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RAMAḌĀN 2021 @HOME DURING PANDEMIC: ACTION PLAN

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Like the previous year, 2021 is also full of unexpected turns of events where everyone is experiencing various difficulties in moving forward with life. COVID-19 has pushed us to stay home, and many countries in the world are still under restrictions, curfew, and lockdown. For a Muslim, Ramaḍān is the most crucial month for taking advantage

due to its great virtue, in which the gates of heaven are opened; the gates of fire are closed, and devils are chained up. The *Laylatul Qadr* (night of creed) is better than a thousand months.

Since our Sharī'ah is flexible in terms of practices and Islam is more comfortable to follow, COVID-19 pandemic cannot take our chances away from obtaining the privileges of Ramaḍān @ Home this year. So if you are asked to quarantine yourself at home, or you prefer to stay home with your family due to the outbreak, the following are some action plans to get connected with virtues and get promoted in the eyes of Allah:

1. Starting with *suhūr* (pre-dawn meal) before *Fajr* prayer (the dawn prayer): It is best to delay *suhūr* until the end of the night. Prepare for *Fajr* prayer before the *adhān* (call), perform *wuḍū* (ablution), pray two *rak'ah* sunnah (the act of prostration), and arrange a place to pray *jamā'ah* of two *rak'ah* (congregational prayer) with your family members. After finishing the prayer, it is recommended to sit and do *dhikr* (remembrance of Allah), then perform the *Ishrāq* prayer after the sun rises and passes for a quarter of an hour.
2. Sleeping for a short time after the *Ishrāq* prayer will strengthen the body for the remaining works of the day, including other forms of worship, seeking knowledge, job or house-related affairs, and preparing for *iftār* (the evening meal that breaks the daily fast).
5. Pray *Zuhr* and *Aṣar* on time as *jamā'ah* with family. Recite the Holy Qur'ān regularly after every congregational prayer.
6. Prepare for *iftār* and help family members in creating harmony before the *adhān* of *Maghrib*. Most importantly, spend a few minutes before the moments of *iftār*, by making *du'ā* (prayers) for yourself, family, and everybody else to seek the protection of Allah from the pandemic. Break the fast by bringing food near to children, elders, spouse, and yourself.
7. Pray *Maghrib* at home, then return to the dinner and eat whatever is available without wasting it. Spend time after *Maghrib* by reading, sitting with family, and waiting for *'Ishā* (the night prayer).

8. Prepare for four *rak'ah* of '*Ishā* congregational prayer followed by *tarāwīḥ*.
(Niyyat: *Uṣalli sunnata tarāwīḥ rak'atayni imāman/ma'mūman lillāhi ta'āla*).



7. *Tarāwīḥ* (additional special prayers during Ramaḍān after *Ishā*) can be prayed 20+3 or 10+3 or 8+3. Choose your course and get ready to designate among you, if you have more than one male to lead the *tarāwīḥ* prayer. Minors, teenagers (*murāhiq*) can lead the *tarāwīḥ* prayer in your house. Female *muṣallīn*(who perform prayers) will follow the male *muṣallī* in the standing order beside the Imām (leader in the prayer). However, if there is no man in a house, a female imām can lead the prayers for other female members.

Starting with small *sūrahs* (chapters in Qur'ān) and repeating the same *sūrahs* for the second half of the *tarāwīḥ* is acceptable. Also, reciting long memorized *sūrahs* or reading directly from the physical book of the Holy Qur'ān or electronic version from any device is permissible based on the ability of the Imām in-house. Some small *sūrahs* can be repeated in the same *rak'ah* if you intend to lengthen the prayer. The Prophet (PBUH) used to do so in the same *rak'ah* to reach the higher level of *khushū'* (tranquillity). Many scholars do not encourage listening and following the *imam* from nearby masjid (mosques) while you pray at home.

While performing *Tarāwīḥ*, the 20 *rak'ahs* should not be performed all at once, but as two *rak'ahs*. A break should be taken after every four *rak'ahs* (literally *tarāwīḥ* means taking a break). After every two *rak'ah* you may or may not chant the *adhkār* like any *tasbīḥ* (*subḥānallāhi walḥamdulillāh walāilāhaillallāh uwallāhuakbarwa la hawlawa la*

quwwata illābillāh) or any *ṣalawāt* (*ṣallallāhu wasallam'alayhi*). After every four *rak'ah*, you may need a little break during which you may have some Qur'ānic discussions or talks, or pray for yourself, family, and the entire ummah.

