

Dear Brothers and Respected Sisters
Salaamun Alaykum and Ramadan Mubarak.

Sub: Ramadan as illustrated in “Al Majalis al-Muayyadiyyah”

Short introduction of the learned Da’i and author of the Majalis:

Sayyiduna Hibatullah Ibn Musa, better known as “al-Muayyad al-Shirazi”, lived during the time of the Fatimi Imam al-Hakim (386-412 AH/996-1021 AD), Al Imam al-Zahir (412-427 AH/1021-1036 AD) and Al Imam al-Mustansir (427-484AH/1036–1094AD). He was buried in the Dar al-‘ilm, Al Muizziyah al-Qahirah where he had resided and worked, and according to some other sources in Bab Makhallafat al-Rasul (S). He was born in Shiraz, capital of the Fars (then Persia, now in modern-day Iran), in the year 1000 CE. His father, Musa ibn Dawood, served under the Fatimi Imam al-Hakim bi Amrillah as the Hajjat Jazirah of Fars (Da’i al-Du’at) where the Ismaili Daw’ah mission was active. The Da’i is also mentioned in the works of Nasir’e Khusraw, one of the prominent students of al-Muayyad. In a poem written in 455/1063 (Diw’an, 173-177) Sayyiduna Nasir praises Sayyiduna al-Muayyad as his mentor and refers to him as Bab al-Abw’ab (at the top of the Ismaili Daw’ah hierarchy). Al-Muayyad also taught Hasan’e Sabah, the founder champion of the Ismaili Nizari Imamah. Around one thousand years back, every Thursday, Sayyiduna Al-Muayyad al-Shirazi conducted Asb’aq of Majalis al-Hikmah in which he explained the Batin of the Qur’an. In eight volumes of his Majalis he has covered almost seventy percent of the Qur’an, and presented the wonders of the Universe in his lucid writing.

The Baab al-Abw’ab of the 18th Shi’i Fatimi Ismaili Imam, al-Mustansir (as) says in one of his Majalis regarding the month of Ramadan:

“May Allah make you from those whom Allah has granted Walayah of Nabi and His Ahl al-Bayt (as), and bestow them death of purity through Malaek. O People! The month of Shab’an has left you. I know what your state was in this month and how many good deeds you have collected. Now the caravan of Ramadan has come. The shining light of Ramadan on the sky of merit is spreading. This month will take you away from sins. Allah has made this month a ship to take you towards Najaat (salvation). The one who comes on this ship achieves liberation. This month is to get closer to Allah and to increase Hasan’at (virtues). If in this Ramadan sins are not forgiven, then wait for next year.

The days and nights of this month are luminous. In this month, one Khair after another comes. In this month is Laylat al-Qadr - this night is from the Lord and is highest in Tazim. O Brothers! Make your spirit ready for ibadah which will lead you towards the perpetual Sadat. Be alert! Do not be trapped in the net of the world. This is like a dream during sleep and know this that your hopes in this world will quickly finish. Before the time finishes and the alarm (of death) rings, complete your preparation. Contribute in Khayr and partner with those who believe in Aakhirah. Be like those whom Malaek have no worry to write accounts off (because of good deeds only).

People of Religion! Those who have committed negligence in collection of good deeds in Rajab, and Shab'an, must take advantage of this month of Ramadan. Pray Tahajjud in this month for which Musalla has been spread; do efforts and put your name in the list of the good people. For the nearness of Allah, get closer to good people. Do 'ibadah during midnight, and keep Sawm (fast) during the day. Nafs'e Ammarah invites you towards wrong so fight it. Brothers! Follow the footsteps of the people of faith. Stay away from evil characters, and bow before those assigned for removing sins. Be Nadim (feel ashamed) of your own sins. Before Ramadan ends, achieve forgiveness from Allah from your sins. May Allah hide your faults!

Do understand there is no limit of Nafil Salaat. Pray as many as you wish during the day or night. Al Imam Ali Zayn al-Abideen (as) in day and night used to pray one thousand Rakaat. Tahajjud Salaat is Afdal than Nafil Salaat, which performed in mid night. Qur'an al-Isra 17:79 says: "And in some parts of the night (also) offer the Tahajjud, as an additional Salaat for you. It may be that your Lord will raise you to Maqaman Mahmuda (a glorious station of praise and exaltation, i.e. the highest degree in Jannah!).

Qur'an says in Surah Muzammil:

The one who is wrapped in shawl (Rasulullah) awake in night for Salaat should also take rest". According to historical sources, Rasulullah (S) used to pray so much in night that his feet would swell and pain.

Rasulullah (S) used to recite Surah Ali Imran and Surah Baqara in Salaat al-Istiftah. He (S) said that it was not desirable for a Mumin that he should sleep the entire night like a corpse but instead try to recite long Surahs. If the lengthy Surahs could not be memorized, the short ones should.

(It is the Ehs'an of the Du'at of Yemen that they taught us Salat al-Istift'ah with Surah al-Ikhl'as and Surah al-Kafirun).

Rasulullah (S) informed: "At midnight, a Malak calls and recite Tasbih:

"Subuhoon Quddusoon Rabbona wa Rabbol Malaikat'e Wal Rooh'e Wa Rabbonar Rahmano al-Mustaano Ala Ma Tasifoon".

You are the Most Glorious. The Most Holy. You the Rubb of the Malaekat and of Jibrael"

(Rasulullah (S) used to recite in his Ruku and Sujud above mentioned Tasbih)

The Malak alerts and calls people for Tahajjud. He again recites the same Tasbih and says

"O people get up quickly for Dua."

The third time he recites the same Tasbih and then says

"Get up O people for the Dhikr".

Fourth time he recites the same Tasbih and says

"Tell people of negligence to leave deep sleep".

(The following four Tasabih that we recite in Salaat Wahshat al-Qabar removes the sleep of negligence and alert us towards our wishes).

Sayyiduna Al Muayyad al-Shirazi (ra) says:

Allah likes three voices:

1. Tadarru at the time of Dua in Tahajjud
2. Sound of rooster
3. Tilawat of the Qur'an at morning

There are five methods to alert from negligence:

1. Recitation of the Qur'an according to its right
2. Sawm or fasting
3. Eating less, especially at night, so you can pray Tahajjud
4. Recite Dua at the last time of Shafaa
5. Love pious and religious people.

Sayyiduna Al Muayyad al-Shirazi (ra) in one of his Majalis elucidates:

"O Slave of Allah! This holy month of Ramadan is your guest; have fear of Allah in this month, and don't leave Taqwa".

In another Majlis, he explains:

"O gathering of Mumineen! In all affairs, may Allah help you and He will grant you Barakah of this month of Ramadan, hence you continue his following, don't waste this holy month in the affairs of negligence. In the last 10 days, there is the night of power, don't overlook this holy night and be careful - if anyone loses this night, he loses himself. A tradition comes from Maulatuna Fatimah (as) according to which:

"Be alert people! You are travelers and you love to stay at a temporary place. You forget your eternal abode, your sins have bent your back, you should understand that you are standing on land, and your grave will be below. You have within you the power to change and awake from the sleep of neglect before Malak al-Maut arrives. Follow the Sirah of Rasulullah (S) and his Ahl al-Bayt (as), and the pious Imams(as) who have prepared for you fruits of Wisdom."

Best Regards,

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