



RAMADAN SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

March - April 2024 | Ramadan 1445

"O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous." [al-Baqarah, 2:183]

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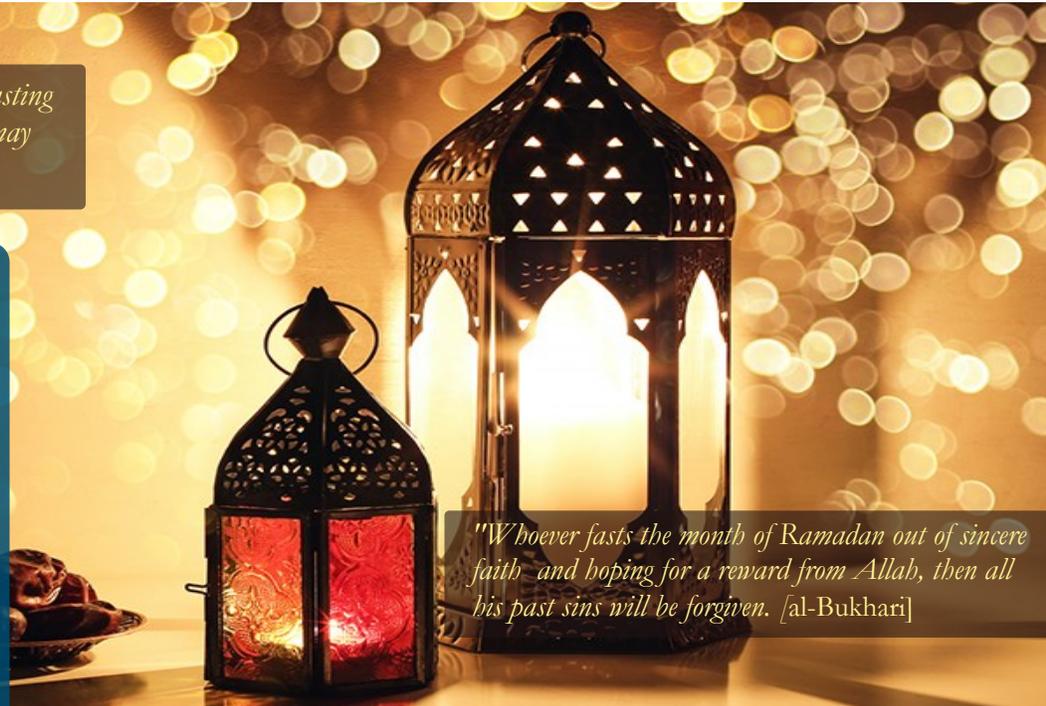
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"Whoever fasts the month of Ramadan out of sincere faith and hoping for a reward from Allah, then all his past sins will be forgiven. [al-Bukhari]"

IONA Wishes Everyone A Blessed RAMADAN and A Joyous EID

First day of Ramadan is Monday, March 11 |
Eid is Wednesday, April 10

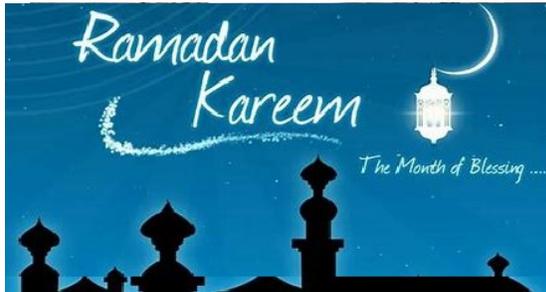
First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and the second sermon starts at 1:20 PM



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Announcements

RAMADAN MUBARAK AND KAREEM

Ramadan begins on Sunday, March 10th at sunset and the first day of fasting is on Monday, March 11th, according to the Fiqh Council of North America. IONA follows the Fiqh Council of north America for determining Ramadan and Eid dates.

- Taraweeh prayers will start shortly after salat al-Isha. See the Prayer Schedule for the Isha salah. (iqamah). We will be offering 20 rak'ahs followed by the congregational salat al- Witr.
- Khatm al-Qur'an celebration is on Wednesday, April 19 (Ramadan 28), in sha Allah. A host of speakers and Imams are invited.
- Zakat al-Fitr (Fitra) is \$15 per person. MUST be paid before Eid day.
- Islamic organizations will be raising funds on Saturdays. Presenters will have 10 minutes after Isha prayer to talk about their project(s) and raise funds.
- Brothers intending to do I'tikaf (retreat) in the last 10 nights of Ramadan need to register ahead of time. Please call Br. Naveed Ashraf at (248) 880-1925. I'tikaf night begins Saturday, March 30th Maghrib time.

Kindly observe the following during Ramadan:

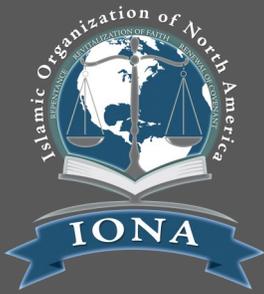
- Please refrain from bringing water bottles to the prayer areas. Adequate water will be provided in designated areas in addition to the drinking fountain available near the wudu' areas of both the sisters and the brothers.
- Please DO NOT bring any type of food or drink to the masjid at any time. IONA has ar-ranged for Iftar dinners on Fridays and Saturdays. On weekdays, however, IONA is pleased to provide dates and water to break the fast prior to praying Maghrib.
- Islamic organizations will be raising funds on Saturdays. Presenters will have 10 minutes after Isha prayer to talk about their project(s) and raise funds.
- Parents are responsible for keeping their children quiet at all times.
- Please park ONLY in designated areas. We will be, in sha Allah, enforcing strict parking and illegally parked cars will be towed away at owner's expense.
- Please place your shoes on shoe racks. Absolutely no shoes in the foyer area by the social hall entrance. Shoes left on the floor will be placed in the lost and found box.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation.

