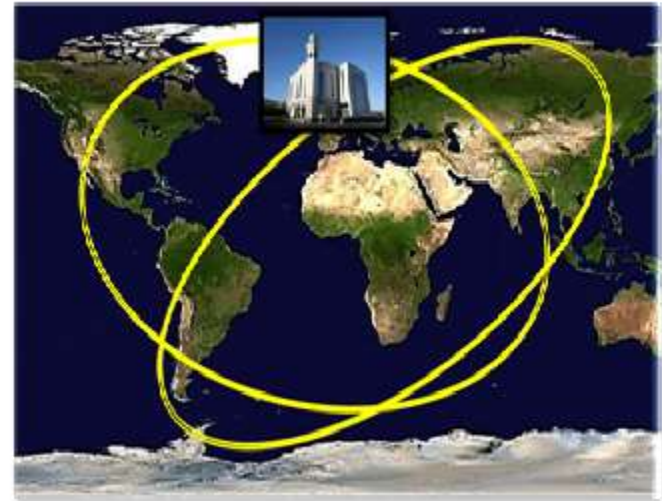


Harnessing the blessings of Ramadhan



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**relayed live all across the
globe**


June 19th 2015

Harnessing the blessings of Ramadhan


Summary




Righteousness is fear of God and as long as we have it, God will cover our shortcomings and our sins.



The impetus for fasting is to adopt righteousness and avoid spiritual and moral weaknesses.



Those who are eager to come in the refuge of God need to spend their time praying with extreme humbleness and humility.



Progress of members of Jama'at translates into progress of Jama'at.



May we become like the handful of pebbles of Badr.

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Righteousness

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said that there is an hour on Friday when whatever a true believer supplicates gains acceptance by God.

During this month doors to Paradise are opened while doors to Hell are shut.

God's grace and mercy is particularly stirred in Ramadhan and true believers are showered with blessings.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said there are some conditions to attract God's grace.

Ramadhan

Triumph of
Islam

Repentance

Prayers

One should shun idle, vulgar matters and chaos, eschew using abusive language and getting involved in altercations

And should respond to all evil with:
I am fasting and I am eschewing all this for the sake of God.

This would make one fast in the true spirit.

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God has tied the significance of Ramadhan with acceptance of prayer in the following verse

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ
أَجِيبْ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ
فَلَيْسَ سَمْعِي إِلَىٰ وَوَيْلٌ لِّمَنْ أَلْفَمَهُ
يُرْسِدُونَ ﴿١٨٧﴾

And when My servants ask thee about Me, say: I am near. I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me. So they should hearken to Me and believe in Me, that they may follow the right way. [2:187]

Fridays during Ramadhan are of enhanced significance but God has not pinpointed the hour during Friday when supplications gain acceptance, thus emphasising that supplications should be made night and day.

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The main prayer of a believer should be made with humility to be included

Among those whose prayers of night and day are accepted all the time and not only in Ramadhan; so that one may be permanently guided.

Righteousness

Ramadhan

During Ramadhan God puts Satan in fetters, opens doors to Paradise and comes closer to man.

Fridays during Ramadhan should be fully availed of. Thus his practice remains the same although his apparent assertion has changed.

Triumph of Islam

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The impetus for fasting is to adopt righteousness and avoid spiritual and moral weaknesses

Prayers

This signifies having correct morals and maturity of senses on a permanent basis.

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Some people assume that God comes closer to man during Ramadhan so praying during this month is sufficient. This is a misleading thought.

Ramadhan is a month of countless blessings but these blessings are given to those who follow the commandments of God and enhance in faith.

Those who are restless to come in the refuge of God need to spend their time praying with extreme humbleness and humility.

One should seek God's closeness with complete and utter humility.

Man can only gain nearness to God when he abandons all else except God and turns only to Him with humility.

It should be understood very well that the objective can only be attained with righteousness and piety leading us to enjoy personal as well as communal fruits of success that God has destined.

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Harnessing the blessings of Ramadhan

We should pray during Ramadhan for ourselves, our near and dear ones and for members of the Jama'at that may everyone attain righteousness and fear of God.

Righteousness

Man does wrong and man sins but as long as he has fear of God and acknowledges his wrongs and has righteousness,

Ramadhan

God covers his sins and wrongs and ultimately enables him to repent.

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If we pray for each other with compassion angels will join in our prayers.

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What is righteousness?

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God keeps His sense of honour for our love for Him and does not let us go to waste and enables us to repent.

It is fear of God and as long as we have righteousness God will cover our shortcomings and our sins

If weakness leads us to sin but is followed by fear of God, God forgives us.

Fear of God is love of God and as long as we have it we will be saved from ruination.

God knows what is in hearts and none can deceive Him.

If man discards the very essence of righteousness and rejects it, he is punished.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) who repeatedly told us to abide us by righteousness.

We are most fortunate that we accepted the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace)

After him we have been given a spiritual system [of Khilafat] which reminds us time and again regarding the essence of righteousness.

Ramadhan too comes each year to nourish and sustain this essence.

Everyone should try and avail the beneficence of this sacred month and become servant of God.

