

THE STATUS OF RAMAZAN
IN THE EYES OF IMAM ZAINUL ABEDEEN A.S.

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The fourth Imam Zainul Abedeen a.s. is renown for his invaluable teachings and expressions through the medium of his numerous supplications to God as preserved in Sahifa-e-Kamilah. This is how the Imam propagated Islam to preserve it in its original true form whilst in the state of prolonged captivity or house-ridden solititude during the times of the hostile Umayyad rule.

In one of his thought-provoking duas towards the end of the holy month of Ramazan, the Imam describes the month as a chosen one for praising God, for approaching Him for forgiveness and for achieving His Grace. He implores Almighty in these words:

" Oh Lord I You have ordained Ramazan to be one of the most chosen for these duties and one of the most essential for these observances. You have given it distinction above all other months and chosen it out of all other months and chosen it out of all other seasons and periods of the year by having made the Qura'n the light of Guidance to descend in it, and by having enjoined in it the observance of fast, and by encouraging us to stand up for special prayers (during nights of Ramazan) and by placing in it the glorious Night of Power (Laila tul Qadr) which is better than a thousand months"

Expressing deep sorrow at the approaching departure of the holy month as if it were a departure of a close and dear friend, the Imam says:

"We bid farewell as we did goodbye to one whose departure is hard upon us and makes us sad and whose going away makes us feel forlorn and whom we owe a responsibility which we deserve to be discharged and a reverence which deserves to be observed, and an obligation that has to be satisfied"

Finally the Imam discloses the distinctive and special features of the holy month in the following words of salutations:

"Peace be upon you, O glorious month of God I O great friend of believers.
Peace be upon you, O the most revered of periods. With you were we associated O best of the months.
Peace be upon you, O month in which worldly hopes diminished and in which good deeds increased.

Peace be upon you, who was the most cherished companion when present and whose absence was lamented at departure.

Peace be upon you, O object of our hope whose separation grieves us.

Peace be upon you, O friend who became familiar on arrival and gave us delight and made us feel solitary on departure.

Peace be upon you, O divine comrade in whose company hearts grew tender and sins diminished.

Peace be upon you, O helper who assisted us against Satan.

Peace be upon you, O companion who eased for us the path to spirituality and goodness.

Peace be upon you, how numerous were those who were emancipated from their slavery during your stay.

Peace be upon you, how lucky were those who observed the respect due to you.

Peace be upon you, O happy month which were an eraser of our sins and a coverer of our shortcomings.

Peace be upon you, how tedious was your company to the sinful and how wonderful to the minds of believers.

Peace be upon you, O month with whom other months cannot compare.

Peace be upon you, O month who was a peace unto everybody.

Peace be upon you, O month whose company was agreeable and whose association was ennobling.

Peace be upon you, as you brought blessings and washed away from us the dirt of guilt.

Peace be upon you, O month who did not leave us on account of our tiredness and whose fasts were not abandoned on account of tediousness.

Peace be upon you, O month whose arrival is looked forward to earnestly before its appointed time and whose departure is lamented before its due time.

Peace be upon you, how many evils are turned away from us and how many blessings are showered upon us on your account. Peace

Peace be upon you and on the Night of Power (Laila tul Qadr) which is better than a thousand months.

Peace be upon you, how much did we long for you yesterday and how intense will be our eagerness for you again when you are gone ?

Peace be upon you, we shall remember your excellence of which now we are deprived and of your past blessings of which we have been stripped."

(Quotations from message of peace
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