On behalf of IONA, we wish you a very blessed Ramadan.

“O Allah, make the new moon rise on us with security and Iman and peace and Islam, Our Lord and your Lord is Allah.”

You may always call us at 586-558-6900 or e-mail us at Director@ionaonline.org if you have any questions.



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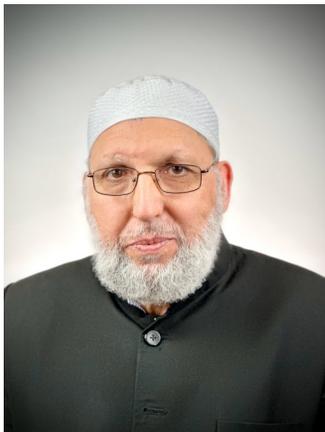
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Ramadan Greetings from Ameer of IONA



Ramadan Mubarak

“O you who believe, fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those who came before, so you may achieve Taqwa.” [2:183]

As Ramadan dawns upon us, let us remember the divine wisdom behind fasting, a practice ordained for those who preceded us, aimed at cultivating Taqwa, a heightened awareness of and consciousness toward Allah (SWT). On behalf of both myself and IONA, I extend heartfelt wishes for a truly blessed month to all.

Ramadan is a sacred time for fortifying our bond with the Creator, achieved through fasting and nightly prayers. The Prophet (SAW) illuminated the joyous moments of the fasting person: the breaking of the fast and the eventual meeting with the Lord.

Beyond fasting, Ramadan is the month of the Qur'an, revealed as a guide for humanity. 'Ramadan is the month in which the Qur'an was sent down as guidance to humanity.' [2:185] May the Qur'an be our constant companion, guiding us in the early morning hours and throughout the month. Consider dedicating at least two rak'ahs before Fajr and stay hydrated during the fasting hours.

As we engage in acts of worship, let's not forget the less fortunate. Give generously for Allah's pleasure, as the rewards in Ramadan are manifold. Remember your needy relatives and support worthy causes like IONA through zakah or donations.

Embark on this spiritual journey with the purest intentions, dedicating our worship solely for the pleasure of Allah. May Allah make this journey easy for us. Ramadan Mubarak to you and your families. May Allah bless us, increase our faith and consciousness, and accept our deeds during this auspicious month. Ameen."

News Release

Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace in Gaza: Clergy Unite in solidarity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 4, 2024

Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace in Gaza: Clergy Unite in Solidarity

[WARREN, MI] A diverse group of interfaith clergy gathered in front of the Henry Ford Centennial Library in Dearborn on Sunday, March 3, for a solemn occasion. Memorial prayers were offered for Airman Aaron Bushnell, who sacrificed his life in protest against the ongoing genocide and ethnic cleansing in Gaza.

Amidst music and songs of peace, the clergy, representing the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities, held a prayer vigil advocating for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war. The event aimed to call upon politicians and world leaders to take a stand for peace.



Key figures in attendance included Imam Mustapha Elturk, Ameer of IONA, and Imam Mohammad Ali Elahi from the Islamic House of Wisdom. Imam Elahi commended Bushnell's sacrifice, declaring him a "pure martyr in this country." The prayer session included appeals for global justice and truth, seeking to establish a lasting peace.

In a heartfelt moment, inspired by the alleged complaint Prophet Muhammad (SAW) made to Allah after facing rejection and persecution at al-Taif, Imam Elturk improvised a prayer specifically addressing the plight of the Palestinians.

"In our vulnerability and stark shortcomings, we implore You, O God, to extend Your divine aid to our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, especially in Gaza," prayed Imam Elturk.

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Virtues of Ramadan



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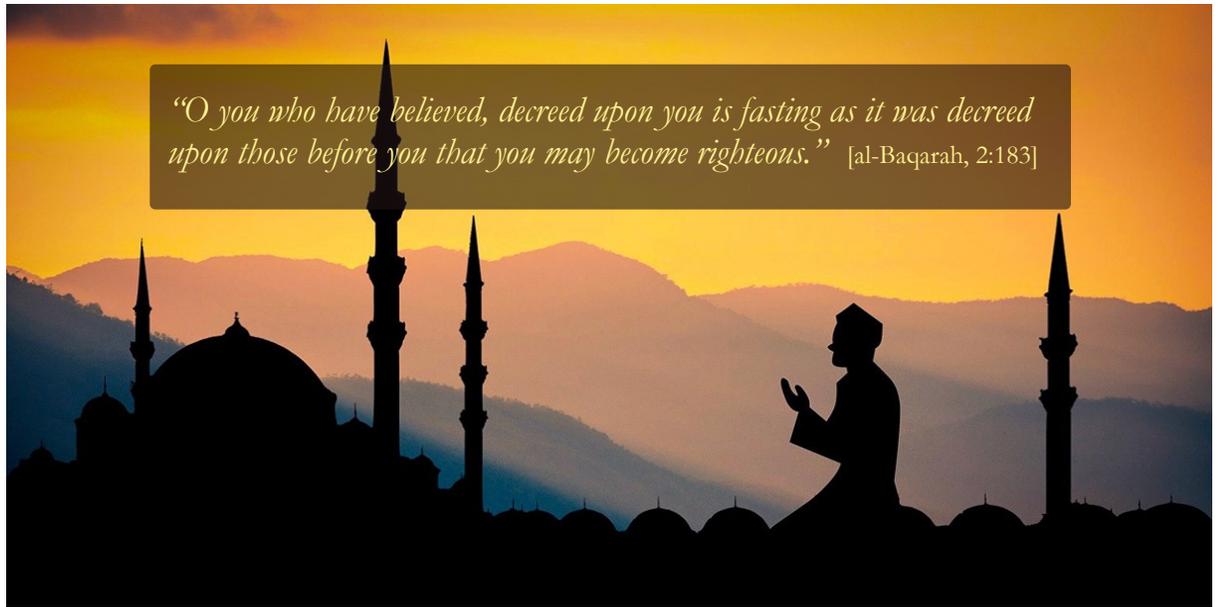
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"O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous." [al-Baqarah, 2:183]

