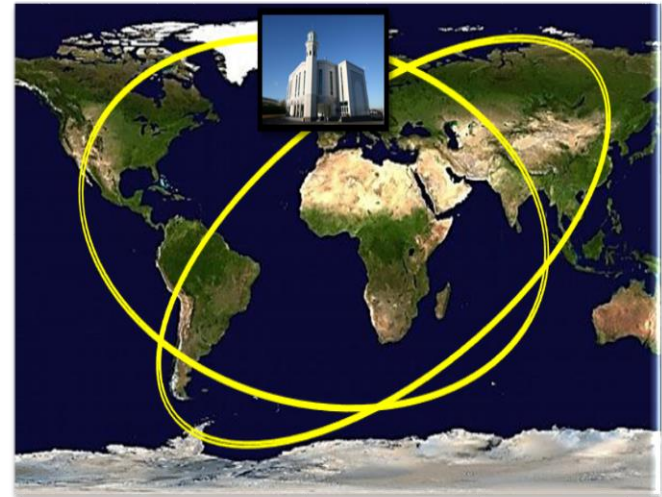


Ramadan, Taqwa and Steadfastness



**Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat
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Head of the Ahmadiyya
Muslim Community**



**relayed live all across the
globe**

June 2nd 2017

Summary

Ramadan, Taqwa and Steadfastness

Huzur (aba) said in his sermon today that Alhamdulillah we are being enabled to experience the month of Ramadan once more in our lives.

Acquiring Taqwa is the purpose of fasting during Ramadan, which Allah the Almighty has mentioned in the Holy Qur'an.

The Holy Prophet sa stated: whoever fasts during Ramadan in a state of faith while self-examining will have his previous sins forgiven.

In light of the sayings of the Promised messiah AS Huzur (aba) explained the meaning of taqwa and ways to achieve it.

For those who commit atrocities in the name of God and His Messenger (sa), they can never partake of the blessings of Ramadan, rather they will suffer the wrath of God

Huzur led funeral prayer in absentia of respected Khwaja Ahmad Hussain Sahib Darwaish, Qadian

June 2nd 2017

The month of Ramadan

Taqwa

“O ye who believe! fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may become righteous.”

Faith

Self-
analyses

Alhamdulillah (all praise to Allah) - that we are being enabled to experience the month of Ramadan once more in our lives.

Steadfast-
ness

The Holy Prophet^{sa} said

Taqwa

'If people knew about the excellences of Ramadan, then my *ummah* [Muslim community at large] would have wished the entire year to be Ramadan.'

Faith

Upon this, a person asked him what the excellences of Ramadan were? He replied, 'Verily, paradise is decorated for Ramadan from the beginning to the end of the year.'

Self-analyses

Another narration, the Holy Prophet^{sa} said that 'whoever observes fasting during Ramadan in a state of faith and while self-evaluating, his previous sins will be forgiven

Steadfastness

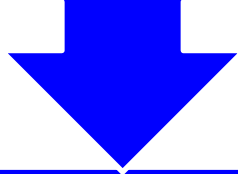
and if you knew what the excellences of Ramadan are, you would have wished that the entire year were Ramadan.'

Ramadan

The purpose of fasting

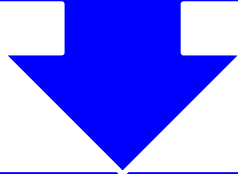
Tagwa

When man increases in faith, undertakes self-evaluation, watches over his shortcomings and actions, focuses on fulfilling the rights of Allah and the rights of people and tries to make his actions conducive to the will of Allah, only then is he granted forgiveness for his [past] sins



Faith

In the verse, which I recited, 'fasting is prescribed for you, the month of Ramadan is designated every year so that you may become righteous and tagwa means that every action should be undertaken for the pleasure of Allah the Almighty.



Self-analyses

Then only can you benefit from the fasting and save yourselves from the onslaughts of satan. When, you will fast with sincerity, being righteous, will you come in the refuge of Allah the Almighty.'

Steadfastness

June 2nd
2017

Ramadan and taqwa

Taqwa

The Holy Prophet ^{sa} stated: whoever fasts during Ramadan in a state of faith while self-examining will have his previous sins forgiven

Faith

This is not something ordinary. The Promised Messiah ^{as} taught us that a state of faith cannot be attained to until and unless one recognises God.

Self-analyses

He further stated that we must cross the great stage of recognising and understanding God

Steadfastness

and if our understanding of God is defective or mingled with doubt or in any way weak, our faith shall never be glowing and imbued with light.

