



# EXCITING TIME

Often people cannot contain their excitement as some eagerly anticipated event draws closer. Imagine a most dear child or beloved spouse returning home after a year abroad! As the day of arrival draws closer, the happiness and excitement would be sensed all around. Let alone any significant occasion such as a nikaah, graduation, etc., people often cannot even contain their excitement as a planned holiday or fishing trip draws closer! More than a thousand times greater excitement is experienced by the true lovers of Allah Ta'ala as they eagerly anticipate the arrival of the most noble guest – the most blessed month of Ramadhan.

## SIGN OF IMAAN

Excitedly awaiting Ramadhan is a sign of imaan. Upon sighting the moon of Rajab – two months prior to Ramadhan – Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) would express his zeal for Ramadhan by making du'aa, "O Allah, enable us to reach (be alive in) Ramadhan." Subhanallah! This du'aa is infused with excitement and eager anticipation for the blessed month.

People plan well for any upcoming, exciting occasion. Depending on the occasion, much time, effort and money will be spent in preparation for the exciting event. Often, many of those "exciting" events become more of a headache than really bringing joy and happiness. Yet, the preparation is never compromised.

Ramadhan is almost here. Are we excited? Are we eagerly counting down to the 29<sup>th</sup> of Sha'baan? Will we search for the hilaal (new moon) of Ramadhan with bated breath, hoping it will be sighted so that the great month could commence and its blessings could shower down upon this Ummah? Let us search our hearts. Are we more

excited about the advent of Ramadhan than our holidays and other such events, or is it somewhat burdensome on us? If it is the latter, we have much effort to make on our imaan!

An occasion which is in reality a trillion times – nay countless times – happier and greater than any holiday or fishing trip, the month of Ramadhan too deserves proper prior planning and preparation. The following are some brief guidelines to prepare properly for this most exciting occasion:

**CLEAN-UP:** Just as much cleaning up takes place for many occasions, the clean up of our hearts is essential in order to receive the blessings of Ramadhan. Sincere taubah and istighfaar must be made in abundance. Repent from all sins immediately. Shed tears of deep remorse for having trampled the laws of our Creator and resolve not to return to them. Consciously repent from all sins, especially from the sins of the eyes, ears, tongue and heart (such as jealousy, malice, pride, riyaa [ostentation], etc.). Also, repent from those sins which have become common and are often not even regarded as sins by many, such as non-observance of proper hijab (purdah) from all non-mahrams (including cousins, brothers/sisters-in-law, etc.), immodest/Western style dressing and other such misdeeds as well. This clean up is essential to receive the blessings of Ramadhan.

**LINK-UP:** Link up with Allah Ta'ala through du'aa. Daily beg for His special help to engage correctly in the month of Ramadhan and to be blessed with the object of Ramadhan – the wealth of taqwa. Beseech Allah Ta'ala to be protected from all sin and every futile action in this most mubaarak time.

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# EXCITING TIME

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The following du'aa should also be made abundantly:

اَللّٰهُمَّ سَلِّمْ لِيْ رَمَضَانَ وَسَلِّمْ رَمَضَانَ لِيْ وَسَلِّمْهُ لِيْ مُتَقَبَّلًا

*"O Allah! Safeguard me for Ramadhan, safeguard Ramadhan for me and accept it from me." (Kitaabud Du'aa - Tabraani #912)*

**WARM-UP:** If we wish to do the best in Ramadhan, the warm-up must begin immediately if it has not yet happened. The various aa'maal (such as tilaawat, nafl salaah, du'aa, etc.) should be steadily gaining momentum so that when Ramadhan comes, one is ready and used to engaging in these acts of 'ibaadah. If one does not warm-up in advance, there is a risk of becoming "cold" and slackening in one's aa'maal after a week or two into Ramadhan!

**FINISH-UP:** Try to finish up all work that can be done before Ramadhan so that no time has to be spent for such things in the mubaarak month. Tragically, much time is lost, even in the most important last 10 days of Ramadhan, in 'Eid preparations. Apart from any necessary aspects which cannot be done in advance, all purchases and everything else must be done before the moon of Ramadhan is sighted.

**MAKE-UP:** This "makeup" has got nothing to do with deceptive cosmetics. Make up a PROGRAM and a timetable for the month of Ramadhan. Apportion the maximum time for tilaawat of the Quraan Majeed. Also include time for nafl salaah, tasbeehaat, zikr, du'aa, learning and teaching Deen, khidmat and other acts of righteousness.

