

Before Ramadan

- Praying for Ramadan two months in advance
- عن أنس بن مالك قال: كان رسول الله صل الله عليه وسلم إذا دخل
 رجب قال: اللهم بارك لنا في رجب و شعبان و بلغنا رمضان
- O Allah bless us in Rajab and Sha`ban and let us reach Ramadan
- Start fasting in Sh'aban
- Seek moon for Ramadan

Du'a for Sighting Crescent

- هلال خير ورشد ـ ثلاثا ـ أمنت بالذي خلقك ثلاث مرات **ـ**
- "This is the crescent of guidance and blessing. I believed in the one who created you."
- اللَّهُمَّ أَهِلَّهُ عَلَيْنَا بِالْيُمْنِ وَالْإِيمَانِ وَالسَّلَامَةِ وَالْإِسْلَامِ وَالتَّوْفِيقِ لِمَا تُحِبُّ وَاللَّهُمَّ أَهِلَّهُ وَتَرْضَى رَبِّى وَرَبُّكَ اللَّهُ
- "O Allah, let this moon (month) pass over us with blessings, Iman, safety, and in the belief of Islam. Grant us the ability to act on the actions that You love and Pleases You. (O moon) My Lord and Your Lord is Allah."

Suhoor (Pre-Dawn Meal)

- قال رسول الله صل الله عليه وسلام تسحروا فان في السحور بركة
- "Have the Suhoor for there are blessings in the Suhoor."
- "The difference between ours and the fasting of the people of the book is the Suhoor."
- Used to have two adhans
- Best food: dates
- "How excellent are dates as the believer's Suhoor"
- "We ate Suhoor with the Messenger of Allah and then we got up for the prayer. He was asked: 'What was the amount of time between the two?' He responded: '[The time it would take to recite] fifty ayat."

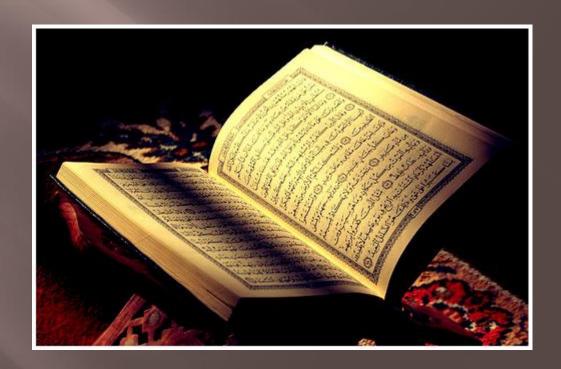
Blessings of Suhoor

Imam Nawawi (rahimahullah):

- Energy
- Enthusiasm
- Encouragement
- Wake up at time of acceptance

Recitation of Qur'an

- Used to review Qur'an with Jibreel once
- Twice in final year



Generosity

"The Prophet was the most generous of people, but he would be his most generous during Ramadan when he would meet with [the angel] Jibreel (Gabriel). He would meet with him every night and recite the Qur'an. When Jibreel met him, he used to be more generous than a fast wind (which causes rain and welfare)."

Cleaning Teeth

- قَالَ رَأَيْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَسْتَاكُ وَهُوَ صَائِمٌ مَا لَا أُحْصِي اللَّهُ وَالْهُو مَا لَا أُحْصِي اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَسْتَاكُ وَهُوَ صَائِمٌ مَا لَا أُحْصِي اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَسْتَاكُ وَهُوَ صَائِمٌ مَا لَا أُحْصِي اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَسْتَاكُ وَهُوَ صَائِمٌ مَا لَا أُحْصِي
- "I saw the Prophet cleaning his teeth with Siwak while he was fasting so many times as I can't count."

Iftar

- "Three men whose du'a is never rejected (by Allah) are: when a fasting person breaks fast (in another narration, the fasting person until he breaks his fast), the just ruler and the one who is oppressed."
- Hasten to break fast
- ذَهَبَ الظَّمأُ ، وابْتَلَّتِ العُرُوقُ ، وثَبَتَ الأجرُ إِن شاءَ اللهُ •
- Thirst is gone, the veins are moistened and the reward is certain if Allah wills
- Break with dates, water, sawiq
- If food served, eat.

Prayers at Night

- "Whoever prays qiyaam with the imam until he finishes, it will be recorded as if he spent the whole night in prayer."
- Led for two nights, then stopped
- "He did not pray more than eleven rak'ahs in Ramadan or at other times."
- Differences in interpretation & understanding
- Majority: taraweeh & tahajjud separate (min. 20)
- Others: no fixed rak'ahas (pray 2 at a time);
 maximum 8

Intimate Relations

- Nights: proven that Prophet spent time and engage with wives
- Day: embrace and give pecks to wives
- Not recommended if one cannot control urges and fears that it will lead to breaking fast

I'tikaaf (Seclusion in Masjid)

- "Allah's messenger used to stay in the Mosque during the last ten days of Ramadan."
- Recommended last 10 days
- Last year of life: 20 days
- Can be done any time