We find ourselves unable to adequately express our gratitude to Allah (SWT) for the abundant blessings bestowed upon believers each year. Among these blessings are the opportunities for fasting during the day and immersing ourselves in the recitation of His ayat throughout the night.

The profound words of Abdullah Ibn 'Amr (RA) echo the significance of these acts of worship. The Prophet (SAW) conveyed, "The fast and the Qur'an are two intercessors for the slave of Allah on the Day of Resurrection. The fast will say: 'O Lord, I prevented him from his food and desires during the day. Let me intercede for him.' The Qur'an will say, 'I prevented him from sleeping at night. Let me intercede for him.' Their intercession will be accepted." (Ahmad)

Ramadan holds a special place for various reasons. Firstly, it marks the revelation of the Qur'an (2:185), and secondly, it encompasses the Night of Power (Lailatul Qadr), a night better than a thousand months. The believer's fast serves as a holistic program for the soul, regulating the body while nourishing our spirits with Qur'anic recitations. The Prophet (SAW) emphasized the forgiveness of sins for those who fast with faith and seek Allah's pleasure.

To fully benefit from this auspicious month, ensure that your intentions are solely for Allah (SWT). As the Prophet (SAW) taught us, deeds are judged by intentions. Fasting and reciting the Qur'an solely for Allah's pleasure distinguish these acts as worship. Success in personal

goals, such as weight loss or breaking habits, is secondary. The Prophet (SAW) cautioned against fasting or praying without a sincere intention, highlighting the importance of purity in our actions. Prepare yourself with a genuine and sincere intention, and, by the grace of Allah (SWT), the path of fasting and night prayers will be made easy for you, In sha Allah.

Concerning Ramadan, the Prophet (SAW) imparted profound wisdom: during this sacred month, the gates of Hell close, the gates of Paradise open, and the devils are restrained. The name 'Ramadan' itself holds significance, as it symbolizes the scorching away of sins.

This month is a call to increased charity, reflecting the Prophet's (SAW) heightened generosity during Ramadan. The enormous rewards from Allah inspire this generosity, urging us to extend a helping hand to the poor and needy globally. In contemplating the comforts we enjoy, let's empathize with our brethren in challenging regions like Gaza, Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, and across Africa. The Prophet (SAW) likened believers to a unified body, emphasizing mutual kindness and compassion.

Aisha sought clarification on an ayah, learning that those whose hearts tremble with fear while giving charity are not sinners, but rather individuals who fast, pray, give in charity, and fear their deeds might not be accepted. They rush to do good, striving to be the first in righteous acts.

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Embracing the Blessings of Ramadan

Undoubtedly, the month of Ramadan stands as a beacon of greatness and blessing for us, and we express our gratitude to Allah (SWT) for bestowing upon us the identity of Muslims. Our pride lies in willingly submitting as the devoted servants ('ibad) of Allah (SWT) and maintaining the connection between the slave ('abd) and the Master (Rabb) through various acts of worship.

One such profound connection is nurtured through the observance of the five daily prayers (salat). Another avenue that enhances this connection is the annual act of fasting (sawm) during the sacred month of Ramadan. Fasting serves as a regulator for both the body and the soul. The Arabic term "sawm" implies abstaining from various aspects, extending beyond food, drink, and spousal relations to encompass refraining from all negative intentions and activities, including idle talk. The concept of sawm even encompasses silence. The Qur'an recounts how Maryam (AS), upon returning with 'Isa (AS), chose not to speak to anyone in the town. *"Eat, drink, and be comforted. Then if you see any human, say, 'Indeed, I have vowed (sawm) a fast to the All-beneficent, so I will not speak to any human today'"* (Maryam, 19:26). While there's no absolute prohibition against talking, when engaging in conversation, it's encouraged to involve ourselves in meaningful and beneficial discourse. The tongue should remain moist with the remembrance (zikr) of Allah (SWT).