**LOCK-UP:** Lock up everything that is not a necessity and could become a distraction in any way, even though it may be something permissible. As for whatever is impermissible, it must be broken up. Totally stop all social media. The very, very least is that a nice message be sent to all the social groups that you are leaving for the month of Ramadhan. Give them du'aas and wish them a blessed Ramadhan of achieving taqwa and exerting in 'ibaadah. Likewise Ramadhan is not a time for hobbies, amusements, entertainment and pastimes. The most precious time of Ramadhan will certainly pass. However, if we engage in pastimes in this blessed month, we could dismally fail.

Thus, the excitement for the month of Ramadhan would now be bubbling in the hearts of the Mu'mineen (believers), as this is the month during which they will insha-Allah develop a special connection with their Rabb.

*May Allah Ta'ala bless us with taqwa and make us among His true lovers, aameen.*

# COMFORT ZONE?

**R**amadhan 1441 (2020) was indeed very unusual. It was a Ramadhan in lockdown – something never experienced before in South Africa and many other parts of the world.

Due to lockdown regulations most people were generally confined to their homes. Businesses could not be opened nor could workers go to their jobs. Many were in dire circumstances since they could not earn their livelihoods.

A much greater tragedy was that most people had no access to the masjid. Some made Jumu'ah Salaah in small groups here and there while most tragically, thousands missed their Jumu'ah Slaah altogether.

*Innaa lillahi wa innaa ilaihi raaji'oon!*

Likewise, thousands all around the world were unable to perform the great 'ibaadah of l'tikaaf.

While those who could not make it to the masjid due to the lockdown regulations will not be taken to account for this, however this situation gradually created a "comfort zone" for many.

There was no leaving the home for salaah, iftaar was enjoyed in ease and comfort since there was no rush to catch the Maghrib Salaah with jamaat, and Taraweeh Salaah was short and quick since there was no Haafiz to make khatam of the Quraan Majeed.

At present, it is likely that Shaitaan may try to push us back into that "comfort zone" in order to deprive us and break our link to the House of Allah Ta'ala.

Those who could not go to their businesses, offices and jobs did not have the early morning rush to work

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# THIRD WAVE

**Q** The second wave of the Corona virus is still around and we are told that a third wave is coming. This is very stressful and is making me feel very down. When will these waves stop?

**A** If there is no ocean or huge mass of water, there will be no waves. Likewise, if the ocean of sins is evaporated through sincere repentance and spiritual reformation, the waves of pandemics and calamities will stop.

Many aayaat (verses) of the Quraan Majeed and numerous ahaadeeth clearly highlight the link between sins and calamities. In particular, blatant immorality and shamelessness result in plagues and pandemics.

Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) is reported to have said: ***"Whenever immorality will become rife in a community and people will blatantly indulge in shamelessness, then plagues will afflict them and such illnesses will spread which their forefathers had never heard off"***. (Sunan Ibn iMaajah #4019) It is also reported in another hadeeth that when oppression becomes widespread, deaths will occur in massive numbers.

The tragic reality is that the viruses of immoral conduct, shameless dressing and illicit behaviour have become a pandemic. Hardly any place on earth has been spared from the effects of the immorality that is spreading like wildfire. This has resulted in the pandemic that has gripped the world in its tentacles.

The **actual underlying reason** for the pandemic is not related to any medical or health issues nor is it related to political subterfuge and deceit. Any such aspects are merely the apparent means. As believers, we have total conviction in the words of Allah Ta'ala in His Glorious Quraan: ***"And whatever calamity befalls you, it is the (result of) what your hands have earned (your actions)"***. (Surah Shoora v. 30)

Sins, in general, have a devastating effect on the individual as well as the society in general. Among the effects of sin, which have been mentioned in various ahaadeeth, are the following:

- The sinner is deprived of rizq (sustenance).
- People begin to dislike the sinner (though

the apparent reason may be something else or they may not even be able to identify a specific reason).

- Things become difficult in general.
- There is a general feeling of despair, etc.

