

L A Special Bulletin

Magazine /Ramadhan 1439 Issue (May/June 2018)

“O you who believe!
Observing As-Saum (the fasting)..”

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Chamber of Commerce
is coming! Page 9



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From the Publisher

May 15, 2018

As-salaamu-alaikum. Indeed, all praise is for Allaah; we praise Him, and we seek His help and we seek His forgiveness.

And we seek refuge in Allaah from the wickedness of ourselves and from our evils deeds.

Whoever Allaah guides, none can misguide him and whoever He misguides (leaves to go astray) none can guide him.

And I testify that there is no deity who has the right to be worshipped except Allaah alone, and there are no partners for Him,

And I testify that Muhammad(saw) is His slave and Messenger.

O you who believe! Fear Allâh (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always], and die not except in a state of Islâm [as Muslims (with complete submission to Allâh)]. (Aal 'Imraan 3:102)

O mankind! Be dutiful to your Lord, Who created you from a single person (Adam), and from him (Adam) He created his wife [Hawwa (Eve)], and from them both He created many men and women; and fear Allâh through Whom you demand (your mutual rights), and (do not cut the relations of) the wombs (kinship). Surely, Allâh is Ever an All-Watcher over you. (An-Nisaa' 4:1)

O you who believe! Keep your duty to Allâh and fear Him and speak (always) the truth. (70) He will direct you to do righteous charitable deeds and will forgive you your sins. And whosoever obeys Allâh and His Messenger (SAW) he has indeed achieved a great achievement (i.e. he will be saved from the Hell-fire and will be admitted to Paradise). (Al-Ahzaab 33:70-71)

To proceed: Indeed, the most truthful Speech is the Book of Allaah,

And the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad (saw).

And the worst affairs are the newly invented matters (in Deen).

Every newly invented matter is a religious innovation,

And every religious innovation is misguidance,

And every misguidance is in the Hellfire.

I would like to personally welcome every reader to the Los Angeles Special Bulletin Magazine. Some of you may know me and some of you may be reading our publications for the first time. It gives me great pleasure to present our flagship publication that was originally created in 1991 in newspaper format and online, and now we are in this current magazine format. We can be read at our website www.lasb.org.

After being retired from teaching and recovering from major surgery, I am extremely enthused about publishing again, and grateful to Allaah (swt). Qaasim Publications is a subsidiary of Qaasim.com and endeavors to present two publications:

Los Angeles Special Bulletin (LASB) "Magazine"

And Los Angeles Islamic Chamber of Commerce (LAICOC) "Business Journal".

The LASB Magazine is strictly about Islam, the Qur'aan, the Hadiths about the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (saw), and the texts according to the understanding of the Sahabah (the Companions of the Prophet). The LAICOC Business Journal is directly connected to the new website and the development of the organization called the Los Angeles Islamic Chamber of Commerce (LAICOC). It is devoted to organizing and uniting Muslim Businesses and Muslim organizations in the Southern California area. Please read the article devoted to the Chamber of Commerce in this issue.

With Ramadhan 1439 (2018) rapidly approaching, I can see no better time than now to launch our new publications and websites. May Allaah grant us success. LASB, LAICOC, Abu Bakr Marketplace, Qaasim Publishing, Qaasim Business Services, and Qaasim Consulting are all subsidiary companies of

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Qaasim.com *bi ithnillah* (with the permission of Allaah). We pray that Allah(swt) will bless us to unite Muslims, businesses, and organizations to please Allah (swt) and benefit our Islamic Community.

Our vision is for all Muslims and people in general to increase in knowledge about Allah(swt), His Prophets and Messengers, the Last and final Messenger Muhammad(saw), and *As-salafus Salih--* the righteous Companions of Prophet Muhammad(saw). There are so many fabrications and so much misinformation that it is incumbent on the Muslims to clarify these issues as much as possible. Allaah said:

“Let there arise out of you a group of people inviting to all that is good (Islâm), enjoining Al-Ma'rûf (i.e. Islâmic Monotheism and all that Islâm orders one to do) and forbidding Al-Munkar (polytheism and disbelief and all that Islâm has forbidden). And it is they who are the successful.” (Aal ‘Imraan 3:104)

And if we do not do what Allah(swt) has commanded us to do we will be disgraced as Allah (swt) says:

*“After this, it is you who kill one another and drive out a party of you from their homes, assist (their enemies) against them, in sin and transgression. And if they come to you as captives, you ransom them, although their expulsion was forbidden to you. Then do you believe in a part of the Scripture and reject the rest? Then what is the recompense of those who do so among you, **except disgrace in the life of this world**, and on the Day of Resurrection they shall be consigned to the most grievous torment. And Allâh is not unaware of what you do. (85) Those are they who have bought the life of this world at the price of the Hereafter. Their torment shall not be lightened, nor shall they be helped.” (Al-Baqarah 2:85-86)*

Therefore, our mission is to do the work of Allaah(swt) according to the command and will of Allaah(swt) because He has said:

“Invite (mankind, O Muhammad SAW) to the Way of your Lord (i.e. Islâm) with wisdom (i.e. with the Divine Revelation and the Qur’ân) and fair preaching, and argue with them in a way that is better. Truly, your Lord

*knows best who has gone astray from His Path, and He is the Best Aware of those who are guided. (125) And if you punish (your enemy, O you believers in the Oneness of Allâh), then punish them with the like of that with which you were afflicted. But if you **endure patiently**, verily, it is **better** for As-Sâbirun (the patient). (126) And endure you patiently (O Muhammad SAW), your patience is not but from Allâh. And grieve not over them (polytheists and pagans) and be not distressed because of what they plot. (127) Truly, Allâh is with those who fear Him (keep their duty unto Him), and those who are Muhsinûn (good-doers, - see the footnote of V.9:120). (al-Nahl 16:125-128)*

Qaasim.com endeavors to be patient and provide halal goods and services to the world. We want everyone to join us on this mission to operate as one integrated company. Our purpose is to unite us upon one purpose, and that is to please Allah(swt) and enter us into the Jannah (Paradise). Allah said:

*O you who believe! Fear Allâh (by doing all that He has ordered and by abstaining from all that He has forbidden) as He should be feared. [Obey Him, be thankful to Him, and remember Him always], and die not except in a state of Islâm [as Muslims (with complete submission to Allâh)]. (102) And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of Allâh (i.e. this Qur’ân), and **be not divided among yourselves**, and remember Allâh's Favour on you, for you were enemies one to another but He joined your hearts together, so that, by His Grace, you became brethren (in Islâmic Faith), and you were on the brink of a pit of Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus, Allâh makes His Ayât (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.) clear to you, that you may be guided. (Aal ‘Imraan 3:102-103)*

Please join us and all the right-minded Muslims who work together to accomplish our goals. May Allaah(swt) bless everyone with a happy, safe, and beneficial Ramadhan.

Shafeeq Qaasim

Publisher/Editor

Prayer Schedule for Ramadhan

Ramadhan/ May (Approx.)	Fajr	Sunrise	Dhuhr	Asr	Maghrib	Isha
1/Wed	04:32a	05:51a	12:50p	04:35p	07:49p	09:08p
2/Thur	04:31a	05:50a	12:50p	04:35p	07:49p	09:09p
3/Fri	04:30a	05:49a	12:50p	04:35p	07:50p	09:10p
4/Sat	04:29a	05:49a	12:50p	04:35p	07:51p	09:11p
5/Sun	04:29a	05:48a	12:50p	04:35p	07:52p	09:12p
6/Mon	04:28a	05:48a	12:50p	04:35p	07:52p	09:13p
7/Tues	04:27a	05:47a	12:50p	04:35p	07:53p	09:14p
8/Wed	04:26a	05:46a	12:50p	04:35p	07:54p	09:15p
9/Thur	04:25a	05:46a	12:50p	04:36p	07:54p	09:15p
10/Fri	04:25a	05:45a	12:51p	04:36p	07:55p	09:16p
11/Sat	04:24a	05:45a	12:51p	04:36p	07:56p	09:17p
12/Sun	04:23a	05:44a	12:51p	04:36p	07:56p	09:18p
13/Mon	04:23a	05:44a	12:51p	04:36p	07:57p	09:19p
14/Tue	04:22a	05:44a	12:51p	04:36p	07:58p	09:20p
15/Wed	04:22a	05:43a	12:51p	04:36p	07:58p	09:21p
16/Thur	04:21a	05:43a	12:51p	04:37p	07:59p	09:22p
17/Fri	04:20a	05:42a	12:51p	04:37p	08:00p	09:22p
18/Sat	04:20a	05:42a	12:52p	04:37p	08:00p	09:23p
19/Sun	04:20a	05:42a	12:52p	04:37p	08:01p	09:24p
20/Mon	04:19a	05:42a	12:52p	04:37p	08:01p	09:25p
21/Tues	04:19a	05:41a	12:52p	04:37p	08:02p	09:25p
22/Wed	04:18a	05:41a	12:52p	04:37p	08:03p	09:26p
23/Thur	04:18a	05:41a	12:52p	04:38p	08:03p	09:27p
24/Fri	04:18a	05:41a	12:53p	04:38p	08:04p	09:27p
25/Sat	04:18a	05:41a	12:53p	04:38p	08:04p	09:28p
26/Sun	04:17a	05:41a	12:53p	04:38p	08:04p	09:28p
27/Mon	04:17a	05:41a	12:53p	04:39p	08:05p	09:29p
28/Tues	04:17a	05:41a	12:53p	04:39p	08:05p	09:30p
29/Wed	04:17a	05:41a	12:54p	04:39p	08:06p	09:30p
30/Thur	04:17a	05:41a	12:54p	04:39p	08:06p	09:31p

