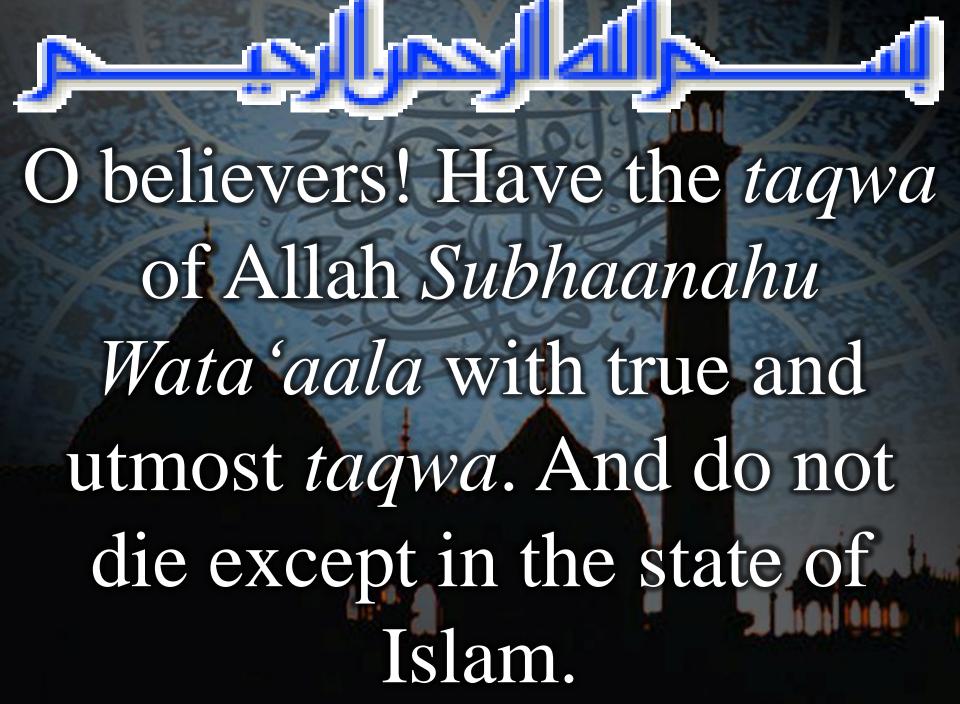


REVVING UP OUR DEEDS IN THE END OF RAMADAAN



On this blessed day and month, let us all strive to increase our taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala by performing all of His Commands and abstaining from all of His prohibitions. This is the month in which Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala has promised rahmah, maghfirah (forgiveness), and relief from the Hellfire.

The khutbah that will be delivered today is titled, "Revving Up Our Deeds In The End Of Ramadaan." Whether we realize it or not, we have surpassed two third of Ramadaan.

Those remaining days that we are to experience will be the last and final days, promised with magnanimous offers and spectacular rewards from Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala.

By optimizing our deeds in these final days of Ramadaan, Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam had outlined clear guidelines for us to emulate.

In the hadeeth of Umm al-Mu'mineen 'A'ishah radiyAllaahu 'anha, she reported that: When the last ten days (of Ramadaan) would come,

Allah's Messenger (sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam) would spend his night in worship, wake his family (at night), exert himself, and tighten his Izaar (waistcloth).

(al-Bukhaari and Muslim)

In another hadeeth also narrated by of Umm al-Mu'mineen 'A'ishah radiyAllaahu 'anha, she stated that: Allah's Messenger (sallAllahu 'alayhi

wasallam) used to exert himself in devotion during the last ten nights to a greater extent than at any other time.

(Muslim)

Both ahaadeeth clearly shows the attitude and practice of Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam in the last 10 days of Ramadaan. For him, it was a must and also his norm to

increase and intensify his 'ibaadah to Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala in those days; being greater than before. This is because these last days have its own superiority and unique merit.

In terms of practice, he sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam increased his 'ibaadah manifold by praying during the night (qiyam al-layl), waking up his family members so they will also

increase their 'ibaadah to Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala, keeping their night "alive" with nafilah prayers, lots of dhikr, tilaawah al-Qur'an,

seeking forgiveness from Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala, performing i 'tikaf in the masjid, and giving sadaqah in the path of Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala.

In answering the call and prescription by Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam in reviving the last 10 days of Ramadaan, it behoove us to take measures and engage in 'ibaadah as follows:

1- Increasing and solidifying our nivyah and determination to revive our final 10 days of Ramadaan. With strong determination, we shall be able to rev up those days with enthusiasm and istigaamah, insha Allah.

2- To plan in details of the 'ibaadah that is to be performed. This is significant so that they are planned out and not disrupted or discontinued halfway.

If we are able to strategically planfor affairs pertaining our daily lives, then we must be competent enough to plan up for our Ramadaan activities. This planning should include comprehensive

implementation of 'ibaadah, both in the day and night. In reality, our busy work life often cause us to forget or neglect the true meaning of 'ibaadah.

In practicing the sunnah of Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam, we must execute the concept of 'ibaadah even while at work. While doing work, we should keep in constant dhikr,

listening to al-Qur'an, perform the sunnah of Duha, making du 'a and istighfar to Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala, and many other deeds that can be practiced. The planning for the night

'ibaadah should also be thought out thoroughly. It is closely intertwined with one's eating habit. Make sure our iftar is just enough and sufficient, unlike portions for those that

haven't eaten in days. The healthy approach to iftar will provide and increase the stamina to perform 'ibaadah during the night.

