



# Newsletter

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MAY 2016 – RAJAB - SHABAN 1437 ISSUE 13

Allah's Messenger PBUH said, "Fasting is a shield (or a screen or a shelter). So, the person observing fasting should avoid sexual relation with his wife and should not behave foolishly and impudently, and if somebody fights with him or abuses him, he should tell him twice, 'I am fasting.' The Prophet PBUH added, "By Him in Whose Hands my soul is, the smell coming out from the mouth of a fasting person is better in the sight of Allah than the smell of musk. (Allah says about the fasting person), 'He has left his food, drink and desires for My sake. The fast is for Me. So I will reward (the fasting person) for it and the reward of good deeds is multiplied ten times."

عَلَيْكُمْ  
وَالسَّلَامُ

## AR-RAIYAN GATE

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Messenger (ﷺ) said, "Whoever gives two kinds (of things or property) in charity for Allah's Cause, will be called from the gates of Paradise and will be addressed, 'O slaves of Allah! Here is prosperity.' So, whoever was amongst the people who used to offer their prayers, will be called from the gate of the prayer; and whoever was amongst the people who used to participate in Jihad, will be called from the gate of Jihad; and whoever was amongst those who used to observe fasts, will be called from the gate of Ar-Raiyan; whoever was amongst those who used to give in charity, will be called from the gate of charity." Abu Bakr said, "Let my parents be sacrificed for you, O Allah's Messenger (ﷺ)! No distress or need will befall him who will be called from those gates. Will there be any one who will be called from all these gates?" The Prophet (ﷺ) replied, "Yes, and I hope you will be one of them."

Day اليوم	May أيار	Hijri هجري	Fajr الفجر	Sunrise الشروق	Zuhr الظهر	Asr-Shaf العصر / شافعي	Asr-Hanafi العصر / حنفي	Maghrib المغرب	Isha العشاء
SUN	1	24/7	4:20	5:47	12:49	4:42	5:47	7:51	9:19
MON	2	25/7	4:18	5:46	12:49	4:43	5:47	7:52	9:21
TUE	3	26/7	4:16	5:44	12:49	4:43	5:48	7:53	9:22
WED	4	27/7	4:15	5:43	12:49	4:43	5:48	7:55	9:24
THU	5	28/7	4:13	5:42	12:49	4:44	5:49	7:56	9:25
FRI	6	29/7	4:11	5:41	12:49	4:44	5:50	7:57	9:26
SAT	7	30/7	4:10	5:40	12:49	4:44	5:50	7:58	9:28
SUN	8	1/8	4:08	5:38	12:49	4:44	5:51	7:59	9:29
MON	9	2/8	4:07	5:37	12:49	4:45	5:52	8:00	9:31
TUE	10	3/8	4:05	5:36	12:49	4:45	5:52	8:01	9:32
WED	11	4/8	4:04	5:35	12:49	4:45	5:53	8:02	9:34
THU	12	5/8	4:02	5:34	12:49	4:46	5:53	8:03	9:35
FRI	13	6/8	4:01	5:33	12:49	4:46	5:54	8:04	9:37
SAT	14	7/8	4:01	5:33	12:49	4:46	5:54	8:04	9:37
SUN	15	8/8	3:59	5:32	12:49	4:46	5:54	8:05	9:38
MON	16	9/8	3:56	5:30	12:49	4:47	5:56	8:07	9:41
TUE	17	10/8	3:55	5:29	12:49	4:47	5:56	8:08	9:42
WED	18	11/8	3:54	5:28	12:49	4:47	5:57	8:09	9:44
THU	19	12/8	3:52	5:27	12:49	4:48	5:57	8:10	9:45
FRI	20	13/8	3:51	5:26	12:49	4:48	5:58	8:11	9:47
SAT	21	14/8	3:50	5:26	12:49	4:48	5:58	8:12	9:48
SUN	22	15/8	3:49	5:25	12:49	4:49	5:59	8:13	9:49
MON	23	16/8	3:48	5:24	12:49	4:49	5:59	8:14	9:51
TUE	24	17/8	3:47	5:23	12:49	4:49	6:00	8:15	9:52
WED	25	18/8	3:46	5:23	12:49	4:49	6:00	8:15	9:53
THU	26	19/8	3:44	5:22	12:49	4:50	6:01	8:16	9:54
FRI	27	20/8	3:44	5:21	12:50	4:50	6:01	8:17	9:56
SAT	28	21/8	3:43	5:21	12:50	4:50	6:02	8:18	9:57
SUN	29	22/8	3:43	5:21	12:50	4:50	6:02	8:18	9:57
MON	30	23/8	3:42	5:20	12:50	4:51	6:02	8:19	9:58
TUE	31	24/8	3:40	5:19	12:50	4:51	6:03	8:20	10:00