Ramadan

Recognising God

So how can one recognise God?

Taqwa

This takes place through the manifestation of God's *Rahimiyyat* (attribute of mercy) i.e. recognising God may only be achieved by means of the demonstration of God's attribute of mercy

Faith

He further states that when God Almighty's attributes of *Rahimiyyat*, grace and might are experienced, they safeguard from carnal passions, as carnal passions are brought about due to weakness of faith and conviction

**Self-
analyses**

it can be well understood that this faith is no ordinary matter. In fact, it is an enormous target which we have been given, it is not only the fasting for 30 days, or preparing for the month of Ramadan, for these hold little importance

**Steadfast-
ness**

This importance can only increase when all our efforts from the training in this month are produced throughout the year.

June 2nd
2017

Ramadan

Taqwa

Faith

Self-
analyses

Steadfast-
ness

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says

Whilst explaining the condition of faith and the way to rectify it, the Promised Messiah ^{as} in one place writes:

“In actuality, there are two types of faith in God. One is restricted merely to the lip-service which has no effect on deeds and actions. (Faith is expressed but is not demonstrated in actions).

The second type of faith in God is such which comes with practical testimony. He states:

“I know that these people declare their faith in God but I see that despite this declaration, they are engulfed in the filth this world and polluted with the mist of sinfulness.”

June 2nd
2017

Ramadan

Taqwa

Faith

Self-
analyses

**Steadfast-
ness**

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says

“Thus, the first responsibility of man should be to review their belief in God Almighty. This implies that they must not commit any deed that would indicate that they do not hold any regard for the Majesty of God, nor should it contradict any command of God Almighty.”

Thus, this is the manner in which a believer can analyse themselves during this month of Ramadan.

June 2nd
2017

Ramadan

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says

Taqwa

Faith

Self-
analyses

**Steadfast-
ness**

How one can progress further in righteousness, as explained to us by the Promised Messiah (as).
Man's faith advances when one makes progress in their righteousness.

“The purpose of the teachings of the Qur'an and Islam were to develop *Taqwah* [righteousness], and this very thing cannot be witnessed anywhere today. People fast and also offer their prayers, yet owing to the fact that they are devoid of any righteousness, these very fasts and prayers lead them to sin.”

June 2nd
2017

Ramadan

In today's day and age, we see acts of terror being committed in the name of Islam

Taqwa

where innocent people are being killed, is all taking place because there is a void of righteousness

Faith

Two days ago, approximately one hundred people were brutally killed in Afghanistan

Will Ramadan be of any benefit for such people [who commit these acts]?

Will they partake of the blessings that are attached with its grandeur?

Absolutely not, because these people commit acts that are contrary to the commands of God Almighty

Also because they have moved away from the commandments of God Almighty and moved away from righteousness

Self-
analyses

**Steadfast-
ness**

June 2nd
2017

Ramadan and righteousness

In complete harmony with the Holy Quran, the Promised Messiah (as) has stated: **“Even prayer without righteousness is futile and is the key to hell.”**

It is the key that leads one towards hell.

Thus, how can Ramadan be of any benefit for those who are bereft of any righteousness?

As for those who commit atrocities in the name of God and His Messenger (sa), **they can never partake of the blessings of Ramadan, rather they are the ones who will suffer the wrath of God**

Thus, when we witness these brutal and barbaric acts, we as Ahmadis should seek repentance from God Almighty by prostrating to him even more than before,

for He has separated us from these tyrants and enabled us to accept the Promised Messiah (as). We should always be mindful of our actions and should strive to strengthen our faith.

Ramadan

Tagwa

Faith

Self-
analyses

Steadfast-
ness

June 2nd
2017

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says

Ramadan

Taqwa

Faith

Self-
analyses

Steadfast-
ness

Whilst explaining the true meaning of righteousness, the Promised Messiah (as) states:

Real *Taqwah* which cleanses and purifies a person and for which Prophets appear to establish, has vanished from the world. Is there anyone who is the reflection of 'He indeed *truly* prospers who purifies it.' Purity and cleanliness are excellent virtues and angels greet one who is pure

'The second chapter [of the Holy Quran] begins with 'It is a guidance for the righteous.' Prayer, fasting, *Zakat* and so on are all accepted when a person becomes righteous.'

And so all of the aforementioned will be accepted when a person adopts *Taqwah*. Otherwise they will not be accepted if one is devoid of *Taqwah*.