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Ramadhan is the Fasting Month

By Abu Abdul-Majeed

As-salaamu-alaikum muslimmeen wa muslimaat (brothers and sisters);

Ramadhaan is here and hopefully everyone is fasting if they have the ability. It is important to make the intention to fast the night before the fast and to get up 15-20 minutes before Fajr prayer to make suhuur (a small meal). The Messenger of Allah (saw) said, "Take your early morning meal for in that is a blessing". (Bukhari and Muslim)

Allaah(swt) said:

"O you who believe! Observing As-Saum (the fasting)[1] is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become Al-Muttaqûn (the pious) (183)

[Observing Saum (fasts)] for a fixed number of days, but if any of you is ill or on a journey, the same number (should be made up) from other days. And as for those who can fast with difficulty, (e.g. an old man), they have (a choice either to fast or) to feed a Miskîn (poor person) (for every day). But whoever does good of his own accord, it is better for him. And that you fast, is better for you if only you know. (184)

[Editor Notes: The provisions of this verse (2:184) has been abrogated by the next verse (185), with a few exceptions i.e very old or pregnancy, and etc. and should be read with the next verses 185-187.]

The month of Ramadân in which was revealed the Qur'ân, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the criterion (between right and wrong). So whoever of you sights (the crescent on the first night of) the month (of Ramadân i.e. is present at his home), he must observe Saum (fasts) that month, and whoever is ill or on a journey, the same number [of days which one did not observe Saum (fasts) must be made up] from other days. Allâh intends for you ease, and He does not want to

make things difficult for you. (He wants that you) must complete the same number (of days), and that you must magnify Allâh [i.e. to say Takbîr (Allâhu-Akbar; Allâh is the Most Great) for having guided you so that you may be grateful to Him. (185)

The ahadith that accompany ayah 185 are:

Narrated Talhah bin 'Ubaidullah: A Bedouin with unkempt hair came to Allah's Messenger (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) and said, "O Allah's Messenger! Inform me what Allah has made compulsory for me as regards to the *Salat* (prayers)." He replied. "You have to offer perfectly the five compulsory *Salat* (prayers) in a day and night (24 hours), unless you want to pray *Nawafil*." The Bedouin further asked, "Inform me what Allah has made compulsory for me as regards *Saum* (fasting)." He replied, "You have to fast during the whole month of Ramadan, unless you want to fast more as *Nawafil*." The Bedouin further asked, "Tell me how much *Zakat* Allah has enjoined on me." The narrator added: Then, Allah's Messenger (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) informed him all about the Laws (i.e. fundamentals) of Islam. The Bedouin then said, "By Him Who has honoured you, I will neither perform any *Nawafil* nor will I decrease what Allah has enjoined on me." Allah's Messenger (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said, "If he is saying the truth, he will succeed (or he will be granted Paradise)." (*Sahih Al-Bukhari, Hadith No. 115, Vol. 3*)

