

Newsletter

A Newsletter of the Mobile Islamic Community



READ THE HOLY QURAN DAILY

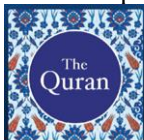
The Night of Power

(Laylatul Qadr: Holy Quran 97)

In the Name of God, the Gracious, the Merciful.

1. We sent it [Holy Quran] down on the Night of Decree.
 2. But what will convey to you what the Night of Decree is?
 3. The Night of Decree is better than a thousand months.
 4. In it descend the angels and the Spirit, by the leave of their Lord, with every command.
 5. Peace it is; until the rise of dawn.
- Aa'isha (ra) said: "I said, 'O Messenger of Allah, if I know which night is Laylat al-Qadr, what should I say on that night?' He said, 'Say: Allaahummainnaka 'afuwwuntuhibb al-'afwafa' affu 'anni (O Allah, You are forgiving and You love forgiveness, so forgive me).'" [Tirmidhi]

Vision problems? Would you like to hear reading of The Quran in English? This is one that is clear and easy to hear. Can be found on Spotify. And no account needed.



Quran in English
Goodword Books

Read, Listen, and Study Tafsirs and Lectures of Imam W.D. Mohammed

GOD is With the Heartbroken

Below are excerpts from a March 2024 editorial that appeared in USA Today. It was written by Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN) Founding Executive Director, Dr. Rami Nashashibi. In the editorial, Rami speaks of the brokenness many of us feel this blessed month.

According to a tradition attributed to the Prophet Muhammad, "God is with the brokenhearted." That idea may provide some respite for many of us this Ramadan who have shattered hearts.

Even as someone who has done his best to avoid social media, I turned on NPR the other day long enough to hear the wailing of Rania Abu Anza, who had spent a decade and three rounds of in vitro fertilization to become pregnant. Last weekend, her 5-month-old twins and a dozen other relatives were crushed to death under the rubble in Gaza after an Israeli airstrike. Rania and her family were seeking refuge in Rafah because it had been declared a safe zone by the Israelis,

Continued on page 1 column 2

Shawwal is the Tenth Month of the Islamic (Hijri) Calendar

GOD is With the Heartbroken

Continued from page 1 column 2

who have driven most of the 1.7 million displaced Palestinians like her into the very space they are now bombing indiscriminately.

Every day, our emails, WhatsApp groups and social media feeds are flooded with dozens of such accounts. Motaz Abdullah, a Palestinian American father and my friend in Chicago, and I have talked about the guilt, helplessness and rage that have driven many of us to some very steep emotional edges since Oct. 7.

"I've sobbed more in the last five months than I have my entire life," he said.

My conversation with Motaz is not unique, as I have spoken to dozens of other Palestinian American friends and family expressing similar sentiments. At this point, I often find myself easily triggered and brought to tears by any encounter with stories, voices and illustrations of trauma and injustice.

Continued on page 2 column 2

Amir Sulaiman, a Grammy nominated poet, recording artist, Harvard Fellow, and producer, screenwriter for film and television lays this out in his poem "Of Beauty & Breaking,"

**"Who would want their heart broken
But now that mine has been split open
I wonder who would want their heart closed
Ever
Can you drink from the coconut
without striking it
Can you smell the aloeswood without
lighting it
So much sweetness is violent
So much beauty in breaking
Can you birth without bleeding
And crying
And breathing
And dying"**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Another opportunity to enjoy the musical talent of **Mohammed Shakir**



Continued from page 1 column 3 GOD Is With The Heartbroken

A few weeks ago, I experienced one of those encounters toward the end of a tour at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. Somewhere between the holograms of actors taking on the persona, story and voices of formerly enslaved people and the exhibit on mass incarceration, I broke down and had to be consoled by a colleague. Perhaps it was the very familiar and often invisible stories of mass incarceration that I hear and experience as the executive director of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network.

Maybe it was the video of the Rev. Martin Luther King delivering the last few sentences of his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech the night before his assassination. Something about those prophetic words appealing to a beleaguered community to hold on to the vision of a "promised land." Most likely, it was a combination of everything.

If the carnage continues during the monthlong Ramadan, we are bracing ourselves for more searing impact on our souls: Fasting from dawn to sunset, by many accounts, increases one's emotional sensitivity and empathy.

More than 30,000 Palestinians lie dead in Gaza and thousands remain missing, most likely buried under the rubble. The Gaza Strip is in utter ruin, and even a complete cessation of violence would still come with the tremendous emotional burden of confronting the actual extent of the decimation funded by our tax dollars.

Continued on page 2 column 3

Continued from page 2 column 2 GOD Is With The Heartbroken

Yet, with no cease-fire in place, [as of this posting] we are preparing ourselves for more images of children strewn out on the floors of emergency rooms, covered in debris, or dying of starvation.

Perhaps consolation in our painful brokenness comes from prayer and the opportunity to bring parts of our fractured communities together this Ramadan. These are spaces often pried open by our young artists, activists, dreamers and spiritual seekers who still believe in the integral power of bringing us together to hear and identify with each other's pain.

Such gatherings occur in intimate halls or large outdoor arenas, similar to the venue where young hip-hop artist Marcus Morton, known as Redveil, performed in November. Toward the end of his set, Redveil asked his DJ to screen the names of thousands of Gazans under the age of 4 killed in five months of bombings: "Nobody on this ... list made it to the age of 4. Not one. ... It's not complicated."

If it takes a 19-year-old Maryland rapper to stand in the middle of our broken human family and defy all our "complicated" reasons not to be accountable for Palestinian suffering, then so be it. Maybe the wisdom in confronting our broken hearts this Ramadan is to see the opening in the breaking.

"Perhaps consolation comes from prayer and the opportunity to bring parts of our fractured communities together this Ramadan."

Your comments are appreciated.

**Send to
newsletter1559@gmail.com**