

FRIDAY SERMON

13 February 2026

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As from today we shall *inchallah* be talking about the Holy Month of Ramadan on the following four or five coming Friday Sermons. As you are all aware Fasting in the month of Ramadan is one of the five pillars of our faith. The other four pillars are: the statement of belief in Allah and His Prophet Mohammad(saw) “*laa ilaha ilallaho Muhammadur rasouloullahe*”, Salaat, Zakaat and Hajj (for those who have means to make the journey). Fasting(*siyaam*) was first prescribed about one year after the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) had emigrated to Madina in the year 632 CE. Since then, every year wherever there were Muslims they have done their best to follow the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) and they have fasted.

Now *Alhamdo Lillah* we find ourselves in a new month of the Holy Month of Ramadan with which Allah has graced us and we should be preparing ourselves to try to enjoy this special month of great spiritual blessings with great expectation and enthusiasm. We pray that Allah grants to each one among us on whom Fasting is obligatory, an enriching month of fasting where we will do our best to be closer to Allah. Ameen. For those who might be sick or who cannot fast despite their wishes we pray that Allah removes their impediments and help them to enjoy all the benefits of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Here in Mauritius the birth of the new moon for the Holy Month of Ramadan is on Tuesday 17th February at 16h00 on the 29th of Shabaan. So, it might be visible, weather permitting, on Wednesday 18th February. If it is visible then we will incha Allah start fasting on Thursday 19th February. If not, we will start fasting at latest on Friday next i.e., 20th February.

These days the temperature is quite hot because we are in the hottest month of the year for our country. We should pray that Allah cools this weather for us so that it might be easier to fast for all of us. Incha Allah. Furthermore, we should also pray that Allah grants us the necessary capacity to fast for the whole month. Under all circumstances we should develop the habit of relying upon Allah to do good deeds or to avoid doing bad ones. We should not rely on our own strength, our physical condition or our good health. We should seek help from Allah to do whatever He has prescribed for us. Such a habit, such a frame of mind will help us to develop enough humility to know how much we depend upon Allah under all circumstances.

Every year Allah sends us a Month of Ramadan in which He has placed lots of blessing for all those who observe the fasts to His satisfaction and at the same time they do their best to fulfill all their other obligations to Him (Allah) and their fellow human beings in general but especially those who are less fortunate.

Now let us read and reflect on some Hadiths of the Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw) concerning the merits of this month and its blessings. The Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw) said:

“The month of Ramadan has come to you, a blessed month in which Allah – Exalted and Majestic is He – has obligated (its) fasting upon you. In it the gates of Paradise are opened, the gates of Hell-fire are closed, and the rebellious devils are chained. In it, Allah has a night which is better than a thousand months. Whoever is deprived of its good is truly deprived!” (Nasā’ī 2106)

Usually, many youngsters make jokes with one another about this hadith. But on deeper reflection we will have to acknowledge that the beginning of the month of Ramadan is a moment of joy for most Muslims. I have read about a scholar who has said that people congratulate one another at such a moment because, out of His Mercy for His servants Allah has opened the gates of paradise and closed the gates of Hell and has chained all the satans. So, this is a moment of joy for Muslims who have been able to grasp the aim of our life and who are keen to fulfill that aim. So, we should summon all our courage and determination to spend the next twenty-nine or thirty days of our life (after seeing the new moon) to fast in such a way that Allah is pleased with us and He accepts these fasts from us and He admits us among His most faithful servants. Incha Allah. Besides we should also pray that Allah helps us to witness what is Laylatul Qadr and that we should know of its blessings because the Holy Prophet(saw) says in this hadith “In it, Allah has a night which is better than a thousand months. Whoever is deprived of its good is truly deprived”. May Allah help us to witness this night again in this noble month. Ameen

There is another hadith with a slightly changed wording which is as follows:

“When it is the first night of the month of Ramadan, the devils and the rebellious jinn are tied up; the doors of Hell-fire are closed, and none of its doors are opened. The doors of Paradise are opened, and none of its doors are closed. A caller calls out: ‘O seeker of good, come forward! O seeker of evil, stop!’ And every night, Allah frees slaves from the Hell-fire.” (Tirmidhi 682)

Let us hope and pray that we will be among the seekers of good and that we will present ourselves for entering paradise by Allah’s Grace. Ameen

