



# PARADISE

A Monthly Publication of Huntsville Islamic Center

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## EDITORIAL

Muslims everywhere are expecting the blessed month of Ramadan. At the beginning of Ramadan, Allah bestows His Mercy on people; at the middle period of it, Allah forgives the sins of the repentant; at the end of it, Allah delivers his righteous servants from Hell-Fire. In Ramadan, people observe fasting by day and perform Vigil Night Prayers. Fasting is enjoined on Muslims till Doomsday, as it was enjoined on early believers. Allah says: {O ye who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, even as it was prescribed for those before you, that ye may ward off evil}. (Al-Baqarah: 183)

In Ramadan, the doors of Hell close, and those of Paradise open, and devils get shackled. Therein an angel calls: "O observer of good deeds, rejoice; o indulgent people, abstain (from sins); until the end of Ramadan." [It is narrated by Ahmed]

May Allah (SWT) give us the health and strength to do all what pleases Him so we may get His Forgiveness and Mercy.

## Recommended Acts in Ramadan

In fasting Muslim is recommended to follow the sunnah of the Prophet (his customs and manners) in doing the following acts:

1. Eating before the break of dawn is recommended act. This makes fasting easier and is, therefore, recommended to be as late as possible, such a just before the call for the dawn prayer.
2. It is also recommended to break the fast immediately after sunset.
3. Also one should be more active in doing all kinds of good deeds, foremost of which is the performing of the five daily prayers at their proper times in congregation with other Muslims and the giving of the poor-due (zakat). Besides the obligatory prayers and zakat, one should try as much as one can to do more of the non-obligatory but recommended prayers, specially the tarawih prayers during the evening, on the night of Qadr in particular, and being more generous in helping the poor and in all ways of promoting the cause of Islam. One should also spend more time reciting the Quran and pondering over the meanings of its verses, and turn as often as possible to God, asking Him to bestow His peace and blessings on the Prophet as well as asking for one's forgiveness and the forgiveness of his brother Muslims.
4. One also should not answer back anyone who insults him but should only respond, "I am fasting."
5. It is also recommended to offer specific supplications at the time of breaking the fast. It has been reported that the Prophet (peace be on him) said, "O Lord, it is for you that I have offered my fasting and it is with provision from you that I am breaking the fast. Accept (this fast) from me therefore, you are the All-Hearing, the All-Knowing." OR the person may say, as the Prophet also said, "Thirst has gone, the arteries are moist and the reward is sure, if God will." (Recorded by al-Daraqutni.)
6. To break the fast with some fresh dates if available, otherwise with any available sweet fruits like grapes, is considered a recommended act. "The Prophet's sunnah was to eat, wear and ride whatever was available in his land, of whatever Allah made permissible. Therefore, anyone who uses what is available in his land would be following the sunnah." [Ibn Taimiya]
7. One should try to invite others, especially the poor, for the meal that one breaks the fast.
8. Finally, it is encouraged to spend the last ten days of Ramadan in seclusion in a mosque. This practice is called i'tikaf, a state of complete devotion to worship. Persons in this state are not allowed to leave the mosque except for personal necessities. Similarly, they are not allowed to have sex with their spouses.

## In the Shade of Ramadan

From among all acts of worship Almighty Allah has specified fasting in particular to be for His Own sake, as he, Exalted and Blessed be He, in a Divine Hadith says: "All man's good deeds are for his own benefit, except fasting; it is for My Sake, and I reward for it. In fasting there is protection (for man from indulgence). So when one of is fasting, he shouldn't shout, nor act in an improper way; and if someone abused or fought him, he should say: "I am fasting, I am fasting". By Allah, in whose Hand my life is, the ascent of the mouth of a man observing fasting is better in Allah's Sight than the ascent of Musk. Observing fasting makes man pleasant twice: once when he breaks his fasting and the other when he meets his Lord." [It is narrated by Muslim]

Allah draws people's attention to the importance of reciting the Qur'an while fasting in Ramadan. Thus, reciting the Qur'an is greatly connected with fasting; they form two pleasant acts of worship which. Allah's Messenger, peace be upon him, used to observe reciting the Qur'an in Ramadan, as narrated by Ibn `Abbas, may Allah be pleased with him: "Allah's Messenger, peace be upon him, was the most generous of all people, and his generosity reached its utmost in Ramadan when Gabriel was sent to him. Gabriel used to meet him every night in Ramadan and teaches him the Qur'an. Whenever Gabriel met the Prophet, peace be upon him, became more generous than continuous (rainy) winds." This Saying is agreed upon.