Fajr: Half hour after athan | Jumuah: 1:00 pm | Isha Iqama: 1-8: 9:30; 9-19: 9:45; 20-31: 10:00



[SUBMISSION...UNITY...IDENTITY]

# LESSONS LEARNED FROM CHANGING THE QIBLAH

BY SH. HASSAN ALY

After the Migration of our beloved Prophet Mohammad (*pbuh*) from Mecca to Madina, he used to face Bayt al-Maqdis in his prayer, and that remained the case for sixteen or seventeen months, as in the hadith of al-Baraa' ibn 'Aazib, who said: "The Prophet (*pbuh*) prayed towards Bayt al-Maqdis for sixteen or seventeen months, and he was hoping that the Qiblah would be towards the House (i.e., the Ka'bah)..." (*Al-Bukhari and Muslim*)

Later, in the month of Rajab or Sha'ban of the second year of the migration, Allah (*swt*) commanded him to face the direction of the Ka'bah. Allah said: "... so turn your face in the direction of al-Masjid al-Haraam (at Makkah). And wheresoever you people are, turn your faces (in prayer) in that direction..." [Al-Baqarah 2:144]. Yet, there are many lessons we can learn from this unique occasion, such as Submission, Unity and Identity.

When we Muslims hear of a command from Allah (*swt*), we must accept it and submit to it, even if the wisdom behind it is not clear to us, as this is the true meaning of Islam or submission. Allah (*swt*) says: "**It is not for a believer, man or woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decreed a matter, that they should have any option in their decision...**" [Al-Ahzaab 33:36]. This is one of the fundamental qualities of the believer, which we can find as a major theme repeated throughout the Qur'an: "**Obey Allah and Obey the Messenger...**" An unconditional and complete submission to their commands is the essence of being a Muslim. Changing the Qibla was also a test for the true believer, Allah (*swt*) has spoken of this in the Qur'an: "**... And We made the Qiblah which you used to face, only to test those who followed the Messenger from those who would turn on their heels. Indeed it was great (heavy) except for those whom Allaah guided...**" [al-Baqarah 2:143]

Allah (*swt*) does not give any command without there being great wisdom behind it – even if we do not understand it – as He says: "**... That is the judgement of Allah. He judges between you. And Allah is All-Knowing, All-Wise.**" [al-Mumtahinah 60:10]

The community of Madina was very new and unique community, people from different cultural background, different social classes and educational backgrounds, despite all that; they had one main cause to unite for: Allah (*swt*) and His beloved Prophet (*pbuh*). Allah says: "**If you had spent all that is in the earth, you could not have brought their hearts together; but Allah brought them together. Indeed, He is Exalted in Might and Wise.**" [Al-Anfal 8: 63]. Coexistence instead of dependency and fusion should be the way of Muslims anywhere. We should avoid blind imitation of others, Muslims or non-Muslims. Prophet (*pbuh*) said: "**You will indeed follow the ways of those who came before you hand span by hand span, cubit by cubit, to the extent that if they entered the hole of a lizard, you will enter it too**". Allah (*swt*) says: "Thus We have made of you (true Muslims) a Wasat nation..." [al-Baqarah 2:143]. Some meanings of "Wasat" is justice and fairness with balance. So Allah (*swt*) has chosen for this us goodness in all things and the best commands and rules, and thus He chose for us the Qiblah of Ibrahim (*pbuh*).

And Allah knows best.



