

In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Bidding Farewell to the Month of Ramadan

Imam Ali bin Husain (A.S.)

O' God, O' He who desires no repayment! O' He who shows no remorse at His bestowal!

O' He who rewards not His servant "tit for tat"!

Your kindness is a new beginning, Your pardon is gratuitous (unmerited) bounty, Your punishment is just, and Your decree is a choice for the best!

If You bestow, You stain not Your bestowal with obligation, and if You withhold, You withhold not in transgression.

You show gratitude to him who thanks You, while You (Yourself) have inspired him to thank You.

You cover him whom, if You willed, You could expose, and You are generous towards him from whom, if You willed, You could withhold. Both these offenses are worthy of exposing and withholding. But, You have founded Your acts upon gratuitous bounty, channeled Your power into forbearance, received him who disobeyed You with clemency, and overlooked him who intended wrongdoing against himself.

You await their turning back without haste and refrains from rushing them toward repentance, so that the perisher may not perish because of You and the wretched may not remain wretched through Your favor, except after Your continued excusing him and successive arguments against him. This is an act of generosity through Your pardon, O' Generous, and is an act of kindness through Your tenderness, O' Clement!

It is You who have opened for Your servants a door to Your pardon, which You have named 'repentance'. You have placed upon that door a pointer from Your revelation, lest they stray from it: You have said (blessed are Your names):

“Repent toward God with unswerving repentance! It may be that Your Lord will acquit of your evil deeds and will admit you into gardens beneath which rivers flow, upon the day when God will not degrade the Prophet and those who have faith along with him, their light running before them and on their right hands, and they say: ‘Our Lord, complete for us our light, and forgive us! Surely You are powerful over everything.’”
(66:8)

What is the excuse of him who remains heedless of entering that house after the penning of the door and the setting up of the pointer?

It is You, who have raised the price against Yourself to the advantage of Your servants, desiring their profit in their trade with You, their triumph through reaching You, and their increase on account of You, for You have said (blessed is Your Name and high are You exalted):

“Whoso brings a good deed shall have ten the like of it, and whoso brings an evil deed shall only be recompensed the like of it”. (60:160)

You have said,

“The likeness of those who spend their wealth in the way of God is as the likeness of a grain of corn that sprouts seven ears, in every ear a hundred grains; so God multiplies unto whom He wills” (2:261)

You have said,

“Who is he that will lend to God a good loan, and He will multiply it for him manifold?” (2:245)

And, You have sent down in the Qur'an similar verses on the multiplying of good deeds. It is You who have pointed them through Your speech from Your Unseen and Your encouragement in which lies their good fortune to ward that which had You covered it from them, their eyes would not have perceived, their ears would not have heard, and their imaginations would not have grasped.

For You have said,

“Remember Me and I will remember you, be thankful to Me, and be you not ungrateful towards Me!” (2:152)

You have said,

“If you are thankful, surely I will increase you, but if you are ungrateful, My chastisement is surely terrible;” (14:7)

And You have said,

“Supplicate to Me and I will respond to you, surely those who are too proud to worship Me shall enter Hell utterly abject.”40:60

Hence, You have named supplicating You 'worship' and refraining from it 'waxing proud', and You have threatened that refraining from it would yield entrance into Hell in utter abjection.

So they remember You for Your kindness, they thank You for Your bounty, they supplicate You by Your command, and they donate for You (charity) in order to seek Your increase; in all this lies their deliverance from Your wrath and their triumph through Your Good Pleasure. Were any creature to do the like of that which You do, then he would be described as beneficent, be qualified as kind, and would be praised by every tongue.

So, to You belongs praise as long as there is found a way to praise You, and as long as there remain meaningful words for praising, which may be spent in praising You!

O' He who demonstrates Himself to be worthy of praise to His servants through beneficence and bounties, flooding them with kindness and graciousness! How much Your favor has been spread about among us, Your kindness lavished upon us, and Your goodness singled out for us!

You have guided us to Your religion, which You have chosen, Your creed with which You are pleased, and Your path, which You have made smooth, and You have shown us proximity to You and arrival at Your generosity!

O' God, among the choicest of those duties and the most special of those obligations You have appointed the month of Ramadan, which You have singled out from other months, chosen from among all periods and eras, and preferred over all times of the year through the Qur'an and the Light which You sent down within it; the faith which You multiplied by means of it, the Fasting which You obligated therein, the standing in prayer which You encouraged at its time, and the *Night of Decree* which You magnified therein, the night which is *“better than a thousand months”*. (97:3)

Through it, You have preferred us over the other communities and through its excellence You have chosen us to the exclusion of the people of the creeds. We fasted by Your command in its daylight,

we stood in prayer with Your help in its night, presenting ourselves by its fasting and its standing to the mercy which You have held up before us, and we found through it the means to Your reward.

And, You are overflowing with that of which is sought from You, munificent with what is asked of Your bounty, and are near to him who strives for Your nearness.

This month stood among us in a standing place of praise, accompanied us with the companionship of one approved, and profited us with the excellent profit of the world's creatures. Then it parted from us at the completion of its time, the end of its term, and the fulfillment of its number.

So, we bid farewell to it with the farewell of one whose parting pains us, whose leaving fills us with gloom and loneliness, and to whom we have come to owe a safeguarded claim, an observed inviolability, and a discharged right.

