

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Almost one month has passed since the end of the month of Ramadan. You will recall that we said that we should all try to maintain all the good deeds that were practiced during the blessed month because we think that they will help us to advance in God consciousness and awareness. I hope that each one amongst us has been doing our best in all areas of our duties to Allah and to our fellow human beings. I speak about these matters just to remind you all to be concerned to do good. One never knows when a good word heard at random might translate into a good deed performed throughout the lifetime. Something that will definitely help us to advance towards Allah is the reading of His Book namely the Holy Quran. The more we will understand the book the more we will know Allah and be more eager to do good deeds. Today I will share with you some hadiths about the Holy Quran and also one or two extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah on this most important revealed book.

The first hadith is “*Khayrokoum man ta'allamal Qur'ana wa allamahou*” meaning “the best amongst you is he who learns the Quran and teaches it”. This hadith has been reported by Hazrat Osman (ra) and he got it directly from the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) and it is considered authentic. It is a simple hadith yet it gives each Muslim a very large area of actions where he or she might excel. First of all it is his duty to learn the Holy Quran and then teach it to others. Unfortunately here in Mauritius due to our cultural background most amongst us are not taught Arabic as a language when we go to school as we are taught French or English. But these days we should no longer content ourselves with excuses that we did not get the opportunity to be taught. Everyone can learn the Arabic language these days if we are really eager to learn what Allah tells us in the Holy Quran. Where there is a will there is a way. I do not know how many have ever heard of Dr Maurice Bucaille. He was a French surgeon better known for his book “*La Bible le Coran et la Science*” which has sold millions of copies worldwide in many languages. He did not know Arabic at all. At an advanced age he learnt it and wrote that book to show how the content of the Holy Quran is closer to scientific facts than the contents of the bible. This is a fascinating book and if you are interested you can borrow a copy from me. Similarly there are many non-Muslims who have taken the pain to learn Arabic to read the Holy Quran and most have been fascinated by its message. So for us Muslims how most important is that need especially when we see what the Holy Prophet has advised us in this hadith.

Another hadith is reported by Hazrat Ibn Umar (ra) who narrates that Rasulullah (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) said, "*Hasad* (jealousy) is not permitted except in respect of two persons-one whom Allah blesses with recitation of Qur'an and he remains engaged in it day and night, and the other who is given a lot of wealth by Allah and he spends it day and night." Although the word used is "*hasad*" but the meaning according to the scholars is "emulation" in the sense that one would try to do better than these do or one would have acted like them if one were in their place.

In another hadith reported by Imam Bokhari and others we learn from Hazrat Abu Musa (ra) narrated that *Rasulullah* (saw) said:

"The example of a *mo'min* (believer) who reads the Qur'an is like that of lemon which has a pleasant smell and a sweet taste. The example of a *mo'min* who does not read the Qur'an is like that of a date, which has no smell, though its taste is sweet. The *munafiq* (hypocrite) who does not read the Qur'an is like a wild gourd, which has a bitter taste and no smell, and the *munafiq* who reads the Qur'an is like a *raihan* [sweet smelling flower), which is fragrant but has a bitter taste." From this hadith we learn that we all should try to become like the lemon which has a pleasant smell and sweet taste and avoid being like all the other examples given.

From the Book of Hadith of Muslim we learn that Hazrat Umar (ra) reports that the Holy prophet Mohammad (saw) said "'Allah exalts many people by means of this Book (the Holy Quran), and He also degrades and disgraces many others by means of the same." In the Holy Quran there are many verses which speak of the same matter like "*Yozillo behi kasiraw wa yahdi behi kasira*" meaning "by it (the Holy Quran) many will be led astray and many will be guided." Or "'And We send down in the Qur'an that which is a healing and mercy for believers, though it increases for the evil-doers naught save ruin."(17:83) We should all aim that we understand the Holy Quran in such a way that we get an increase in guidance and that we might save ourselves. We all should refrain from learning but not doing and we should always aim at conforming our actions to our knowledge.

In another hadith we learn from Hazrat Abu Hurairah (*Radhiyallahu anho*) that *Rasulullah* (Sallallahu alaihe wasallam) said, "Learn the Qur'an and recite it, because the example of one who learns the Qur'an, reads it and recites it in Tahajjud is like an open bag full of musk, the fragrance whereof spreads over the entire place, and a person who has learnt the Qur'an but sleeps while the Qur'an is in his heart, is like a bag full of musk but with its mouth closed." Reading the Holy Quran in *Salaat* as the Holy Prophet (saw) did is the most meritorious act and we should aim for it and refrain from saying very

short prayers which are empty of the remembrance of Allah or of the recitation of the Holy Quran. Here we are speaking of individual prayers and not those done in *Jamaat*. In another hadith reported by Hazrat Ayesha we learn that the Holy Prophet (saw) is reported to have said “, "Recitation of the Qur'an in prayer is more rewarding than the recitation outside prayers; recitation outside prayer is preferable to *tasbeeh* and *takbeer* (repeating words of Praise for Allah); *tasbeeh* is superior to *sadaqah* (alms); *sadaqah* to *sawm* (fasting) and *sawm* is protection against Fire." In this hadith we learn about the graduation scale of all these praiseworthy action and we see that recitation of the Holy Quran in prayer is most praiseworthy.