Narrated Abu Hurairah (radhiyallaahu 'anhu): Allah's Messenger (sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam) said, "*As-Siyam* (the fasting) is *Junnah* (protection of shield or a screen or a shelter from the Hell-fire)". So, the person

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Los Angeles Islamic Chamber of Commerce

By Shafeeq A. Qaasim

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem. As-salaamu-alaikum to all the Muslim businesses, organizations, and readers. The Los Angeles Islamic Chamber of Commerce (LAICOC) is new to Los Angeles and is engaging in organizing and bringing together Muslim Businesses and Muslim Organizations in the Los Angeles and Southern California area during 2018, insha Allah. What better time of the year to launch a new professional Muslim organization than during Ramadhan? Allah(swt) and His Messenger(saw) wants us to engage in halal and successful businesses. There are many narrations describing Prophet Muhammad(saw) and his Companions doing business all around the world, even over 1400 years ago.

The Qur'an speaks about trade in Surah Fatir Ayahs 19-30. Allah says *"Not alike are the blind (disbelievers in Islâmic Monotheism) and the seeing (believers in Islâmic Monotheism). (19) Nor are (alike) the darkness (disbelief) and the light (Belief in Islâmic Monotheism). (20) Nor are (alike) the shade and the sun's heat. (21) Nor are (alike) the living (i.e. the believers) and the dead (i.e. the disbelievers). Verily, Allâh makes whom He wills to hear, but you cannot make hear those who are in the graves. (22) You (O Muhammad SAW) are only a warner (i.e. your duty is to convey Allâh's Message to mankind, but the guidance is in Allâh's hands). (23) Verily! We have sent you with the truth, a bearer of glad tidings, and a warner. And there never was a nation but a warner had passed among them. (24) And if they belie you, those before them also belied. Their Messengers came to them with clear signs, and with the Scriptures, and the book giving light. (25) Then I took hold of those who disbelieved, and how terrible was My denial (punishment)! (26) See you not that Allâh sends down water (rain) from the sky, and We produce therewith fruits of varying col-*

ours, and among the mountains are streaks white and red, of varying colours and (others) very black (27) And likewise of men and Ad-Dawâbb (moving (living) creatures, beasts), and cattle, of various colours. It is only those who have knowledge among His slaves that fear Allâh. Verily, Allâh is All-Mighty, Oft-Forgiving. (28) Verily, those who recite the Book of Allâh (this Qur'ân), and perform As-Salât (Iqâmat-as-Salât), and spend (in charity) out of what We have provided for them, secretly and openly, they hope for a (sure) trade-gain that will never perish. (29) That He may pay them their wages in full, and give them (even) more, out of His Grace. Verily! He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Ready to appreciate (good deeds and to recompense)."(30)

All wealth belongs to Allah. The word *Tijarah* mentioned in ayah 29 is referring to trade, transactions, and commerce, and appears about 9 times in the Qur'an. Allah(swt) wants us to be successful and gives us guidance and commandments to follow. We are trading what we desire in this world for the gains of the Jannah(hereafter), a place that will never perish. He also says, *"Allâh wishes to make clear (what is lawful and what is unlawful) to you, and to show you the ways of those before you, and accept your repentance, and Allâh is All-Knower, All-Wise. (26) Allâh wishes to accept your repentance, but those who follow their lusts, wish that you (believers) should deviate tremendously away (from the Right Path). (27) Allâh wishes to lighten (the burden) for you; and man was created weak (cannot be patient to leave sexual intercourse with woman). (28) O you who believe! Eat not up your property among yourselves unjustly except it be a trade amongst you, by mutual consent. And do not kill yourselves (nor kill one another). Surely, Allâh is Most Merciful to you. (29) And whoever commits that through aggression and injustice, We shall cast him into the*

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8 Tips for a Stress-less Ramadhan

By Grandma Jeddah

Did I forget anything on the list for Iftar? What am I going to cook for Suhoor? I'm hungry, irritable, and my kids are stressing me out!

Ramadan! One of the most blessed and enjoyable months of the year. But for Muslim sisters, it can also be a month of pressure, extra demands, and anxiety.

Many sisters have the added pressure of preparing Iftar for guests, taking care of fasting children who are restless and cranky, as well as trying to find extra time to read Qur'an and perform voluntary acts of worship. The pressures can pile up. Manage your Ramadan stresses with these sparkling jewels from Grandma Jeddah.

