

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Today is the 28th day of fasting here in Mauritius and in most part of the Middle East. According to newspaper reports, the new moon will have to be searched for as from tomorrow evening because the birth of the moon for the month of Shawwal will be at 06:31 Mauritius time. The countries that might see the moon with the naked eye will be Peru and Ecuador and other countries in that region. Experts in these matters say that on the African continent, the moon might be visible with optical instruments but not with the naked eye tomorrow. Hence, in all likelihood we will be seeing the moon on Sunday 25th June and Eid will be celebrated here on Monday 26th June 2017. Namaz Eid will be performed at 9 o'clock sharp *incha* Allah. In the unlikely event that the moon is visible tomorrow, Namaz Eid will be performed at the same time on Sunday 25th June.

Today is the *Jummatul Widah*. That is to say it is the last Jummah for this month of Ramadan. This is the Jummah that is bidding farewell to the month of Ramadan. It does not have any special importance as it is popularly believed in some countries. It is just a Jummah as any other one with all the blessings that are attached to a Friday. Bearing this in mind, we should do our best to avail ourselves of whatever good deeds we might accomplish to ensure our salvation. Hence we might pray additional *nafil* between now and *Asr* and do some concentrated Zikr and supplications between *Asr* and Maghrib and even during the night. This night has a special significance because it is the 29th night and the last one which might be the night of *Laylatul Qadr* if it has not occurred already. We can give in charity as well and read as much of the Holy Quran as we can. Let us all hope and pray that Allah will accept the little sacrifices that we have offered during this month and we will all qualify to be admitted to Paradise through Allah's Grace. We still have time to redouble our efforts and strive to have all our sins effaced from our book of actions in the remaining hours left in this month of Ramadan.

As you are all aware we fast to become righteous, that is to say we choose to take Allah as our Protector against sinning. In other words, we come to

realize that we cannot rid ourselves of the bondage of sins except by having ourselves purified through personal efforts, through supplications to Allah, through fasting or through giving alms and through remembrance of Allah. Allah who is our Creator and Lord is very generous towards mankind and He sends Ramadan every year so that we might have the opportunity to accomplish this self-purification. Allah reminds us in the Holy Quran “*Wa nafsin wa maa sawwaha ; Fa alhamaha fojouraha wa taqwaha; Qad aflaha man zakkaha wa qad khaba man dassaha*” meaning “ By the soul and its perfection, He revealed to it what is wrong for it and what is right for it; he truly indeed prospers who purifies it and he who corrupts it is ruined.”(91:8-11). Similarly, we have the following verse: “*Qad aflaha man tazakka wazakarasma rabbehi faswallah*” meaning “Verily he prospers who purifies himself and remembers the Name of His Lord and offers prayers.” But Allah knows well how most human beings think or behave. He says: “*Bal tou’serounal hayatad dunya wal akherato khayrouw wa abqa*” meaning “But you prefer the life of this world; whereas the hereafter is better and more everlasting” (87:15-18). Allah invites us to look after our own soul and purify it with His help. But most people love the life of this world and neglect to look after their own soul. Allah who knows the true nature of everything tells us that compared to the life to come, this life is nothing but we fail to perceive this because we do not care to look after our own soul. Only when it is purified that it can perceive how this life is but a play and a pastime and that the life of the hereafter is the true life. Ramadan can give a boost to self-purification provided we are keen for it.

There is an interesting hadith where the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) speaks about the insignificance of this life. It is as follows:

Jaabir Ibn ‘Abdullah reported that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) walked through the market place. Some people were gathered on either side of him. Then he came across a dead goat with very short ears, of which he took hold saying, “Who among you would like to have this for a dirham?” They said: “We would not even like to have it for nothing, for it is of no use to us.” He (ﷺ) said: “Would you like to have it for free?” They said: “By Allah, not even if it were alive, because its ears are so short; and now it is also dead.” Thereupon the Messenger (ﷺ) said: “By Allah, this world is more insignificant in the sight of Allah than this is in your eyes.” [Muslim]

Hazrat Masih Maood (as) tells us:

“The Holy Quran says: *Qad aflaha man Zakkaha* that is, he who purifies himself attains to salvation. And purification of self demands that one should keep the company of the righteous people and come close to the virtuous ones; that helps a great deal. One should get rid of lies and bad manners and he who is walking on the (straight) path should be asked the way. One should also continue removing one's short-comings gradually. Just as the writing cannot be perfected without correcting it all the time, the moral also cannot be perfect unless one continues removing the shortcomings. Man is such an animal that he can stay on the right path only if he continues purifying himself all the time. If that is not done, he can be led astray at any time. (*Malfoozat* Vol. 1, p. 443)

So, whatever good deeds we have been doing during Ramadan should not be confined to Ramadan only. Now that we have had a buildup of enthusiasm, we should try to be engaged in all those activities that would help us to purify ourselves because Hazrat Masih Maood (as) tells us that we should be engaged in this process all the time, as long as we live. If we continue seeking self-purification we will progress towards Allah; if we stop, we will regress and when we realize we should start again and we will lose all the progress that we might have accomplished. We should not make efforts in vain. We should always try to build on what we have accomplished already.

