



Winter is here.

Think of the things we dread in Winter.... cold nights and frosty mornings, chilly winds and unrelenting rain, frozen windscreens and iced up car doors etc. However amidst all this lies a blessing. A blessing for a believer. In fact such a blessing, that it transforms the winter into spring.

Rasulullah ﷺ said : *"Winter is the Spring of a Believer"* [Baihaqi, Musnad Ahmad]

Just like the dawning of Spring marks the moment when flowers will bloom and blossom, lushness and greenery will expand, harshness and aridity disappears, similarly Allah affords us the opportunity to spiritually bloom and to dispel the harshness and in our hearts caused through exposure to sins. And all this is achievable easily in Winter.

Rasulullah ﷺ explains : *"during the winter the nights are long so a believer can spend them in Qiyaam (spending it in the worship of Allah) and the days are short so they can be spent fasting)*[Baihaqi]

Winter also serves as a warning and deterrent from Jahnnam. Rasulallah ﷺ said: *"Jahannam complained to Allah Ta'ala saying O my Rabb, I am beginning to consume myself, So Allah Ta'ala allowed it to take two inhalations. One in winter and the other in summer. So the harshest of summer and the most severest of Winter, is the result of those two breaths."*
[Bukhari]

In addition we are reminded of a place in Jahannam called *Zamhareer* , which is so cold that the body of an inhabitant therein will be shredded due to the cold.

Abu Hurayrah R.A. narrates that Rasulallah ﷺ said:

If a man says on a hot day; 'There is no deity worthy of worship in truth but Allah, how hot it is today! O Allah! Save me from the heat of Jahannam [the Hell fire].'

Allah says to Jahannam; "Indeed a servant of Mine has asked Me for salvation from your heat, indeed I hold you as a witness that I have granted him salvation."

And if a servant says on an extremely cold day; 'There is no deity worthy of worship in truth but Allah, how cold it is today! O Allah! Save me from the Zamhareer of Jahannam.'

Allah says to Jahannam; "Indeed a servant of Mine has sought refuge with me from your Zamhareer, indeed I hold you as a witness that I have granted him refuge."

The companions asked: "What is the Zamhareer of Jahannam?"

He replied: "It is an abode wherein a disbeliever is thrown, he would be torn apart by its extreme cold." [1]

[Fat-h al Baaree: 3/71]

Furthermore, of the bounties of winter is that dressing becomes more modest, hence nudity is minimised.

Rewarding activities that may be done in Winter...

- Ponder over the severity of winter... If we find it hard to bear the severity of this cold how would we ever be able to tolerate the harshness of *Zamhareer* .
- Consider the suffering of those who are less fortunate than us and the how they would have to endure the unrelenting cold. Particularly remember our brothers and sisters in Syria . Donate generously.
- Perform Wudhu completely and perfectly despite the cold weather. Ibn Saad narrates that Umar R.A. advised his son at the time of his death that O my son , hold steadfast on to the salient features of Iman (faith). When asked

what are the characteristics of Iman? He enumerated a few of which one is performing wudhu perfectly on a severely cold day.

- Fast. Try making up all qadha (Missed) fasts. In addition try fasting on a Monday and Thursday, or on the 13th, 14th & 15th of the Islamic month.
- Tahajjud.
- Use the Khuff (Leather sock), and make masah on it. Its a concession given to us. And if we show gratitude and pleasure taking avail of Allah's given concession then ALLAH also becomes pleased.

عن ابن عمر رضي الله عنهما قال قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم (إن الله يحب ان تؤتى رخصه كما يكره ان تؤتى معصيته) رواه احمد وصححه ابن خزيمة

“Allah loves it when a concession of HIS is practised upon, just as He appreciates it when a servant abstains from disobeying HIM” [Musnad Ahmad]

*Please check the laws of Masah alal Khuffain. { [HYPERLINK](#)

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