Jewel 1 - Read or listen to inspiring stories from Qur'an and Hadith

The Qur'an has stories of righteous women who had difficulties but remained patient and received Allah's reward as a result. Maryam, mother of Isa, was accused of immoral acts. In the end, she was blessed with a virtuous son who was a noble prophet. Asiya the wife of Pharaoh was tortured viciously by her husband. Allah informed her of her place in Paradise. The mother of Musa gave up her son for a period of time. Allah returned him to her and blessed him to become a righteous prophet. Through their patience, Allah blessed these women with something better than what their trials presented to them.

Stories such as these found in Qur'an and hadith are not merely for our reading pleasure. They are words of inspiration to help us through our difficult challenges in life.

During Ramadan, take 15 minutes each day to read or listen to inspiring stories from Islam. When the stressful moments of Ramadan arise, your mind will be set with a positive outlook so you can tackle the busyness with courage and patience learned from

these role models, insha'Allah.

Jewel 2 - Make extra du'a and memorize them.

Remember to ask Allah to solve your problems and relieve your stressors. He is the One who is in control of everything. In Surah Mujadilah, Allah lets one of the female companions, Khawla, know that He hears and knows of her complaints against her husband, and He responds to her worries and concerns, as well.

"Indeed, Allâh has heard the statement of her (Khaulah bint Tha'labah) that disputes with you (O Muhammad SAW) concerning her husband (Aus bin As-Sâmit), and complains to Allâh. And Allâh hears the argument between you both. Verily, Allâh is All-Hearer, All-Seer. "
[Surah 58, Verse 1]

We must remember that Allah can make the difficult easy, so recite du'a more frequently during this month. And while you're at it, try memorizing the dua, too. According to hadith, the Prophet (saw) prescribed the following du'a for stress:

"O Allah, I hope for Your Mercy. Leave me not to myself for even a wink of an eye, and set right all my affairs. There is no god but You." [Abu Daw'ud] Allah wants us to seek His help and to plead to Him, so ask Him often for His assistance, especially to help you deal with the added stresses you may encounter during Ramadan.

Jewel 3 - Work on becoming more patient.

Make a special effort this Ramadan to intentionally work on becoming more patient. When we try to be patient, Allah will make it easier for us to continue being patient, insha'Allah.

Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, "...and whoever remains patient, Allah will make him patient..." [Bukhari]

We should use the difficulties of this blessed month as an opportunity to build our patience. Here is a

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du'a from Qur'an we can make asking Allah to help us become more patient: "... Our Lord, pour upon us patience and let us die as Muslims [in submission to You]." [Surah 7, Verse 126]

We all need and want Allah to aid us and be with us. Being patient is one way of achieving this great blessing, inshaAllah. Unfortunately, patience is not always a natural character trait that one may have. The difficulty in practicing it is why it is so full of rewards. This month, make a quick note in a private diary/phone app (for example, Notes on iPhone) of the situations in which you did not exercise patience or of situations you could have handled better. Having our weaknesses spelled out to us is an effective way for us to actively practice Sabr when similar things happen again.

Jewel 4 - Appreciate an empty stomach.

No doubt, being hungry can make us grumpy and more easily irritated, but having an empty stomach can also, in some respects, make us more calm and subdued. Hunger slows us down and makes us less worldly. People are more contemplative when fasting. We should take advantage of this unique aspect of fasting during our difficult moments. Allow the natural calming effects of fasting to help you when your temper flares.

Jewel 5 - Spend extra time with kids.

One of the greatest stresses we mothers experience is the misbehavior of our children. One of the most effective ways of managing misbehavior is being proactive and spending quality time with our kids. During the first few days of Ramadan, we often wonder what to do with the extra time we have from not eating. Some of this extra time can be spent playing with and entertaining our children. We can read Islamic stories to them or even recite them from memory. How about playing Scrabble or Score Four or some other entertaining game that uses intellect and skill? Or, better yet, we can search online for Islamic stores that sell children's Islamic games, and play fun and entertaining games that teach about our religion. What about working together with the kids to design Ramadan posters to place throughout the house? Search online for creative and fun games

that cost nothing at all, such as guessing games? Switch your stress from frustration to fun.

Jewel 6 – Explore Your Creative Side.