<http://www.islam-online.net>

## Night Prayer During Ramadhan (Al-Qiyaam or Taraweeh)

Abu Hurayrah (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: "The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) used to encourage us to pray at night in Ramadaan, without making it obligatory. Then he said, 'Whoever prays at night in Ramadaan out of faith and the hope of reward, all his previous sins will be forgiven.' When the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) died, this is how things were (i.e., Taraaweeh was not prayed in congregation), and this is how they remained during the khilaafah of Abu Bakr (may Allaah be pleased with him), until the beginning of the khilaafah of 'Umar (may Allaah be pleased with him)."

'Amr ibn Murrah al-Juhani said: "A man from Qudaa'ah came to the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and said, 'O Messenger of Allaah! What do you think if I testify that there is no god except Allaah, and that you, Muhammad, are His Messenger, and I pray the five daily prayers, and fast in the month (of Ramadaan), and pray at night in Ramadaan, and pay zakaah?' The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: 'Whoever dies on that will be among the siddeeqeen (those who tell the truth) and the martyrs.'"

<http://www.islam-qa.com>

## Praying Qiyaam in Congregation

It is allowed to pray qiyaam in congregation, indeed it is better than praying individually, because this is what the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) did himself and explained its virtues. Abu Dharr (may Allaah be pleased with him) said: "We fasted Ramadaan with the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) and he did not lead us in qiyaam at all until there were only seven days left, when he led us in prayer until a third of the night had passed. When there were six days left, he did not lead us in qiyaam. When there were five days left, he led us in prayer until half the night had passed. I said, 'O Messenger of Allaah, I wish that you had continued until the end of the night.' He said, 'If a man prays with the imaam until he finishes, it will be counted as if he prayed the whole night.' When there were four nights left, he did not lead us in qiyaam. When there were three nights left, he brought together his family, his wives and the people, and led us in qiyaam until we were afraid that we would miss al-falaah. I asked, 'What is al-falaah?' he said, 'Suhoor. Then he did not lead us in qiyaam for the rest of the month.'" (Saheeh hadeeth reported by the authors of *Sunan*).

<http://www.islam-qa.com>

## *The Excellence of Salatul Jum'ah*

*"O Ye who Believe! When the call is proclaimed for prayers on Friday, (The Day of Assembly), hasten earnestly to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off business (and traffic), that is best for you, if ye but knew" (62:9)*

**S**alatul *Jum'ah* first began shortly after the Hijrah (migration) of Prophet Muhammad (saw) and his followers to Madinah. Upon the establishment of an Islamic state, Prophet Muhammad (saw) began organizing the Muslims for Jum'ah congregation. He placed great emphasis on the weekly Friday service and severely admonished those who neglected it without a valid reason. Jum'ah literally means 'congregation' coming from the root word 'jam'aa', - "he gathered". Friday is considered the most virtuous day of the week in Islam. It is the day on which the Muslims all over the world assemble together at central places in their community solely for the purpose of Allah's remembrance. Abu Huraira reported the Prophet as saying: "The best day on which the sun has risen is Friday; on it Adam was created; on it he was made to enter Paradise, on it he was expelled from it. And the last hour will take place on no day other than Friday". All able-bodied believers should strive to be a part of the world's Muslim assembly on Fridays, and reap the blessings intended by Allah (swt) for those who observe it. In a report from Ahmad, Prophet Muhammad (saw) is reported to have said, "Friday is the master of days, and it is biggest in the sight of Allah, it is bigger in the sight of Allah than Eidul Fitr, and Eidul Adha".

The Friday congregational Salat is obligatory for every Muslim, except the slave, the woman, and the sick child. Although women are generally not required to attend Jum'ah, it is highly recommended. Their presence at the mosque on Friday is considered of the utmost importance for the welfare of the Muslim community. Therefore, even though it may not be obligatory for them, they should try to attend so far as is consistent with their duties. The Friday Salaat is required on every person who believes in Allah and the Last Day, and the one who ignores it on account of sport or fun, or trade and business, will likewise be ignored by Allaah (swt).