To extract the maximum benefit from the month of Ramadan, the right attitude and intention are paramount. Fasting is not a novel concept but a mode of worship prescribed for all nations (umam). *"O you who believe! Prescribed for you is fasting as it was prescribed for those who were before you, so that you may attain taqwa"* (al-Baqarah, 2:183). While variations may exist in the type and duration of fasting among different nations, Islamic fasting spans from dawn to sundown. Additionally, partaking in a pre-dawn meal (suhour) before commencing the fast is recommended, as the Prophet (SAW) advised, *"Have suhour, for in suhour there is blessing (barakah)."*

Embracing the Spiritual Rigor of Ramadan

Fasting for long hours is seemingly challenging, yet remarkably manageable for those devout individuals who maintain a profound awareness of Allah (SWT) and steadfastly observe His commands. The attitude of the humble and obedient 'ibad of Allah (SWT) is one of attentiveness to divine commands and unwavering

obedience. *"And they say, 'We hear and obey. Our Lord, forgive us, and toward You is the return'"* (al-Baqarah, 2:285). Therefore, even with the disruption of routine habits such as eating, drinking, sleeping, and other lawful activities, Allah (SWT) facilitates matters for believers who consistently exhibit mindfulness of their Lord. *"And whoever is mindful of Allah, He shall grant him ease in his affairs"* (al-Talaq, 65:4).

The month-long rigorous routine of Ramadan is a prime opportunity to amplify our mindfulness of Allah (taqwa). Ramadan, at its core, is an exercise in taqwa. The primary objective and wisdom behind fasting is the attainment of taqwa. *"O you who believe! Prescribed for you is fasting as it was prescribed for those who were before you, so that you may be mindful of God"* (al-Baqarah, 2:183).

Taqwa is a multifaceted Qur'anic term, encapsulating nuances such as God-consciousness, God-mindfulness, God-awareness, Godliness, righteousness, piety, fear, and devoutness. The term taqwa and its derivatives gain depth when understood within the specific context of the Qur'an. It emerges as a verbal noun derived from the Arabic root "waqa," signifying "to be protected from harm." As articulated by Imam Raghīb al-Asfahani, the Arabic word "wiqayah" means to prevent or protect something from that which may harm it. As a term of shariah, it denotes preventing or protecting oneself from actions that are sinful by abstaining from what is forbidden. All actions prohibited by Allah (SWT) or discouraged by Him are inherently harmful in this life and carry severe consequences on the Day of Judgment if one does not shield oneself from their harm.

In light of this, heedful consideration of verses like *"O you who believe! Save yourselves and your families from a fire whose fuel is people and stones"* (al-Tahrim, 66:6), and *"O you, who believe! Have fear of God, and give up what is still due to you from usury if you are true believers"* (al-Baqarah, 2:278) becomes imperative.

Nurturing Taqwa: A Lesson from Umar ibn al-Khattab and Ubay ibn Ka'ab (RA)

A captivating story unfolds when Umar ibn al-Khattab (RA) posed a profound question to Ubay ibn Ka'ab (RA), an esteemed scribe of the Prophet (SAW) whose Qur'anic knowledge was lauded by the Prophet himself: *"How would you describe taqwa?"* In response, Ubay posed a counter-question, *"Have you ever had to tread a thorny path?"* Confirming his experience, Umar

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Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace in Gaza: Clergy Unite in solidarity (cont'd)



The Interfaith Prayer Vigil was co-sponsored by the Intercultural Community Center in Dearborn (ICCD), Dearborn Area Interfaith Network (DAIN), and Friends of Sabeel North America (FOSNA).

End

Imam Elturk's prayer:

To You, our Lord, We complain of our weakness,
lack of support and the humiliation the Palestinians made to receive.

Most Compassionate and Merciful!

You are the Lord of the weak, and you are our Lord.

To whom do You leave The Palestinians?

To oppressors who treat them with hostility?

Or to an enemy You have given power over them?

As long as you are not displeased with them,

As long as you are not displeased with us, we are happy.

We would, however, be much happier with Your mercy.

We seek refuge in the light of Your face by which all darkness is dispelled in both this life
and the life to come help us overcome hate and intolerance.

O God, whose hands hold the hearts of humanity, we beseech You to transform the hearts
of the adversaries and aid in the establishment of justice and peace.

Open their hearts to acceptance, allowing us to turn a new page and embark on a path of renewal.

The resounding cries for a ceasefire and an end to the bloodshed echo like thunder,
yet seemingly fall on deaf ears.

May the sacrifice of Aaron Bushnell on behalf of the Palestinians and all people of conscience pierce
the hearts of the callous guiding them to recognize the shared humanity that unites us all.

Empower the Palestinians with Your formidable strength to overcome and triumph over their Adversaries,
who are not just their foes but adversaries to all of humanity.

In our vulnerability and stark shortcomings, we implore You, O God, to extend Your divine aid
to our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, especially in Gaza.

To You We submit, until we earn Your pleasure. Everything is powerless without your support.

We humbly refrain from questioning Your wisdom, relying on Your mercy and guidance.

There is much to be done, and without You, we are powerless. We need You, so Help us God.

Embracing the Blessings of Ramadan (cont'd)

explained his careful journey, gathering all loose clothing to prevent entanglement with thorns and struggle his way through (shammartu wa-jtahdt). Ubay's insightful response was, "This is the essence of taqwa." The analogy of taqwa as a thorny path illustrates the cautious navigation of life. Just as one avoids thorns due to the fear of being pricked, a believer avoids sin out of fear of Allah. Taqwa instills in the hearts of true believers a reverence for Allah's punishment.

The crux of every message from God's prophets was encapsulated in the call: "O my people! Worship Allah! You have no other god besides Him" (al-A'raf, 7:59). With the arrival of Muhammad (SAW), the final messenger, this proclamation transitioned from a specific people to all of humanity: "O mankind! Worship your Lord, who created you and those who were before you, so that you may save yourselves" (لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ) (al-Baqarah, 2:21). As the era of messengers concludes with Muhammad (SAW), we, as the followers of the final messenger, shoulder the responsibility of perpetuating this universal message.

