
My Ramadan
'Ibadah (worship)

Time Table

2009 / 1430 AH

Innal-Hamdu lillah was-Salaatu was-Salaam `alaa Rasoolillah

All praise is due to Allah. We praise Him, seek His Aid and ask for His Forgiveness. We seek Refuge in Allah from the evil of ourselves and from the evil of our actions. Whomsoever Allah guides none can misguide, and whomsoever Allah misguides none can guide. I testify that none has the right to be worshiped except Allah SWT having no partners, and I testify that Muhammad (s) is His Servant and Messenger.

Asalaamu'alaykum waRahmatullahi waBarakaatuhu

Contents Page

Glossary	2
Introduction: Ramadan - Fasting during the 9th month of Hijri Calender	2
The Virtues & Benefits of Fasting	4
Making the Intention to fast in Ramadan – Intentions are made in the heart not by the tongue	4
Wake up for Sahoor – finish eating as soon as Fajr start time begins	5
Salaat-ul Fajr (2 rakaats) – to be prayed before Sunrise	5
Al-Qur'aan – Recite, Listen, Ponder and Implement much	5
Salaat-ul Duha – to be prayed before Zawal (Noon)	6
Salaat-ul Dhuhr (4 rakaats)	6
Salaat-ul 'Asr (4 rakaats)	6
Iftar - breaking of the fast	6
Salaat-ul Magrib (3 rakaats)	7
Salaat-ul 'Ishaa (4 rakaats)	7
Tarawih Prayers	7
Make Dua - a conversation between you and Allah	9
Specific Dua's – that the Prophet Muhammad (s) made	9
Tauba and Istighfar	9
Make a lot of Dhikr – remembrance of Allah	10
Seek Knowledge of Islaam - the Qur'aan and authentic Sunnah	11
Keep yourself busy doing good deeds	11
Last 10 days of Ramadan	12
Laylatul-Qadr - Night of Power	12
Eid ul Fitr - the festival of fast breaking	13
After Ramadan	14
Summary	15

Glossary

Dhikr – Remembrance of Allah

Emaan - Faith

Halaal – Lawful things

Haraam – Prohibited things

Hilal – the new moon

Istighfar – Seeking Allah's Forgiveness

Jannah - Paradise

Kufar - Disbelievers

Kufr – disbelief

SWT – Subhanahu wa ta 'ala (Glorified is He and The Exalted)

(s) – Salallahu 'alayhi wasallam (May the peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)

Tawbah - Repentance

Introduction: Ramadan - *Fasting during the 9th month of Hijri Calender*

Fasting is an obligation from Allah, it is one of the 5 pillars of Islaam

Allah says in the interpretation of the meaning: "O you who Believe! Observing al-sawm (the fasting) is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become al-muttaqoon (the pious)." [Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:183]

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "Islam is built upon [the following] five pillars: testifying that there is no God except Allah and that Muhammad is His Messenger, the establishment of the prayer, the giving of zakah, the fast of Ramadan and the pilgrimage to Makkah." [Hadith Bukhari]

Talhah ibn 'Ubaidullah reported that a man came to the Prophet (s) and said: "O Messenger of Allah, tell me what Allah requires of me as regards fasting." He answered, "The month of Ramadan." The man asked: "Is there any other [fast]?" The Prophet answered: "No, unless you do so voluntarily...."

For a Muslim to deny they need to fast in Ramadan is an action of Kufr, but to believe in Ramadan but not fast without any excuse is amongst the Major Sins

Ibn 'Abbas reported that the Prophet said (s): "The bare essence of Islam and the basics of the religion are three [acts], upon which Islam has been established. Whoever leaves one of them becomes an unbeliever and his blood may legally be spilled. [The acts are:] Testifying that there is no God except Allah, the obligatory prayers, and the fast of Ramadan." [Hadith related by Abu Ya'la and ad-Dailimi. Azh-Zhahabi called it sahih.]

Abu Hurairah reported that the Messenger of Allah (s) said: "Whoever breaks his fast during Ramadan without having one of the excuses that Allah would excuse him for, then even a continuous fast, if he were to fast it, would not make up for that day." [Hadith Abu Dawud, Ibn Majah, and atTirmizhi]

One must ensure they keep away from committing haraam actions at all times and even more so while fasting; otherwise all of our fasts could all go to waste

Example – Missing the 5 daily obligatory prayers is from amongst the major sins, so for the one who fasts and does not pray is there any point to this person fasting? Isn't fasting prescribed for us to help us become more pious better Muslims and bring us closer to Allah SWT? Committed 5 major sins in the course of a day is not righteousness. Or for one who fasts while using foul speech or hurting the feelings of others, gossiping, lying, being disrespectful, having un-lawful relations with the opposite gender etc – how can one fast and do these evil deeds at the same time?

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "Whoever does not give up forged speech and evil actions, Allah is not in need of his leaving his food and drink (i.e. Allah will not accept his fasting.)" [Bukhari]

We need to use this blessed Month as a means to get rid of our bad habits and leave doing sinful actions – we need to strive hard to worship Allah in the best of ways and the way He has commanded us - not just in Ramadan but after Ramadan, and until the day we meet our Lord.

The month of Ramadan is confirmed by the sighting of the new moon, or if the moon has not been sighted or there is difficulty in sighting it due to weather etc – it is confirmed by the completion of thirty days of Sha'baan (*Sha'baan is the month before Ramadan*).

The Prophet (s) said: "We are an unlettered nation; we neither write nor calculate. The month is so-much and so-much (i.e. sometimes 29 days, sometimes 30)" [Hadith Bukhari]

Abu Hurairah reported that the Prophet (s) instructed: "Fast after you have seen it [the new crescent] and end the fast [at the end of the month] when you see it [the new crescent]. If it is hidden from you, then wait until the thirty days of Sha'ban have passed." [Hadith Bukhari and Muslim.]