We say:

- Peace be upon you, O' greatest month of God! O' festival of His friends!
- Peace be upon you, O' most noble of accompanying times! O' the best of the months in its days and hours!
- Peace be upon you, the month in which expectations come near and good works are (abundantly) scattered about!
- Peace be upon you, O' comrade, who is great in worth when found, and who torments through absence when lost, an anticipated friend whose parting gives pain!
- Peace be upon you, the familiar, who brought comfort in coming, thus made us happy, who caused loneliness and anguish in going away!
- Peace be upon you, the neighbor in whom hearts became tender and sins became scarce!
- Peace be upon you, the helper who aided against Satan, and a companion who made easy the paths of good doing!
- Peace be upon you, how many became freedmen of God within you! How happy are those who observed the respect due to you!
- Peace be upon you, how many sins you erased and how many faults you covered!
- Peace be upon you, How drawn out (lengthy) were you for the sinners! How invigorating were you in the hearts of the faithful!
- Peace be upon you, the month with which no days (of any other month) can compete!
- Peace be upon you, the month, which brings peace in all affairs!
- Peace be upon you, whose companionship is not disliked, whose friendly mixing is not blamed!
- Peace be upon you, as you have entered upon us with blessings and cleansed us of the defilement of offenses!
- Peace be upon you, we bid you not farewell in annoyance, nor has the fasting left weariness in us!
- Peace be upon you, you were the object sought before your arrival time, and the reason for sorrow at your departure!
- Peace be upon you, how much evil was turned away from us through you! How much good flowed upon us because of you!
- Peace be upon you, and upon the *Night of Decree*, which is "*better than a thousand months*". (97:3)
- Peace be upon you, how much we craved for you yesterday! How intensely we shall yearn for you tomorrow!
- Peace be upon you, and upon your bounty which has now been made unavailable to us, and upon your blessings gone by which have now been stripped away from us!

O' God, we are the people of this month. Through it, You have ennobled us and given us success because of Your kindness, while the wretched are ignorant of it, and denied its bounty because of their wretchedness.

You are the patron of the knowledge of it by which you have preferred us, and its prescribed practices to which you have guided us.

We have undertaken fasting in this month and stood in prayer (through Your Grace), though with shortcomings, and we have performed so little, in return for much.

O' God, to You belongs praise, we direct to You our admission of evil doings, confession of our negligence, and show remorse, which is firmly rooted, in our hearts, and we seek pardon uttered sincerely by our tongues.

Reward us in spite of the neglect that befell us in this month, with a reward through which we may obtain the desired bounty and secure many of its bounties we crave!

Make incumbent upon us Your pardon for our falling short of fulfilling Your right in this month, and make our lives which lie before us, reach the coming month of Ramadan!

Once You have made us reach it, help us perform the worship of which You are worthy, cause us to undertake the obedience which You deserve, and grant us righteous works that we may fulfill Your right in these two months, (Ramadan that went by and the next Ramadan).

O' God, as for the small and large sins which we have committed in this our month, the misdeeds into which we have fallen, and the offenses which we have earned, purposefully or in forgetfulness, wronging ourselves or violating the respect due to others, bless Muhammad and his Household, cover us over with Your covering, pardon us through Your pardoning.

Place us not before the eyes of the gloaters because of that (our faults), stretch not towards us the tongues of the defamers, and employ us in that which will alleviate and expiate whatever You disapprove from us, through Your clemency which does not run out, and Your bounty which does not diminish!

O' God, bless Muhammad and his household; redress our afflictions by this month of ours. Bless us in this day of our Festival and the breaking of our Fast, make it one of the best of the days that have passed over us, the greatest in attracting Your pardon, and the most effacing towards sins, and forgive us our sins, both the concealed and the manifest!

O' God, with the passing of this month make us abstain from our offenses; with its departure make us depart from our evil deeds. Appoint us among its most felicitous people, the most plentiful recipient of its portion, and the fullest of them in receiving the share!

O' God, when any person observes this month as it should be observed, safeguards its inviolability as it should be safeguarded, attends to its bounds as they should be attended to, fears the misdeeds as they should be feared, or seeks nearness to You with any act of nearness-seeking, then it makes incumbent upon him Your good pleasure and You direct toward him Your Mercy. Give to us the like [of that] from Your wealth and bestow it upon us multiplied through Your bounty, for Your bounty does not diminish, Your treasures do not decrease, instead they overflow, the mines of Your beneficence do not exhaust. Your bestowal is full of delight!

O' God, bless Muhammad and his Household and write for us, the like of the wages of him who fasted in it and worshipped You in it until the Day of Resurrection!

O' God, we repent to You in our day of Fast-breaking, (which You have appointed for the faithful as a day of festival and a joy and for the people of Your creed, a time of assembly and gathering), from every misdeed we did, ill-work we sent ahead, or evil thought we secretly conceived. We repent with the repentance of one who does not intend a return to sins and who will not repeat the offenses, an unswerving repentance free of doubt and wavering. So, accept repentance from us, be pleased with us, and mend us (our condition) in this day.

O God, create in us the fear of the threatened punishment (of the Hereafter) and give us the yearning for the promised reward, so that we may find the pleasure of that, for which we supplicate to You and are saved from the sorrow for which we seek sanctuary in You!

Place us with You among the repenters, those upon whom You have made Your love obligatory, and from whom You have accepted obedience. O' Most Just of those who are just!

O' God, show forbearance toward our fathers, our mothers, and all the people of our religion, those who have gone and those who will pass by, until the Day of Resurrection!

O' God, bless our Prophet Muhammad and his Household, as You have blessed Your angels brought nigh, bless him and his Household, as You have blessed Your prophets sent out, bless him and his Household, as You have blessed Your righteous servants - and better than that, O' Lord of the worlds! A blessing whose benediction will reach us, whose benefit will accrue to us, and through which, our supplication may be granted!

You are the most Generous of those who are beseeched, most Sufficient of those in whom confidence is placed, the most Bestowing of those from whom bounty is asked, and "*You are powerful over everything*" (3:26)

(The End)

Adapted from: www.al-Islam.org

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