Fasting, with its myriad benefits for the body and soul, serves as a profound training ground for empathy towards the less fortunate. Enduring hunger and thirst temporarily allow us to grasp the struggles of the poor. This shared experience nurtures a spirit of compassion, inspiring us to share and care solely for the sake of Allah: "We feed you only for the sake of Allah. We do not want any reward from you nor any thanks" (al-Insan, 76:9).

The Nexus of Taqwa and Faith (Iman): A Journey Beyond Islam

Taqwa and faith (iman) are inseparable companions on the path of spiritual elevation. The Qur'anic verse 93 of Surat al-Ma'idah underscores the transformative role of 'taqwa,' propelling believers from a lower state of iman to a higher level of faith.

The ayah verifies the fact that 'taqwa' is the driving force that makes believers move from a lower state of iman to a higher state of iman. "Those who believe and do good deeds will not be blamed for what they have consumed [in the past], so long as they have taqwa (are mindful of God), believe and do good deeds, then they have (more) taqwa (awareness of God) and believe, then they have (even more) taqwa and devoted themselves to excellence (in worship). And God loves al-Muhsineen (those who reach the state of spiritual excellence)" (al-Ma'idah, 5:93).

The ayah emphasizes that those who believe and perform righteous deeds will not be held accountable for past consumption, provided they embrace taqwa, leading to a continuous cycle of increasing consciousness of God. The pinnacle of this progression is marked by devotion to excellence in worship, earning the endearing love of God for those who achieve this state of spiritual excellence (al-Muhsineen).

This revelation followed the prohibition of intoxicants (khamr) in verse 90 of the same chapter. Some believers, distant from the Prophet's mosque in Medina, learned of this prohibition belatedly and continued consuming alcohol. Upon receiving the news, their mindfulness of Allah spurred a deep concern for their spiritual state, leading Allah to absolve them of blame for past consumption as long as they remained mindful of Him.

The imperative is clear: elevate one's taqwa or consciousness of Allah. Mere adherence to Islam is not the culmination; the striving should be towards ascending to higher states of iman. Beyond iman lies ihsan, the highest level of faith described by a Prophetic tradition as "worshipping Allah as though you could see Him, for though you cannot see Him, yet He sees you." Achieving this summit demands relentless effort.

In contemporary times, many Muslims find themselves at the level of Islam but fall short of genuine iman. The Qur'anic reassurance not to lose heart or despair only applies to true believers who have the upper hand. The prevailing state of the Muslim ummah, often subjected to humiliation, suggests a collective settling at the level of Islam, far from real iman. The ongoing struggle to improve iman requires consistent effort, and the sacred month of Ramadan serves as a significant opportunity to elevate taqwa and, consequently, iman.

Phase I of the Expansion has Begun. Al-Hamdulillah
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Virtues of Ramadan (cont'd)

Aisha said, "I asked the Messenger of Allah concerning the ayah, 'and those who dispense their charity and their hearts tremble with fear.' Are they the ones who drink alcohol and steal?" He said, "No, O daughter of al-Siddeeq. Rather, they are the ones who fast and pray and give in charity, yet fear that it won't be accepted from them. They are the ones who rush to do good deeds, and they are the first to do them." [al-Tirmidhi]

Ramadan's uniqueness lies in the acceptance of supplications. The Prophet (SAW) assured that the prayers of a fasting person when breaking the fast, a just ruler, and an oppressed person are not rejected. Therefore, we are encouraged to increase our dua', pouring our sincere requests to Allah.

The Prophet (SAW) said, "Three people will not have their supplications rejected: a fasting person when he breaks his fast, a just ruler, and an oppressed person."

The essence of Ramadan is forgiveness. As Abdullah Ibn 'Amr Ibn al-'Aas (RA) revealed, a supplication upon breaking the fast is accepted. When Abdullah broke his fast, he would say, "O Allah, I ask of You by Your mercy that encompasses everything, to forgive me."

Aisha sought guidance on the Night of Power (Lailatul Qadr), a night better than a thousand months. The Prophet (SAW) taught her to implore, 'O Allah, You are the one who forgives and loves to pardon, so forgive me.' Ramadan acts as expiation (kaffarah) for sins committed since the previous Ramadan, except major sins without repentance.

Lailatul Qadr, described by Muhammad (SAW), appears on a serene, tranquil, pleasant, clear, and illuminated night, neither hot nor cold, neither windy nor rainy. The sun rises in the

morning without rays, looking like a huge bright full moon. Supplications during this night are believed to be answered, making it opportune to seek forgiveness and good health, as recommended by the Prophet (SAW). However, one may request anything during this auspicious occasion.

'Itikaf (spiritual Retreat): The Prophet (SAW) exemplified devotion by observing 'Itikaf (retreat) at the masjid during the last 10 days of Ramadan, dedicating all his time to the worship of Allah (SWT) until his passing. To maximize the benefits of Ramadan, it is highly recommended to immerse oneself in constant worship during its concluding days and nights.