^ This Hadith is a general address directed to all the Muslims throughout the whole Muslim world.

The testimony of sighting the Hilal (crescent of the new moon) can be achieved by:

- (a) Direct sighting, where you see it yourself, or
- (b) Indirect sighting, where someone sees it, and you rely on their sighting.

Ibn 'Umar said: "The people were looking for the new moon and when I reported to the Messenger of Allah that I had seen it, he fasted and ordered the people to fast." [Hadith Abu Dawud, al-Hakim, Ibn Hibban, who declared it sahih]

So whoever sees the Hilal or hears that it has been seen from a trustworthy source (by one adult, sane, trustworthy, reliable Muslim who has good eyesight) – from any part of the world, is obliged to fast.

Narrated Abdullah ibn Abbas: A Bedouin came to the Prophet (s) and said: I have sighted the moon. (Al-Hasan added in his version: "that is, of Ramadan".) He (s) asked: Do you testify that there is no god but Allah? He replied: Yes. He (s) again asked: Do you testify that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah? He replied: Yes, and he testified that he had sighted the moon. He (s) said: Bilal, announce to the people that they must fast tomorrow. [Hadith Sunan Abu-Dawud]

Using calculations to determine the moon is a Bid'aa (innovation)

Definition of Bid'aa: To introduce something new or take something out (e.g. beliefs / actions) from the religion of Islaam, that neither Allah nor His Messenger (s) legislated or have no evidence within the Shari'ah i.e. with no authentic proof from the Qur'aan or Authentic Sunnah (aHadith).

Allah says in the interpretation of the meaning: "This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed my favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islaam as your religion" (5:4)

Allah's Messenger (s) said: "There is nothing that Allaah ordered you with except that I have ordered you with it, and there is nothing that Allaah forbade you from except that I have forbidden you from it" [al-Bayhaqee and others].

^ Allah has perfected our Deen for us and sent to us our Beloved Prophet Muhammad (s) as a guide - with a message for the whole of mankind to show us the right way, the way to Jannah and warn us from the path the to the Hellfire. When we indulge in innovations, we are claiming that Allah made a mistake, that he missed or forgot to tell us some things or that the Prophet (s) did not do his job sufficiently or delivering his message to us and did not teach us everything we need to know? We need realise that falling into innovation is serious crime - we need to make studying this Deen our priority, we need to learn the sunnah, so that we will know what is a sunnah and what is a bid'aa – until then we will remain ignorant and easily fall into the traps of innovation.

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "I warn you of the newly invented matters (in the religion), and every newly invented matter is an innovation, and every innovation is misguidance, and every misguidance is in the Hellfire" [An-Nasa'ee]

He (s) used to declare at the beginning of his lectures: "....and the best speech is the Speech of Allah, and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad (s), and the worst of all affairs are the newly invented matters (in the religion)" [Saheeh Muslim]

So the issue of Innovation is not to be taken lightly. It does not matter how good a thing may seem to look or sound – if Allah or His Prophet (s) did not authorise it, then we need to stay well away from it and focus on doing those actions which have evidence - otherwise we will be in a lot of trouble in this world and in the hereafter, and Allah will asks us "Why did we innovate and do things against the Sunnah of Rasool Allah (s)?",

The Virtues & Benefits of Fasting

Your fasts will intercede for you on the Day of Judgement

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **Fasting will intercede for a person on the Day of Judgement, and will say, "O Lord, I prevented him from his food and physical desires during the day, so let me intercede for him."** [Hadith Ahmad, 2/174. Al-Haythami classed its isnaad as hasan]

Allah will forgive you your sins

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"Whoever fasts Ramadan out of Iman (faith) and seeking Allah's reward then his past and future sins are forgiven."** [Hadith Ahmad. Declared Hasan by adh-Dhahabi, as mentioned in al-Mughni (5876)] and the Prophet (s) said: **"Whoever fasts the month of Ramadan, obeying all of its limitations and guarding himself against what is forbidden, has in fact atoned for any sins he committed before it."** [Hadith Ahmad and alBaihaqi related this with a good chain.]

It is a protection form the Hellfire

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **Whoever fasts one day for the sake of Allaah, Allaah will remove his face seventy years' distance from the Fire.** [Hadith Muslim]

The reward of doing deeds in Ramadan are tremendous, and are multiplied more than outside of Ramadan, so what are you waiting for? Get busy!!!

Narrated Abu Huraira: The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **Allah says about the fasting person: 'He has left his food, drink and desires for My sake. The fast is for Me. So I will reward (the fasting person) for it and the reward of good deeds is multiplied ten times.'** [Hadith Bukhari]

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **Every deed of the human being is for himself and its reward is multiplied for him from ten to seven hundred times. Allah says: 'Except for fasting, for truly it is for Me and I alone will reward it, for verily he abandoned his desires, his food, and his drink for my sake.'** [Hadith Bukhari and Muslim]

Making the Intention to fast in Ramadan – *Intentions are made in the heart not by the tongue*

Firstly, it is important to mention that for any deed to be accepted by Allah SWT, it must meet the following two conditions:

1. It must be done for the sake of Allah alone
2. It must be done the way Allah and His Prophet Muhammad (s) legislated

If the above two conditions are not met, then our deeds will be fruitless in this life and the next and will not be accepted by Allah. So we need to check our hearts and ensure what we are doing is for Allah and no one else, and we need to educate ourselves by seeking knowledge of Islam to ensure what we are doing is being done in the correct way, according to the Quran and according to the Sunnah of our Prophet (s).

