

WORSHIPPING CREATION OR THE CREATORS?

WRITTEN BY

RAFIDAH BINTI ABAS

The Quran acknowledges four sacred months namely, Muharram, Rajab, Dzul Qaedah and Zulhijjah. Despite not listed, Ramadhan is the most blessed month in Islam. Indeed, of the 12 lunar months in Islam, some Muslims only knows Ramadhan which marked the fasting season and Syawal (the Eid). The greatness of Ramadhan is testified by the Almighty in two auspicious occasions of Quranic revelation.

Ibn Kathir narrated that Lailatul Qadr (the night of Decree), is the night where the complete Quran is descended from al-Lawh al Mahfuz (the Preserved Tablet/Slate) to Baitul Izzah (the House of Might). It is then revealed to the prophet ﷺ by the archangel Gabriel in the 17th of Ramadhan for twenty-three years in few stages. Unlike Nuzul Quran, Lailatul Qadr has no specific date. The most sacred night, which is greater than a thousand month (Quran: 97:3) is observed in any of the odd day of the last ten days of Ramadhan.

In Malaysia, the eagerness to welcome Ramadhan starts when people post forgiveness messages or asking others to simply forgive their misconduct. Some even think that they are forgiven once they started to post the messages in social media, smile or talk again to the person despite being informed that Islam outlines several requirements that one must fulfil to seek forgiveness with other humans. The ultimate aims include preservation of life, to show remorse and to safeguard every Muslim's rights.

Some Muslims embrace the spirit of Ramadhan by fasting throughout the month despite neglecting prayer, the first pillar of Islam due to the misconception that the latter is celebrated only once a year. Muslims would also refrain themselves from vain and malicious talk and other nonproductive activities which some deserted outside Ramadhan.

The obnoxiously malevolent activities are reduced to show reverence although the second pillar of faith requires Muslims to believe in the angels among whom Raqib and Atid are assigned to record every single deed performed.

Fasting during Ramadhan from dawn to dusk is the third pillar of Islam, hence making it the only month where all Muslims are concerned with the prayer times. Sahoor (breakfast) and Iftar (breaking the fast) are occasions where quality time is spent with the family members or friends which may be neglected during other times.

It is only during Ramadhan that everyone would convene the dining table during the sunsets waiting for the Iftar which some would mostly still be at the field or loitering with the friends outside Ramadhan. Other hikmah (wisdom) over fasting is for us to show gratitude, to revitalize our health and to experience the feeling of the needy and the poor who may not even have food for consumption. Unfortunately, it is reported that around 80 - 200 kg of food wastage is recorded daily during Ramadhan.

As good deeds are rewarded with more bonuses, Muslim would grab the opportunity to perform Tadarrus (Quran recitation), sadaqah, and performing Solat Tarawih (an additional prayer performed throughout Ramadhan after Isyak prayer). Besides Friday prayer, Tarawih is another joyous occasion where the Musolla and mosques are crowded with the adherents that we seldom see at other times.

"Other hikmah (wisdom) over fasting is for us to show gratitude, to revitalize our health and to experience the feeling of the needy and the poor who may not even have food for consumption."

Despite the end, the spirit of Ramadhan should be embraced by everyone for it is one of the greatest creations by the Almighty. How we wish that every month is Ramadhan so that all the good things will prevail. However, the true worshipper did not worship the creation but the Creator. Therefore all muslims practice what is prescribed by Allah not to follow our own lust.