June 2nd
2017

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says

Ramadan

Taqwa

Faith

Self-
analyses

**Steadfast-
ness**

‘At this point God the Almighty erases all motivations of a person to committing sin.’

In other words if one has complete *Taqwah*, Allah the Almighty eradicates all temptations and instigations that entice him towards transgressing.

‘When man is need of a wife, He [God] will provide that. When he is need of medicine, He will provide that. Whatever man is need of, God provides for that and He provides in ways that is unimaginable to a person.’

June 2nd
2017

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says

Ramadan

Taqwa

Faith

Self-
analyses

Steadfast-
ness

Explaining further about *Taqwah* and steadfastness, the Promised Messiah (as) says:

‘In the beginning a true Muslim has to display patience. The Companions experienced times when they were forced to survive on leaves and at other times they did not even have a piece of bread to eat. No one can benefit another person unless it is ordained by Allah the Almighty.

A person who adopts *Taqwah* has doors and means opened to him by Him. ‘he who fears Allah — He will make for him a way out and provide for him in ways which we he cannot comprehend...’ Believe truly in Allah the Almighty.

June 2nd
2017

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says

Ramadan

Tagwa

Faith

Self-
analyses

Steadfast-
ness

This verse has two parts. The first is that for those who truly believe, Allah the Almighty will find for him a way or means out and will provide him through that. The second part means that Allah the Almighty will provide for the person in ways that are unimaginable to him

'Hold true belief in Allah the Almighty as you will attain everything from that. This requires steadfastness and determination. The exalted rank of the Prophets was attained through their steadfastness and patience.'

June 2nd
2017

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says

Ramadan

Taqwa

Faith

Self-
analyses

Steadfast-
ness

‘What possible use can empty and lifeless prayer and fasting give to one?’

To simply pray and fast during Ramadan will not achieve anything, but rather when one does so with a determined conviction, it is then that he or she will attain everything. Thus, Allah the Almighty wants us to become righteous so that the doors of His countless grace open upon us, and particularly during the month of Ramadan, the doors to His Grace are opened upon those who instil Taqwa [righteousness] within them.

‘In order for one to become righteous, it is necessary that after strongly abstaining from the more bold/obtrusive sins such as adultery, stealing, usurping the rights of others, displaying arrogance, contempt and miserliness, one should refrain from lowly practices and conversely seek to progress in adopting high moral qualities.’

June 2nd
2017

Ramadan

Taqwa

Faith

Self-
analyses

Steadfast-
ness

June 2nd
2017

Taqwa and rights of fellow man

One should refrain from all such lowly habits and progress in adopting high morals – this is a necessary condition.

The Promised Messiah^{as} further states: 'One should treat others with compassion, kindness and be sincere and truthful with God. And should search for ways to serve others which are worthy of admiration.'

One should render such deeds and service to others which is truly worthy of praise and extraordinary in nature and only then is it possible for one to acquire a high level of *Taqwa*.

One should afford good treatment to others while displaying a spirit of selflessness and should fulfil the due rights of God Almighty as well as the rights of fellow man in an exemplary manner.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says

Ramadan

Taqwa

Faith

Self-
analyses

Steadfast-
ness

June 2nd
2017

Elaborating on the importance of Taqwa and the objective of his advent, the Promised Messiah states:

‘The reason why I have been appointed is because the field of Taqwa is empty. There is a need for Taqwa rather than taking up the sword which has been declared unlawful. If you adopt Taqwa, then the whole world will come by your side, thus adopt Taqwa. Those who drink alcohol or where alcohol is considered a central aspect of their religious traditions have no relation with Taqwa and are waging a war against piety. Therefore, if Allah the Almighty grants our Jama’at such good fortunate people and grants them the ability to combat against evil and they seek to progress in the field of Taqwa and purity then this is a great achievement and there is nothing that can be more effective than this.’

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) says

Ramadan

Taqwa

Faith

Self-analyses

Steadfastness

June 2nd
2017

‘Our Jama’at should therefore be fearful of this because only those shall be saved who have the level of Taqwa which God Almighty desires from us. Allah the Almighty has established this community for the purpose of attaining Taqwa because the field of Taqwa is completely empty.’

Funeral prayer in absentia of respected Khwaja Ahmad Hussain Sahib Darwaish, Qadian, who was the son of respected Muhammad Hussain Sahib. He passed away on 31st May 2017 at the age of 92 - Surely to Allah we belong and to Him we shall return.