

About Ramadan and its blessings

by Maulana Muhammad Ali

Translated from Urdu

Allah says: O My servants I am very near to you, whoever calls on Me I accept his prayers. Our Holy Prophet says: When Ramadan comes, the doors of Allah's mercy open.

This was a fact to which the lives of our Guide the Holy Prophet Muhammad, his companions and his true followers bear witness. But today it is a mere story. Why? Because our hearts do not have the same fervour for God, our bodies prostrate before God but not our hearts. Real prayer means only the rising of an urge within the heart.

Let us, during this Ramadan, shed tears not on the wrongs that others have done to us but on the wrongs we have done to ourselves, saying:

O God, we have failed to value You, we have failed to value Your message, we have concealed Your message. We wish not to dedicate our lives to spread Your message in the world, we wish not to spend our money to take Your message to the world. We do things for which You have plainly threatened punishment. "Those who conceal the clear proofs and the guidance that We have revealed" [the Quran, 2:159], the punishment for which is: "these it is whom Allah curses, and those who curse, curse them too ... these it is on whom is the curse of Allah and the angels and men, of all of them" [the Quran, 2:159, 161].

Even then we expect that the doors of Your blessings will open for us. With our mouths we say that You are near us, but our hearts are so distant from You that nothing could be any further.

Our foreheads are placed at Your threshold where we should find paradise, but in our hearts we are like the one who “amasses wealth and counts it, he thinks that his wealth will make him abide forever” [104:2, 3].

With our tongues we say: O God, we are Your slaves, our wealth belongs not to us but to You. But our hearts are such that when we have to spend a few pennies to exalt Your name in the world, it feels to us like a huge hurdle, and we make false pretexts to try every possible way of avoiding parting with our wealth. O God, deliver us from this false existence. When, in the quietness of the night, we place our foreheads on the ground in prayer, we hear the ground saying in reply:

‘You have desecrated me with your hypocritical prostrations’.

O God, enable us to prostrate truly at Your threshold. Make us Your slaves that we would have no other anxiety but to raise high Your name. Be our Lord that You may turn to exalting the Muslim *Umma* in the world.

(Published in *Paigham Sulah*, 7 July 1948)