3- Perform the night 'ibaadah in an organized

fashion and according to one's capability and comfort, such as: 1) Performing taraweeh prayers in jamaa 'ah at the masjid or surau, with increased recitation of al-Qur'an and pondering upon its meaning.

2) Always making du 'a to Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala without giving up, feeling tired, or boredom. 3) Get ourselves closer to Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala by increasing

our dhikr in seeking forgiveness from Him. Indeed, Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala never gets tired from listening to His servants' supplications and pleas, as He mentions in al-Qur'an:

"And when My servants ask you, [O Muhammad], concerning Me – indeed I am near. I respond to the invocation of the supplicant when he calls upon Me.

So let them respond to Me [by obedience] and believe in Me that they may be [rightly] guided."

(al-Baqarah 2:186)

Among the du'a of Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam in the final 10 days of Ramadaan, is one narrated in the hadeeth of Umm al-Mu'mineen 'A'ishah radiyAllaahu 'anha:

Allaahumma innaka 'afuwwun, tuhibbul 'afwa, fa 'fu 'anni

"O Allah! Verily, you are the Oft-Pardoning, You love to pardon, so pardon me."

(at-Tirmidhi, an-Nasaa'i, ibn Maajah, Ahmad: saheeh)

Other than taraweeh prayers, it is highly encouraged to perform the sunnah prayer of tasbeeh, tahajjud, tawbah, and witr, making i 'tikaf in the masjid, and increasing the sadaqah.

Let us emulate Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam in which he sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam was very generous and gave out the most especially in Ramadaan. This generosity

was clearly explained to us by ibn 'Abbaas radiyAllaahu 'anhuma as mentioned in various ahaadeeth collected by Imam al-Bukhaari.

Furthermore, he sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam strived to his utmost in performing 'ibaadah during the night, searching for laylatul qadr.

In today's context, we are grateful for the masjid or surau committee in this state has planned and scheduled many programs to revive the atmosphere in Ramadaan. This manifests their concern

and keenness in fulfilling their religious and social responsibilities. They would do their best to ensure that everyone are given the opportunity to perform "ibaadah to Allah

Subhaanahu Wata 'aala fully with ease and adequacy. Therefore, today, there is no longer any excuse for anyone to lament "I am not capable to increase my 'ibaadah in Ramadaan,''

or "I don't have any guideline on how to revive my Ramadaan," or "What is the proper way to enliven my Ramadaan?" or even "I'm not motivated to rev up my Ramadaan," and many more excuses.

It is high time for the Muslim ummah to stop asking "What?" or "Why?" or throwing out excuses and whine. Muslims must have positive thinking and always have in them the "I can do it

and also partake in it" attitude. This is the attitude that should be embedded in the minds of the Muslims, regardless of their gender, age, occupation, and status. Let us strengthen our

determination and willpower to join our Muslim brothers (and sisters) to rev up these last few days of Ramadaan. If we are unable to join them in the house of Allah, then wake up our family members

so that we can all keep our Ramadaan "alive" with our own family at home. In this very opportunity, let us strive to ponder, internalize, and intensify our Ramadaan together with the

masjid committee, especially in its final nights. We are never sure if we are capable to continue performing 'ibaadah on the next day. Will we still be given the ni mah to see the world tomorrow?

Hence, let us seize this golden opportunity. Take heed of the verses in which Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala severely mentions:

"O you who have believed, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow – and fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you

And be not like those who forgot Allah, so He made them forget themselves. Those are the defiantly disobedient."

Therefore, do a detailed and careful planning in wading through the days of Ramadaan. Do not let these final days pass by us while we are in heedlessness and negligence towards Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala.

Conclusion:

1. Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam increase his 'ibaadah to Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala on the last 10 days of Ramadaan. This is because these last days have its own superiority and unique merit.

2. Other than taraweeh prayers, it is highly encouraged to perform the sunnah prayer of tasbeeh, tahajjud, tawbah, and witr, making i'tikaf in the masjid, and increasing the sadaqah.

"The month of Ramadaan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. So whoever sights

[the new moon of] the month, let him fast it; and whoever is ill or on a journey – then an equal number of other days. Allah intends for you ease and does not intend

for you hardship and [wants] for you to complete the period and to glorify Allah for that [to] which He has guided you; and perhaps you will be grateful." (al-Baqarah 2:185)

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَيَاتِ وَالذَّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبُّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلَيْمُ. أَقُولُ قُولِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَ الْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الأَحْبَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالأَمْوَات فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيْمُ

O Allah, You are the Almighty Lord, we are grateful unto You for having bestowed upon us Mercy and Blessings, nourishing us to strive to continue in strengthening the Muslim nation especially the state of Selangor, as an advanced, progressive, peaceful, and benevolent state.

We beseech and beg You, Ya Allah, to strengthen our imaan, increase our good deeds, strengthen our unity, increase our provision, enrich us with beneficial knowledge, nourish our soul with beautiful akhlaaq, guide us to the Path that is Pleasing to You,

protect us from Your severe tribulations such as the long drought, severe flooding, disease outbreak, violence and instability, poverty, and others, so that our land will become more peaceful and blessed.

Oh Allah, we ask You to open up the hearts of the Muslim ummah especially in Selangor, to fulfill their zakaat obligation as You had decreed in al-Qur'an. Bless the lives of those who have fulfilled their zakaat obligation, loving and caring for the poor and needy.

Purify their wealth and soul so that they will live according to that which pleases You. Protect the poor and needy from disbelief and everlasting poverty. Allaahummaa ameen