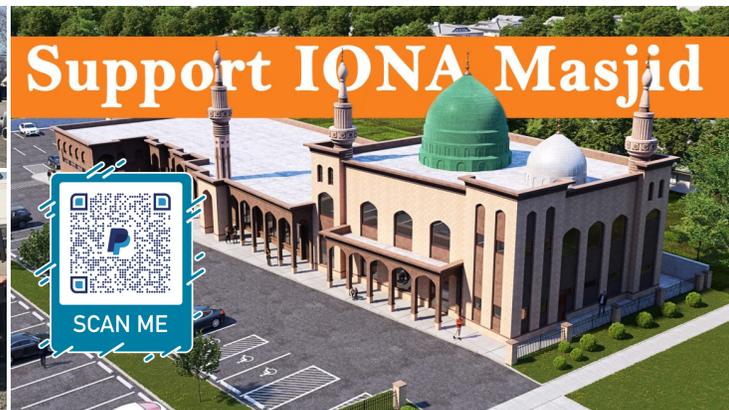
Engaging in additional prayers (salah nafilah), reciting the Qur'an, practicing zikr, supplications, and other forms of worship can deepen one's connection with Allah (SWT).

Lastly, Allah (SWT) explicitly states the purpose of fasting: 'O you who believe, fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may attain taqwa.' (2:183) Taqwa encompasses righteousness, piety, Godliness, consciousness of God, and God-fearing. This essence defines Ramadan, where the fasting person's awareness of God intensifies, drawing closer to the Lord through nighttime remembrance (zikr). Ultimately, it is those who attain taqwa who will be granted admission to Paradise, as it is prepared exclusively for the righteous and God-fearing.

May Allah (SWT) accept our fasts, prayers, and every good deed performed throughout this blessed month. Ameen.

Wishing you a joyous and blessed Ramadan, filled with spiritual growth and closeness to Allah.

Mustapha Elturk, Ameer of IONA



Suggested Worship in Ramadan for Non-Fasting Women

1. Listen to the Quran

"The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for mankind, and clear proofs of the guidance, and the Criterion (of right and wrong)." [alBaqara: 185]

A woman who is unable to fast should listen to the Quran as much as possible, while simultaneously pondering about its deep meanings. She should cry when she hears about the eternal punishment, hoping that Allah will save her from its blazing flames. She should feel happiness and joy when hearing about the bounties of Paradise and desire that Allah will make her of those that will be honored to experience its bliss. If she cannot cry, then she should force herself to cry, allowing her entire soul to express its complete pleasure of being from those who follow the truth and are rightly guided.

In the Hanafi madhhab, it is prohibited to actually touch the mushaf (bound Arabic Quran), including its insides, its page margins and its cover (if it is attached to the mushaf). It is also prohibited to recite the Quran, which means to move one's lips while producing sound. [ibn Abidin, Radd al-Muhtar] It is sinful to touch a translation or a tafsir of the Quran while menstruating.

It is permissible to read the Arabic script or its translation with her eyes, such as on a computer screen or other electronic devices. [ibn Abidin, Manhal al-Waridin] She can also read the Quran in her heart.

2. Make Much Remembrance (Dhikr) of Allah

"...and men who remember Allah much and women who remember – Allah hath prepared for them forgiveness and a vast reward." [Al-Ahzab: 35]

She should use every free moment to exalt the Lord of the Worlds. There are many related dhikrs that a woman can recite. She should buy a supplication (dua) book and recite its invocations as it will strengthen her relationship with her Lord and draw her nearer to Him with each word uttered.

If the invocations include Quranic verses that contain the meanings of supplication, praise, remembrance, or protection, it is permissible to say these during a state of menstruation upon the condition that it is read with this intention.

In the Hanafi madhhab, it is an overall recommendation that a menstruating woman make ablution (wudu) for each prayer time, sit in her usual place of worship, and make dhikr for the time it takes for her to normally pray so that she does not lose her habit of worship while in this state. [ibn Abidin, Manhal al-Waridin]

3. Send Blessings on the Prophet (SAW)

Allah says in the Quran, *"Lo! Allah and His angels shower blessings on the Prophet. O ye who believe! Ask blessings on him and salute him with a worthy salutation."* [Al-Ahzab: 56]

She seeks the tremendous benefit of sending blessings and praise (salawat) upon the Prophet (SAW) because it is an act that increases her love for him. She reflects upon his nature and expresses her gratitude to Allah for sending mankind such a wonderful example of mercy and piety. She longs to meet him and to drink from his pond (hawd) on the Day of Judgment. She intends to follow him and emulate his character.

4. Give Generously In Charity

The Prophet (SAW) said, "The best charity is that given in Ramadan." [al-Tirmidhi]

She should reach into her pocket and give whatever she can without hesitation. She longs to give to those in need, and she thanks Allah for bestowing upon her the financial ability to help others. She refrains from praising herself for the charity she offers but rather, she donates her wealth out of pure submission to the Divine.

5. Be Kind to Others, Including Family Members

The Companion Salman al-Farasi related that the Prophet (SAW) said about Ramadan in a sermon given on the last day of Sha'ban, "...It is a month of patience and the reward of patience is Paradise..." [Sahih ibn Khuzayma; Sayuti, al-Jami' al-Kabir; Bayhaqi, Shu'ab al-Iman]

She uses this time to rebuild and mend any broken relationships. She showers her loved ones with words and acts of gentleness, compassion, consideration, patience, and love. She doesn't use her menstruation as an 'excuse' to wrong others and resort to bad temper. She forgives those that have mistreated or offended her. She prays that Allah will forgive her if she wronged others. She keeps the company of the righteous and those who will increase her in piety.

