

## God fearing

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### In the name of Allah most Gracious most Merciful

Only yesterday we said good bye to a season of obedience, and a business season dealing with the next life, that was the month of Ramadan. It had transactions which can rescue us from the very painful punishment. The month of Ramadan where an extra donated good deed can earn the reward of an obligatory deed. And an obligatory deed earns the reward of seventy times its worth. And the deeds done in one night can earn the reward of deeds of one thousand months. A month when the good doers win mercy of Allah. And the sinners receive Allah's forgiveness and those who repent from major sins can be pardoned from hell fire. A month during which this who fasted its days, and prayed during its nights in faith and expectation will have all their past sins forgiven.

We lived through this month of Ramadan, through its days and its nights. Let us question our selves, what did we win during that month? And how much has it affected our behavior? And did we win or loose during Ramadan?

Our predecessors may God bless them, used to get really worried once Ramadan ends on whether their deeds were accepted or not? They used to spend six months asking Allah to accept their work during Ramadan. They are more worried that their good deeds may be refused than sinners are worried that they will be punished due to their sins. Because Allah says: {Allah only accepts from those who are God fearing}

Slaves of Allah, there are clear signs which indicate acceptance and winning and there are signs which indicates refusal of deeds and loosing. Every one can understand such signs for him or her self. The signs of acceptance are the continuity of being on the straight path, and continuity of doing good deeds, and continuity of God fearing. So, slaves of Allah be God fearing in public and in private. Allah says: **{You who have faith, fear Allah His deserved fear, and only die as Muslims}**. And Allah also says: **{you who have faith, fear Allah and let each individual looks at what they have done for tomorrow, and fear Allah, for Allah is the most expert with what you do}** 59:19.

Talq ben Habeeb (طلق بن حبيب) said: "God fearing is to do deeds of obedience to Allah, in the light of Allah, expecting the reward from Allah. And to leave all deeds of disobedience of Allah, in the light of Allah, in fear of Allah's punishment" In deed, God fearing is the base for all deeds and donations. Scholars have defined God fearing as: "that Allah does not find you at what He commanded you against, and that He does not miss your presence where He commanded you".

### **Attention given by the companions to God fearing**

The companions used to ask about God fearing, investigate, learn and pay a lot of attention towards it. Omar ben Al-Khattab asked Aby-ben-kaab (أبي بن كعب) about his definition of God fearing. He said to him: "did you ever walk through a path which is full of spikes and thorns?" He said: "yes". He said: "then what do you do walking through it?" He said: "I get ready, I take precautions and I pay attention picking my steps". He said: "That is God fearing".

Those who fear Allah take God fearing a little further. They take it up to the point where they give up a lot of what is allowable (halal) in fear that it might just bring them into the forbidden (haram). The "God fearing" term was mentioned in the Koran more than 250 times. One example is when Allah says: **{The most generous or the highest status of you is the who fear God most}** 49:13.

Once a rich man was passing by in a great show of status, in impressive out fit in view of the messenger (ppbu). The messenger (ppbu) said to his companions: {What do you think of this man?}. They said: "He seems like if he speaks he would be listened to, and if wanted to marry he would not be refused, and if he intermediates or puts in a good word for somebody, then it would be accepted". Then a poor man passed by, and the messenger (ppbu) said: {and what do you say about this guy?}. They said: "if he speaks he is most likely not listened to, and if he wanted to marry, no one would marry him, and if he intermediates form anyone it would not be accepted". The messenger (ppbu) said: {this (meaning the poor man) is better than the number of men it would take to fill this earth of that rich man}. The human criteria to judge are different to the criteria used by the Lord of all humans. Allah's criteria are those which really matter.

Abdullah ben Massoud climbed a tree once to get a branch of *Swak* (teeth brushing branch) for the messenger of Allah (ppbu). Abdullah has very thin and delicate legs and thighs. The branches moved and Abdullah thighs showed or were revealed. The companions laughed in ridicule and disrespect. The messenger (ppbu) asked them what they were laughing about. They said: "it is how thin and feeble his thighs are". The messenger (ppbu) said: {they on the day of resurrection are heavier than mount *Ohod*}.

On the day the messenger (ppbu) entered Mekka when it was taken over, he ordered Belal to climb over the Kabba and call for a prayer (or make Azan). One of the non-Muslims said: could he not find someone else other than this black crow to make the call on top of Kabba? That's when Allah's verse: **{the greater status of you is the most God fearing}**.

The messenger (ppbu) said: **{a many a fat man will be brought on the day of resurrection and will be placed on the scale, and he would not weigh with Allah as much as a wing of a mosquito}**. Dear Muslims, the greatest advice I give you and give my self is to be God fearing.

The messenger (ppbu) said: **{People know that you have one God. And know that you have one father. And no Arab is better than a non-Arab. And no one is better than an Arab. And no red (or fair skinned) is better than a black, and no black is better than a fair skinned except by God fearing. Have I delivered the message?}** They said: the messenger has delivered the message.

When ever the messenger (ppbu) put someone in charge of an army he used to advice them in particular to be God fearing, and advised those with them with goodness. The messenger (ppbu) said to Aby-Thur (أبي ذر): **{fear Allah where ever you happen to be}**.