



MARHABAN

YA

RAMADAAN

Have the taqwa of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala by fulfilling all of His Commands and avoiding all of His prohibitions. Truly, we hope to attain success in this world, well

and the pleasure of Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala in the Hereafter.

On this blessed day, let us ponder upon the *khutbah* titled "Marhaban Ya Ramadaan."

Alhamdulillah, we are grateful to Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala because due to His Mercy, once more we are granted the opportunity to embrace Ramadaan,

a truly noble month, precious, superior, and filled with barakah. There are many privileges and virtues in such blessed month.

Ramadaan is not only a month that was chosen by Allah for us to perform our obligatory fasting and supererogatory taraweeh prayers. It was honored by Allah with the revelation

of al-Qur'an, which serve as the book of guidance for our entire lives.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala mentions in al-Qur'an:
"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." (al-Bagarah 2:185)

Therefore, let us embrace the arrival of noble Ramadaan with deeds that are pleasing to Allah so that our sincere appreciation will have resounding effect in our hearts.

The Companions of the Prophet ridwanullaahi 'alayhim were overjoyed with the coming of Ramadaan with gratefulness, and would grieve with the passing of Ramadaan.

It was illustrated that their sorrow at the end of Ramadaan is akin to a child being abandoned by the parents, or even more severe than that. Such is the slave of Allah whose heart is filled

with imaan and obedience when faced with the Divine Call. We are well aware that Ramadaan is a month of trials and tribulations for the Muslims.

Even more, it is to gauge and measure the strength of imaan of the slaves of Allah. With prohibitions and stipulations that must be abided during crucial times, while in hunger and thirst,

prohibited from marital relations during the day, avoiding matters that can nullify the fast, forsaking tobacco addiction, and many other matters that are difficult upon the self, so

what more for those having weak imaan. But Allah is the All-Wise and All-Just, granting privileges to His slaves during Ramadaan, as mentioned in the hadeeth qudsi.

Narrated Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh, the Messenger sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"(Allah said), Every good deed of Adam's son

is for him except fasting; it is for Me. And I shall reward (the fasting person) for it.'... "

(al-Bukhari and Muslim)

There are few important matters in preparing for Ramadaan, among them:

1- Muhaasabah and selfreflection upon wrongdoings
and evil deeds that were

committed knowingly that led to sinful acts. Then, follow it up with multitudes of istighfaar in seeking forgiveness from Allah for all the wrongdoing and sins committed,

so that these sins will be expiated and not carried into *Ramadaan*.

2- Honoring our parents by visiting them and seeking their forgiveness. Make them happy and do not upset

them, for hurting the mother's feelings is a rebellious act, and similarly for the father. Therefore, before Ramadaan, let us purify ourselves from sins that were committed to our

parents. If they are deceased, then visit their graves, supplicate for them, recite al-Qur'an in sending its reward for them, and give sadaqah on their behalf.

3- Strengthen the ties of silaaturrahm (kinship) between family, relatives, friends, and colleagues to further unify the hearts of the Muslims, always forgiving, and overlooking conflicts

and faults. That way, we will purify ourselves from any mistakes and sins. 4- Cleansing ourselves externally or physically is very important. For example, cleaning

areas of our dwelling and its surrounding, in creating a true and conducive Ramadaan atmosphere that is blessed. The state of external purity is a manifestation of the spiritual

purity that affects the heart, a clear indication that we are truly honoring *Ramadaan* both spiritually and physically.

During the nights of Ramadaan, we are to perform the 'ibaadah of taraweeh prayers. Among its objectives is so that the entire month of Ramadaan is filled with 'ibaadah,

both during the day and night, for it is a blessed month. Blessings in the fasting, in the prayers, in Qur'anic recitation, and in the Night of Power. Indeed, these blessings are not found

in other months. The special distinction and blessing for Ramadaan is a gift from Allah to His slaves, whether male or female. However, those bounties will not be present without deeds

performed with ikhlaas and resoluteness in beseeching Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. The virtues of righteous deeds in Ramadaan will be rewarded straightaway by

Allah unto His slaves that rigorously engage in good deeds with ikhlaas, that after one full month of 'ibaadah their hearts and soul are purified returning to the original fitrah,

like the newborn baby. Narrated 'Abdur Rahman ibn 'Awf radiyAllaahu 'anh, the Prophet sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam had said:

"Ramadaan is a month that Allah has enjoined upon you fasting and urged you to pray during its night. Whoever fasts during the month of Ramadaan and performs 'ibaadah

during its nights out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards, then he will exit from his sins just like the newborn child exits from his mother's womb."