One of the best ways for us to get in a good mood is to become creative. What are you good at doing? Do you have a hobby? Do you write or sew? Creating usable items that we have produced from our hard work makes us feel valuable. Stitch a quilt or make potpourri pouches with flowers from outside of your home. Crochet a kufi or knit a shawl for Eid. These are things that can distract your mind from irritated feelings and make you feel more composed.

Jewel 7 - Give to others.

It is becoming more and more apparent to psychologists and those who work with people who have depression that one of the best ways for people to feel content is for them to help others less well-off than themselves. Women generally have the task of cooking, so it is easy to make an extra portion to give to a needy neighbor. If you know a family that is not doing so well financially, prepare a delicious meal for them and send it over for them to enjoy. Help yourself feel good and get rewarded at the same time, insha'Allah!

Jewel 8 - Remember this is a special month

Ramadan will only be here for 29 or 30 days. Realize what an enormous blessing you have by increasing your good deeds, growing closer to Allah, and hopefully attaining a spot in Paradise. The thought of entering paradise someday with endless pleasures that only increases in their joy and have no stresses or difficulties can be one of the best tools to help you manage the most stressful moments of Ramadan, with greater ease.

This is an excerpt from Grandma Jeddah's e-book, *Mothering Doesn't Stop in Ramadan: Jewels for a Stress-Less Ramadan*. Find help on how to keep your sanity while fasting with your hyperactive child to discovering less stressful ways of effectively and gently encouraging your youngster to wake up for suhoor. It's all inside, and more! To Order your copy for \$9.99, e-mail Grandma Jeddah at: info@GrandmaJeddah.com

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Ramadhan is the Fasting Month for Believers

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observing *Saum* (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 say to him twice, ‘I am fasting.’” The Prophet (sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) added, “By Him in Whose Hands my soul is, the smell coming out from the mouth of a fasting person is better with Allah than the smell of musk. (Allah says about the fasting person), ‘He has left his food, drink and desires for My sake. The *Saum* (fast) is for Me.” “So I will reward (the fasting person) for it and the reward of good deeds I multiplied ten times.” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Hadith No. 118, Vol. 3).

Although all practices of worshipping are for Allah, here Allah singles out *Saum* (fasting), because fasting cannot be practiced for the sake of showing-off, as nobody except Allah can know whether one is fasting or not. Therefore, fasting is a pure performance that cannot be blemished with hypocrisy. (Fath Al-Bari, Hadith Vol. 5, Page 10)

Narrated Abu Hurairah (radhiyallaahu ‘anhu): The Prophet (sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) said, “Whoever does not give up lying speech – false statements (i.e. telling lies) and acting on those (lies), and evil actions etc., then Allah is not in need of his leaving his food and drink (i.e. Allah will not accept his fasting)”. (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Hadith No. 127, Vol. 3).

See Fath Al-Bari, Vol. 5, Page 18.

(V, 2:186) Narrated Abu Hurairah (radhiyallaahu ‘anhu): Allah’s Messenger (sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) said, “Allah said, ‘I will declare war against him who shows hostility to a pious worshipper of Mine. And the most beloved things with which My slave keeps on coming nearer to Me, is what I have enjoined upon him; and My slave keeps on coming closer to Me through performing *Nawafil* (praying or

doing extra deeds besides what is obligatory) till I love him. Then I become his sense of hearing with which he hears, and his sense of sight with which he sees, and his hand with which he grips, and his leg with which he walks; and if he asks Me, I will give him, and if he asks My Protection (Refuge), I will protect him; (i.e. give him My Refuge), and I do not hesitate to do anything as I hesitate to take the soul of the believer, for he hates death, and I hate to disappoint him.” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Vol. 8, Hadith No. 509).

And when My slaves ask you (O Muhammad SAW) concerning Me, then (answer them), I am indeed near (to them by My Knowledge). I respond to the invocations of the supplicant when he calls on Me (without any mediator or intercessor). So let them obey Me and believe in Me, so that they may be led aright. (186)

(V, 2:186) Narrated Abu Hurairah (radhiyallaahu ‘anhu): Allah’s Messenger (sallallaahu ‘alaihi wa sallam) said, “Allah said, ‘I will declare war against him who shows hostility to a pious worshipper of Mine. And the most beloved things with which My slave keeps on coming nearer to Me, is what I have enjoined upon him; and My slave keeps on coming closer to Me through performing *Nawafil* (praying or doing extra deeds besides what is obligatory) till I love him. Then I become his sense of hearing with which he hears, and his sense of sight with which he sees, and his hand with which he grips, and his leg with which he walks; and if he asks Me, I will give him, and if he asks My Protection (Refuge), I will protect him; (i.e. give him My Refuge), and I do not hesitate to do anything [as much] as I hesitate to take the soul of the believer, for he hates death, and I hate to disappoint him.” (Sahih Al-Bukhari, Vol. 8, Hadith No. 509).