Another interesting hadith is as follows: “Abdullah ibn Umar (ra) narrated: "The Holy Prophet (saw) said, "The hearts get rusted as does iron with water. When someone asked, "What could cleanse hearts again?" the Holy Prophet (saw) said, "Frequent remembrance of death and recitation of Qur'an." When you think of your own death your perspectives on what happens to you changes and it helps to see things as they truly are rather than as they should be. Concerning the Holy Quran you should make the experience and note its effect upon you when you have not been reading it for some time or you have not meditated upon it for some time.

Similarly we learn from Hadhrat Anas (ra) that Rasulullah (*Sallallahu alaihe wasallam*) said, "For Allah, from amongst the people, there are some who are those of His household." The Sahabah (*Radhiyallahu anhum*) (may Allah be pleased with them) asked, "Who are those people?" He replied "Men of the Qur'an. They are of the household of Allah, and are His favoured ones."

Hazrat Masih Ma'ood (as) has come to create and maintain a group (Jamaat) of people who are sincere to the instructions given in the Holy Book. These are the people who take to heart what Allah's instructions are and they do their best to implement these teachings in their everyday life. We have been fortunate enough that we have been born to parents who belonged to this Jamaat since its creation in Mauritius. The best commemoration that we can make is to always remember our teachings and pass them on to our children and drive it into their heads and hearts that all types of blessings are attached to remembering and practicing what the holy Quran demands of us. This is not an objective that can be achieved in a function or in a year of celebrations or just by listening to speeches. Such a noble objective can only be achieved when we are convinced that Allah is true and that one day we will have to render an account of our deeds to Him. To achieve certainty in Him we need to turn towards Him day and night and never forget His Presence even for an instance. I pray that Allah gives to me and to you all such a faith that will make it easy

for each one amongst us to face all the trials that are associated with life in this world. We will end by reading two more extracts from the writings of the promised Messiah (as). He says:

“I was young and am now old and people can bear witness that I never concerned myself with worldly affairs and was always interested in matters of the faith. I have found the Word which is called the Qur’an of the utmost holiness and full of spiritual wisdom. It does not deify any man and does not bring God into contempt by excluding souls and bodies from His creation. The Holy Qur’an in the end brings down that blessing on the heart of man for which a religion is embraced and makes him the heir of Divine grace. Then having found a light, how shall we revert to darkness and having eyes how shall we become blind?” [Sanatan Dharam, Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 19, p. 474]

“The clear miracle of the Holy Qur’an which can manifest itself to every people and by presenting which we can silence everyone, whether an Indian, Persian, European or American, is the unlimited treasury of insights, verities and wisdoms, which are expounded in every age according to its need and stand as armed soldiers to refute the thinking of every age. If the Holy Qur’an had been limited in its verities and insights, it would not have amounted to a perfect miracle. Beauty of composition is not a matter the miraculous nature of which can be appreciated by every literate and illiterate person. The clear miracle of the Holy Qur’an is the unlimited insights and fine points which it comprises. A person who does not admit this miracle of the Holy Qur’an is altogether deprived of the knowledge of the Qur’an. *He who does not believe in this miracle does not estimate the Qur’an as highly as it should be estimated, and does not recognize God as He should be recognized, and does not honour the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] as he should be honoured.*

Bear it in mind that the miracle of unlimited insights and verities which are contained in the Holy Qur’an has accomplished more in every age than has the sword. All the doubts that every age raises according to its circumstances, and all the claims of superior insights that are put forward, are completely refuted by the Holy Qur’an. No Brahm Samajist, Buddhist, Arya or any other philosopher can put forward a Divine verity which is not already comprised in the Holy Qur’an. The wonders of the Qur’an will never cease. As the wonderful qualities of the book of nature have never come to an end in any previous age, but appear ever fresh and new, the same is the case with this

Holy Book, so that the word of God and the work of God should be proved to be in accord.”(*Izala Awhaam*)

Fortunately for us Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has left us a literature which we have not yet explored even after more than 107 years after his death. The need for the availability of the translation of all his books and sayings is most important if we want to really know what he came to accomplish in this world. May Allah help us to profit from what he has said and may we all stay on the right path till we depart from this world. Ameen.