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"The deeds are considered by the intentions, and a person will get the reward according to his intention. So whoever emigrated for Allah and His Messenger, his emigration will be for Allah and His Messenger; and whoever emigrated for worldly benefits or for a woman to marry, his emigration would be for what he emigrated for"** [Hadith Bukhari and Muslim]

The Prophet (s) said: **"Whosoever does an action, which we have not commanded then it must be rejected."** [Hadith Muslim]

In reference to Ramadan - we need to make a sincere intention to fast the month of Ramadan out of obedience to Allah and for seeking His pleasure at the beginning of Ramadan - this only needs to be done once and not every night. There is no specific wording that must be said; rather it is an action of the heart. If one breaks off from fasting in Ramadan due to menses, travelling, sickness etc – once they resume fasting they should make another intention and this will suffice until the end of Ramadan, or until they stop fasting, if they need to break off again. And Allah knows best.

The Prophet (s) said: **"Whoever does not determine to fast before Fajr will have no fast"** [Hadith Ahmad]

Wake up for Sahoor – finish eating as soon as Fajr start time begins

It is **highly recommended** (not fard) to get up and eat something before Dawn - even if it is just a little bit

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"Have sahoor, for in sahoor there is barakah (blessing)."** [Hadith Bukhaari, Fath, 4/139]

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"Sahoor is blessed food, and it involves being different from the people of the Book. What a good sahoor for the believer is dates."** [Hadith Abu Dawood, no. 2345; Saheeh al-Targheeb, 1/448]

Salaat-ul Fajr (2 rakaats) – to be prayed before Sunrise

Do you want a house in the Jannah? Insha'Allah all you have to do is pray the following 12 sunnah prayers a day

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"He who observes *twelve (Sunnah) rakaats in the course of a day and night will have a house built for him in Jannah: 4 before Dhuhr and 2 after it; 2 after Maghrib; 2 after 'Isha; and 2 before Fajr."** [Hadith Muslim]

The Sunnah rakaats for Fajr is –

***2 rakaats before (for that house in the Jannah, Insha'Allah!)**

'Aishah says the Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"The two rakaats of the Fajr are better than this world and all it contains."** [Hadith Ahmad, Muslim, at-Tirmizhi, and an-Nasa'i]

Al-Qur'aan – Recite, Listen, Ponder and Implement much

To get the full reward of reading the Qur'aan, we should not only read it in Arabic but also read alongside it the translation of the meaning in our own language. This will help us: **PONDER OVER WHAT WE ARE READING; FOR THESE ARE THE WORDS OF ALLAH, WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT ALLAH IS SAYING TO US?**

Allah says in the interpretation of the meaning:

"Then do they not reflect upon the Qur'aan? [Surah An-Nisa, 4:82]

So, Don't the people Ponder in the Qur'aan, Or do they have locks on their Hearts. [Surah Muhammad, 47:24]

Don't hasten (in reading) with your tongue, with this (the Qur'aan)... [Surah Al-Qiyama, 75:16]

Each letter of the Qur'aan when read has 10 rewards, so can you imagine the reward in Ramadan?! Subhaan Allah!

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"Whoever reads a letter from the Book of Allaah, he will have a reward, and this reward will be multiplied by ten. I am not saying that 'Alif, Laam, Meem' (a combination of letters frequently mentioned in the Holy Qur'aan) is a letter, rather I am saying that 'Alif' is a letter, 'Laam' is a letter and 'Meem' is a letter."** [Hadith At-Tirmithi]

The Qur'aan will help us on the Day of judgement, when there will be no helper except our good deeds

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"And the Qur'aan is a proof for you or against you."** [Hadith Muslim]

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"Read the Qur'aan, for indeed it will come on the Day of Standing (Judgement) as an intercessor for its companions."** [Hadith Muslim]

Protect your houses from the Shaytan and his evil Jinns – by reciting the Qur'aan much

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"The house in which al-Baqarah is recited is not approached by Shaytan."** [Hadith Muslim]

Salaat-ul Duha – to be prayed before Zawal (Noon)

- This is a sunnah prayer
- The time for Salaat-ul Duha begins when the sun has risen high and the day has become hot
- The minimum number of rak'ah to be prayed is two

Buraidah narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "In a human (body) there are 360 joints and man must make a charity for each one." The people said: "Who can do that, O Messenger of Allah?" He responded: "One may cover the mucus that one finds in the mosque or remove something harmful from the road. If one could not do that, he could pray two rakaats of duha and that will be sufficient for him." [Hadith Ahmad and Abu Dawud]

Anas says: "During a journey, I saw the Messenger of Allah (s) pray eight rakaats in the early day. When he finished, he said: "I prayed my prayer wishing and fearing. I asked my Lord for three things and He gave me two and withheld one. I asked Him not to put my ummah to trial by famine and He granted that request. And I asked that they would not be overtaken by their enemies and He granted that request. And I asked that they not be split into groups and parties and He refused that request." [Hadith Ahmad, an-Nasa'i, al-Hakim, and ibn Khuzaimah who classifies it as sahih]

Salaat-ul Dhuhr (4 rakaats)

The Sunnah rakaats for Dhuhr are -

a) 2 rakaats before and 2 rakaats after, OR

Ibn 'Umar said: "We observed and preserved from the Prophet (s) ten rakaats [of Sunnah prayers]: two before Dhuhr and two after it, two after Maghrib in his house, two after 'Isha in his house and two rakaats before the Fajr." [Hadith Bukhari]

b) *4 rakaats before and 2 rakaats after (for that house in the Jannah, Insha'Allah!), OR

c) 4 rakaats before and 4 rakaats after

Umm Habibah reports that the Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "Whoever prays four rakaats before Dhuhr and four after it, Allah will forbid that his flesh be in the fire." [Hadith Ahmad, Abu Dawud, an-Nasa'i, Ibn Majah, and at-Tirmizhi who calls it sahih]

