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Keeping Satan Chained

Qamar Zafar (Za'im Austin, TX Majlis)

Hazrat Abu Huraira\textsuperscript{ra} narrates that the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, said:

\begin{quote}
When Ramadhan arrives the gates of Paradise are opened and the gates of hell are locked up and satans are put in chains. (Bukhari and Muslim)
\end{quote}

One way Ramadhan affects all of us is by opening the doors of possibilities. Actions that we may consider out of reach at other times during the year are made possible. Be it getting up early, be it observing daily prayers on time and in congregation, be it reciting a sizable portion of the Quran daily, be it having a single minded focus on achieving nearness to Allah, be it abstaining from social evils, be it the entire Muslim Ummah acting with singleness of purpose…all of these fall within our reach and become achievable during Ramadhan.

As we bid farewell to Ramadhan, we don’t have to drop the good habits we acquired during Ramadhan by the Grace of Allah…or at least some of them. We can for example continue to be timely and regular in our five prayers in congregation or keep the habit of reading Quran and its translation and commentary regularly or maintain the habit of offering Tahajjud regularly or continue to observe dietary restrictions we otherwise struggle with during the year and so on…

Promised Messiah\textsuperscript{as} states:

\begin{quote}
It is necessary that one first closes the window through which sin can pass.
\end{quote}

i.e. one should eliminate whatever factor may cause sin to be committed, be it disobedience or swaying away from religion. The Promised Messiah(\textsuperscript{as}) states that one should first close this window and continue praying to succeed in one’s inner struggle so that Allah comes to his rescue and guides him in the right direction:
And as for those who strive in Our path — We will surely guide them in Our ways. (29:70)

COVID-19 Update

Tanvir Ahmed, MD (Qaid Health, Majlis Ansarullah USA)

What's new:

- More than a hundred vaccines are under development
- Many drugs are under trial but no cures
- Steam inhalation will not kill the virus
- Listen to Huzur's sermon on the subject
- Keep informed. Call or email us with any questions

Protect Yourself and Others:

- There is currently no vaccine to protect against this virus. The virus will likely be around for a few years
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus
- **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

Social Distancing and Masks:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home. If possible, **maintain 6 feet** between the person who is sick and other household members
- Put distance between yourself and other people outside of your home. **Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people**
- Do not gather in groups and stay out of crowded places and avoid large gatherings
- Cover your mouth and nose with **a cloth face cover or mask** when around others or in public places
- Do not use face cover or mask for children under 2 years
- The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover Your Cough & Sneezes:

- Cover your cough and sneezes even if you are alone at home or outside in public. Use a tissue or other disposable item
- Wash your hands with soap and water immediately
- Keep everything clean that you frequently touch
- Stop smoking, vaping or any other tobacco use
• Take extra precautions if you are a senior, have heart, lung disease or diabetes

Send us your stories of brotherhood, Ijtima memories, or any other inspiring experience that we can share with Ansar brothers via this e-newsletter.

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