

Kuwait Heritage



KUWAIT: Cafés and their patron in the early 1960s. The picture shows a group of popular cafés lined up inside the market near the Safat Square. Old Cadillac cars are seen parked next to the cafés. (Source: Collection of Ali Al Rais, Center of Research and Studies on Kuwait, 2017. Researched by Mohammed Zakaria Abu El-Ella, Researcher in Heritage, the Ministry of Information)

Kuwait Times
ESTABLISHED 1961
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The Three Parts of Ramadan

Ramadan is said to be split into three thirds: the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) has said, "It (Ramadan) is the month whose beginning is mercy, middle, forgiveness and its end emancipation from the fire" (Bihar al-Anwar, Vol. 93). Salman Al-Farisi (RA) reported that Prophet Muhammad (BBUH) said, "...The first third of the month of Ramadan is the time for mercy, the second third is for forgiveness, the third is for release from Hellfire..." (Ibn Khuzaymah). We hope to make the most of each third so that we can receive the blessing related to each.

For the first third of mercy, the following hadith comes to mind: The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "While fasting remember the hunger and thirst on the Day of Judgment. Give alms to the poor and needy. Pay respect to your elders, have sympathy for your youngsters and be kind towards your relatives and kinsmen. Guard your tongue against unworthy words, and your eyes from scenes that are not worth seeing and your ears from sounds that should not be heard. Be kind to orphans so that if your children may become orphans they will also be treated with kindness."

The second third of Ramadan is characterized as a time when Allah (SWT)'s forgives. The Quran says, "And hasten to forgiveness from your Lord, and a Garden the extensiveness of which is the heavens and the earth, prepared for those who guard against evil. ~ Quran 3:132.

Will they not turn to Allah and seek His forgiveness, and Allah is oft-forgiving, Merciful (Quran 5:74).

A prophetic tradition reported by Abu Huraira (RA) says, "Whoever observes fasts during the month of Ramadan out of sincere faith, and hoping to attain Allah's rewards, then all his past sins will be forgiven." ~ Bukhari 2: 37.

The third portion of Ramadan is considered to be a time for seeking release from the hellfire. Abu Said Al

Khudri (RA) said, "Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said Allah frees some people from hellfire every day and night - meaning of Ramadan - and every Muslim has an answered supplication every day and night [of Ramadan]. (Reported by Al Bazar and authenticated by Sheikh Albaani in Saheeh Targheeb No. 1002). This is also the part of the month that Lailat-ul-Qadr falls in. The Quran describes this special night:

"Verily! We have sent it (this Quran) down in the night of Al-Qadr. And what will make you know what the night of Al-Qadr is? The night of Al-Qadr is better than a thousand months! Therein descend the angels and the Ruh (Gabriel) by Allah's Permission with all Decrees. Peace! until the appearance of dawn. (Quran 97:1-5)

It is sunnah to spend some time in seclusion (itikaf) for a spiritual retreat in the mosque during the last third of Ramadan. 'Aishah (RA) narrated that "The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to do a retreat in the mosque during the last ten nights of Ramadan until he died. His wives continued to observe this practice after his death." (Al-Bukhari and Muslim).

While fasting for a whole month may seem like a lot, it becomes easier when it is divided into three parts, as above, or even into 30 separate days. If we fast one day at a time, or one third at a time until we complete the entire month, it will seem easier. The benefits of each third are so worthwhile, that nobody who is aware of them can purposefully forfeit them. Wishing all our readers the benefits of Ramadan - mercy, forgiveness, and release from Hellfire.

• Courtesy of the TIES Center, whose mission is to empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.

Kuwait backs Saudi for balancing oil market

KUWAIT: Minister of Oil and Acting Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Khaled Al-Fadhel on Monday affirmed the State of Kuwait's support for Saudi Arabia for restoring balance to the oil market. The minister applauded the existing coordination between the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom. Kuwait will cut its crude output, voluntarily, by 80,000 barrels per day in June, in addition to the proclaimed cut of its output quota that had been agreed upon according to the OPEC-OPECplus deal. Energy ministers of the OPEC members and partners (OPEC+ group) agreed, in April, to cut the daily oil output by 9.7 million barrels per day from May 1 to June 30, and by 7.7 mb/d for six months starting from July 1. The 10th (Extraordinary) OPEC and non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting, held via videoconference under the Chairmanship of Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman, also approved a reduction by 5.8 mb/d for the subsequent 16 months. —KUNA

Preparations for repatriating Kuwaitis by land complete

KUWAIT: The Foreign Minister and head of a special team tasked with repatriation of citizens from abroad, Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, announced on Monday that preparations for nationals' return from Saudi Arabia via the land checkpoint Al-Nuwayseeb were complete. He said in a statement that the operation would be carried out between May 12 and 20, adding that the foreign ministry and the State of Kuwait Embassy in Riyadh started registering names of citizens seeking to return home. All returnees will be subjected to medical examination at the Khairan Resort. Kuwait had already completed a multi phased operation bringing back home by air nearly 30,000 nationals who were stranded in several countries amid the ongoing coronavirus crisis. —KUNA