Salaat-ul 'Asr (4 rakaats)

The Sunnah rakaats for 'Asr are -

a) 2 rakaats before, OR

'Ali bin Abu Talib reported: "The Prophet (s) used to perform two Rak'ah before the 'Asr prayer." [Abu Dawud]

b) 4 rakaats before

Ibn 'Umar reports that the Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "May Allah have mercy on a person who prays four rakaats before 'Asr prayer." [Hadith Ahmad, Abu Dawud, at-Tirmizhi who call it hasan; Ibn Hibban, and Ibn Khuzaimah who call it sahih]

Iftar - breaking of the fast

One is recommended to make du'a throughout the course of the day, and even more so in Ramadan and whilst fasting; and even more so moments before breaking the fast

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "Three men whose du'a is never rejected (by Allah) are: when a fasting person breaks fast (in another narration, the fasting person until he breaks his fast), the just ruler and the one who is oppressed." [Hadith Ahmad, at-Tirmidhi - Hasan]

Don't delay the breaking of fast

Sahl ibn Sad reported that the Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "The people will always be with the good as long as they hasten in breaking the fast." [Hadith Bukhari and Muslim]

How do I break my fast?

- Say Bismillah
- Break your fast with dates (if you have no dates, then break it with water)
- Then say the following du'aa

Narrated by Ibn 'Umar, according to which the Prophet (s), when he broke his fast, would say:

ذَهَبَ الظَّمَأُ، وَأَبْتَلَّتِ العُرُوقُ،
وَوَثَّيَتِ الأَجْرُ إِن شَاءَ اللّهُ.

"Dhahaba al-zama', wa'btallat al-'urooq, wa thabat al-ajru in sha Allaah (Thirst is gone, veins are flowing again, and the reward is certain, in sha Allaah)." [Hadith Abu Dawood, 2/765; its isnaad was classed as hasan by al-Daaraqutni, 2/185]

Salaat-ul Magrib (3 rakaats)

The Sunnah rakaats for Maghrib are -

- 2 rakaats before

Ibn 'Abbas said: "We would pray two rakaats before Maghrib, and the Prophet would see us but he would not order us to do so, nor would he prohibit us." [Hadith Muslim]

- *2 rakaats after (for that house in the Jannah, Insha'Allah!)

Salaat-ul 'Ishaa (4 rakaats)

The Sunnah rakaats for 'Ishaa is -

- *2 rakaats after (for that house in the Jannah, Insha'Allah!)

Tarawih Prayers

- Qiyam-ul-Layl, Salaat-ul-Layl, Tahajjud and Tarawih prayers are all known as "night prayers" – Tarawih prayers are those night prayers that are prayed in the month of Ramadan. They are prayed in two rakaats after each other

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "Whoever establishes prayers during the nights of Ramadan (tarawih) faithfully out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards (not for showing off), all his past sins will be forgiven." [Bukhari]

Aishah says: "The Messenger of Allah (s) never prayed more than eleven rakaats, during Ramadan or otherwise." [Hadith Bukhari, Muslim]

On the authority of Jabir that the Prophet (s) prayed eight rakaats and the witr prayer with the companions. Then, the next day, the people waited for him but he did not come out to them. [Hadith Ibn Khuzaimah and Ibn Hibban have recorded in their sahih]

- **The Prophet (s) used to pray no more than 8 rakaats night prayer and ended it with 3 rakaats witr. During the time of 'Umar, 'Uthman, and 'Ali the people prayed twenty rakaats. One can pray as many rakaats as one chooses (as it is a Sunnah prayer and has no number restriction)**

- **Night prayers can be prayed any time after salaah-ul 'Isha up until salaah-ul Fajr**

Iyas ibn Mu'awiyah al-Mazni reports that the Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "The night prayer should certainly be performed even if it is for the length of time that it takes one to milk a sheep. And whatever is after the obligatory 'Isha is of the Tahajjud (i.e. night prayer)." [Hadith At-Tabarani, and all of its narrators are trustworthy save Muhammad ibn Ishaq]

- **The best time to pray night prayers in general is in the last portion in the night (often referred to as Tahajjud)**

Abu Muslim asked Abu Zharr: "Which late-night prayer is the best?" He said: "I asked the Messenger of Allah the same that you asked me and he said, 'The (one done during) middle of the latter half of the night, and very few do it.'" [Hadith Ahmad with a good chain]

- **Witr is also a night prayer. It consists of an odd number rakaat and can be offered any time after 'Ishaa. If one is to pray some night prayers after 'Ishaa, one should delay their Witr till the end and offer it at the end of their night prayers**

Abu Tamim al-Jishani relates that 'Amr ibn al-'Aas was addressing the people during a Friday Khutbah and he said: "Abu Basra related to me that the Prophet (s) said: 'Verily, Allah has added a prayer for you, and it is the witr prayer. Pray it between salatul 'Isha and salatul Fajr.'" Abu Tamim said: "Abu Zharr took me by my hand and we went in the mosque to Abu Basra and [Abu Zharr] said: 'Did you hear what 'Amr just said from the Messenger of Allah?' He answered: 'I heard it from the Messenger of Allah!'" [Hadith Ahmad with a sahih chain]

Abu Mas'ud al-Ansari relates: "The Prophet (s) would make the witr prayer in the first part of the night or the middle of it or the latter part of it." [Hadith Ahmad has reported it with a sound chain]

Jabir reports that the Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "Whoever of you fears that he will not be able to wake during the latter portion [of the night], he should make the witr prayer during the early part [of the night]. And whoever of you believes that he will be able to wake during the latter portion of the night, he should make the witr prayer during that latter portion as it is the blessed time [the angels are attentive to the prayers in the last portion of the night]." [Hadith Ahmad, Muslim, atTirmizhi, and Ibn Majah]

Samurah ibn Jundub says: "The Messenger of Allah (s) ordered us to pray during the night, a little or a lot, and to make the last of the prayer the witr prayer." [Hadith At-Tabarani and al-Bazzar]

- **Whoever has performed the Witr prayer and then wishes to pray some more night prayer, they may do so but is not to repeat the Witr (as there are no two Witr in one night)**

Example: One prays 4 rakaats night prayer after Isha and ends with Witr then goes to sleep, but decides to wake up in the last portion of the night and pray more night prayer, they do not repeat the Witr at the end.

