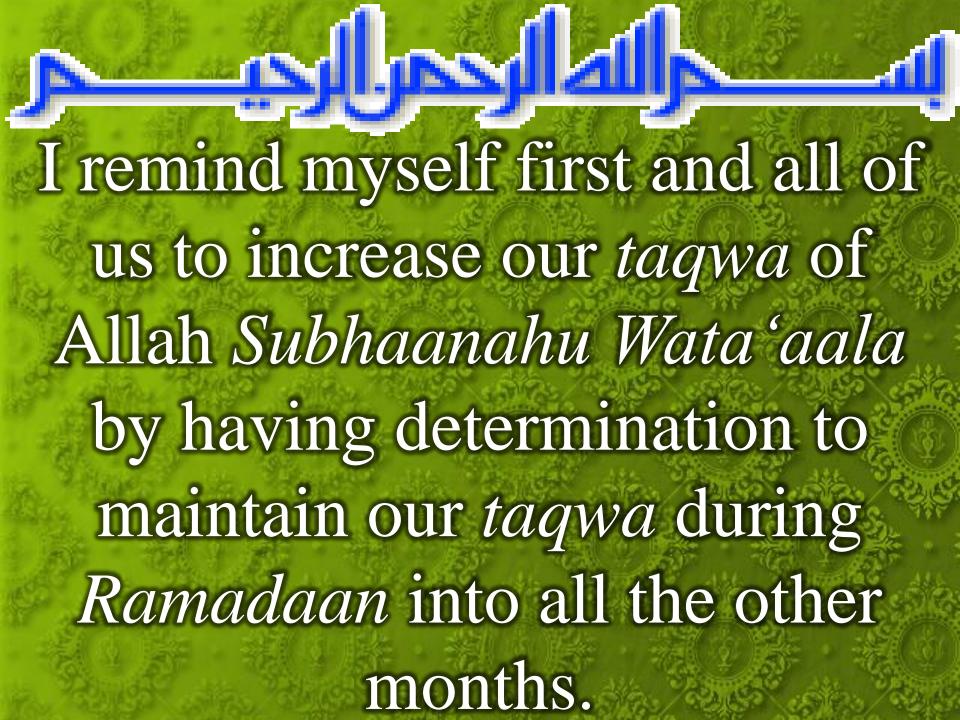


RAMADAANIS MONTH-LONG, 'EIDULFITR IS ONE DAY, 'IBAADAH REMAINS EVERY DAY



Verily, Ramadaan is the training ground in attaining higher level of taqwa that is to be internalized and maintained in other months throughout the year.

On this blessed day, let us contemplate and ponder upon the khutbah titled: "Ramadaan Is Month-Long, Eidulfitr Is One Day, Ibaadah Remains Every Day."

Yesterday, we had celebrated the end of a long spiritual course. That course and training was not organized by any organization or association, but well designed by Allah

Subhaanahu Wata'aala Himself, The One that created us, All-Knowing of our needs. Let us ponder upon this hadeeth. Narrated Abu Hurayrah radiyAllaahu 'anh that Rasulullah

sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam said:

"... And may a man upon whom Ramadaan enters and then passes and his sins are not forgiven, be humiliated..." (at-Tirmidhi)

We are familiar with the expression within our society: "Puasa Sebulan, Raya Pun Sebulan" (Fasting is for a month, 'Eid celebration is also for a month). Unfortunately, this

saying that is normally uttered in a joking manner has now become the norm within our society. Even though we know that the 'ibaadah of fasting is legislated for an entire

month (29 or 30 days), we fail to comprehend the fact that 'Eidulfitr is legislated for only one day. When we look to our brethren in the Middle East, we observe that they would actually celebrate

and enliven their Ramadaan as compared to Shawwaal. Where 'Eidulfitr is only celebrated with takbeer in the night (eve) of 'Eid and the morning of 'Eid. After the salaah and khutbah of

Eidulfitr, life returns to normal just like any other days prior to *Ramadaan*.

We may perceive that such scenario is not a "suitable" phenomenon with our society and culture,

but it is best that we observe and weigh several matters so that we can balance between the tarbiyyah (education) of Ramadaan with the joy of celebrating 'Eidulfitr.

Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala has commanded fasting during the days of Ramadaan. And during its nights, it is highly recommended to be revived with 'ibaadah,

especially with salaatul fard in jama 'ah, taraweeh, and always engaging in tilaawah of al-Qur'an. For the 'Eid, it is from the sunnah for us to make takbeer that is concluded with the salaah

and khutbah of 'Eid. After that, we are not required to make takbeer for the rest of the ('Eid) day or days after. This is opposite with 'Eiduladha in which it is from the sunnah to make

takbeer for longer duration until the days of Tashreeq, after the fard or sunnah salawaat. All these show that festivities and celebrations throughout the entire month of Shawwaal

in general are not based upon Islamic teachings. On the contrary, it is only the custom and culture of our society. It is not something necessitated as 'ibaadah that is specific, though it can be

deemed as within general 'ibaadah. This is because commendable acts such as visiting each other and feeding the guests are from among the sunnah acts that can be done at any time

during the year. However, the yearly celebration in Shawwaal usually becomes the contributing factor for us to fail in maintaining and preserving our stellar devotion and worship during

Ramadaan. Just look at how the suraus and masaajid becomes empty after Ramadaan. Just observe, how many of us would actually "complete" their six days fasting of Shawwaal?