It is made lawful for you to have sexual relations with your wives on the night of As-Saum (the fasts). They are Libas [i.e. body cover, or screen, or Sakan, (i.e. you enjoy the pleasure of living with them - as in Verse 7:189) Tafsir At-Tabarī], for you and you are the same for them. Allāh knows that you used to de-

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Los Angeles Islamic Chamber of Commerce

Fire, and that is easy for Allâh. (30) If you avoid the great sins which you are forbidden to do, We shall expiate from you your (small) sins, and admit you to a Noble Entrance (i.e. Paradise). (31) And wish not for the things in which Allâh has made some of you to excel over others. For men there is reward for what they have earned, (and likewise) for women there is reward for what they have earned, and ask Allâh of His Bounty. Surely, Allâh is Ever All-Knower of everything. (Surah An-Nisa 32)

So Allah(swt) also wanted us to have the Chamber of Commerce. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world’s largest business organization representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions. Our members range from mom-and-pop shops and local chambers to leading industry associations and large corporations. They all share one thing—they count on the Chamber to be their voice in Washington, D.C” (<https://www.uschamber.com/about/about-the-us-chamber>).

The problem is we as Muslims cannot count on them to speak for the Muslims, because we count on Allah(swt) only. We have so many differences. We don’t want to celebrate the holidays of the disbelievers (ie. Christmas, Easter, Valentine’s Day etc.). We don’t want to fornicate, drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes, and dance to the music as they do when celebrating. If we are true Muslims we only celebrate two celebrations per year. They are Eidul Fitr after Ramadhan, and Eidu Adhaa after Hajj. We should not be celebrating anything else, because Allah says, ***“O you who believe! Eat not up your property among yourselves unjustly except it be a trade amongst you, by mutual consent. And do not kill yourselves (nor kill one another). Surely, Allâh is Most Merciful to you.” (Surah Nisa’ 4:29)***

This is the reason we need the Chamber of Commerce. With the Los Angeles Islamic Chamber of Commerce (LAICOC), we can network with each other, recruit and hire other Muslims, have our businesses and organizations featured in the South-

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Ramadhan the fasting Month for Believers

ceive yourselves, so He turned to you (accepted your repentance) and forgave you. So now have sexual relations with them and seek that which Allâh has ordained for you (offspring), and eat and drink until the white thread (light) of dawn appears to you distinct from the black thread (darkness of night), then complete your Saum (fast) till the night-fall. And do not have sexual relations with them (your wives) while you are in I'tikâf (i.e. confining oneself in a mosque for prayers and invocations leaving the worldly activities) in the mosques. These are the limits (set) by Allâh, so approach them not. Thus does Allâh make clear His Ayât (proofs, evidences, lessons, signs, revelations, verses, laws, legal and illegal things, Allahs set limits, and orders.) to mankind that they may become Al- Muttaqun. (Suratul Al-Baqarah 2:183-187)

May everyone have a safe, prosperous and beneficial Ramadhan.



ern California Muslim Business Directory (see in this issue) and the LAICOC Business Journal (coming). We can have workshops, seminars, and discounts on products and services within the LAICOC network. Islamic financing, medical care, and education. Insha Allah, we can do it all in a halal and Islamic manner.

These features and benefits are important because Los Angeles city is a booming city. In the next few years we have 2 basketball teams, 2 football teams, the Olympics, and many other events and venues making Los Angeles one of the best cities in the world for business. We will have rapid transit trains connecting and moving people all over Los Angeles. Working together, we can be “One Ummah” and hold on to the rope of Allah(swt) and take advantage of the Bounty of Allah(swt). For more information on how to become a member call brother Shafeeq at (310) 946-2269 or go to the LAICOC website at www.laicoc.org.

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