(ibn Maajah, ibn Khuzaymah, al-Bayhaqi: da 'eef)

According to this hadeeth, it is clear that deeds that are performed in Ramadaan expiates sins and cleanse the soul, transforming one unto becoming a sound individual.

The lessons derived from several ahaadeeth regarding the virtures of 'ibaadah during Ramadaan can be concluded as follows:

1- Those engaged in 'ibaadah, staying awake

during the Night of al-Qadr will be rewarded with more than a thousand months worth of good deeds as compared to other months. Among the 'ibaadah are supererogatory prayers,

making istighfaar, making tasbeeh, indulging in dhikr, reciting al-Qur'an, and many more.

2- Performing supererogatory acts that are granted with the reward of

fard (obligatory) acts, while fard acts are rewarded 70 times more.

3- The reward of feeding the fasting person is like freeing a slave and having sins forgiven.

The doer is rewarded with a thousand deeds, expiation for a thousand evil deeds, and elevated in rank by a thousand degrees.

4- The sleep of the fasting person is 'ibaadah (da 'eef), his breathing is tasbeeh, his prayers are accepted, his sins forgiven, and his righteous deeds are multiplied by Allah.

5- Fasting serve as an effective shield in preventing one from falling into disobedience, whether major or minor sin.

Islam enjoins us to perform the taraweeh prayers, always reciting al-Qur'an, increasing charity, loving the poor and needy, thus as Muslims we must perform all these deeds with sincere

intention for the sake of our imaan and hoping solely for the pleasure of Allah. We should liven up our Ramadaan by encouraging our children, family, and even relatives to diligently

perform the taraweeh prayers in congregation at the masjid, surau, or designated areas. We should always indulge in dhikrullah and frequent circles of knowledge, for they are all

nourishment for one's spirituality that cleanses the soul from all types of internal filth and illness.

Among the *hikmah* of fasting are:

1- From a health and medical perspective, fasting is very beneficial. The human stomach is like an engine. If the engine is constantly in operation, then it will wear out and breakdown quicker.

Similarly with the stomach. In the hadeeth of Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh, Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said: "... Fast and you will be healthy"

(at-Tabaraani, Ahmad, Abu Nu'aym, al-Haakim: da'eef)

2- From a social perspective, fasting can inculcate mercy and compassion towards the poor, the needy, and those unable to make ends meet. Everyone enduring hunger and thirst at the stipulated

times will develop compassion towards the needy within the society. Therefore, fill up your Ramadaan with beneficial activities. Avoid matters that are prohibited by Allah

Subhaanahu Wata'aala. Take heed, for day by day our age is nearing its end. Therefore, let us increase our 'ibaadah in attaining the pleasure of Allah. Insha Allah, we will become

Overall, we can conclude that deeds in Ramadaan all points to four objectives:

1- Mental purification and cleansing through fasting, *i'tikaaf*, religious lessons,

humbling oneself, beseeching, and attaining nearness to Allah. 2- Increasing 'ibaadah in aiding the community through donations, charity, helping the poor, caring and

loving the orphans. 3-Reviving and upholding the Symbols of Islam by organizing the taraweeh prayers in jamaa 'ah at various mosques, suraus, and designated areas.

4- Increasing our knowledge and understanding upon the Sharee 'ah of Allah, as we are encouraged to recite al-Qur'an often in Ramadaan. This entails more than just reading, but to understand

and ponder upon its content as well.

Let us perform our 'ibaadah of Ramadaan with full ikhlaas beginning from our innerselves, then inviting our children and

family members, our neighbors and the entire neighborhood to reap the blessings and happiness of Ramadaan. It is truly hoped that none of the Muslims will desecrate the sanctity of

Ramadaan al-Mubaarak, by being pursued or caught by the authorities for consuming food during the day in public. The same goes out for restaurant and food outlet operators, it is hoped

they will honor and abide by the regulations stipulated by the Selangor Islamic Religious Council, in safeguarding and prioritizing the dignity of the Muslims over commercial profit

concerns only. "[Fasting for] a limited number of days. So whoever among you is ill or on a journey [during them] — then an equal number of days [are to be made up].

And upon those who are able [to fast, but with hardship] — a ransom [as substitute] of feeding a poor person [each day].

And whoever volunteers excess – it is better for him. But to fast is best for you, if you only knew." (al-Baqarah 2:184)

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَالنَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَيَاتِ وَالذَّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَيَاتِ وَالذَّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلاوَتُهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُولُ قُولِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهَ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِر الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُمْ وَالأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوْهُ 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



DI SEDIAKAN OLEH:

BAHAGIAN KHUTBAH,

JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR

ILLUSTRASI OLEH:

UNIT TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT,

JABATAN AGAMA ISLAM SELANGOR