In Shawwaal, we must continue to monitor our affairs and relations so that we will continue to be close with Allah. And not getting further away from Allah by indulging in

prohibited matters such as excessive entertainment, unrestricted free mixing between genders, eating and drinking from haraam sources, having a good time celebrating that the

salaah is neglected, or watching TV shows depicting un-Islamic behaviors or causing negligence in 'ibaadah.

Today, I would like to remind all of us of the necessary measures to be taken in the month of Shawwaal, among them:

1- Fasting the six days of Shawwaal,

where its virtues are mentioned in the hadeeth Abu Ayoob al-Ansaari radiyAllaahu 'anh, where Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam stated:

"Whoever fasts Ramadaan and follows it with six days of Shawwaal, it will be as if he fasted for a lifetime."

(Muslim, Ahmad, Abu Dawood, at-Tirmidhi, an-Nasaa'i, ibn Maajah)

This fasting can be done in consecutive days or separately (randomly), for as long as they are done in Shawwaal. However, the best and preferred method is consecutively after

'Eidulfitr, that is beginning from the 2nd of *Shawwaal* until the 7th. This is preferred for it illustrates the manner and attitude of the slave that is eager and hastens in engaging in 'ibaadah.

Moreover, 'Eidulfitr is only legislated for the 1st of Shawwaal, the day in which the Muslims are prohibited from fasting. This six days fasting of Shawwaal can be combined with the qadaa'

(missed or make up) or nazhr (vow) fasting. Hence, whoever has any debt of Ramadaan fasting, especially the Muslimahs, they can perform their qadaa' fasting in Shawwaal.

This is so that they will reap the reward of the six days fasting of Shawwaal as well. Let us not delay in performing this sunnah fasting for we may miss out on this golden opportunity

that only comes once a year. However, the best method is to complete all the missed or make up fasting first for the amount of days owed, and only then one begins the six days fasting of Shawwaal

(separately). This is based on the hadeeth where Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam explained the virtue of fasting six days of Shawwaal, narrated by Thawbaan radiyAllaahu

'anh:

"Fasting Ramadaan is like fasting ten months, and fasting six days is like fasting two months. [Together] it is fasting an entire year."

(Ahmad, an-Nasaa'ie, ibn Hibbaan, ibn Khuzaymah)

This is also based upon other ahaadeeth stating that every good deed will be rewarded with 10 rewards. Therefore, the fasting the month of Ramadaan is equivalent to 10 months and the six days

of Shawwaal would be equivalent to 60 days or two months. In various narrations, Rasulullah sallAllahu 'alayhi wasallam stated:

"... And the reward of good deeds is multiplied ten times..."

(al-Bukhaari)

2- We must continue to obligate ourselves to pray the fard salaah in jamaa 'ah whether in the masjid or surau for praying in congregation has much greater reward than

praying alone. We have proven our capability to pray in jamaa 'ah during Ramadaan, especially in the nights. We prayed 'Ishaa', taraweeh, and witr all in congregation.

On average, we had prayed 15 or 27 raka 'ah in jamaa 'ah in the night. So, maintain such trend with at least three raka 'ah of Maghrib and four

raka'ah of 'Ishaa' in jamaa'ah in the night, and also with the three other fard salawaat.

3- We should continue to perform the night 'ibaadah with at least two raka 'ah of tahajjud or one raka 'ah of witr prayer. Did we not prove ourselves in Ramadaan that we are able

to wake up early everyday for suhoor? Then, it is only right for us to continue to strive and have istiquamah in performing giyaam al-layl around the time of suhoor for it is an ideal period to

seek forgiveness from Allah
Subhaanahu Wata'aala. Allah
Subhaanahu Wata'aala
mentions in al-Qur'an:

"And in the hours before dawn they would ask forgiveness."

(adh-Dhaariyaat 51:18)

4- We shall inculcate the tilaawah and study of al-Qur'an as part of our daily affairs. At least, we must read a page a day. Hopefully the meaning of the verses recited and the teachings

from al-Qur'an will provide guidance in our daily lives. 5- We must avoid from excessiveness in fun and amusement. The end of Ramadaan does not mark the end of our tireless efforts in

'ibaadah. Similarly, the arrival of Shawwaal does not mean that we are now liberated from restrictions. On the contrary, Ramadaan provides the fertile ground for us to accustom ourselves

with 'ibaadah and controlling our desires.

6- We must avoid ourselves from excessive eating or feeding. It is sufficient with adequate

food that will maintain a healthy body and enough nourishment for us to continue performing 'ibaadah to Allah Subhaanahu Wata 'aala.

Allah has reminded us to consume food and drink, but not excessively that we become satiated or wasteful with excessive food. Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala mentions in al-Qur'an:

"... and eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess."

(al-A'raaf 7:31)

What is important is for us to be resolved and determined in celebrating 'Eidulfitr by attaining nearness to Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala with various 'ibaadah including the six days fasting of

Shawwaal. Do not fall behind and lose out in the race to seize the bountiful reward offered by Allah Subhaanahu Wata'aala. Let us remain committed in making this Ramadaan and

Shawwaal better than the previous ones. Let us not get carried away and drowned in the fun and amusement of the 'Eid fever for an entire

month that we lose out in garnering boons for the aakhirah as our provision and preparation after our demise. If not this time around, then when will we ever begin???

"O you who have believed, do not follow the footsteps of Satan. And whoever follows the footsteps of Satan – indeed, he enjoins immorality and wrongdoing. And if not

the favor of Allah upon you and His mercy, not one of you would have been pure, ever, but Allah purifies whom He wills, and Allah is Hearing and Knowing."

(an-Noor 24:21)

بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الأَيَاتِ وَالذَّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلْاوَتُهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ اقْوُلُ قُوْلِيْ 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