God's love is greater than mother love. He is ever looking out for man to repent so that God may forgive him.

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The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said that man's repentance pleases God more than a person who finds his lost she-camel in wilderness.

If man turns to God with the intention to repent during Ramadhan, God runs to that person.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said

God says if man comes one span nearer to Me, I go one yard closer to him

And if he comes one hand span closer to Me, I go a distance of two hand spans

And if he comes to Me walking, I go to him running.

Thus if man does not avail of so many ways and means that God has put in place to seek His pleasure then it is nothing but man's own hard-heartedness.

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We cannot imagine or indeed explain the love God has for us.

Indeed the aforementioned hadith creates a most excellent concept of God's love

Yet it is not possible for us to really encompass God's love.

Our knowledge is weak and limited

we cannot even know what is in hearts of other people.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) tried to explain God's love to us through examples and analogies.

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Righteousness

God is as grieved as the mother of the missing child when a person is lost due to his mistakes or sins.

And when that person repents and returns to God, God is happier than the woman who found her lost child.

When the enemy was completely defeated in the Battle of Badr a woman was found fearlessly going around the battlefield. She would pick up any child she saw and then put it down.

Ramadhan

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said, this woman has lost her child.

Eventually the woman found her child, she embraced him and with complete abandon sat down with him with no thought of the dangers around her

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The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said, you see with such satisfaction she sat down once she found her child while beforehand she was extremely anxious.

Prayers

It is the same with God and His love for man.

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One of God's name is *Sattar* (Coverer of faults). This Divine attribute signifies an intense quality to cover other's faults.

Our God is always ready to forgive providing we are also ready to be forgiven. Any negligence is on our part.

Hazrat Musleh Maud (may Allah be pleased with him) said not only God's forgiveness covers one's sins but it also forgets the sin/wrongdoing and makes people forget it too.

God's forgiveness covers the person who turns to God and seeks forgiveness for his sins.



People can cover faults and sins of others but they cannot make people forget them



whereas God can remove the memory of sins committed by people from the minds of others.

If God was not *Sattar* man would not even have peace in Paradise. Our God not only covers our faults He also effaces our sins and restores our respect.

How much sacrifice should we be making to go to such a Loving God, to become His servant and indeed to run to Him

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said his progress and triumph was through prayers.

Satan waylays at every corner but we will contend with him and fail his every attack by coming into God's refuge.

Becoming a true servant of God will be truly availing the blessed month of Ramadhan.

Progress of members of Jama'at translates into progress of Jama'at.

We should turn to God and seek progress of our Jama'at and pray fervently during these days.

It will benefit us on a personal as well as communal level.

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We are indeed humble and weak and acknowledge our incompetence. However, we are the people on whom God has placed the responsibility to attain a magnificent objective which is not possible without His grace.

Righteousness

We should be grateful to the favour of God of including us in the Jama'at.

Ramadhan

We should not limit our prayers to ourselves and our near and dear ones. Rather we need to intensively widen the scope of our prayers

Then alone will we be paying the dues of being part of the Jama'at of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace)

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God has placed a huge responsibility on us as Ahmadis for which the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) drew attention of his Jama'at to prayers.

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Hazrat Musleh Maud (may Allah be pleased with him) said if we are in fact weak and the task assigned to us is very difficult then how can we do this task?

It will have to be acknowledged that besides our efforts God has put other sources in place for the task to be completed.

It is God Who is going to fulfil the objective and Islam Ahmadiyyat is going to triumph in any which way, there is no doubt whatsoever in this.

And for the attainment of this God has taught us the means of prayer.

Our task will not come to completion through our efforts alone

Although in obedience with God's will we are ever ready for sacrifice.

We pray to God that with His grace He helps us through His hidden sources which He has willed.

The fact is that God has made us the apparent source whereas the real source which will bring about triumph is something else.

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Hazrat Musleh Maud (may Allah be pleased with him) said an analogy of our situation can be drawn to when during the Battle of Badr

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) threw a handful of pebbles at the enemy

But God stated that what followed was not due to his throwing pebbles rather it was from God

That a fierce wind started which blew off millions of pebbles from the ground in the eyes of the disbelievers.

Behind the handful of pebbles thrown by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) was working God's power.

We too are like the pebbles of Badr, the pebbles which the fierce wind blew off blinding the disbelievers.

God has put other arrangements in place to bring about the triumph of Islam and those arrangements are prayers of God's servants which attract God's grace and turn the impossible into the possible.

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We should especially pray a lot during these days of Ramadan for the triumph of Islam.

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Righteousness

May God overlook our negligence and mistakes and make such arrangements that we attain our objective.

May our negligence never be a source of joy for others and with His grace, may God strengthen our weak hands to do the task that needs doing.

May we become like the handful of pebbles of Badr.

Ramadhan

May each one of us become a sincere servant of Islam

May love and ardour of God become our sustenance

May God strengthen our weak hands to do the task that needs doing.

May we love piety and everything good and may righteousness be instilled in us firmly

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Prayers

The world is fast denying the existence of God, may it recognise God.

May God make us truly attain all of this during this Ramadan

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