Ali heard the Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "There are no two witr prayers in one night." [Hadith At-Tirmizhi grades it hasan]

- **If you are tired, just pray one rak'ah Witr prayer**

Ibn 'Abbas also narrates that the Prophet (s) ordered them and encouraged them to make the night prayer to the extent that he said: "You should perform night prayer even if it is just one rak'ah." [Hadith At-Tabarani in al-Kabir and al-Awsat]

- **Don't over do it! Perform your deeds according to your ability but do them consistently ☺**

Anas narrates that the Prophet Muhammad (s) entered the mosque and saw a rope stretching between two posts. He asked: "What is this?" The people told him that it was for Zainab [bint Jahsh] who, when she became tired or weary, held it (to keep standing for the prayer). The Prophet said: "Remove the rope. You should pray as long as you feel active, and when you get tired or weary, you should lie down to rest." [Hadith Bukhari and Muslim]

'Aishah narrated that the Prophet Muhammad (s) was asked: "What is the most loved deed to Allah?" He answered: "One that is performed constantly even if it is a small deed." [Hadith Bukhari and Muslim]

Make Dua - a conversation between you and Allah

Allah says in the interpretation of the meaning: **"Call upon Me - I will respond to your supplications."** [Surah Ghaafir, 40:60]

Some of the best places to make du'aa are:

During sujood or before the Tasleem → not after your salaah, as this was not the practice of our Prophet Muhammad (s)

Abu Hurairah reports that the Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"The nearest a servant comes to his Rabb (Lord) is when he is prostrating himself, so supplicate much (in this state)."** [Hadith Muslim]

In the third part of the night

Abu Hurairah reports that the Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"Our Lord descends to the lowest heaven during the last third of the night, inquiring: 'Who will call on Me so that I may respond to him? Who is asking something of Me so I may give it to him? Who is asking for My forgiveness so I may forgive him?'"** [Hadith related by the group]

Dua is our weapon, use it, don't waste it!

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"Supplication is the weapon of the believer, the pillar of the religion, and the light of the heaven and earth"** [Hadith Al-Hakim]

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said, Allah said: **"O My slaves! You are all astray except him that I guide, so seek for My guidance, I will guide you. O My slaves! You are all hungry except him whom I feed, so seek for provision from Me, I will feed you"** [Hadith Muslim]

The Prophet (s) said: **"Whoever does not ask from Allah, He becomes angry at him"** [Hadith Bukhari and Ahmad]

There are many more!

Specific Dua's – that the Prophet Muhammad (s) made

- **After Eating**
- **After hearing the Adhan**
- **In the Morning and Evening**
- **When waking up and going to sleep, etc**

There are literally hundreds that can be found in authentic du'aa books and even online: <http://www.makedua.com>

Tauba and Istighfar

It is never too late to make repentance or ask for Allah's forgiveness, Allah's doors of forgiveness are always open and will be until our soul leaves our throats. Fall down on your knees and tell Allah that you are SORRY and that you WILL NEVER DO IT AGAIN. Do not let Shaytan make you feel your sins are too big and that Allah will not forgive them. Also, do not let Shaytan make you become lazy or fool you by making you look at acts of disobedience as insignificant or small. Repent and ask forgiveness for your sins TODAY, DO NOT DELAY – you do not know if you will be here tomorrow.

- **Tawbah (making repentance) involves the following 3-4 conditions for it to be accepted by Allah SWT:**
 1. **You must stop the sin**
 2. **You must feel bad for the sin**
 3. **You must be determined never to go back to the sin and**
 4. **If you have violated the rights of others you must pay them back**
- **Istighfaar is to sincerely seek Allah's forgiveness, for Him to cover your sins and to protect you from its evil effects.**

The Prophet (s) said, Allah said: "O son of Adam, so long as you call upon Me, and ask of Me, I shall forgive you for what you have done, and I shall not mind. O son of Adam, were your sins to reach the clouds of the sky and were you then to ask forgiveness of Me, I would forgive you. O son of Adam were you to come to Me with sins nearly as great as the earth, and were you then to face Me, ascribing no partner to Me, I would bring you forgiveness nearly as great as it." [Hadith Qudsi]

If the Prophet of Allah (s) who Allah has promised Jannah asked for forgiveness, then who are we not to?

