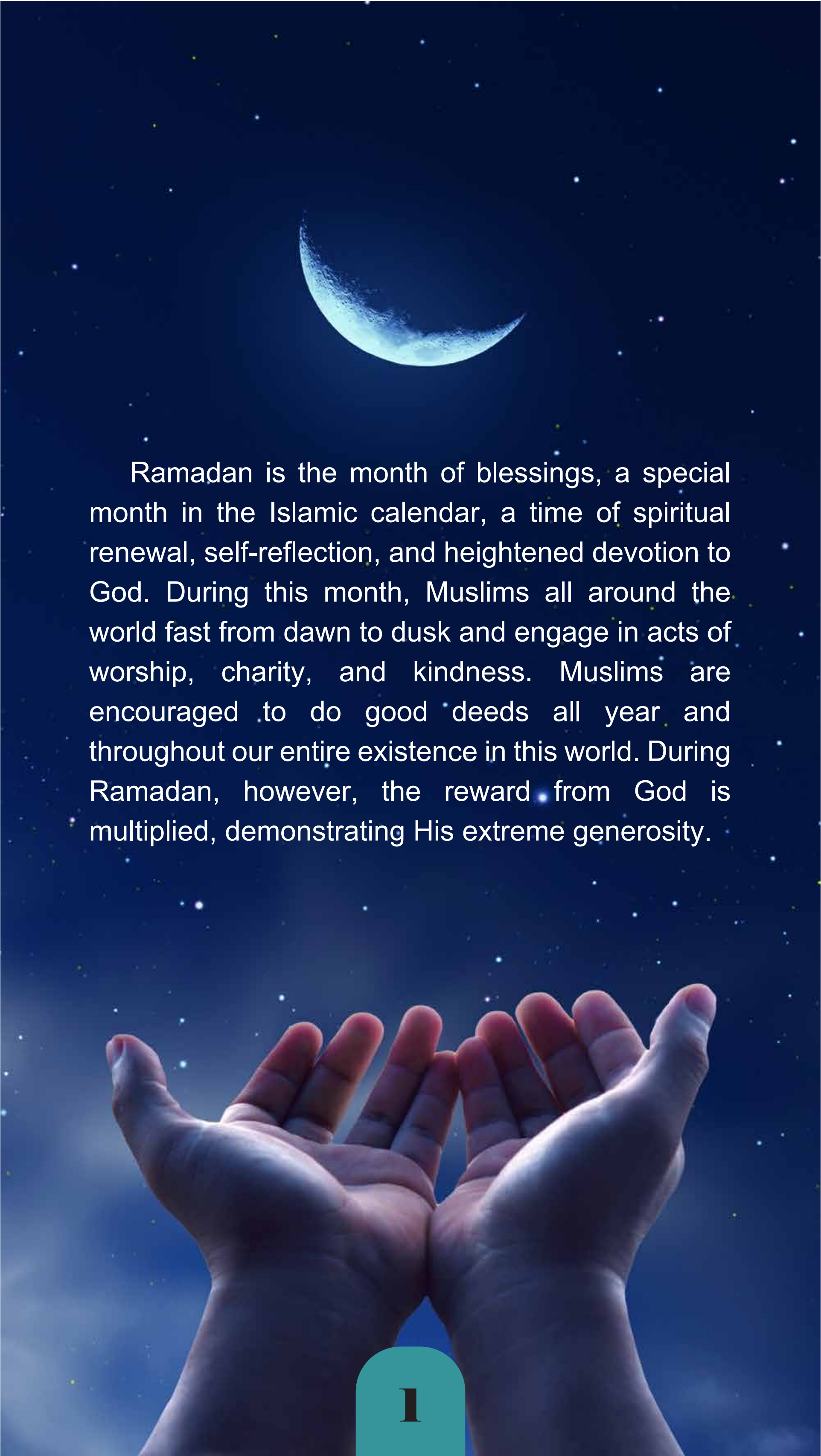




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# Charity & Acts of Kindness in Ramadan





Ramadan is the month of blessings, a special month in the Islamic calendar, a time of spiritual renewal, self-reflection, and heightened devotion to God. During this month, Muslims all around the world fast from dawn to dusk and engage in acts of worship, charity, and kindness. Muslims are encouraged to do good deeds all year and throughout our entire existence in this world. During Ramadan, however, the reward from God is multiplied, demonstrating His extreme generosity.



