

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

We Ahmadi Muslims sincerely believe that the Holy Quran shows us the best way to live whether we understand or we do not understand the rationale of all its teachings. Among many verses we may quote the following “*Inna hazal Qur’ana yahdi lillati heya aqwamo*” meaning “Surely this Quran leads to what is best”. Furthermore we may also say that Allah has taught us the prayer in the first chapter Al Fatiha “*ihdenas siratal moustaqeem siratal lazina an’amta alayhim ghayril maghzoube alayhim wa lazwallen* ” meaning “ Guide us on the straight path, the path of those who have received Thy Favours and not the path of those who have caused Thy displeasure nor on those who are astray”. Human beings are not fully aware of what is in their best interests. That is why Allah their Creator sent them the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) with a book which is filled with teachings which will last till the end of time. Hence this Holy Quran is the Book that shows us the necessary guidance in all circumstances of our life. Hence it is incumbent upon us to read and study this book so that we might know how to act or behave in all circumstances of life. Advising us on this matter Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said:

“For you another very essential teaching is this that you do not leave the Holy Quran like a book that has been forsaken, since it is therein, and nowhere else, that your life lies. Those who do honour to this Holy Book shall be honoured in heaven. Those who will hold the Holy Quran superior to every tradition and every other saying shall be given preference in heaven. For mankind now, all over the surface of the earth, there is no Book except the Holy Quran: for the sons of man there is no Messenger and no Mediator except Muhammad, may peace and the blessings of God be upon him.”

So each one amongst us should wonder how far we give real importance to the Holy Quran. Is it a book that we read for some hours only in the month of Ramadan or is it a book that we resort to everyday and try to live its teachings every moment of our life? These are questions that each one amongst us should genuinely try to answer. Wonder how much time we devote to frivolous pursuits of the world and how much time do we devote to truly learn our religion.

Concerning the thoughts of philosophers who pride themselves on their capacity to think and to understand what is true and what is not Hazrat Masih Maood (as) says:

“Those who put their trust in reason alone are as defective and deficient in action, faithfulness and sincerity of conduct, as they are deficient in knowledge, understanding and certainty. Their group has not set up an example which should prove that they are included among millions of holy people who are the faithful servants of God and are acceptable to Him. The blessings of these were so manifested that through their preaching and admonition with prayer and attention, and the influence of their company, hundreds of people began to tread the straight path and, becoming the men of God, turned wholly to their Lord. They paid no attention to the world and its contents, and cut off altogether from the delights, comforts, joys, renown, prides, properties, and kingdoms of this world. They followed the path of righteousness whereby hundreds of them lost their lives, and thousands of heads were cut off, and the earth became wet with the blood of hundreds of thousands of holy ones. Despite all these calamities, they exhibited such fidelity that like devoted lovers they laughed while their feet were shackled, were joyful while suffering pain, and were grateful in the midst of misfortunes. For the sake of the love of the One they abandoned their homes, chose disgrace in place of honour, distress in place of comfort, poverty in place of wealth, and were content with indigence, solitude and helplessness in place of every kind of relationship, association and joy. By shedding their blood and having their heads cut off and laying down their lives, they set a seal upon the existence of God. By the blessing of following the Word of God they acquired such special lights as have never been found in others. Such people were not only to be found in ages past, but this group of the elect is ever present in Islam and refutes its opponents by its illumined being. Thus we have proved conclusively that as the Holy Qur’an conveys one to the high grade of intellectual perfection, in the same way, one attains through it to the stage of perfection in conduct also. The lights and signs of being accepted by God have always appeared and continue to appear in those who have followed this Holy Word and not in others. For a seeker after truth this proof which he can observe with his own eyes is enough, namely, that heavenly blessings and Divine Signs are found only in the perfect followers of the Holy Qur’an and that all other sects, who turn away from revelation, whether Brahmus, Aryas or Christians, are altogether deprived of this light of truth. We make ourselves responsible for satisfying everyone who denies this, provided such a one, being eager to embrace Islam sincerely, should turn to us in complete good

faith and steadfastness and sincerity for seeking the truth.” [Brahin-e-Ahmadiyya, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 1, pp. 350-352, footnote 11]

He says further:

“I hold very firmly that for your guidance God has provided three things. The foremost among these is the Holy Quran, which sets forth the unity of God, His grandeur and greatness, and decides all points in dispute between the Jews and the Christians. Further, the Quran forbids that you worship anything other than God - neither man, nor beast, the sun nor the moon, nor any other heavenly body, nor material means, nor your own selves, therefore beware. Do not take a single step in contravention of anything contained in the Holy Book. Verily, I tell you truly that whosoever evades even the least of the seven hundred commandments embodied in the Holy Quran, he slams the door of salvation upon himself. The real and perfect paths of salvation have been opened only by the Holy Quran; all others were only its shadows. Therefore, you should study this holy scripture with the utmost attention and deepest thought; and you should love it as you have never loved anything else. For, indeed, as God has conveyed to me, “*Al khayro koullohou fil Quran*” i.e., all the good lies in the Quran. All kinds of good are to be found in it - and this is the truth. Unfortunate, indeed, are the people who to other things give preference over it. The Holy Quran, is the fountainhead for your salvation, for all betterment and success. There is not even a single spiritual need which has not been met for you in this Holy Book. The supporter or falsifier of your Faith on the Day of judgement would be the Holy Quran; and apart from this Book there is no other under the heavens which can provide you with direct guidance. It is indeed a great blessing of God upon you that He has bestowed on you a book like this.” (Noah's Ark).

So it is in our interest that we care for this book and try to absorb as much of its teachings as we can in our lifetime. It is my belief that the teachings of the Promised Messiah have much to offer the world provided they are lived by Ahmadis and properly propagated to others. Today when we look at the situation of Muslims in the world we see that almost nowhere they are in peace. War, destruction, poverty, displaced people, corruption of leaders, disorder, enmity amongst themselves, un-Islamic practices, domestic violence, leaders who serve themselves instead of the people seem to be the order of the day. Allah made Muslims the “*best Ummah*” and expected them to live like brothers, but unfortunately that is not the case these days and in the distant past. War seems to be the characteristic of many Muslim countries who are deceived to fight one another so that the western countries may sell their weapons of destruction. It is

unfortunate that up till now the Muslim Leaders have not developed their wisdom to see through the scheme of the western powers. May Allah give Muslim leaders the wisdom that they lack so that they might run the affairs of the people in the best possible way.

In the end I will give you another quotation from the Promised Messiah where he speaks about supplication to Allah. He says:

“The only way of obtaining the grace of the Supporter of the universe is to supplicate with all one's faculties and force and strength. This is not a new way but has been inherent from the beginning in man's nature. A person who desires to tread along the path of servitude adopts this way, and the person who seeks the grace of God follows this path, and the person who seeks Divine mercy obeys these eternal laws. These laws are not new like the god of the Christians, but are firm laws which are eternal and are the practice of Allah which has been in operation all the time, the truth of which is apparent to every sincere seeker on account of the multiplicity of his experience Every blessing proceeds in this way that the Being Who is the Absolute Controller and the Cause of causes and is the Fountainhead of all grace, whose name in the idiom of the Qur'an is Allah, first displays His attribute of *Rahmaniyyat* and brings into existence whatever is needed, before one's own effort, out of His pure grace and beneficence without the intervention of any action on our part. When the attribute of *Rahmaniyyat* has done this work to perfection, and man having been bestowed the power exerts himself to the limit, then it is for God Almighty to display His attribute of *Rahimiyyat*, and to bring about a good result from the effort and diligence of His servant and safeguarding his industry from going waste, to bestow his object upon him. It is on account of this second attribute that it is said that he who seeks finds and he who asks is given, and he who knocks it is opened for him ...

It is a misunderstanding of a verity to think that sometimes

this seeking of help proves of no avail and the

Rahmaniyyat and Rahimiyyat of God do not make themselves

manifest on all occasions. Indeed God Almighty

hears the supplications which are made in sincerity, and

helps in an appropriate manner those who seek His help.

Sometimes it happens that a person's prayer seeking help is not inspired by sincerity and humility, nor is his spiritual condition in order so that while his lips

utter the prayer, his heart is heedless, or only makes a show. Sometimes it happens that God hears the prayer and bestows whatever He considers appropriate and best in His Perfect Wisdom, but an ignorant person does not recognize the hidden beneficence of God and on account of his ignorance and unawareness begins to complain, ignoring the subject matter of the verse: *“Asa an takrahou shayan wa howa khayroullakoum wa asa an tohibbou shayan wa howa khayroullakoum wallaho yalamo wa antoum la talamoune”*

It may be that you dislike a thing and it is in reality better for you, and it may be that you like a thing and it is in fact harmful for you. Allah knows the true reality of things and you know it not.

So far it is clear that the verse: *“bismillahir Rahman ir Rahim”* comprehends the grand verity which comprises the excellent means of making progress in faith in the Unity of God and in servitude and sincerity, which is not matched in any other book.”

May Allah help each one amongst us to love, study and ponder over the Holy Quran and may He help us to live according to its teachings and may all our descendants do the same.