

All praise are due to Allah (s.w.t), and I bear witness that there is no God worthy of worship except Allah (s.w.t), and I bear witness that Mohammad (s.a.w) is His Servant and Messenger.

Brothers and Sisters in Islam!

It is time once again to remind ourselves of the nearing approach of the month of blessings, favours and Khairat, the month of Saûm, Qiyam and extra recitation of the Noble Quran, the month of Ramadan which we must receive with the full respect and honour this month deserves from all Muslims. And we can do so by following the teachings of the Prophet (s.a.w) such as avoiding the fast (Saûm) on the ‘doubtful day’ which refers to the 30<sup>th</sup> of Sha’ban when no confirmation was established of sighting the moon on 29<sup>th</sup> of Sha’ban, it is prohibited to observe Saûm (fast) on that day.

Reported by Imams Abu-Dawûd and At-Tirmidhi (r.a) in an authentic Hadith, Ammar Ibn Yair (r.a) narrated: *“He who observes Saûm (fast) on a doubtful day has in fact disobeyed Abul-Passim (I.e. the Messenger of Allah (s.w.t)).”* -Riyad 1232

Furthermore, and to be on the safe side of fasting, the Prophet (s.a.w) has commanded his followers not to observe Saûm (fast) after the middle of Sha’ban till Ramadan and was more strict towards the last few days of Sha’ban.

Reported by Imams Al-Bukhari and Muslim (r.a.), Abu-Hurairah (r.a) relates that the Prophet (s.a.w) said: *“Do not observe Saûm (fasting) for a day or two days before (preceding) Ramadan. However, if a person is in the habit of observing Saûm on a particular day (which may fall on these days) he may fast on that day.”* -Riyad 1229

Brothers and Sisters in Islam!

With Ramadan the Sunnah of Salat-ul-Taraweeh which is performed every night of Ramadan after the prayer of Isha’, it was known as Riyam Ramadan then it attracted the name of Taraweeh. This Nafl salat (At-Taraweeh) was performed by the Prophet (s.a.w) individually and in Jama’h (congregation), and it is good to perform Taraweeh in Jama’h at the Masjid. In the past, this Nafl salat was offered as eight Rak’ah, Twenty Rak’ah and thirty-six Rak’ah, so the number of Rak’ah must not be a matter for dispute. After all it is a Nafl salat and no Muslim will be accountable for not even praying Taraweeh at all, but the question is can any Muslim afford to lose or miss out on the great reward set aside for those who perform Taraweeh? I don’t think so.

Reported by Imam Muslim (r.a) narrated Abu-Hurairah (r.a): The Messenger of Allah (s.w.t) encourage (persuade or urge) the people to offer and perform Nafl salat at night in Ramadan (optional Taraweeh) without commanding them to perform it as an obligatory act. He (s.a.w) said: *“Whoever performs night prayer (i.e. Taraweeh) during the month of Ramadan out of sincerity of Faith and in hope of earning merit (or receiving Allah’s (s.w.t) reward) all his past sins will be forgiven.”* -Riyad 1193

Brothers and Sisters in Islam!

In the month of Ramadan Muslims should compete in offering all kinds of good deeds such as Salat, sadaqat (charity), Dhikr (remembrance) of Allah (s.w.t), extra recitation of the Noble Quran, feeding and clothing of the poor and needy wherever they may live, and to race in the many different ways of Al-Khairat (good virtues) because good deeds are multiplied many, many times over in Ramadan, and the race is on for every Muslim to do within his ability.

Allah (s.w.t) says -meaning-: *“It is these who hasten in every good work, and they are foremost in them. On no soul do We place a burden greater than it can bear, and before Us is a Record which clearly speaks the truth and they will never be wronged.”* -23/61-62

Brothers and Sisters in Islam,

Get ready, from now, for Ramadan and do not waste any of your time during the limited number of Days Ramadan has on offer.