Finish the *tarāwīḥ* with *ṣalāt witr* (Niyyat: *uṣallī sunnat witr rak'atayn/rak'ah imāman/ma'mūman lillāhi ta'āla*) as three *rak'ahs* in two sittings (2+1) or one sitting (though after two *rak'ah* you will sit for *tashahhud*; then continue to stand for the third *rak'ah*).

8. After you go to bed, if you plan for *qiyāmullail* (standing for prayer during the night before *fajr*), you may set the alarm an hour before *suhūr* and pray eight *rak'ah* and ask Allah to protect all of us from this pandemic.

May Allah grant us the best in Ramaḍān of this year, take us closer towards his pleasure, keep us away from his anger and punishment, and award us the opportunity to recite his verses by His mercy- *Āmīn*.

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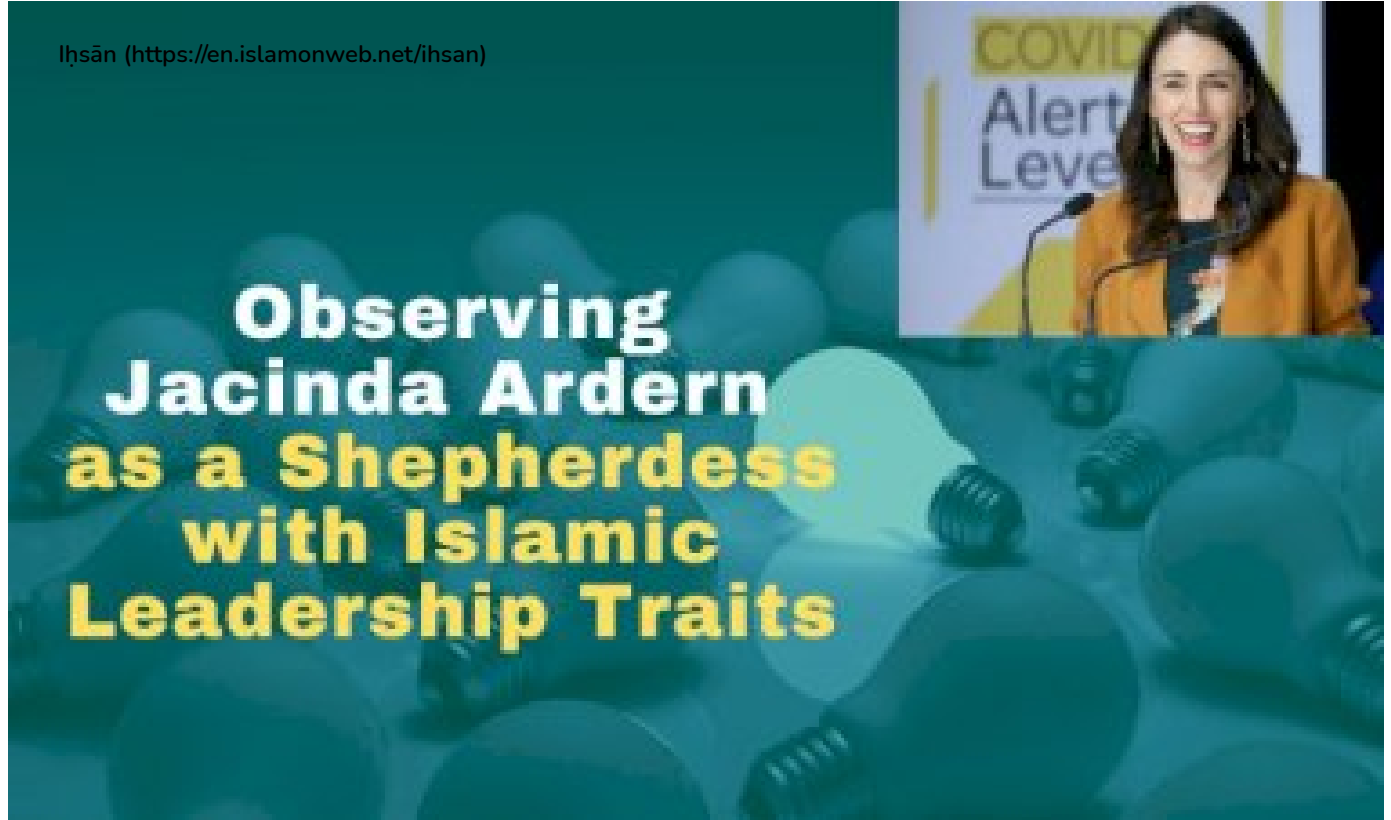