6. Make Dua for the Ummah

The Prophet (SAW) said about Ramadan, "Verily, Allah frees people (from the Hellfire) in every day and every night and for each Muslim among them is a supplication which will be answered." [Ahmad]

She supplicates for the entire ummah – praying for their forgiveness, their well-being, and Allah's mercy upon them. She can say a dua related by the scholar al-Khurkhi: *Allahumma Aslih Ummat Muhammad. Allahumma Farrij 'an Ummat Muhammad. Allahumma Irham Ummat Muham-mad.* "O Allah, improve the community of Muhammad. O Allah, relieve the community of Muhammad. O Allah, have mercy on the community of Muhammad."

7. Make Much Repentance

The Companion Salman al-Farasi related that the Prophet (SAW) said about Ramadan in a sermon given on the last day of Sha'ban, "...It is a month (in which) the first of it is mercy, and the middle of it is forgiveness, and the last of it is pardon from the Fire..." [Sahih ibn Khuzayma; Sayuti, al-Jami' al-Kabir; Bayhaqi, Shi'b al-Iman] She asks Allah to pardon her, cover her sins, and save her from the Hell-fire. She begs for forgiveness and realizes her absolute neediness to His mercy. She wakes up in the middle of the night, even though she is menstruating, and repents in a time when Allah promises to forgive.

8. Feed Fasting People

The Prophet (SAW) also said in the aforementioned sermon, "...Whoever feeds a fasting person in (the month of Ramadan), for him is the forgiveness of his sins and freeing his neck from the Fire..." [Sahih ibn Khuzayma; Sayuti, al-Jami' al-Kabir; Bayhaqi, Shi'b al-Iman]

| Continued on the next page

Ongoing Programs



- Noor Circle is a program for girls aged 7-12 that takes place bi-weekly, catering to 20-25 young girls in our community!
 - Ramadan Qiyam at IONA is coming up - stay tuned for the release of the flyer. Our Qiyams host 70-100 participants each time!
 - Mommy & Me is going on every Wednesday for mothers and their beautiful children to come together and bond at the Youth Lounge!
 - Brothers Basketball is catering to 48 participants. Playoffs start after Ramadan!
 - We just had a Ramadan Prep session with Mufti Riyadh hosting over 50 participants
- #TheSocial will have an Eid Dinner coming up for young sisters on May 4th - it's the biggest event for #TheSocial for the year!
 - The Hangout had a great turn out for the Superbowl Watch Party, where brothers gathered and had a blast!
 - Faith and Fitness is still a safe environment for sisters to come together and work out in a private space, happening on Mondays!
 - Junior Seekers is going strong with its fourth semester, catering to 50+ young boys and girls, aged 7-13, on a weekly basis, teaching them the foundational knowledge of Islam.
 - As this all continues, the Training Team at YOU is providing continuous training and support towards their volunteers to ensure their educational, organizational, and spiritual goal!
 - Last but not least, if you'd like to see our programs continue and would like to support, YOU will be fundraising this Ramadan, so be sure to support us! We will be at IONA on March 29th to fundraise before terawih!
 - If you'd like to volunteer with Youth of Ummah, contact Br Sayed at 313.529.7998.

Suggested Worship in Ramadan for Non-Fasting Women (cont'd)

She hosts her relatives, friends or community members for iftar. She tries to accommodate her guests in the best manner possible but avoids excessiveness. She realizes that feeding fasting people is an act of worship and it is not an opportunity to seek compliments for her cooking and hospitality.

9. Show Allah Goodness

The Messenger of Allah (SAW) said, "Ramadan has come to you. (It is) a month of blessing, in which Allah covers you with blessing, for He sends down Mercy, decreases sins and answers prayers. In it, Allah looks at your competition (in good deeds), and boasts about you to His angels. So show Allah goodness from yourselves, for the unfortunate one is he who is deprived in (this month) of the mercy of Allah." [Tabarani]

She utilizes her free time to help and assist others with their needs. She is a means for them to achieve benefit in this great month. She wakes her family up to perform worship in the night and encourages them to do extra works of obedience. She sacrifices her own time to volunteer at her Islamic community center or local charities. She helps babysit a mother's child so that the mother can attend tarawih. She does whatever she can to aid the believers in completing the good with excellence.

She avoids looking at and listening to what is unlawful. Instead, she directs her eyes, ears, and spirit to that which is advantageous for her Hereafter. She attends classes, webinars, and lectures given by recognized scholars in an effort to surround herself with people of sound religion. She seeks beneficial knowledge and aims to implement what she's learned in her own life. She actively pursues furthering her understanding of Islam and affirms her faith every time the wisdom of this great religion touches her heart.

Courtesy of seekershub.org

Advertisements

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IONA masjid is thrilled to announce the launch of our exclusive catering service for substantial orders, perfect for private gatherings and major events like weddings and graduations. Our culinary team, led by experienced commercial chefs, will expertly prepare a delightful selection of Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Indian cuisine.

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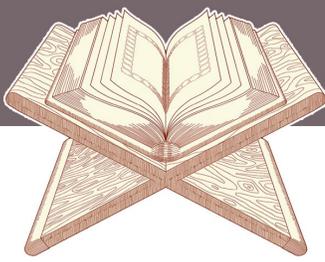
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By giving your generous contribution to IONA masjid, you can empower the heart of our community, fostering spiritual growth, educational opportunities, and a place of solace for all. Together, let's build a stronger foundation of faith and service. Donate to the masjid today and make a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals.

