



In the name of Allah most Gracious, most Merciful

COMMUNITY NEWS

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SHABAN 1445

MARCH 2024

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Imran Ally
(Shaykh Abu Musa)

HIGHLIGHTS

FIRST TARAWEEH (TENTATIVE)

SUNDAY MARCH 10, 2024

FIRST OF RAMADAN (TENTATIVE)

MONDAY MARCH 11, 2024

DAILY RAMADAN REFLECTIONS

WITH SHAYKH IMRAN ALLY WEEKDAYS ON ZOOM

27TH NIGHT OF RAMADAN (TENTATIVE)

FRIDAY APRIL 5, 2024

EID-UL-FITR (TENTATIVE)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10, 2024

SALAAT TIMES ARE 7:30, 9:00, AND 10:00 AM

EID-UL-FITR DINNER

SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2024

PLEASE VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE FOR UPDATED INFORMATION,
DATES, AND TIMINGS.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Assalaam o Alaikum

We begin by expressing praise and sincere gratitude to Allah SWT, seeking His peace and blessings upon the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ his family, and all believers.

As the Muslim Ummah awaits the arrival of the blessed month of Ramadan 1445 AH, we prepare our hearts and minds for the sacred time ahead, looking forward to the opportunity for spiritual growth, reflection, and renewal. In just a few weeks the holy month will be upon us, and we here at TARIC have started preparations for this month. The tentative first day of Ramadan is March 11, 2024. As usual we will await the sighting of the new moon by the Hilal committee of Toronto before declaring the start of Ramadan.

We plan to have iftars on the weekends, on the 27th Night and on the public holiday of Good Friday. We welcome anyone wishing to host an iftar or contribute collectively to an iftar to contact us to do so. Many have started making their personal preparations for Ramadan. We pray and hope that Allah SWT blesses us to witness this holy month and to gain of its immense blessings inshallah.

We are also deeply grateful to Allah SWT that in our part of the world, we are blessed to enjoy an environment that allows us to practice our faith with freedom and relative security. As we eagerly anticipate the arrival of Ramadan, let us also remember our brothers and sisters in Palestine who continue to endure immense hardship. Since early October, the people of Palestine and Gaza have been bombarded with heavy artillery in response to an attack by Hamas which is reported to have killed 1200 Israelis and many being kidnapped. The response by the Israeli government has been immediate and relentless and still goes on for more than 150 days with nearly 30 000 Palestinians reported killed. A very high percentage of those killed are mainly innocent civilians and children. More are dying because access to essential food, water and medicine is still limited. Hospitals have been bombed and medical care has become very limited. The carnage that has resulted has been witnessed by the world and to date very little action

has been taken to resolve this senseless killing of innocent people and children.

Many people have spoken out about the disproportionate response to the initial attacks, and some have described the action by the Israeli government as ethnic cleansing and genocide. Many Jews around the world have disassociated themselves from the actions taken by the Israeli government. South Africa has taken the issue to the UN.

We are heartened by the recent call by the International Court of Justice for a ceasefire and the provision of humanitarian aid, and we urge the international community to take decisive action to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people.

Some believers may ask why Allah SWT is allowing such brutality to our brothers and sisters in Gaza and other places. We do not have an answer except that Allah SWT knows best. Allah SWT has told us in many places in the Holy Quran that He will test the Believers. He says in Chapter 29:2, **{Do people think that they will be left alone on saying “We believe” and they will not be tested?}** And in Chapter 3: 186 He says, **{Ye shall certainly be tested in your possession and in your personal selves; and you shall certainly hear much that will grieve you, from those who received the Book before you and from those who worship many gods. But if you persevere patiently, and guard against evil, then that will be a determining factor in all affairs.}**

And so, we must expect that we will be tested and if we persevere and stand firm in our faith, we will be of those who are successful. When we experience these tests and trials, we should always think positively of Allah SWT as He is the All Knowing, The Beneficent and the Most Merciful. It is reported that the Prophet ﷺ said, *“Five are regarded as martyrs: Those who die of the plague, drowning, being crushed, the martyr in the cause of Allah, and stomach illness”* (Bukhari, Tirmidhi).

We pray that Allah SWT grants complete ease to all those suffering and grant the people of Palestine strengthened trust in Him, protection, and perseverance during this enormous trial.

RAMADAN IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE TO LIVE IN MINDFULNESS OF ALLAAH

By: Imam Shaykh Abu Musa Imran Ally

Introduction

Ramadan is a month of Allaah's Mercy, His Forgiveness, and safety from the Hellfire. As we prepare to observe this incredible month, our main goal should be to increase our knowledge, to improve our worship, which is an art that every worshipper must master. Yet few ever do! Without proper knowledge of Allaah, worship is defective, or at least incomplete. In addition to being a key element of our worship, knowledge must be expressed in our speech and actions to bear fruit and Ramadan provides that opportunity.