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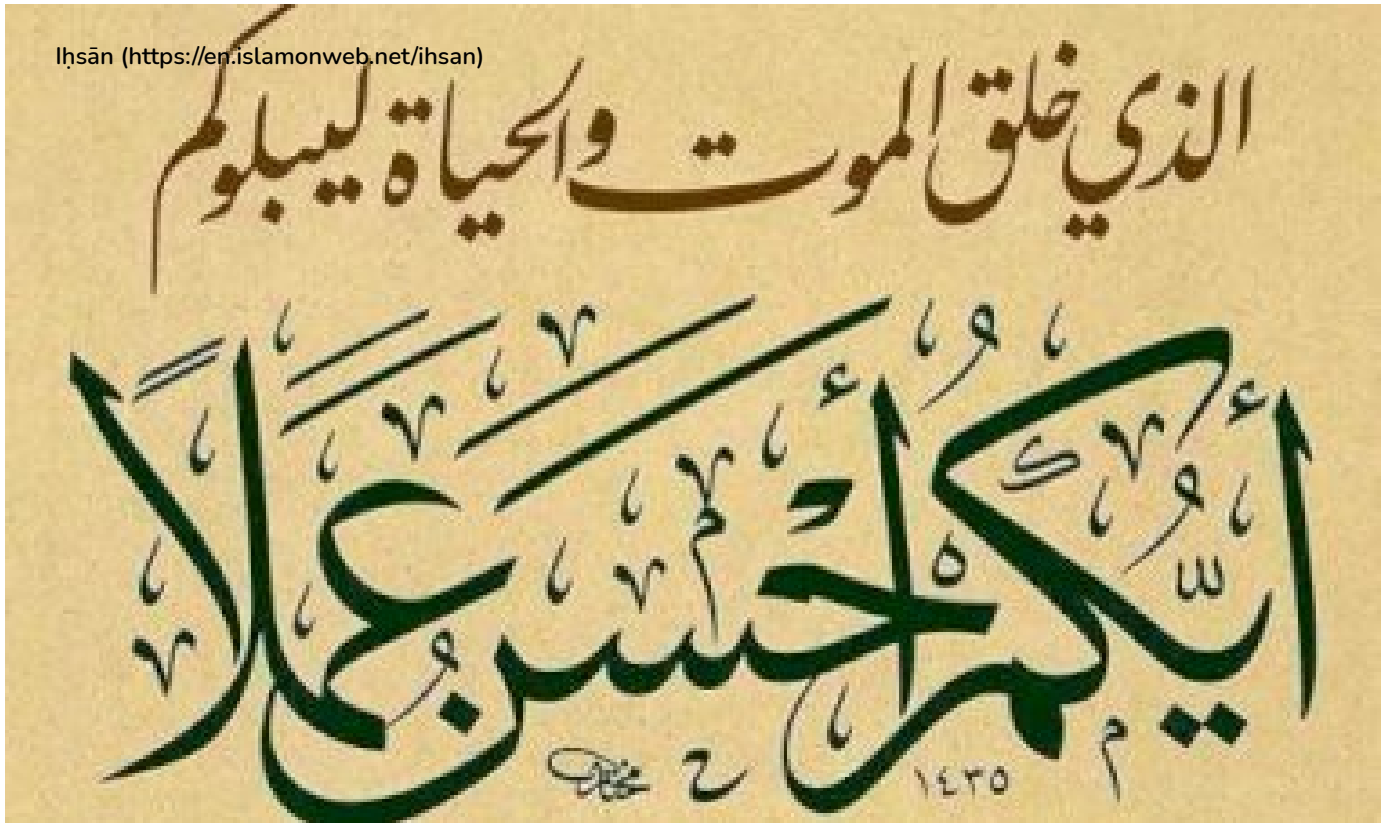