# The Mecca Center

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



- The drywall contractor is almost done taping the mosque area, offices, and the classrooms.
- The heating contractor job is completed
- The tile contractor is about 60% done, and another crew will join to expedite the work
- The elevator contractor is done with work and waiting on inspection.
- The sprinkler contractor is done
- Electrician is working and hoping to finish the temporary occupancy by May 7th
- The AV contractor is on schedule and expected to finish after the ceiling is installed.
- The ceiling tiles will be installed very soon.
- Camera contractor installed his wires and will install some cameras for temporary safety.
- The excavator started grading the site





# رَجَبٌ

## WELCOMING THE SACRED MONTH OF RAJAB

### YOUTH CORNER

When the month of Rajab would enter, the Beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ would seek its blessings, saying, “O Allah bless us in Rajab and Sha’bān and enable us to reach Ramaḍān.” We are all aware of the blessings and reward we receive for fasting and for the other acts of worship we perform during the blessed month of Ramadan. However, we should also take advantage of the fact that the month of Rajab is a virtuous month in which worship is gloriously rewarded – especially fasting and seeking repentance (istighfar).

Rajab is Allah’s month in which He pours His Mercy upon those seeking forgiveness and He accepts the actions that people have done for His sake. The Prophet, peace and mercy be upon him, said, “Rajab is the month of Allah, and Sha’aban is my month, and Ramadan is the month of my Ummah.” Allah (swt) gave us 12 months in a year, one of which belongs to Him. Many scholars say Rajab is the month of repentance, and recommend that we increase the amount of istighfar we say. What a beautiful way for us to prepare for Ramadan!

And so, given Rajab is a sacred month belonging to Allah (swt), and in which istighfar is highly recommended, we leave you with dua’ Sayyidul Istighfar, or the Master of Repentance:

اللَّهُمَّ أَنْتَ رَبِّي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ، خَلَقْتَنِي وَأَنَا عَبْدُكَ، وَأَنَا عَلَى عَهْدِكَ وَوَعْدِكَ مَا  
اسْتَطَعْتُ، أَعُوذُ بِكَ  
مِنْ شَرِّ مَا صَنَعْتُ، أَبُوءُ لَكَ بِنِعْمَتِكَ عَلَيَّ وَأَبُوءُ لَكَ بِذُنُوبِي فَاعْفُرْ لِي، فَإِنَّهُ لَا يَغْفِرُ  
الذُّنُوبَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ

Translation: O Allah, you are my Lord, and there is no god but you. You created me and I am your servant, and I am upon the covenant to the best of my ability. I seek refuge in you from the evil I have brought upon myself. I admit all the blessings you have given me and I admit my sins, so forgive me, for no one can forgive sins save You.



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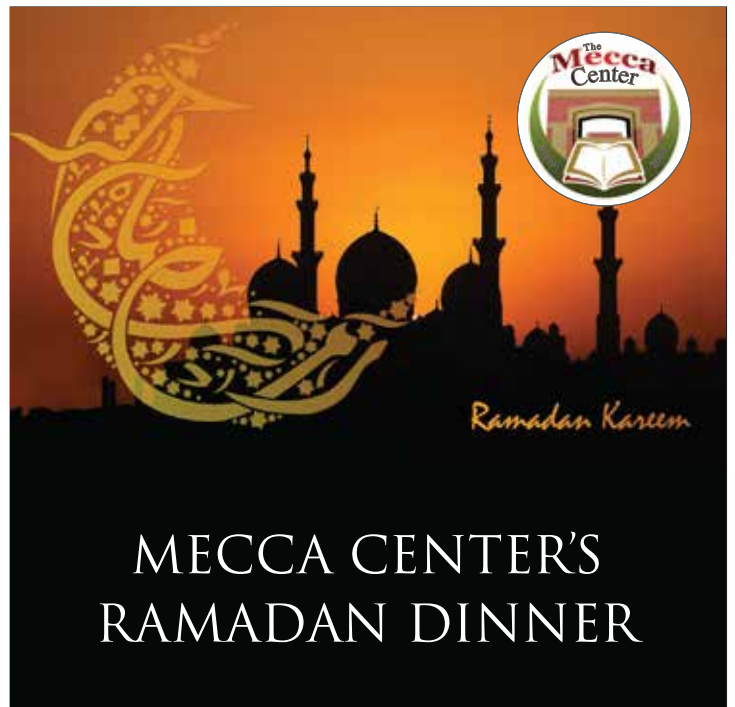
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## MECCA CENTER'S RAMADAN DINNER

THURSDAY JUNE 16, 2016

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