

The Last Friday in Ramadan

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Slaves of Allah, it seems like only yesterday that we were exchanging messages of congratulations regarding the start of the holy month of Ramadan. And here we are saying good bye to it. This Friday is the last Friday in this holy month. Praise be to Allah who manages the months, the years, the days and the nights. And praise be to Him who decreed that everything else must come to an end while He is the ever living who never dies. So many people were hoping to witness this month of Ramadan but death prevented them from doing so. And also so many who witnessed the month of Ramadan but they did not give it its proper value or status. They spent their nights doing what is forbidden or doing acts which are not recommended, and spent the days asleep oblivious to remembering and reciting and all other acts of obedience. They reached the ultimate in squandering the most valuable of times. Do those who have wasted this great season know that it may be possible that they will be dead when next Ramadan comes round? Allah says: **{and when death comes unto one of them, he says: My Lord send me back, that I may do a right in that which I have left behind. But No, it is a word that He speaks, and behind them there is a barrier until the day they are resurrected} 23:99-100.** After death, when the wasters or squanderers see all the regrets that they have wasted, they say: "Our Lord send us back in the first life, we shall actively do good deeds like prayers, fasting and give to charity. We shall waste not any thing ever". Would they be allowed to return? By the Almighty, they are stuck in a life behind a barrier, either in a garden from the gardens of Paradise, or in hole from Hell. If those who are dead can only speak, they would say to the living: "get your supplies for the next life, and the best supply you can get is God fearing".

I advice you and my self to take opportunity of the few hours left of this month. There is very little left of it. Be active may Allah

bless you. Put your hands up to Allah and make supplication (or *Duaa*) in sincerity. You may just be lucky and make *duaa* in an hour-of-answer which will lead to your happiness in this life and next.

Ramadan is about to finish and leave. A few hours are left and its page is about to be turned, and its market with all its rich offers is about to close. And those who won have won, and those who lost have lost. Make an advantage of what is left of it. Speed up towards doing good deeds, and grab what you can of advantages and deeds which get you closer to Allah.

Brothers in Islam, many people have tears in their eyes as they say good bye to Ramadan not knowing if they will be amongst the living when next Ramadan comes round. And why not when it is the season where the mercy comes down from the Lord of the worlds. Ramadan is the month of fasting and prayers, and the month of love and friendliness, the month of mercy and forgiveness, the month of blessings and clarity of the chest, the month of asking Allah, the month of cries in fear of Allah. So many who were disobedient have returned to Allah during this month. And So many people were destined to Hell fire, Allah have pardoned them and granted them a guarantee from being touched by fire. We ask Allah to make us and you amongst those He pardoned from Hell fire.

Dear Muslims, Ramadan reminds us of how generous the messenger of Allah was (ppbu). He was the most generous of all people. And he was most generous during the month of Ramadan. We ought to take his example in every aspect of our life. His life is the beacon which can lead the nation away from all the wrongs and from deviation and from all turmoil. The nation is in dire need to know and learn from the life of our messenger (ppbu). It is at those critical times that the love for the messenger (ppbu) should live within our hearts, and following his example in our deeds and our direction. Allah says: **{Verily in the messenger of Allah you have a good example for him who hopes for Allah and the Day after, and remembers Allah much.}** 33:21.

Dear Muslims, Allah has decreed for you at the end of this month to give a charity called Zakat-El-Fitr or the charity of fast-breaking. It is to be a sign of thank giving to Allah, and a reason to clear all sins and wrong deeds, and it is a mean of receiving greater blessings from Allah. This zakat is a feed to the poor, and a form of compensation to them. It is an obligation on each and every Muslim to be given from the surplus of his daily need of food, on his behalf and on behalf of those he/she cares for, young or old, male or female. In this country it is estimated at seven Euros per person. The messenger (ppbu) said: **{Make them not needing to ask on this day}. And remember what Allah says: {You will not attain piety until you spend of that which you love.} 3:92.**

Slaves of Allah, the best time to give this Zakat-el-Fitr is after sun down of the last night of Ramadan or the night of Eid. It is permissible to give it out a day or two before that, or even longer than that. But is not acceptable to delay it until after the Eid prayer. This Zakat can only be given to eight types of people of those who deserve it. And the most deserving of them are: the poor and the destitute.

Slaves of Allah, in what is left of this holy month, any of you who have done wrong, let them repent to Allah a true repentance. Also, keep the mosques alive by attending Friday prayers, and maintaining your daily prayers and other acts of obedience. And remember that the messenger (ppbu) said: **{whoever fasts Ramadan, then follows it by fasting 6 days in Shawal is like he/she has fasted eternity}.**

It is of Allah's blessings upon us that He permitted us other acts of worship at the end of this month. Some of that is glorifying Allah through doing *Takbeer* or saying (Allah Akbar) which can be done at the night of *Eid* up until the *Eid* prayer. And it is in this form: Allah is the greatest, and Thanks be to Allah (*Allah Akbar, Allah Akbar, wa Lil-Allah ul-hamd*). This can be done at mosques, homes, markets and streets. Men can say it out loud and women

should say it quitely. This sunnah has died in many Muslim societies.

Allah, make us amongst those you have accepted, and do not turn us back in disappointment, and make good deeds be the last of what we do in this life. Allah, bless us with the Koran, and make us benefit by what it contains. Allah, forgive us and forgive all Muslims from all sins. Slaves of Allah, Allah commands you to do justice, and to perfect everything you do and commands you to take care of those related to you.