It is Sunnah on Fridays before heading to the Mosque to have Ghusl, (complete bath) and put on one's best dress. The Prophet (saw) said, "Whoever takes a bath on Friday, purifies himself as much as he can, then uses his (hair) oil or perfumes himself with the scent of his house, then proceeds (for the Jum'ah prayer) and does not separate two persons sitting together (in the mosque), then prays as much as (Allah has) written for him and then remains silent while the Imam is delivering the Khutba, his sins in-between the present and the last Friday would be forgiven. Concerning those who are obligated to attend Salatul Jum'ah, but fail to do so, Prophet Muhammad (saw) is reported to have said, "The one who hears the call to the Friday salat, and does not turn up for it on one Friday, and then on the second Friday, and the third Friday consecutively, has his heart sealed and is turned into a hypocrite".

When one enters the Masjid for Al-Jum'ah, the first act that should be done before sitting down is to salute the mosque by offering two raka'at of sunnah prayer. Then one should wait quietly for Jum'ah to begin, or use the time to recite the Qu'ran, or engage in Allah's remembrance. Early arrival at Jum'ah is preferred. The Prophet (saw) said, "When it is a Friday, the angels stand at the gate of the mosque and keep on writing the names of the persons coming to the mosque in succession according to their arrivals. When the Imam comes out the angels fold their papers and listen to the Khutba. Talking during the Khutbah is strictly forbidden, though there are some who disregard this serious rule. In fact, talking during the Khutbah is so serious, even correcting one for doing so is disliked. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (saw) as saying: "If you (even) ask your companion to be quiet on Friday while the Imam is delivering the sermon, you have in fact talked irrelevance". Talking not only distracts others who are listening to the Khutbah, but also illustrates disrespect to the Imam who has taken considerable time to prepare his address for the benefit of others. Prophet Muhammad (saw) taught Muslims that the proper etiquette is to listen very carefully and attentively to the address being delivered. If someone enters the Masjid during the khutbah, they should not disturb those who are listening to the khutbah by greeting them so that their attention is taken away from the khutbah.

The Jum'ah congregation has two essential parts: The **Khutbah** (public address), and the **Prayers**. Both parts are essential and one part should not be given preference over the other. Some Muslims are in the habit of consistently coming to the Masjid late on Fridays. They miss the khutbah, barely make it on time for the last portion of the prayer, yet consider themselves to have attended Salatul Jum'ah, when in reality --- they have missed an essential part of Salatul Jum'ah - the khutbah. True, they may have prayed in congregation, but they did not perform Salatul Jum'ah correctly. Some jurist believe that the two parts of the Khutbah actually make up for the deficiency of the two rakah's that would normally be performed in the four rak'ah of Salatul Zhur, and if missed, the prayer is considered incomplete. Nonetheless, much can be said about the loss of blessings one endures when the Khutbah is missed. Once Jum'ah is completed, but before dispersing from the mosque in a frenzied rush, Muslims should take time to greet fellow believers, listen to their concerns, spend time with them when possible, and offer some token of zakah (charity) to the Masjid. The remainder of the day should be spent glorifying Allah, reciting Qur'an, and performing other acts beneficial to the soul.

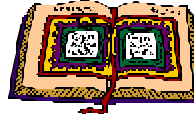
**IAH & HIC Weekend School  
Fall Festival**

Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1:00 to 5:00  
Please come and join us.

During the month of Ramadan the Weekend Islamic School starts at 10:00 am

**Quran Memorization Contest**

Please join us.  
Registration forms are available in HIC



**Prayer Times at the Masjid**

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Fajr:              | 5:15 a.m.  |
| Duhur:             | 12:15 p.m. |
| Asr:               | 2:45 p.m.  |
| Maghrib:           | Sunset     |
| Isha and Taraweeh: | 7:00 p.m.  |
| Jumu'a (Friday):   | 12:30 p.m. |

Support Huntsville Islamic Center's Expansion Project...  
With Allah's Help and Your Generous Donations, it will happen.

**Ramadan Mubarak**

Ramadan will start, insha'a Allah, either on Wednesday 11/6 or Thursday 11/7.

Please check our web site ([www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org](http://www.huntsvilleislamiccenter.org)) for announcement on

Tuesday night, or call HIC (721-1712) after 8:30 p.m.

*Isha and Taraweeh Prayer will be held at 7:00 p.m.*



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