

## Holy Ramadan - the Month of Qiyām

*Alhamdu lillāh* we all know that Holy Ramadān is a month of *siyām* (i.e. fasting). We take necessary steps to ensure that our fasts go well during the holy month. It should be known that Ramadān is also the month of *qiyām*, i.e. standing in prayer. In the Du‘ā for the 7th Day of Ramadān we ask Allah to help us with fasts and prayers of the day (*allāhumma a‘innī ‘alā siyāmihī wa qiyāmihī*). This could refer to obligatory prayers, or to the recommended prayers or to both.

Performing the following prayer is highly recommended. Whoever says this prayer, Allah will forgive his seventy thousand evil deeds. Any time during the night, say two rak‘at prayer as follows:

- i) Make the intention (*niyyah*) of saying this prayer for the night of Ramadān
- ii) After Sūratul Hamd recite three times Sūratul Ikhḷās (Q. No. 112) in both the rak‘ats. Upon completion of the prayer say:

سُبْحَانَ مَنْ هُوَ حَفِيظٌ لَا يَعْجَلُ، سُبْحَانَ مَنْ هُوَ رَحِيمٌ لَا يَعْجَلُ، سُبْحَانَ مَنْ

هُوَ قَائِمٌ لَا يَسْهُو، سُبْحَانَ مَنْ هُوَ دَائِمٌ لَا يَلْهُو.

*Subhāna man huwa Hafīẓūn lā yaḡfal, subhāna man huwa Raḥīmūn lā ya‘jal, subhāna man huwa Qā‘imūn lā yasḥū, subhāna man huwa Dā‘imūn lā yalḥū.*

Glory be to One who is a Protector and not heedless, Glory be to One who is Merciful and not overly haste [in punishing], Glory be to One who is the Sustainer and not negligent, Glory be to One who is Forever and does not get distracted.

- iii) Then say al-‘Tasbīhāt al-‘Arba’ 7 times:

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَلَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَاللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

*Subhānallāhi walḥamdu lillāhi walā ilāha illallāhu wallāhu Akkabar.* - Glory be to Allah, and (all) praise belongs to Allah, and there is no god but Allah, and Allah is Great.

- iv) Then say:

سُبْحَانَكَ سُبْحَانَكَ سُبْحَانَكَ يَا عَظِيمُ اغْفِرْ لِي الذَّنْبَ الْعَظِيمَ

*Subhānaka, subhānaka, subhānaka; yā ‘aẓīm iḡfirlīyadh-dhanbal-‘aẓīm.*

Glory be to You, Glory be to You, Glory be to You; O the All-great, forgive my great sins.

- v) Then say Salawāt 10 times: اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

*Allāhuma swalli ‘alā Muḥammadiw wa-āli Muḥammad.* O Allah, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad. (Sh ‘Abbās Qummī, A‘māl for nights of Ramadan, *Mafātihul Jinān*)

## Academy for Learning Islam,

203 – 45th West Wilmot Street, Richmond Hill, ON

Canada L4B 2P2; [www.academyofislam.com](http://www.academyofislam.com)

Tel: 647-738-6179; [director@academyofislam.com](mailto:director@academyofislam.com)

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