

Ramadan Reruns

Many of us look forward to Ramadan each year.

Shaitan is all locked up,

the doors of Jannah are open,

and the rewards for good deeds are multiplied.

Isn't it funny some of the questions we get asked during Ramadan each year?

Hey, yo Ali, you want some cake? This stuff is good, man. This stuff is good.

Oh, no thanks.

Fine. How about some lemonade?

No, I'm fasting.

For how long?

About thirty days.

THIRTY DAYS?! You're gonna die!

Huh? . . . N-n-n-no -

Hey Bob, Ali says that he's not gonna drink food for thirty days. Thirty days!

It's like every year I have the same conversation.

Subhan'allah, Ramadan is the best month of the year.

This is the time we should be focusing on improving our relationship with Allah
Subhanathallah,

increasing our good deeds,

and decreasing our bad ones.

But for some reason, we tend to do those silly things each year.

Silly things?

Yeah, silly things.

And it starts right from the beginning of Ramadan.

Even before Ramadan begins, people are debating over moon sighting.

You would think after 1400 years, we probably would have figured it out by now.

But we haven't.

Every year it's the same thing.

We're going with Saudi.

We are going with Pakistan.

Our masjid with Inshaallah start on Friday.

Our masjid with Inshaallah start on Saturday.

Brother, we are going to start on Sunday, no matter what. According to our calculations,

Brother, it will happen on Sunday and there is no way for it to be before Sunday,

according to our calculations.

Huh?

Brother, it cannot happen. So we are starting on Sunday.

The moon was sighted yesterday, bro.

Not according to our calculations, brother, it cannot happen.

Brother, please, let us unite our Ummah using our calculations.

What? That's not even part of the Sunnah. The brother says he saw the moon yesterday.

We should start when the moon is sighted.

Why are we making things so complicated? It's actually simple. Sight the moon, start Ramadan. Sight the moon, Ramadan ends. You know what, we should make a song out of it.

When the moon is sighted, Ramadan begins. When the moon is sighted, Ramadan surely ends. Tell your mother, tell your father -

No, stop, ok, ok, stop, stop, stop.

Lalalalalalalalalala...

Brother, we will not do calculations, please, don't sing.

And when . . . ok. Sorry.

Some people figure that since it's Ramadan, they're gonna be fasting for thirty days, and they're gonna be losing weight.

Unfortunately, many of us are gaining weight.

Did I put on weight?

Uhhhhh . . .

Be honest.

Yeah, big time, bro. Wooooh!

Not that honest.

You know how we get fat during Ramadan?

I'll tell you how we get fat during Ramadan.

We cook all day and eat all night.

That's how we get fat during Ramadan.

Words of advice: if you can't say the words "I'm full," you're gonna gain weight during Ramadan.

Bro, what happened? Did you get married?

Oh, this? Oh, no brother. This is Ramadan, brother, Ramadan.

If there's iftar in the masjid and 100 people have come to eat, please take enough so everyone has enough.

I know you're hungry, bro, but when there's 100 pieces of chicken, and there's 100 people ready to eat,

it gets kinda crazy when you take six pieces of chicken and the guy behind you takes five pieces of chicken.

You know what we get at the end of the line?

Iceberg lettuce and half a piece of pita bread.

You know what I'm saying?!

No, you don't know what I'm saying - cause you're eating all the chicken!

Brothers and sisters, I know you're hungry.

We are all hungry.

But piling up ten pounds of food

only to throw half of it away

is just wrong.

There are people around the world who are starving.

Who don't have enough food to even break their fast.

The fact is that the majority of the world lives in poverty.

And they lack the food that we take for granted every day.

So that's something to think about before the next time you throw half your food away.

When it comes to Salat, you hear a lot of burping.

You see, some people eat so much, that they have no room for anything. Not even for air!

But all that air has to come out.

So they start burping while you're trying to pray.

Have you ever tried concentrating during Taraweh

only to have odors of digested briyani almost pass you by?

At least with loud burps, you have a warning that it's coming . . . so you can let it pass by.

