

FRIDAY KHUTBA OF TOKYO CAMII

August 14, 2009

UPON ENTERING THE MONTH OF RAMADAN

Dear Mumins!

One of the most fortunate things bestowed by Allah is the holy month of Ramadan, with all its beauties, and material and spiritual blessings. Ramadan is the month of worship; the month of mercy and compassion. Its blessings are abundant and its graces are limitless. This is the month of mutual aid, charity, and benevolence. It is the month of training to purify ourselves from one year of material and spiritual grime to amplify our humanitarian sensations, and to enhance our intention and our will to head towards the Haq (truth) by repenting our faults and sins. The Qur'ân al-Karîm, which saves humans from intellectual and ethical degeneration, and which urges them towards knowledge (science), civilization, good manners (adab), and ethics, began to be revealed to the Prophet (s.a.w.) during this month. The Qadr Night which is better than a thousand months exists in this holy period.

Allah (s.w.t.) describes the virtue of this month briefly as follows: "**Ramadan is the (month) in which was sent the Qur'ân, as a guide to mankind, and clear (signs) for guidance and judgment (between right and wrong).**"¹ Our Prophet (s.a.w.) said of the virtue of this month in a khutba which He delivered just before Ramadan: "O people! The shadow of the sacred and exalted month has covered upon you. There is a night in it that is better than thousand months. Allah (s.w.t.) made fasting an obligation (fard) and made worshipping (taraweeh prayer) at night supererogatory (nâfilah) during this month. Someone who does one good thing (any goodness) in this month would be like a man who had done a fard in other months. And someone who abides a fard in Ramadan would be like a man who gains sawab (reward) as if he had performed seventy fards. It is the month of

patience. The reward of patience is jannah (paradise). It is the month of helping each other. In this month, rizq (food, blessing) of mumins is made plentiful. Whoever makes a mumin break the fast, this would be a cause for him to be forgiven from the sins and to be saved from the fire. Furthermore, he would be bestowed the reward of the fasting. And nothing from the reward of the fasting would decrease."²

Dear Mumins!

Ramadan is a holy month for it is the month when the Qur'ân is revealed within. The Qur'ân is the guide to hidayat (the right way) for Muslims. Thus, let's try to read and to comprehend the Qur'ân much more, and to implement its teachings into our lives.

Ramadan is the month of patience and gratitude (shukr). By fasting, we will have trained our nafs with patience, and we will have performed our duty of shukr for the boons that Allah (s.w.t.) has bestowed upon us. Surely, fasting is the best expression of our slavery towards Allah, our shukr feelings that we have because of the blessings that Allah (s.w.t.) grants. It is a very important worship from the point of view of its numerous benefits for humans' physical and psychological health, as well as for the life of the society.

In conclusion, Ramadan is the month of generosity and mutual aid. It is the month that the Prophet's (s.a.w.) generosity reaches its peak as well.³ As Muslims, during this month, we should get ready materially and spiritually in order to perform fasting fairly, which is one of the five pillars of Islam. We should try to spend the month of Ramadan happily, peacefully, and warmly .

O Ramadan, month of mercy! Welcome! You have brought compassion and abundance!



¹ Al-Baqarah, 185.

² At-Targhîb, II, 94.

³ Bukhârî, Sawm, 7.