

Competing in (and for) Good Deeds in Ramadan

“In the Qur’an, the Month of Ramadan is defined to be ‘better than a thousand months.’ (Surah al-Qadr, 3). Muslims should make the best of this wonderful opportunity and take the right decisions with regards to this world and the Hereafter towards overcoming their flaws, compensating for their shortcomings, reinforcing their faith and further elevate their morals.”

— HARUN YAHYA

The blessed Month of Ramadan we are experiencing is a holy month in which the beauty of Islamic moral values is observed by the society in general. The hearts are mellowed, and believers’ efforts in this regard are redoubled. In the Qur’an, the Month of Ramadan is described to be “better than a thousand months.” (Surah al-Qadr, 3). Muslims should make the best of this wonderful opportunity and take the right decisions with regards to this world and the Hereafter towards overcoming their flaws, compensating for their shortcomings, reinforcing their faith and further elevate their morals.

One of the most important characteristics of believers is their willingness and effort to deal with all people by being gentle and kind and treating all people equally. The Qur’an states, “Good and evil are not equal. Repel evil with what is better and there will be someone between whom and you there was enmity will become as if he were a warm friend.” (Surah Fussilat, 34)

Fulfilling this responsibility, however, requires making great sacrifices in a lot of matters. For example, individuals are expected to put their own comforts aside and be patient, tolerant, compassionate, and forgiving. They are expected to overcome their anger and negative feelings and be able to respond with goodness even when faced with hostility.

The Qur’an tells about how all prophets and believers throughout history might have faced difficulties and persecutions while spreading good moral values. Despite encountering many challenges and even harsh opposition, they persisted in spreading the message of truth with patience, compassion, and devotion. They expended such effort to guide the people to righteousness that they sometimes even prayed for the guidance of those who persecuted them. Many verses of the Qur’an tell about the sincere behavior of prophets that set an example for all humankind.

One example, the following verses depict the Prophet Noah’s selfless effort to convey the good moral values and call his people to the path of righteousness:

“When their brother Noah said to them, ‘Will you not guard against evil? I am a faithful Messenger to you. So have fear of God and obey me. I do not ask you for any wage for it. My

wage is the responsibility of no one but the Lord of all the worlds.”
(*Surah ash-Shu‘ara, 106–109*)

My people! I do not ask you for any wealth for it. My wage is the responsibility of God alone.
(*Surah Hud, 29*)

Most people refused to heed this call that would help them attain salvation both in this world and the Hereafter and instead preferred to turn away from the message that was conveyed to them. Prophets and their followers who preached good moral values endured this hardship as well, submitting to God and persevering patiently.

The blessed Ramadan is an opportunity for believers to reflect the self-control they exercise in observing fast, for earning God’s approval in all other prayers as well, which, in turn, brings them closer to God. This awareness may lead people observing fast to thoroughly practice the morality favored by God, adjust their behavior to suit the teachings of the Qur’an, and flawlessly carry out the commandments of God. Our Lord grants countless means to His subjects, for He is All-Merciful and All-Forgiving.

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