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "O people, repent to your Lord, for verily I seek forgiveness from Allah and repent to him more than seventy times in a day." [Hadith Bukhari]

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "I seek forgiveness one hundred times in a day." [Hadith Muslim]

Make a lot of Dhikr – remembrance of Allah

Allah says in the interpretation of the meaning: "O you who believe! Let not your riches or your children divert you from the remembrance of Allah. And whoever does that, then, surely they are the losers." [Surah Al-Munafiqoon, 63:9]

There are many forms of Dhikr, here are a few:

- Laa elaha illallah (None has the right to be worshipped than Allah)
- The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "There are two phrases that are light on the tongue but heavy in the balance. They are: "Subhana Allahi wa bi hamdi, subhana Allahil-atheem" (Glorified be Allah and with His praise. Glorified be Allah the Almighty.)" [Bukhari]
- It is reported by way of the Messenger of Allah (s) said: "Whoever makes tasbeeh (Subhaanallah) after each Salaat 33 times, tahmeed (Alhamdulillah) 33 times, takbir (Allahu Akbar) 33 times, and completes a hundred by saying: 'La ilaha illa Allahu wahdahu la shareeka lahu, lahu mulku wa lahu hamdu, wa huwa 'ala kulli shay'in qadeer.' His sins would be forgiven even if they were as plentiful as the foam of the sea." [Hadith Muslim]
- Astaghfirallah (I seek Allah's forgiveness)
- After having ended Salaah the Messenger of Allah (s) used to ask for forgiveness three times, then he would say: "Allah humma antas salamu wa minkas salamu tabarakta ya thaljalalee wal ikram." [Hadith Bukhari, Muslim and At-Tirmithi]

Reciting Aayat-ul-kursi (Surah Al Baqarah, Verse 255) after each obligatory salaah and before sleeping

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "The one who recites ayahtul kursi after each of the obligatory prayers, then death will be the only thing [i.e. barrier] preventing him from entering al-Jannah." [Hadith At-Tabaraani]

Abu Hurairah narrated a story: ".....The following morning, the Prophet (s) said, 'What did your prisoner do last night?' I said, 'O Messenger of Allaah, he claimed that he would teach me some words by which he said Allaah would benefit me, then I let him go.' He asked, 'What are they?' I said, 'He told me, when you lie down in your bed, recite Ayat-ul-Kursi. And he told me, you will have a protector from Allaah and no devil will come near you until morning comes.' The Prophet (s) said: 'He indeed told you the truth, although he is a liar. Do you know who you have been speaking with for the past three nights, O Abu Hurairah?' I said, 'No.' He said, 'That was a shaytaan (a devil).' [Hadith Bukhari]

Seek Knowledge of Islaam - the Qur'aan and authentic Sunnah

One can seek knowledge through many means, some are:

- Online classes (www.sunnahfollowers.net, and others)
- Islamic lectures
- Listen to Qur'aan with English translation of the meaning
- Islamic documentaries
- Islamic Channels
- Islamic Radio Stations
- Participate in Islamic study classes being run in your area, (www.IslamBradford.com, and others)
- Read Authentic Islamic books, Hadith books, Seerah books etc.

Allah says in the interpretation of the meaning: **"Say: 'Are those who know equal to those who know not?' It is only men of understanding who will remember (i.e. get a lesson from Allah's Signs and Verses)."** [Surah Az-Zumar, 39:9]

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim."** [Hadith Ibn Majah]

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"I have left behind me two things, if you cling to them you will never go astray. They are the Book of Allah and my Sunnah"** [Hadith al-Haakim]

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"Whoever knowingly lies upon me, then let him occupy his seat in the Fire (of Hell)."** [Hadith Bukhari, Muslim]

Abu Hurairah reported: The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"Allah makes the way to Jannah easy for him who treads the path in search of knowledge."** [Hadith Muslim]

Keep yourself busy doing good deeds

- **Spend your time wisely, it is so precious – especially in this month of Ramadan**

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said **"On the Day of Resurrection the feet of the son of Adam [man] will not move away till he is questioned about four matters: how he spent his lifetime, how he spent his youth; from where he acquired his wealth and how he spent it, and what he did with his knowledge."** [Hadith Tirmidhi]

- **Don't waste your time in matters that do not concern you**

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said **"From the perfection of a person's religion is that he leaves alone that which does not concern him."** [Hadith At-Tirmidhi]

- **Don't underestimate your good deeds no matter how small, they may be small to you but to Allah it could be humongous**
- **Give in charity**
- **Strengthen family ties, spend time with them, be nice to them**
- **Help your Muslim brothers and sisters in Islaam out**

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself."** [Hadith Bukhari]

- **Give salaam to those you know and do not know**
- **Provide Iftar for others**

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"Whoever gives food to a fasting person with which to break his fast, will have a reward equal to his, without it detracting in the slightest from the reward of the fasting person."** [Hadith Tirmidhi]

These are just a few, there are many many more! (Even to smile at your brother/sister is charity! Allahu Akbar)

Last 10 days of Ramadan

- Performing I'tikaf (seclusion) in the Masjid
- Seeking Laylatul-Qadr (the Night of Decree)
- Increase your good deeds and acts of worship

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "He would strive [to do acts of worship] during the last ten days of Ramadan more than he would at any other time." [Hadith Muslim]

Laylatul-Qadr - Night of Decree / Power

What is special about Laylatul Qadr?

Allah informs us that He sent the Qur'an down during the Night of Al-Qadr in its entirety and it is a blessed night that occurs every year during the month of Ramadan. Allah also informs us that it is during this night in which actions done is better than one thousand months! Ya Allah!

