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مفهوم رمضان

Understanding RAMADAN

Fasting, Tarawih, I'tikaf, Lailat Al-Qadr
Sadaqat Al-Fitr and the two Eid Prayers

Rendered into English by
Dr. Muhammad Muhsin Khan



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Publisher's Note

Ramadan is the month of fasting. Fasting the month of Ramadan is one of the five pillars of the Religion of Islam, and it is obligatory on every Muslim.

Through fasting, the Muslims not only abstain from food, drink and sexual intercourse from dawn to dusk, but also from evil deeds and desires. Every act of worship performed during the month of Ramadan would have added award. It is therefore the season of devotional rituals and self-restraint as well as goodwill and benevolence.

Understanding Ramadan is a collection of Ahadith from Sahih Al-Bukhari, with guided translations. The *Sections* of *Saum* (fasting), *Salat At-Tarawih* (the optional long night prayer), *Lailat Al-Qadr* (the night of power) and *I'tikaf* (devotional retreat to a mosque) are presented herein. Also, the *Section* of two *Eid* Prayers and the *Chapter* on *Sadaqat Al-Fitr* (obligatory alms given at the end of Ramadan) are included for thematic purpose.

I hope and pray that these Ahadith from Sahih Al-Bukhari, which is "the most authentic source of Islam next to the Qur'ân" according to *Ijmâ'* (consensus), would enlighten the readers and orientate them towards the virtues and blessings of Ramadan.

May Allâh make this a rewarding deed!

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

والْحَسَنَةُ بِعَشْرِ أَمْثَالِهَا.

is better with Allāh تعالى than the smell of musk. (Allāh says about the fasting person), 'He has left his food, drink and sexual desires for My sake. The Şaum is for Me.⁽¹⁾ So I will reward (the fasting person) for it and the reward of good deeds is multiplied ten times.' "

(3) CHAPTER. *Aş-Şaum* (the fasting) is an expiation (for sins).

5. Narrated Abū Wā'il from Ḥudhaifa: 'Umar رضي الله عنه asked the people, "Who remembers the narration of the Prophet ﷺ about the *Al-Fitnah* (trial or affliction etc.)? Ḥudhaifa said, "I heard the Prophet ﷺ saying, 'The *Al-Fitnah* of a person in his property, family and neighbours is expiated by his *Şalāt* (prayer), *Şaum* (fasting), and giving in charity.' " Umar said, "I do not ask about that, but I ask about the *Al-Fitnah* which will spread like the waves of the sea." Ḥudhaifa replied, "There is a closed gate in front of it." Umar asked, "Will that gate be opened or broken?" He replied, "It will be broken." Umar said, "Then the gate will not be closed again till the Day of Resurrection." We said to Masrūq, "Would you ask Ḥudhaifa whether Umar knew what that gate symbolized?" He asked him and he replied "Yes, he (Umar) knew it as one knows that there will be night before tomorrow morning.

(4) CHAPTER. *Ar-Raiyān* (one of the gates of Paradise) is for people observing *Şaum* (fast) people.

6. Narrated Sahl رضي الله عنه The

(1) Although all practices of worshipping are for Allāh, here Allāh singles out *Şaum* (fasting), because *Şaum* cannot be practiced for the sake of showing off as nobody can know whether one is observing *Şaum* or not, except Allāh. Therefore, *Şaum* is a pure performance that cannot be blemished with hypocrisy. (*Faḥ Al-Bārī*, Vol. 5, p. 10)

٢ - حَدَّثَنَا مُسَدَّدٌ: حَدَّثَنَا إِسْمَاعِيلُ، عَنْ أَيُّوبَ، عَنْ نَافِعٍ، عَنْ ابْنِ عُمَرَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ: صَامَ النَّبِيُّ ﷺ عَاشُورَاءَ وَأَمَرَ بِصِيَامِهِ فَلَمَّا فُرِضَ رَمَضَانُ تَرَكَ، وَكَانَ عَبْدُ اللَّهِ لَا يَصُومُهُ إِلَّا أَنْ يُوَافِقَ صَوْمَهُ.

2. Narrated Ibn 'Umar رضي الله عنهما The Prophet ﷺ observed the *Şaum* (fast) on the 10th of Muḥarram (*'Aşhūra*), and ordered (Muslims) to observe *Şaum* on that day, but when the fasting of the month of Ramaḍān was prescribed, the fasting of the *'Aşhūra* was abandoned. 'Abdullāh did not use to observe fast on that day unless it coincided with his routine fasting by chance.

3. Narrated 'Āisha رضي الله عنها (The tribe of) Quraysh used to observe *Şaum* on the day of *'Aşhūra* in the Pre-Islāmic Period, and then Allāh's Messenger ﷺ ordered (Muslims) to observe *Şaum* on it till the fasting in the month of Ramaḍān was prescribed; whereupon the Prophet ﷺ said, "He who wants to fast (on *'Aşhūra*) may fast, and he who does not want to observe *Şaum* may not fast."

(2) CHAPTER. The superiority of *Aş-Şaum* (the fasting).

4. Narrated Abū Huraira رضي الله عنه Allāh's Messenger ﷺ said, "*Şaum* (fasting) is a shield (or a screen or a shelter from the Hell-fire⁽¹⁾). So, the person observing *Şaum* should avoid sexual relation with his wife and should not behave foolishly and impudently, and if somebody fights with him or abuses him, he should say to him twice, 'I am observing *Şaum*.'" The Prophet ﷺ added, "By Him in Whose Hands my soul is, the smell coming out from the mouth of a person observing *Şaum*

٣ - حَدَّثَنَا قُتَيْبَةُ بْنُ سَعِيدٍ: حَدَّثَنَا اللَّيْثُ، عَنْ يَزِيدَ بْنِ أَبِي حَبِيبٍ: أَنَّ عِرَاكَ ابْنَ مَالِكٍ حَدَّثَهُ: أَنَّ عَزْوَةَ أَخْبَرَهُ عَنْ عَائِشَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهَا: أَنَّ قُرَيْشًا كَانَتْ تَصُومُ يَوْمَ عَاشُورَاءَ فِي الْجَاهِلِيَّةِ، ثُمَّ أَمَرَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ بِصِيَامِهِ حَتَّى فُرِضَ رَمَضَانُ. وَقَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ: «مَنْ شَاءَ فَلْيَصُمْ وَمَنْ شَاءَ أَفْطَرْهُ».

(٢) بَابُ فَضْلِ الصَّوْمِ

٤ - حَدَّثَنَا عَبْدُ اللَّهِ بْنُ مَسْلَمَةَ، عَنْ مَالِكٍ، عَنْ أَبِي الزِّنَادِ، عَنِ الْأَعْرَجِ، عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ: أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ ﷺ قَالَ: «الصِّيَامُ جُنَّةٌ فَلَا يَزُفُ وَلَا يَجْهَلُ وَإِنْ أَمَرُوا قَاتَلَهُ أَوْ شَاتَمَهُ فَلْيَقُلْ: إِنِّي صَائِمٌ، مَرَّتَيْنِ. وَالَّذِي نَفْسِي بِيَدِهِ لَخُلُوفُ فَمِ الصَّائِمِ أَطْيَبُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ رِيحِ الْبُسْنِكِ. يَتْرُكُ طَعَامَهُ وَشَرَابَهُ وَسَهْوَتَهُ مِنْ أَجْلِي، الصِّيَامُ لِي وَأَنَا أَجْزِي بِهِ».

(1) See *Faḥ Al-Bārī*, Vol.5. page 5.