In another hadith the Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw) said:

“The five daily prayers, Jumu’ah to Jumu’ah, and Ramaḍān to Ramaḍān expiate for (the sins perpetrated) in between them, so long as one stays away from the major sins.” (Muslim 233c)

So let us resolve to do such good deeds that Allah erases all our sins that we have committed in our life and He admits us in His Paradise. Ameen

The reward for fasting is indeed quite unique. The Messenger of Allah said: “Every action of the son of Adam is multiplied: a good deed receiving a tenfold to seven hundredfold rewards. Allah the Mighty and Exalted has said: ‘Except for fasting. It is for Me and I will (personally) reward it; **he abandons his desires and food for My sake.**’ The fasting person will have two moments of joy: one when he opens his fast, and the other when he will meet his Lord. The unpleasant smell coming out of his mouth is more fragrant to Allah than musk.” (Muslim 1151)

The Messenger of Allah has also said:

“Whoever does not give up lying and false conduct, Allah has no need in him giving up his food and his drink.” (Bukhari 1903)

“There are many who fast, who gain nothing of their fast except hunger; and there are many who stand for the night prayer, who gain nothing of their prayer except sleeplessness.” (Ibn Maja 1690)

In the light of these hadiths, we understand that we should fast with the sole aim of pleasing our Lord so that we might be worthy of His reward in this world and in the next. Fasting is a great teacher of the spiritual path. It helps us to control all our desires and our food intake because Allah has asked us to do so. At the same time, we should strive to get closer to Allah and spend our money on those who are less fortunate in society. Furthermore, we are encouraged to offer our daily prayers on time and to devote more time in them and to offer *nafl* prayers as well. In addition, in Ramadan we should avoid all sorts of behaviour that are unpleasant in the sight of Allah. Under no circumstance should we indulge in lies or hypocritical behaviour. We should avoid all types of quarrels because of the fasting.

Commenting on Fasting Hazrat Masih Maood(as) said:

“Fasting is not merely staying hungry and thirsty; rather its reality and its impact can only be gained through experience. It is human nature that the less one eats, the more one’s spirit is purified and thus his capacity for [spiritual] visions increase. The will of God is to decrease one kind of sustenance and to increase the other. A person who is fasting should always be mindful that he is not just required to stay hungry. On the contrary, he should remain engaged in the remembrance of God so that he can cut asunder ties of worldly desires and amusements and is wholly devoted to God. Hence, the significance of fasting is this alone that man gives up one kind of sustenance which only nourishes the body and attains the other kind of sustenance which is a source of comfort and gratification for the soul.” Malfuzat Vol.5, (Rabwah: Nazarat Isha’at Rabwah Pakistan), 102.

He said further:

“During that month one should discard one’s preoccupation with eating and drinking; and cutting asunder from these needs should address oneself wholly towards God. Unfortunate is the person who is bestowed material bread and pays no attention to spiritual bread. Material bread strengthens the body, and spiritual bread sustains the soul and sharpens the spiritual faculties. Seek the Grace of God, as all doors are opened by His grace.” (The Essence of Islam Vol. 2. P316)

So let us not forget these noble words that we have heard today. Let us be determined to use the coming days of Ramadan as we have never done before. Let us pray that Allah help us to really understand the purpose for which He sent us here. During our stay here we have sinned a lot but we have also done a few good deeds. Let us beseech Him during this month day and night to forgive all our sins and ask Him to grant us such a soul which does not find any satisfaction in sinning. On the contrary our satisfaction is when we walk on the footsteps of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) and we have a keen desire in our heart to be among those who are pleased with Allah and Allah is pleased with them incha Allah. Allah is granting us a new opportunity to correct our book of records. If we fast as we should Allah will efface all our sins provided, we do our best to fulfill all the conditions of fasting. May Allah grant us this opportunity and may He turn our difficulties into easiness by His Infinite Grace. Ameen. In the coming sermons, incha Allah we will talk about other subjects like making supplications, reading and meditating on the Holy Quran, charity, remembrance of Allah, seeking forgiveness and some other subjects as well. So let us prepare for this coming spiritual feast and may we all rise to the occasion and may the doors of further spiritual perception be opened to us by Allah’s Grace. *Ameen!*