RAMADAN (MARCH/APRIL) 2024

IONA Masjid - Salah and Iqamah Timing

Date		Ramadan	Imsak~	Fajr	Iqamah	Sunrise	Zuhr	Iqamah	Asr (S)*	Asr (H)*	Iqamah	Maghrib	Iqamah	Isha	Iqamah
# Sun	10														
Mon	11	1	6:14	6:19	6:45	7:49	1:47	2:00	4:58	5:47	6:15	7:36	7:41	8:52	9:15
Tue	12	2	6:13	6:18	6:45	7:48	1:47	2:00	4:59	5:49	6:15	7:39	7:44	8:54	9:15
Wed	13	3	6:11	6:16	6:45	7:46	1:46	2:00	5:00	5:49	6:15	7:40	7:45	8:55	9:15
Thu	14	4	6:09	6:14	6:45	7:44	1:46	2:00	5:01	5:50	6:15	7:41	7:46	8:56	9:15
Fri	15	5	6:08	6:13	6:45	7:43	1:46	2:00	5:01	5:51	6:15	7:42	7:47	8:57	9:15
Sat	16	6	6:06	6:11	6:45	7:41	1:46	2:00	5:02	5:52	6:15	7:44	7:49	8:58	9:15
Sun	17	7	6:04	6:09	6:45	7:39	1:45	2:00	5:03	5:53	6:15	7:45	7:50	8:59	9:15
Mon	18	8	6:03	6:08	6:45	7:37	1:45	2:00	5:03	5:54	6:15	7:46	7:51	9:00	9:15
Tue	19	9	6:01	6:06	6:30	7:36	1:45	2:00	5:04	5:55	6:15	7:47	7:52	9:01	9:15
Wed	20	10	5:59	6:04	6:30	7:34	1:44	2:00	5:05	5:56	6:15	7:48	7:53	9:02	9:30
Thu	21	11	5:58	6:03	6:30	7:32	1:44	2:00	5:05	5:57	6:15	7:49	7:54	9:03	9:30
Fri	22	12	5:56	6:01	6:30	7:31	1:44	2:00	5:06	5:58	6:15	7:50	7:55	9:04	9:30
Sat	23	13	5:54	5:59	6:30	7:29	1:44	2:00	5:06	5:58	6:15	7:52	7:57	9:05	9:30
Sun	24	14	5:52	5:57	6:30	7:27	1:43	2:00	5:07	5:59	6:15	7:53	7:58	9:06	9:30
Mon	25	15	5:50	5:55	6:30	7:25	1:43	2:00	5:07	6:00	6:15	7:54	7:59	9:07	9:30
Tue	26	16	5:48	5:53	6:30	7:24	1:43	2:00	5:08	6:01	6:15	7:55	8:00	9:08	9:30
Wed	27	17	5:46	5:51	6:30	7:22	1:42	2:00	5:08	6:02	6:15	7:56	8:01	9:09	9:30
Thu	28	18	5:44	5:49	6:15	7:20	1:42	2:00	5:09	6:03	6:15	7:57	8:02	9:10	9:30
Fri	29	19	5:42	5:47	6:15	7:18	1:42	2:00	5:10	6:03	6:15	7:58	8:03	9:11	9:30
Sat	30	20	5:40	5:45	6:15	7:17	1:41	2:00	5:10	6:04	6:15	8:00	8:05	9:11	9:45
Sun	31	21	5:38	5:43	6:15	7:15	1:41	2:00	5:11	6:05	6:15	8:01	8:06	9:12	9:45
Mon	1	22	5:36	5:41	6:15	7:13	1:41	2:00	5:11	6:06	6:30	8:02	8:07	9:13	9:45
Tue	2	23	5:34	5:39	6:15	7:12	1:41	2:00	5:11	6:07	6:30	8:03	8:08	9:14	9:45
Wed	3	24	5:32	5:37	6:15	7:10	1:40	2:00	5:12	6:07	6:30	8:04	8:09	9:15	9:45
Thu	4	25	5:30	5:35	6:15	7:08	1:40	2:00	5:12	6:08	6:30	8:05	8:10	9:16	9:45
Fri	5	26	5:28	5:33	6:15	7:06	1:40	2:00	5:13	6:09	6:30	8:06	8:11	9:17	9:45
Sat	6	27	5:26	5:31	6:15	7:05	1:39	2:00	5:13	6:10	6:30	8:08	8:13	9:18	9:45
Sun	7	28	5:25	5:30	6:00	7:03	1:39	2:00	5:14	6:10	6:30	8:09	8:14	9:19	9:45
Mon	8	29	5:23	5:28	6:00	7:01	1:39	2:00	5:14	6:11	6:30	8:10	8:15	9:20	9:45
Tue	9	30	5:21	5:26	6:00	7:00	1:39	2:00	5:15	6:12	6:30	8:11	8:16	9:21	9:45
Wed	10		EID	5:24	6:00	6:58	1:38	2:00	5:15	6:13	6:30	8:12	8:17	9:22	9:45

Daylight Saving time will begin at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 10, 2024

~ Imsak means to stop eating and drinking when Fajr starts.

* S = Shafi'i, H = Hanafi | Athan is 10 minutes before Iqamah except for Maghrib
 First Friday sermon starts at 12:10 PM and second sermon is at 1:20 PM

Phase I of the Expansion has Begun, al-Hamdulillah.
Please consider a portion of your zakah or donation to IONA. <http://www.ionamasjid.org>

