



GUIDELINES FOR THE MONTH OF RAMADHAN IN THE PRESENT STATE OF 'LOCKDOWN'

The holy and blessed month of Ramadhan is here again, and Muslims through the globe are looking forward to occupy themselves in many acts of worship during the course of this sacred season. However, due to the present state of 'lockdown', all (Muslims) are very concerned about their acts of worship which they would normally do in the month of Ramadhan.

In trying to work around this situation, one should understand that notwithstanding the present 'lockdown' state, one can still make an effort to achieve all the blessing and rewards which Allah Has placed in the holy and blessed month. Many of the acts of worship (Ibadah) in the month of Ramadhan, are connected to the believers on an individual basis, and they do not need gatherings nor specific places to perform these. As such, they can engage in the following meritorious acts to benefit greatly from the blessedness and holiness of the great month:-

1. Spend a lot of time reciting the Holy Quran, since Ramadhan is the month in which this great book was revealed.
2. Rise early in the morning to perform the Tahajjud Salah and to engage in Duas (supplications) before taking Sehri. Ensure that you stop taking food/drink before the entrance of the morning time, as given in the Ramadhan Time Table.
3. Devote time for the 'Dhikr of Allah' (Remembrance of Allah) in the morning and evening periods.
4. Due to the state of 'lockdown', one should not be hosting Iftaris or visiting places for this purpose and/or for other similar functions.
5. The 5 times daily Salah should be performed at home, and one should avoid visiting the Masjid in order to get the rewards of Salah in Jamaat (congregation).
Insha Allah, because of the present situation which one has no control of, Allah will reward a person with full rewards for doing his/her acts of worship at home.
6. Those upon whom Zakaah has become compulsory, must find ways and means of fulfilling this obligation before the month comes to an end. In a similar manner, Sadaqatul Fitr and Fidyah must also be paid before the end of the month of Ramadhan.
7. The Taraweeh Salah is Sunnah Al Mu'akadah (emphasized Sunnah) upon adult Muslims, males and females, and it consists of twenty rakaats. Therefore, even though one is at home, he/she must still perform the Taraweeh Salah of twenty rakaats. (*Al Jawhara An Nayirah vol. 1 page 243 Qadeemi Karachi; Al Fiqh Al Islami wa Adilatuh Vol. 2 page. 1059 Maktaba Rasheediya Queta Pakistan*).
8. While performing the Taraweeh Salah at home, it is more virtuous to perform it in congregation. Therefore, the household members can form themselves in Jamaat (congregation) and appoint the most learnt adult male (in Islamic teachings and recitation of the Quran) to lead the Salah.
9. Performing Taraweeh Salah in congregation (Jamaat) in the Masjid is Sunnah Al Mu'akaddah Alal Kifayah (an emphasized Sunnah on a sufficing basis). This means that if some people fulfil the Taraweeh Salah in the Masjid, then all Muslims (male adults) would be absolved from this duty of performing the Taraweeh Salah in the Masjid. (*Al Fiqh Al Islami wa Adilatuh vol. 2 page 1059; Kitabul Fatawa Vol. 2 page 411*).

Taking the present 'lockdown' state into consideration, Muslims should not leave their homes to go for the Taraweeh Salah in the Masjid. Instead, they should perform it at home. Whoever is residing in the compound of the masjid or have the permission to visit the masjid because of his position, should perform the Taraweeh Salah in the Masjid to fulfil the rights of the masjid. At least two persons can do this. If this is not possible, then at least one person should fulfil this duty.

All other acts of goodness, charities and worship, must continue to be done in the blessed month. The state of 'lockdown' must not prevent us from increasing our good deeds, especially when we have a considerable amount of time at our disposal. We must formulate a schedule for all our activities in the month of Ramadhan, so that we can benefit from the 'extra time' and avoid spending it in a futile manner.

Darul Uloom Trinidad and Tobago Ltd.