

☆ ŞAWM : A SHIELD ☆
(FASTING)

الصَّوْمُ جُنَّةٌ

Aş-Şawmu junnatun

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The Şawm is a shield (against all sins).

(Nisā'ī and at-Tirmidhī)

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Fasting in the month of Ramadan is obligatory upon all adult Muslims. Şawm purifies our bodies and souls, brings us closer to Allāh, cleans our sins and protects us from future sins. Thus Şawm protects us from evil thoughts and actions, as a shield protects a warrior from attacks.

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☆ HAJJ ☆
(PILGRIMAGE)

الْحَجُّ جِهَادٌ

Al-Hajju jihādun

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Hajj (Pilgrimage) is (a kind of) *Jihād*.

(Ibn Mājah)

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Performing *Hajj* once in lifetime is an obligation upon any Muslim who can afford it. *Jihād* means struggling and sacrificing in the way of Allāh. In *Hajj*, we struggle with our money and body, and sacrifice our comfort to please Allāh.

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☆ DU'Ā' ☆
(PRAYER)

الدُّعَاءُ مَخُّ الْعِبَادَةِ

Ad-Du'ā'u mukhkhul 'ibādati



**Du'ā' (prayer) is the kernel of the
'Ibādah (worship).**

(at-Tirmidhī)



The 'Ibādah (worship) brings us closer to Allāh. Through *Du'ā'* (prayer) we ask for Allāh's favors and forgiveness for our mistakes. Allāh loves those who turn to Him in their need and ask Him for His favors.



☆ **DHIKR** ☆
(REMEMBERING)

الذِّكْرُ نِعْمَةٌ

Adh-Dhikru ni'matun

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The *Dhikr* of Allāh is a blessing.

(ad-Dailami)

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It is a blessing to remember Allāh. His presence in our mind brings us peace and joy. *Dhikr* keeps us away from both evil thought and bad actions. It helps us to do the right things.

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☆ TAWBAH ☆
(REPENTANCE)

النَّدَمُ تَوْبَةٌ

An-nadamu tawbatun

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Remorse of sin is repentance.

(Jawāmi‘)

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Tawbah does not mean only saying words of repentance but true *Tawbah* is the feelings of sorrow in our hearts. When we sincerely accept our mistakes and turn to Allāh, He forgives us.

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