

Opening Letter

The holy month of Ramazan and coming blessings

Dear reader,

I have the pleasure to congratulate you on the occasion of this blessing month of Ramazan; the month of fasting (Saum), piety, kindness, guidance and forgiveness .

"You who believe, fasting is prescribed to you, as it was prescribed to those before you, so that you may attain piety. (Fasting) for a fixed number of days, but if any of you is ill ... feeding a poor msn. It is better for you to fast, if you only knew.

The month of Ramazan is when the Qur'an was sent down- as guidance for mankind, and with clear signs for guidance and judgment... God intends things to be easy for you and does not want any hardship for you... he has guided you, so that you may act grateful." (Qur'an 2:183-185)

In this month purity of both thought and action is more emphasized. Muslims are more expected to avoid violence, anger, envy, greed, lust, gossip,... and are meant to try to behave each other better than other times. Fasting is a deep personal worship, and increases the closeness to Allah.

And the promised rewards for those who go on fast and attain piety, are extensive and frequent :

"...the noblest among you with God is the one of you who is more piety." (Qur'an, 42: 13)

"If the townsfolk had believed and regarded piety, we would have showered blessings from Heaven and Earth on them; but they rejected..." (Qur'an, 7: 96)

" The heedful will be by gardens and a river, in a sure position, under a Competent Sovereign." (Qur'an, 55:54-5)

As our general readers are more concerned about morality and sacred objects in this atmosphere, our main topics in this issue fall in this category. I hope that you enjoy reading this issue.

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Editor-in-Chief