I will share with you some more verses which speak about who are the believers who achieve success and who are the true *Muttaqi* with the hope that they might motivate each one amongst us to cultivate these characteristics in our own selves. In the beginning of chapter 23 Allah says:

“Surely, success does come to the believers,

Who are humble in their Prayers,

And who shun all that which is vain,

And who are active in paying the Zakat,

And who guard their chastity —

Except from their wives or what their right hands possess, for then they are not to be blamed;

But those who seek anything beyond that are the transgressors —

And who are watchful of their trusts and their covenants,

And who are strict in the observance of their Prayers.

These are the heirs,

Who will inherit Paradise. They will abide therein.” (23:2-12)

When I was around 23 years old, I first read Hazrat Masih Maood’s commentary on these verses in his book *Buraheen Ahmadiyya* part 5 and I was quite impressed by what he said. Incha Allah in the coming weeks or months I will try to share with you how he has explained these verses.

In another place in the Holy Quran, we read about who are those who qualify for a great reward. Allah says:

إِنَّ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ وَالْقَنَاتِينَ وَالْقَنَاتِ
وَالصَّادِقِينَ وَالصَّادِقَاتِ وَالصَّابِرِينَ
وَالصَّابِرَاتِ وَالْخَشِيعِينَ وَالْخَشِيعَاتِ
وَالْمُتَصَدِّقِينَ وَالْمُتَصَدِّقَاتِ وَالصَّابِغِينَ
وَالصَّابِغَاتِ وَالْحَفِظِينَ وَالْحَفِظَاتِ
وَالذَّكِرِينَ وَالذَّكِرَاتِ أَعَدَّ اللَّهُ لَهُمْ مَغْفِرَةً
وَأَجْرًا عَظِيمًا ﴿٣٦﴾

“Surely, men who submit themselves to God and women who submit themselves to Him, and believing men and believing women, and obedient men and obedient women and truthful men and truthful women, and men

steadfast *in their faith* and steadfast women, and men who are humble and women who are humble, and men who give alms and women who give alms, and men who fast and women who fast, and men who guard their chastity and women who guard *their chastity*, and men who remember Allah much and women who remember *Him* — Allah has prepared for *all of* them forgiveness and a great reward.”(33:35)

That is to say, all those who try to develop these qualities in themselves have a Promise from Allah that they will be rewarded with His Great Pardon and with a great reward. Here you will see that Allah has spoken also of those who fast. In the hadith, we also learn about those who fast and their reward.

The hadith are as follows:

Narrated Sahl: The Prophet said, "There is a gate in Paradise called Ar-Raiyan, and those who observe fasts will enter through it on the Day of Resurrection and none except them will enter through it. It will be said, 'Where are those who used to observe fasts?' They will get up, and none except them will enter through it. After their entry the gate will be closed and nobody will enter through it."

'Narrated Abu Huraira: Allah's Apostle said, "Whoever gives two kinds (of things or property) in charity for Allah's Cause, will be called from the gates of Paradise and will be addressed, 'O slaves of Allah! Here is prosperity.' So, whoever was amongst the people who used to offer their prayers, will be called from the gate of the prayer; and whoever was amongst the people who used to participate in Jihad, will be called from the gate of Jihad; and whoever was amongst those who used to observe fasts, will be called from the gate of Ar-Raiyan; whoever was amongst those who used to give in charity, will be called from the gate of charity." Abu Bakr said, "Let my parents be sacrificed for you, O Allah's Apostle! No distress or need will befall him who will be called from those gates. Will there be any one who will be called from all these gates?" The Prophet replied, "Yes, and I hope you will be one of them."

May Allah, with His Grace, open these gates for all of us as well.

Ramadan for this year is nearing its end but our relationship with Allah never ends. Bearing this in mind, we should be doing our best to use the few

remaining hours and try to be devoted till the end and be aware and vigilant that we should not relax in our devotions even after Ramadan. We have trained ourselves to be good Muslims during Ramadan. Now it is the time to show that in other months we can still live to a certain extent the good habits that we have inculcated during Ramadan. I suggest that each one amongst us should at least read some portion of the Holy Quran daily and make it become a habit that characterizes each one amongst us. May Allah help us to be among those who are true and loyal to Allah during Ramadan and throughout the year *incha* Allah. Remember that Sadqatul Fitr should be paid before Eid Prayer. We will meet again *incha* Allah on Eid Day.