The worst burps are the silent and deadly ones, cause you don't see them coming. I mean, you don't hear them coming. Or, you know what I mean.

You know what I'm talking about. It's those people that are praying like this.

It's nasty! When you're blowing this way or that way, that's me! I'm smelling the stuff.

I'm trying to concentrate on my prayers, man.

Let's just try to eat a little less so that we have a little more room. Maybe for some air.

You know what I'm saying?

[slowly] Bismillahirrahmanirahim. Alhamdulillah -

Wait, wait, wait, wait. What are you doing? Ramadan's thirty days, brother. We must

finish the Qu'ran before thirty days, brother. Again.

Uhhh, ok. Bismillahirrahmanirahim. Alhamdulillahirabilalamin -
You're not gonna finish like this. Faster.

[says it faster]

Oh! We're gonna make it brother, we're gonna make it.

Everyone wants to finish the Qu'ran by the 27th day.

At the same time, if the recitation takes too long, they complain that it's taking too long.

So some masjids, they pray Taraweh at super-fast speeds.

Super speed Taraweh.

Ok, Alhamdulillah, we finished the Qu'ran.

But how much of it reached our hearts?

has impacted our actions?

If it just goes through one ear, and out the other

then what have we really gained, other than saying that oh, we finished the Qu'ran during

Ramadan.

Subhan'allah, the companions of our Prophet, they used to take 10 ayats at a time. They would memorize, learn, and implement them

Today, masjids are competing against who can finish Taraweh faster.

It's not like we have the best microphone systems in our masjids.

And when you're reciting at a hundred miles per hour,

it's makes it really hard to concentrate, bro.

How many times have you heard this debate outside the masjid after Taraweh.

People trying to convince each other that it's 8 rakats, no it's 20 rakats.

I'm not even going to get into the 8 versus 20 rakat debate, but I will ask this:

since when did Taraweh become the most important Salat?

I mean, people treat it more important than the fard prayers.

[laughs] Oh you don't believe me? Next time, during Ramadan, watch how many people are there during Isha and watch how many people come in during Taraweh.

It makes you wonder whether people are there for culture or for Islam

But that's a whole different video, if you know what I'm saying.

There are Muslims who pray throughout the whole year,

then you see Muslims who only pray during Ramadan,

and then you see Muslims who pray only during the 27th day of Ramadan.

I mean, the masjid's full during Ramadan,

Alhamdulillah.

But for some reason there's that special group of people that comes out of hibernation only on the 27th day of Ramadan.

It makes you wonder, where were these people throughout the rest of the year.

Skip that - where were they during Ramadan? You know what I'm sayin'?

By watching this video, you've just seen some of the silly things we do.

I'm speaking to myself before I'm speaking to anyone else.

I hope this is a reminder for all of us that we shouldn't take Ramadan for granted.

Or treat it like another ritual.

But rather, let's look at Ramadan as a blessing.

We should say Alhamdulillah cause Allah Subhanathala gave us a chance to live through Ramadan.

An opportunity to get more reward and wipe away our sins.

You see, some people think that they can sin throughout the whole year, and they hope that when Ramadan comes around, they're gonna try to clear everything out.

But the fact is, not everyone makes it through Ramadan.

How many are laying in their graves who though they were gonna make it to Ramadan this year?

They never made it.

If Allah Subhanathala gives us another chance to live through Ramadan,
we can't continue to take it for granted.

We can't continue to do the silly things that we do.

Everyone is so close and nice during Ramadan,

people go out of their way to do good deeds,

but it's like when Ramadan's over, we go back to our normal lives.

Why can't the way we treat each other during Ramadan be our normal lives?

So I guess my point is that Inshallah if we make it to another Ramadan, let's take advantage of it.

By using the opportunity to increase our faith, our Iman.

So when Ramadan ends,

we are stronger and better Muslims, Inshallah.

This is Ali reminding you just in case you forgot.

Ummm, no.

Oh. [faster] This is Ali reminding you just in case you forgot.

Uh-huh, uh-huh.

[faster] This is Ali reminding you just in case you forgot.

Ahhh!