The pandemic will only stop and the "waves" will come to an end when the Being Who sent it takes it away. Allah Ta'ala declares in His Glorious Quraan: ***"And if Allah Ta'ala afflicts you with harm, there is none who can remove it except Him"***. (Surah An'aam v. 17)

The pandemic has come with the command of Allah Ta'ala and only He has the power to remove it. Therefore, we, together with our families, communities and the Ummah at large, must earnestly do that which will draw down His mercy and save us all from these calamities. Among the fundamental aspects to be undertaken are the following:

- Make taubah (repent) with deep remorse and regret from all sins and engage in excessive istighfaar (seek forgiveness). Firmly resolve to shun all sin and to lead a life of righteousness. Seek forgiveness for oneself, one's family and on behalf of the entire Ummah.
- Adopt as many sunnahs in one's life as possible. Also, engage in excessive recitation of durood shareef.
- Turn to Allah Ta'ala with utmost humility and keep begging from Him for ease and safety from all calamities.
- Adopt taqwa (consciousness of Allah Ta'ala and refraining from sin) in every aspect of life.
- Give as much sadaqah as possible and help people in need.

*May Allah Ta'ala remove the pandemic and grant ease to the entire mankind.*

## COMFORT ZONE?

(FROM PAGE 2)

or the dash back home to try and make it in time before iftaar. Yet they were not comfortable being at home during the day and were not relaxed. They stayed at home with a very heavy heart and prayed much to be able to get back to their occupations.

Likewise, those who were forced by circumstances to make their salaah at home, should never feel "comfortable" and "relaxed" in doing so. It should have been done with a very heavy heart and a deep sense of loss due to not being able to go to the house of Allah Ta'ala.

Alhamdulillah, thumma Alhamdulillah, the masaajid are once again open. May Allah Ta'ala never deprive us of His house due to our sins. Hence, this Ramadhaan, every salaah must be performed in the masjid with jamaat. In particular, the "relaxed" iftaar at home should not deprive us of Maghrib Salaah with jamaat in the masjid nor should laziness make us lose out on the great rewards of listening to the entire Quraan Majeed in Taraaweesh Salaah.

*May Allah Ta'ala enable us to fulfil the rights of Ramadhaan and may we receive its great blessings and rewards, aameen.*

From the advices of ...

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## FAQEEHUL UMMAH

The sterling advice of *Faqeehul Ummah* Hazrat Mufti Mahmood Saheb (*rahmatullahi 'alaihi*) has helped thousands of people to overcome many problems and difficulties — especially in the line of *islaahun nafs* (inner-self reformation). Hereunder is an answer to a question posed to him.

## DON'T LIE

Bismihi Ta'ala

**Letter:**

Assalaamu 'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakaatuh

In today's times it is not possible to run a business without some degree of lies and forgery. How are we then to earn lawful sustenance?

**Reply:**

Wa'alaikumus salaam warahmatullahi wabarakaatuh

Speaking lies is a sin. We should therefore completely refrain from speaking lies. It is not possible that the one who lies will receive sustenance while the one who speaks the truth will be deprived. When it comes to sustenance, we will definitely receive what is decreed for us and will not receive anything more than that. Therefore, why should one lie and blacken his book of deeds? Shaitaan deceives one into thinking that there is benefit in lying. However if the person to whom one lies is not convinced by the lies and Allah Ta'ala puts it in his heart that you are lying, then of what benefit will the lies be? Instead, the only "benefit" is that one will have to face the evil consequences of lying. May Allah Ta'ala grant us the ability to always speak the truth. (*Maktoobaat vol. 1, pg. 202*)

## PRICELESS RAMADHAAN

Two men, from a certain tribe came to Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) and accepted Islam. After some time, one of them went out in jihaad and was blessed with martyrdom, while the other lived on and passed away a normal death one year later. Sayyiduna Talhah (radhiyallahu 'anhu) thereafter saw a dream in which he was shown that the Sahaabi who had passed away a natural death had surpassed the one who had been martyred!

The Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum) expressed their surprise at this, to which Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi

wasallam) replied, "Did he not live one more year after him? (**Did he not**) see another Ramadhaan in which he fasted? (Did he not) perform so-many more sajdahs (salaah)?" When the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum) replied in the affirmative, Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam) said, "The difference between them is greater than the distance between the sky and the earth!" (*Sunan Ibnu Maajah #3925*)

*May Allah Ta'ala bless us all with the true value of Ramadhaan and may He enable us to take maximum benefit from this blessed month.*