Allah says in the interpretation of the meaning: "The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Qur'an." [2:185]

"Verily! We have sent it (this Qur'aan) down in the night of Al-Qadr (Decree). And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is? The night of Al-Qadr (Decree) is better than a thousand months (i.e. worshipping Allah in that night is better than worshipping Him a thousand months, i.e. 83 years and 4 months). Therein descend the angels and the Rooh (Jibrael (Gabriel)) by Allahs Permission with all Decrees, Peace! (All that night, there is Peace and Goodness from Allah to His believing slaves) until the appearance of dawn." [Surah Al-Qadr, 97:1-5]

But wasn't it revealed gradually over 23 years? Ibn `Abbas and others have explained, "Allah sent the Qur'an down all at one time from the Preserved Tablet (Al-Lawh Al-Mahfuz) to the House of Might (Baytul-`Izzah), which is in the heaven of this world. Then it came down in parts to the Messenger of Allah based upon the incidents that occurred over a period of twenty-three years." [Taken from Tafsir Ibn Kathir]

Abu Hurairah that the Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "Whoever prays during the night of Qadr with faith and hoping for its reward will have all of his previous sins forgiven." [Hadith Bukhari and Muslim]

Du'a for the Night of Power (and can be read throughout Ramadan)

'Aishah said: "I asked the Messenger of Allah (s): 'O Messenger of Allah, if I know what night is the night of Qadr, what should I say during it?' He said: 'Say:

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّكَ عَفْوٌ تُحِبُّ الْعَفْوَ فَاعْفُ عَنِّي

Allahumma inna ka 'ao fuwwun tu hibbul 'af wa fa' fu 'annee (O Allah, You are pardoning and You love to pardon, so pardon me.)" [Hadith Ahmad, Ibn Majah, and by atTirmizhi, who called it sahih]

When is the Night of Power?

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "Seek Laylat al-Qadr in the last ten days of Ramadaan." (The hadeeth of 'Aa'ishah was narrated by al-Bukhaari)

Ibn Abbas reported that The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "Look for the Night of Qadr in the last ten nights of Ramadan, ' when there are nine days left, and seven days left, and five days left." [Hadith Bukhari]

'Aishah said: "Allah's Messenger (s) used to practice I'tikaf in the last ten nights and say: 'Seek out Laylatul-Qadr in the (odd nights) of the last ten of Ramadan.'" Hadith [Bukhari and Muslim]

Ibn 'Umar, who said: The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: "Seek it in the last ten, and if one of you is too weak or unable then let him not allow that to make him miss the final seven." [Hadith Bukhari and Muslim]

'Ubaadah ibn as- Saamit said: The Prophet (s) came out intending to tell us about Laylatul-Qadr, however two men were arguing and he said: "I come out to inform you about Laylatul-Qadr but so and so, and, so and so were arguing, so it was raised up, and perhaps that is better for you, so seek it on the (twenty) ninth and the (twenty) seventh and the (twenty) fifth." [Hadith Bukhari]

In conclusion, the Muslim should seek out Laylatul-Qadr:

- During the last ten nights
- On the odd nights as the above hadith states,
NB: We can't say (21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 29th) because, as the Prophet (S) said: "Look for the Night of Qadr in the last ten nights of Ramadan," when there are nine days left, and seven days left, and five days left" – this is a clever statement as it would give different results depending on many days Ramadan has that year e.g. 29 or 30 days – so thus, the even nights can be accordance to this statement.
- If one is too weak or unable to seek it out in all the last 10 nights, then let him seek it out in the last 7 nights
- To save missing Laylatul-Qadr, one best seek it throughout all the last 10 night and Allah knows best

Eid ul Fitr - the festival of fast breaking

In Islam we only have two celebrations/festivals:

1. Eid al-Adha (The Festival of the Sacrifice) and
2. Eid al-Fitr (Festival of the Breaking of the Fast)

Definition of Eid: The word 'Eid is an Arabic word which means a recurring festivity, celebration, happiness and feast. It is something which is done regularly and something which returns i.e. repeatedly done, be it yearly, monthly or weekly. Days such as Birthdays, Valentines Day, Mothers Day are an 'Eid for the non-Muslims are not to be celebrated by Muslims as many of these days come from un-Islamic roots that involve paganism and involve imitating the Kufar.

Anas ibn Maalik said: The Messenger of Allah (s) came to Medina and they had two days in which they would (relax and) play. He said, What are these two days? They said, We used to play (on these two days) during the Jahiliyyah (days of ignorance). The Messenger of (s) said: Allah has given you something better instead of them Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr. [Hadith Abu Dawood]

Eid al-Fitr falls on the first day of the month of Shawwaal (the 10th month of the Islamic calendar) – it is again determined by the sighting of the moon or the completion of 30 days of Ramadan.

Eid al-Fitr is a day of victory and success for the Muslims. We accomplished a great achievement and fasted the month of Ramadan, we learnt self discipline, we learnt how to retrain ourselves from the desires of this world for the sake of Allah and we spent a whole month in the worship of Allah. So we spend this day thanking Allah and praising Him - Allahu Akbar!

Our festivals are different to those of the Kufar

Our celebrations are not to do with worldly affairs. Even when we celebrate – we celebrate for the sake of Allah by glorifying His Name and thanking him for His blessings.

It is haraam to fast on the days of Eid

The Messenger of Allaah (s) forbade fasting on the day of Fitr and the day of Sacrifice (Adhaa). [Hadith Muslim]

The Eid prayer is not obligatory, but it is a very much recommended Sunnah

- It is from the Sunnah for all the Muslims (the young, the old, then men, then women) to come out and to perform the Eid prayer outside in the open
However, it can be performed in the mosque but it is preferred to perform in a place outside as long as there is no excuse or reason to do otherwise (e.g., bad weather, no space, etc). The Prophet (s) would pray the two 'Eids on the outskirts of Medina and never prayed it in his mosque, except once because it was raining.
- The Eid prayer has no Athan or Iqamah
- The Eid prayer consists of 2 rakaats →
 - the first rakaat has 7 takbirs (including the opening takbir) and
 - the second rakaat has 5 takbirs (not including the takbir said when getting up from sujood).

It is from the Sunnah to raise the hands for each takbir.