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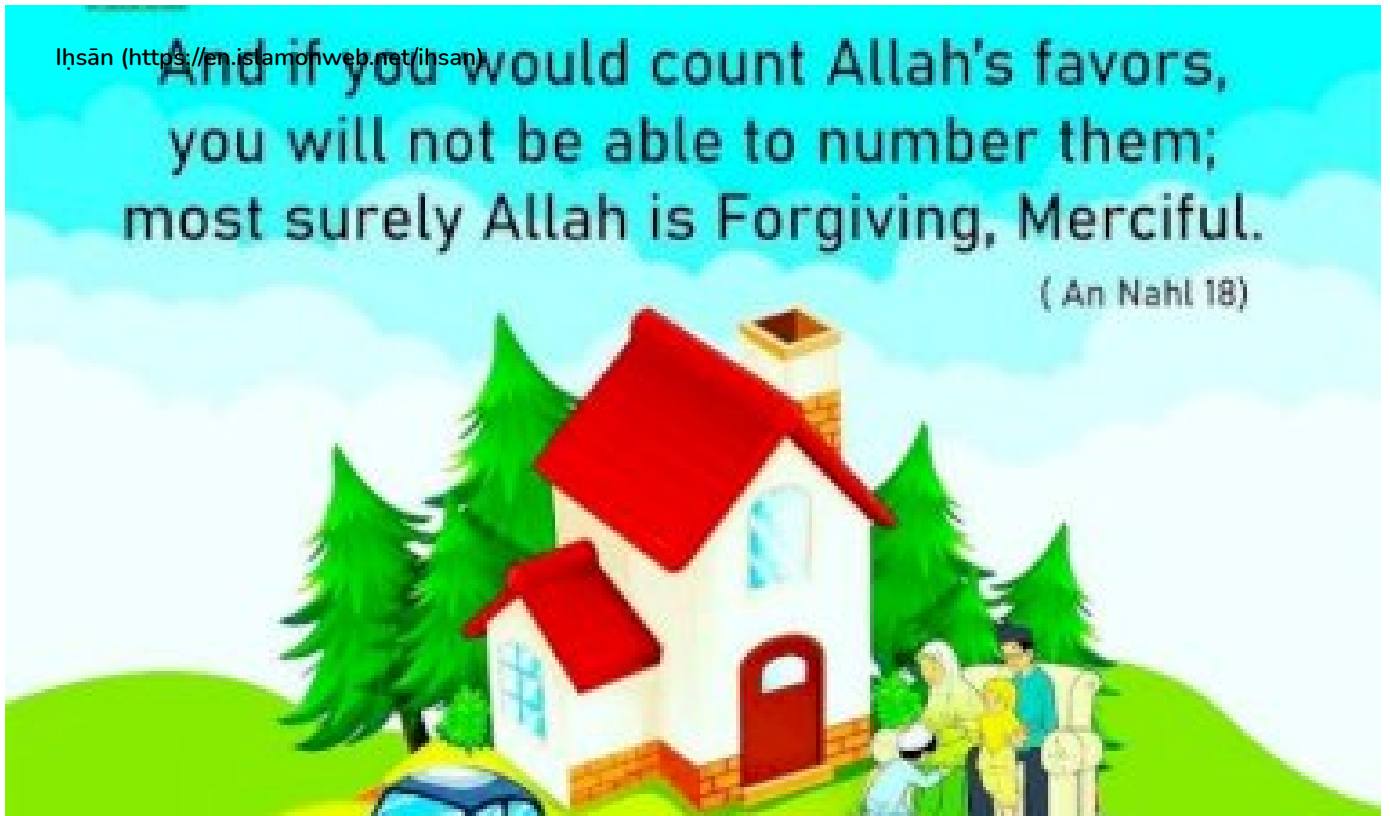


