except the cloth of God fearing. Which of us has prepared for that day?

Dear Muslims, let me remind you to fast six days of this month of Shawal. The messenger (PPBU) said: {whoever

fasts Ramadan, then follows it with six of Shawal, then that is like fasting eternity}.

O Allah, let us witness many more months of Ramadan.