It was reported from 'Aa'ishah: The Takbir of al-Fitr and al-Adhaa is seven in the first rak'ah and five in the second, apart from the takbir of rukoo' [Hadith by Abu Dawood; sahih by the sum of its isnaads]

- The Eid prayer is before the Khutbah (sermon), and anyone who wants to leave during the Khutbah is allowed to do so (those who stay should remain silent during the Khutbah as they would during the khutbah of Jummu'ah)
- There are no sunnah/nafl prayers to be done either before or after the Eid prayer - if the Eid prayer is offered at a masjid, one can pray two rakaats for Tahiyat al-Masjid (Greeting the mosque) before sitting down (as per usual).

When we celebrate, we do so without transgressing the laws set by Allah.

Our beloved Prophet Muhammad (s) forbade us from imitating the kufar in any shape or form e.g. their worship, dress, traditions, customs, rituals, ceremonies, events and practices etc.

Our Prophet (s) said: **"He is not one of us, he who imitates others. Do not imitate either the Jews or the Christians."** [Hadith Tirmidhi and Abu-Dawud]

The prophet (s) said: **"You will surely follow the ways, steps, or traditions of those who came before you, span by span and yard by yard (very closely) even if they entered a lizard's hole you will enter it." The companions asked, "Oh prophet, you mean the Jews and Christians?" so he answered, "Who else!"** [Hadith Bukhari]

Some of the Sunnah actions we can do on the day of the 'Eid of Ramadan are:

- Take a bath before going out to the prayer
- Wear your best clothes, not necessarily new clothes
- Brush your teeth/use miswaak
- For men – apply perfume
- Eat an odd number of dates before going to the place of the prayer
- Make Takbir on Eid al-Fitr (from the night of Eid until the time when the imaam comes in to lead the prayer)

Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar. La ila-ha ill-lal-lah. Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar. Wa-lilahill hamd

Allah is great, Allah is great. There is no god but Allah. Allah is great, Allah is great. And all praises are for Allah

- Exchange congratulations and good greetings on Eid, no matter what form the words take. For example: Eid Mubarak, Happy Eid, May Allaah accept [the fast and worship] from us and from you
- Take two separate routes to and from the place of the Eid Prayer

Women are highly recommended to attend the Eid Prayers ← to clear up any misconceptions:

Hafsah said: **"We used to prevent prepubescent girls from attending Eid prayers. Then a woman came and stayed at the fort of Banu Khalaf, and told us about her sister. Her sister's husband had taken part in twelve campaigns with the Prophet (as) and [she said], 'my sister was with him on six of them. She said, "We used to treat the wounded and take care of the sick. My sister asked the Prophet (as) whether there was anything wrong with her not going out [on Eid] if she did not have a Jilbaab. He said, 'Let her friend give her one of her jilbaabs so that she may witness the blessings of Eid and see the Muslims gathering.'"" When Um 'Atiyah came, I asked her, 'Did you hear the Prophet (as) [say this]?' She said, 'May my father be sacrificed for him' – and she never mentioned him without saying 'may my father be sacrificed for him' – 'I heard him saying that we should bring out the young girls and those who were secluded, or the young girls who were secluded, and the menstruating women, so that they could witness the blessings of Eid and see the gathering of the believers, but those who were menstruating were to keep away from the prayer-place itself."** [Hadith Bukhari]

IMPORTANT POINTS:

- Women / Young girls / Menstruating women are allowed to attend the Eid
- Menstruating women are to stay away from the place of the prayer
- Women must wear appropriate clothing – Jilbaab (a loose outer garment that covers all everything except her hands/face, and does not show the shape of her body)

After Ramadan

Fast 6 Sunnah fasts in the month of Shawwaal (after you have made up your missed fasts from this Ramadan, as they are fard upon you taking precedence over the Sunnah)

The Prophet Muhammad (s) said: **"Whoever observes the Ramadan fast and follows it with six days of fast in Shawwal, it is as if he has fasted Dahr (the whole year)."** [Hadith Bukhari]

Remain steadfast and continue doing your good deeds they will help you on the day of judgement, and who knows if you will be here to see next Ramadan?

Summary

- Do everything for the sake of Allah
- Do everything according to the Sunnah of our Prophet Muhammad (s)
- Eat at Sahoor time
- Perform the 5 Fard prayers – Fajr, Dhuhr, 'Asr, Magrib and 'Isha
- Perform the Sunnah prayers with the Fard prayers
- Perform Duha salaah
- Perform the Night Prayers
- Read and Play Qur'aan as much as you can
- Strive to do as many good deeds (no matter how big or how small)
- Make a lot of Dua'
- Make a lot of Dhikr
- Make a lot of Repentance and Seek Allah's Forgiveness
- Seek knowledge of Islaam, remember without knowledge of Islaam we are lost
- Increase your 'ibadah (worship) in the last 10 days of Ramadan
- Try and seek Laila-tul Qadr (The night of Power)
- Perform the 'Eid prayer
- Follow up Ramadan with 6 fasts of Shawwal
- Continue to worship Allah the way you have been this month, until the next Ramadan (Insha'Allah)

جزاك الله كل خير
Katheeran

May Allah make it such that we arrive to Ramadan, may Allah accept from us our deeds and increase us in goodness in the month of Ramadan allowing us to attain righteousness. May Allah have mercy on us, guide us and bless us in this life and to be amongst the winners in the Akhirah to stand with the prophet Muhammad (s) on the day of judgement and to make us from the people who walk into Jannah. Ameen

All good from this document is from Allah, while any wrong is from myself and I ask Allah in His infinite mercy to forgive me for any mistakes I have made, Ameen.

~A Servant of Allah

Allah says in the interpretation of the meaning: "Every soul shall have taste of death; In the end to us shall ye be brought back" [Surah Al-'Ankabut, 29:57]