

RAMADAN, WORSHIP AND RIGHTEOUS DEEDS

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NOTE: Al Islam Team takes full responsibility for any errors or miscommunication in this Synopsis of the Friday Sermon

SUMMARY

With the grace of God we are currently going through the holy month of Ramadan

Blessings of Ramadan are attained by understanding the reality of fasting and by fully benefitting from it

God has no need to keep one starved of food and water; one who tells lies and acts on lies, a liar's fasting is not accepted

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih said if everyone self-reflects they will realise if they are really following the poignant advice of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace)

If we are to take full benefit from the month of Ramadan, we will have to straighten our paths of truth

Blessings of Ramadan

How to attain the blessings of Ramadan?

Falsehood wipes out benefits of Ramadan

Revolutionary change of Ramadan

Adopt the path of truth

The sad news of demise

With the grace of God we are currently going through the holy month of Ramadan



Fortunate are those who will benefit from this blessed month



Blessings of Ramadan are attained by understanding the reality of fasting and by fully benefitting from it

Blessings of Ramadan

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said that in this month the doors of Paradise are opened, the doors of Hell are shut and Satan is restricted in fetters

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One does not become the recipient of Paradise by merely keeping fast and going through Ramadan

It is essential to fulfil its requisites and its conditions and to focus on good works

Only that person can attain the beneficence of fasting who also does good works and keeps fast with fear and awe of God, aiming that each action of his or her in accordance to the pleasure of God

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The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said that the fast of that person gains acceptance who fasts in a state of belief with introspection

While fasting draws one to do good it also draws one to shun evil and a believer tries and raise the level of his or her worship of God

Attention is drawn to fulfil the rights of people, attention is drawn towards financial giving and to pay the dues of the underprivileged

Only then can one avail of the blessings of fasting

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The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) drew our attention to seeking true beneficence



God has no need to keep one starved of food and water; one who tells lies and acts on lies. Indeed, such fasting is pointless



By explaining that a liar's fasting is not accepted, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) drew attention from the smallest of ills to the biggest of sins; as all spiritual ills and weaknesses can be removed by staying firm on the truth



Indeed, falsehood has been likened to shirk (associating partners with Allah)

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that the impurity of idols and the impurity of falsehood should be avoided

Falsehood is an idol and one who relies on falsehood leaves his or her reliance on God

God has stated 'fasting is for Me and I will be its reward.' It is not possible to fast for the sake of God, to attract His love and God alone is the reward of that act but then carry on with untruth

Fasting and falsehood can not exist together

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The Holy Prophet (pbuh) enjoined to shun verbal untruth as well as untruth by practice, for example saying something and not doing it

To argue back when provoked, not to do one's job well, not to give rights to others and to continue with domestic arguments in Ramadan are all examples of practical untruth

The extreme of this is when precedence is given to one's trade/business over worship in spite of the month of Ramadan

Some people even indulge in falsehood for the sake of making profit, as if falsehood is of more significance than God for them

Fasting of people who practice this is mere starvation

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who bring about pious changes in themselves

Certainly, Ramadan can be a source of revolutionary change, but it is for those

who try and establish God's kingdom

who try and adapt their word and deed in accordance to God's pleasure

They crush to smithereens the untruth of their 'self' (nafs) and this is when revolutionary change comes to pass

While during Ramadan worship of God and heightened and careful study of the Qur'an is essential, it is also essential that the impact of the worship and the study is evident in one's moral condition

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) once said that truth should not be killed by insisting on injustice. He said one should stay firm on truth and give truthful testimony, for God has stated: **'Shun therefore the abomination of idols, and shun all words of untruth,'**.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) explained that the impurity of idols and untruth should be avoided because untruth is not any less harmful than idol-worship. He said anything that diverts one from the straightforward path of truth is an idol in one's way. He also said the damage done by the tongue is very perilous and that is why a righteous person keeps great control over his tongue.

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Self-reflection

- Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih said if everyone self-reflects they will realise if they are really following the poignant advice of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace)
 - Adherence to these words would solve our domestic problems, disputes between brothers that time to time appear, would be removed, at least problems of our mutual dealings in Ahmadi society would be removed
- Adopting truth requires a degree of humility and God likes humility

The most important advice among all that the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) enjoined us in the extract quoted is that anything that diverts us from the straightforward path of truth is an idol in our way

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If we are to take full benefit from the month of Ramadan, we will have to straighten our paths of truth.

We can only reach the doors of Paradise by reflecting over and putting in practice the pronouncement of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) when he said that the standard of one's word and deed should be raised

In His infinite compassion, God removes all barriers to attain these blessings

God invites to enter the paradise of His pleasure but this cannot be done without adopting truthfulness of word and deed

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The month of Ramadan is like the navigation system; that takes one to the Paradise of God



By adhering to the path of truthfulness of words and actions, the destination of Paradise of God is reached



The vehicle navigation system is prone to error, sometimes it does not show new roads, sometimes it opts for a route that ends up being longer, other times in search of a short route and one ends up driving around small streets, gets stuck in traffic

But the path towards God is straight, it leads directly to the doors of Paradise

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- This Ramadan each one of us should try and straighten our paths, raise the standards of our truthfulness of word and deed, and try and reach the paradise of God's pleasure

May God enable
us to do so



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Next Hadhrat Khalifatul
Masih gave the news of
the passing away of an
elder of the Jama'at.
Choudhry Shabbir Ahmad
sahib passed away on 22
July

He was 95 years old.
He served the Jama'at
for a very long period
as Vakilul Maal



Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II (may Allah be pleased with him) advised him at the time of his Waqf to be concerned about Jama'at work as a mother is concerned about her children. Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih said this advice should be heeded by all those who dedicate their lives.

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He said that Shabbir sahib was a man of many qualities, he worked diligently and cheerfully. He had a great connection with Khilafat. He was an excellent helper of the Khalifa of the time and used to pray abundantly for the Khalifa of the time. May God elevate his status and may He provide many like him to the Jama'at

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Maqbool Ahmad Zafar sahib was a missionary who passed away on 25 July. He had served as an Arabic teacher at the Jamia. He was a learned man who had all the qualities of a Waqfe Zindagi/murrabi. May God grant steadfastness to his family and elevate his status

Maraj Sultana sahib was the wife of a dervish. She was a courageous lady and had served as gen. sec of Qadian Lajna. May God elevate her status.

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Maryam Sultana sahib was the wife of Dr Muhammad Ahmad Khan shaheed. She passed away on 18 July. She was a hardworking lady who was very keen on Tabligh. She demonstrated bravery and resolve after her husband was martyred in Lahore in 1957. When his body was returned to her, she was alone with young children with no one to support or console her. Her husband was a Moosi and she was concerned about his burial. She showed courage and hired a truck and travelled to be with the Jama'at with her husband's body and her young children in the truck. She brought up her children very well. May God with His grace continue to produce servants of Ahmadiyyat among her children and their children. May God elevate her status.