



NEW MUSLIM  
ACADEMY

RECEIVING

*Ramadan*

Ramadan is a month of blessing and virtue. It contains many opportunities for reward and seeking favor with God.

The disciples of the Messenger Muhammad would prepare for the advent of this month due to its importance.

How should we receive Ramadan?

Let us explore this further...

# Learn about the Virtues of Ramadan

God gives us certain seasons within the year in which the reward of worship is enhanced. Ramadan is one such season. It is twenty-nine or thirty days full of opportunities. God tells us that the Quran was revealed in Ramadan and He mentions some of the benefits of this month, “He wants you to complete the prescribed period and to glorify Him for having guided you, so that you may be thankful.” 2:185. The Messenger Muhammad told us, “Whoever fasts the month of Ramadan out of good faith and conviction while hoping for the reward of God, will have all past sins forgiven.”



# Ask God to Enable You to Maximise the Benefits of Ramadan

The disciples of the Messenger Muhammad would pray to God asking Him to allow them to witness the blessed month of Ramadan. Many of our fellow brothers and sisters who witnessed Ramadan last year are no longer with us. They didn't know it at the time, but last Ramadan would be their last ever. We should never take it for granted that we will witness this coming month.

We also need to ask God to give us the strength and ability to fully utilize Ramadan and all its opportunities. When we hear that Ramadan has begun, it is recommended to say the following supplication, "God is great! O God, let Ramadan approach us in a state of being protected, sound and Muslim, and aid us to do what's beloved to You and that which pleases You. O new moon my Lord and yours is God."



# Be Happy and Rejoice

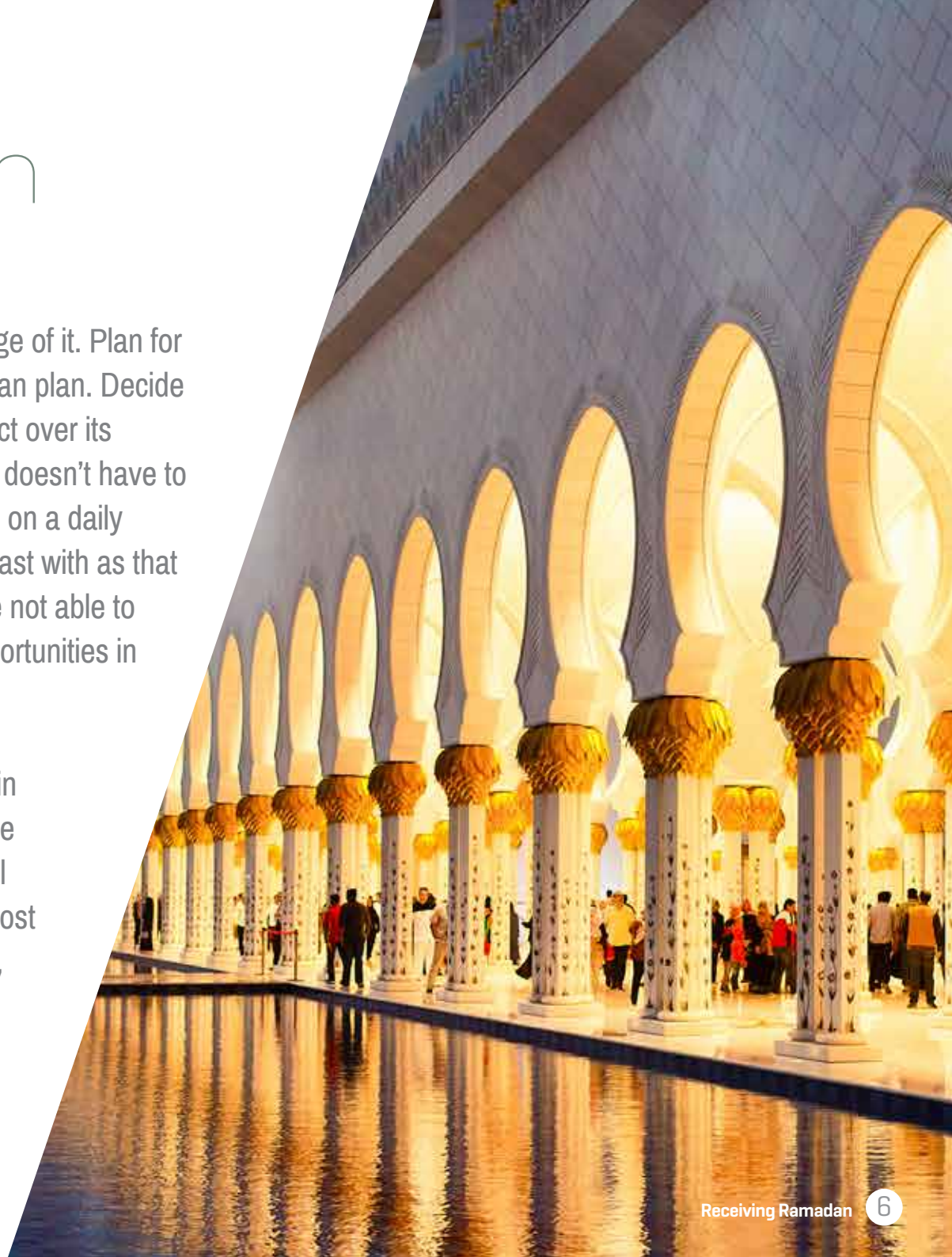
Believers should rejoice in this month and all the good it brings, not least of which is the opportunity to come closer to God. The Messenger Muhammad said, “The month of Ramadan has approached you: Ramadan is a blessed month, God commanded that you fast during this month. In it, the gates of Paradise are opened, and the gates of Hell-fire are closed.”



# Plan the Month

Don't let Ramadan pass you by without taking advantage of it. Plan for the month ahead of time. Make yourself a daily Ramadan plan. Decide how much Quran you're going to read every day. Reflect over its meanings. How much charity will you give each day? It doesn't have to be much but giving a little each day lets us earn reward on a daily basis. If you can, give other people food to break their fast with as that will give you the reward of their fast too. Even if you are not able to fast due to a valid reason there are still many other opportunities in this special season of blessings so do not feel bad.

These small consistent actions make all the difference in Ramadan. Do small things that you weren't doing before Ramadan. Visit the mosque and join the congregational service if you are able to, reconnect with family you've lost touch with or help someone who needs it. Visit the sick, help the elderly or sponsor an orphan. There are many actions we can perform which will enhance our Ramadan.



# Hit the Ground Running

Don't make the common mistake of thinking that Ramadan is long or won't pass by quickly. Before you know it, the month will come to an end. Be ready to take advantage of Ramadan from the very first day. Alongside fasting, plan your time and use your evenings and weekends when you have more free time.

# Ramadan is the Month of Forgiveness

Ramadan is a prime opportunity for us to seek God's forgiveness and change any bad habits or practices we may have. It's also a good time to apologize to people we may have wronged and mend our relationships and friendships. Ramadan is a month of prayer and remembering God, and all of these acts of devotion make it more likely that our requests and repentance will be accepted by God.





# Prepare for the Last 10 Nights



The last 10 nights of Ramadan have added virtue, not least because one of those nights is the Night of Special Status and Virtue. Devotion on this particular night is equal to a thousand months so its rewards are amazing. The Messenger Muhammad would strive further and work harder to worship during these last few nights.

May God's protect and blessings be with you.