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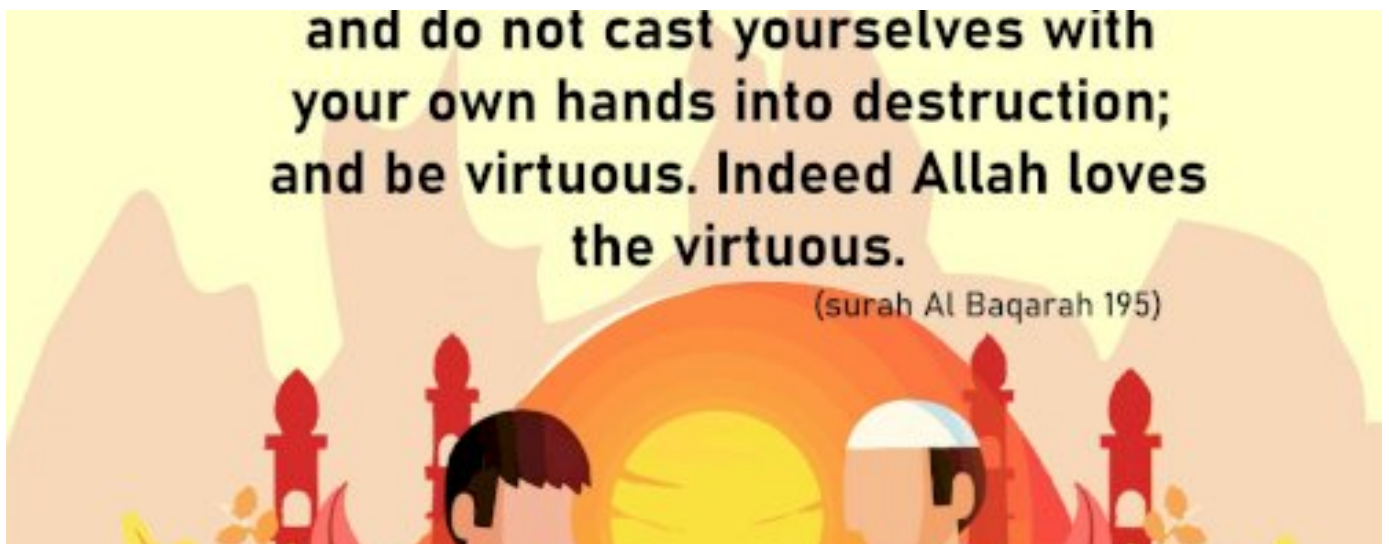
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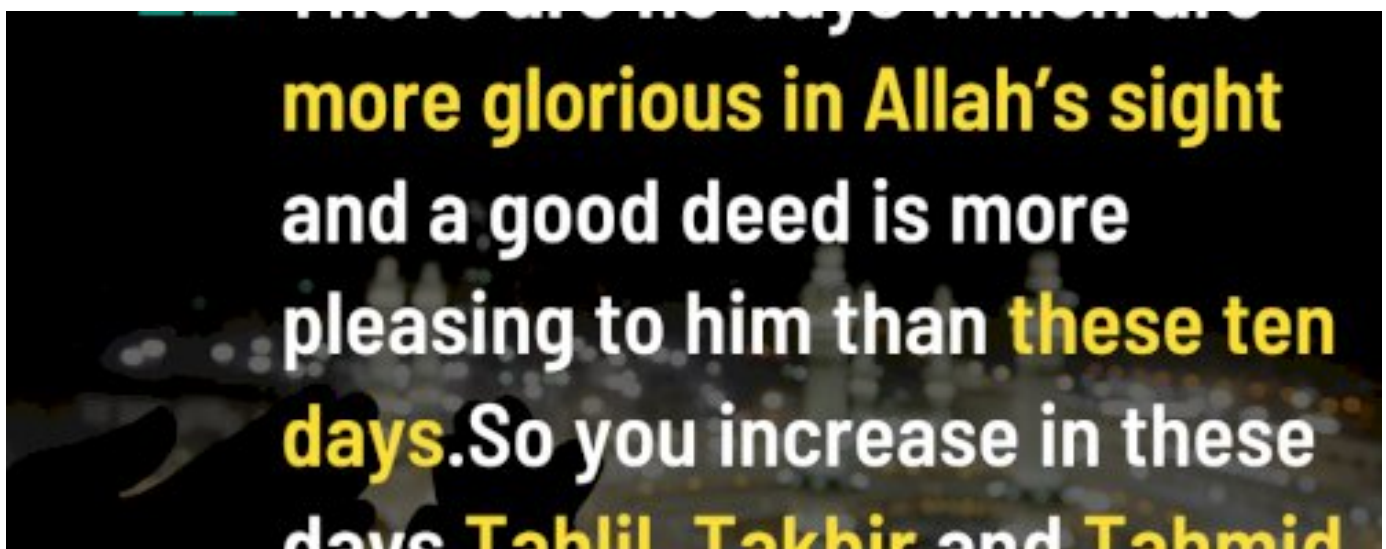
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