One of the most significant acts of worship during Ramadan is giving charity to those in need. In Islam, giving charity is considered a form of worship and a means of seeking the pleasure of God. The act of giving in Ramadan is multiplied in reward, and the benefits of charity during this month are enormous. Giving in Ramadan is not just about fulfilling our religious obligations, but it is also a way to express our gratitude to God and to demonstrate compassion towards our fellow human beings. It is a time when we are reminded of the blessings we have and the struggles that others may be facing.

Ibn Abbas, the cousin of the Messenger Muhammad, and his disciple, described how generous the Messenger Muhammad was in Ramadan. He said, “The Messenger Muhammad was the most generous of all the people, and he used to become even more generous in Ramadan when Gabriel met him. Gabriel used to meet him every night during Ramadan to reread and study the Quran with him. The Messenger Muhammad then used to be more generous, bringing more benefit to others than the winds that bring rainfall and blessings.”

One of the most important types of charity in Islam is Zakat, a mandatory offering of 2.5% of one’s savings in monetary wealth to those in need who qualify to receive it. Zakat is an act of purification and a way to ensure that wealth is distributed fairly in society. It is a means of caring for the poor and vulnerable and of fulfilling our duty towards our fellow Muslims. It has specific regulations and conditions that must be met.



In addition to Zakat, Muslims are encouraged to give voluntary charity, known as Sadaqah. Sadaqah can be given in any amount and can take many forms, such as providing food to the needy, sponsoring an orphan, or contributing to a charitable cause. Muslims know that our wealth is not really ours. It is a trust from God and we must be careful how and where we spend it. Be extra generous in Ramadan and do not withhold from causes that benefit, be it feeding the hungry, clothing the poor and helpless or spending for causes that help spread Islam and uphold its values. Spending for the sake of Allah comes with great rewards and promises.

If you are not currently in the position to donate money, that's ok. Charity in Islam takes many forms, and it is not just limited to giving money or material possessions. It can also include giving time, offering kind words, or simply making an effort to help those in need. Giving during Ramadan is not just a personal act of worship, but also a way to contribute to the greater good of society. It is a way to alleviate the suffering of those in need, promote social justice, and strengthen the bonds of community.



One of the best forms of kindness in Ramadan is to provide food for others to break their fast with. The Messenger Muhammad informed us that to do so will give us the reward of the fasting person without diminishing their reward. Feeding others brings about a great amount of mutual love and kindness. People love food and it will often bring hearts together, especially after a long day of fasting, when people are naturally tired and have little energy to cook.



Ramadan is not only a time for fasting and worship, but also a time for building bridges and showing compassion. As a new Muslim, you can use this month to demonstrate the beauty and wisdom of Islam to your family members through your actions and words. This means avoiding any arguments or disputes that may arise from their different beliefs or lifestyles. It also means forgiving them if they say or do something that hurts you, and asking for their forgiveness if you make a mistake. You can also support them in their difficulties and challenges and appreciate their efforts and sacrifices. For example, you can let them have some peace and quiet if they are tired from their work or studies, or help them with some chores or tasks. You should be especially kind and gentle with your elders and younger siblings, who may not fully comprehend why you fast.





Ramadan is also a good time to reconcile with others. If you have people you have not been communicating with, such as family members or friends, due to issues that have arisen between you, Ramadan is a good time to seek forgiveness for mistakes, apologize, make amends, and to forgive those who may have wronged you.

Ramadan is a time for good deeds, and as you can see, there are many gates of goodness that you can enter and benefit from. Take advantage of the great opportunity and start planning in advance for this very blessed month.







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