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is one of the five pillars of Islam and observed in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. Ramadan is the period in which the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was visited by angel Gabriel (Jibreel) and began to receive the Glorious Qur'aan - Allaah's final revelation to mankind. We observe Ramadan through daily fasting, prayers, charity, and building a closer relationship with Allaah. In the Glorious Qur'aan, Allaah says, **{Ramadan is the month in which the Qur'aan was revealed as a guide for humanity with clear proofs of guidance and the standard to distinguish between right and wrong. So, whoever is present this month, let them fast.}** surah 2: ayah 185

Of course, fasting is the hallmark of Ramadan. Fasting has both physical and spiritual benefits, including purifying the soul, inspiring self-reflection, increasing empathy, and doing good deeds.

What's the purpose of fasting?

The purpose of fasting is to teach ourselves self-restraint to overpower evil and to make us devoted towards Allaah. In the Qur'aan, Allaah revealed, **{Oh you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may learn piety and righteousness.}** surah 2: ayah 183

How is Ramadan observed?

We observe fasting by abstaining from food, drink, and marital sexual intimacy from dawn to sunset daily throughout the entire month of Ramadan, in complete devotion to Allaah. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ informed us, *"Whoever does not give up lying and acting dishonestly, then [know that] Allaah has no need for this person to give up food and drink (fasting)."* Sahih al-Bukhari. We should come out of Ramadan with better characteristics and moral behaviour. Each Muslim is highly encouraged to spare no effort during the days and nights of Ramadan in the following:

- a) Purifying one's soul from all sins and evaluating one's actions to be always in accordance with the teachings of Islam.
- b) Exerting additional efforts to elevate the soul by increasing good deeds.
- c) Behaving in a responsible manner and using every moment to gain protection from the Hellfire.
- d) Developing a sense of determination in one's soul that they will always be mindful of Allaah and to continue with this spirit after Ramadan.

Who is required to fast to observe Ramadan?

Non-travelling Muslims who are healthy, able-bodied, of-age (mature), and of sound mind must fast in Ramadan.

Are there exemptions from fasting?

Yes, these exemptions are intended for Muslims who cannot physically or otherwise fast and Allaah has excused them for it and provided alternate ways for them to compensate for not fasting.

Conclusion

Ramadan is a month of practicing additional vigilance about all the things that could harm our spirituality. Immoral acts are always forbidden; however, we work with even greater dedication to avoid them and to excel in extra devotion, kindness, patience, and forgiveness in Ramadan. Such inner purity is the intended goal of fasting. The entire month is meant to help us shake off the complacency of daily life and jumpstart spiritual growth, piety, and generosity to others.

Ramadan starts earlier every year, and it comes at the most perfect time when we need it the most, maa shaa Allaah. Here's your Imam's friendly

advice, before waiting for Ramadan and saying, “I’ll change in Ramadan” remember that witnessing Ramadan isn’t guaranteed, neither is tomorrow. Change is now!”

Yaa Allaah, we beg of You for Paradise and that which brings us closer to it of statements or actions. And we seek refuge with You from the Hellfire and that which takes us closer to it of statements or actions. Our Lord! Give us in this world that which is good and in the Hereafter that which is good, and save us from the torment of the Hellfire, اللهم آمين.

“Ramadan Mubarak” and “Ramadan Kareem”

On a personal note, this year (1445/2024) marks 25th consecutive Ramadan of my devoted khidmah (service) as the resident Imam of the TARIC Islamic Centre, al-hamdu lil-laah.

Further information

For detailed rulings and/or specific questions pertaining to the Fiqh of Ramadan and/or Eid ul Fitr, please email: imam@taric.org

DONATIONS

May Allah SWT reward you for your donations to TARIC. For e-transfers, use (deposits@taric.org) Include your name, address, and telephone number for your receipts, and a comment for the type of donation, e.g., masjid fund, education, sadaqa, zakaat, etc.

Please continue to generously support the masjid’s programs and the masjid funds so we can continue to provide quality programs, courses, and resources.

COMMUNITY NEWS

It is with sadness we convey the loss of a few members of our community.

We pay tribute to a TARIC member, Br Nazam Mohammed, who passed away in October of 2023. Br Nazam was a key member of our kitchen staff during Ramadan and dinners and his family has been long contributors to our bazaars and other events. He leaves behind his wife, Denise, three children and a grandchild.

Br Abdul Kaber Bin Mohammed Yusuf Maricar

Sr Afrose Mohammed, mother of member Br Ali John Mohammed

Dr Ezzedine Gad, Producer, and presenter of the TV program *Reflections on Islam*

Br Azad Hack, husband of Sr Bibi Hack

Br Farzan Mohammed brother of members Sr Farinah Ojah and Sr Yasmin Ackbar and brother-in-law of member Br Scott Ackbar

Sr Lazina Abdool, mother of member Sr Anesa Abdool and sister of Sr Cherry Khan,

May Allah SWT forgive them and have mercy upon them.

Innaa Lillaahi Wa 'Innaa 'Ilayhi-Raaji-'Uun