

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

We are already in the third week of the Holy month of Ramadan and we are fast approaching the last ten days. As you might well know the last ten days start as from this coming Sunday i.e. on the 26th of May which is the 20th day of fasting. Usually, arriving at this point in the month, many fasters start feeling tired. But for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw), it was the busiest and most intense period of the month as far as devotion to Allah is concerned. So, keeping his noble example in mind we will gain a lot by summoning our force and courage and be more determined not to relax in our efforts but rather increase them and sprint till the end of the month which will soon be upon us. So, we pray and hope that Allah will grant a special opportunity for each one amongst us to make the most of the last days of this blessed month of Holy Ramadan by His Grace and that we will each emerge from it purified of all our sins *incha* Allah.

In the Holy Quran Allah says:

“The month of Ramadan is that in which the Qur’an was sent down as a guidance for mankind with clear proofs of guidance and discrimination. Therefore, whosoever of you is present *at home* in this month, let him fast therein. But whoso is sick or is on a journey, *shall fast* the same number of other days. Allah desires *to give* you facility and He desires not hardship for you, and that you may complete the number, and that you may exalt Allah for His having guided you and that you may be grateful.” (2:186)

From this verse, we understand that the beginning of the revelation of the Holy Quran started in the month of Ramadan. In fact, it was in the year 610 AD in the Hira cave where the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) used to go to meditate on Allah. From the hadith we learn of this incident as follows:

“It is reported in al-Saheehayn from ‘Urwah ibn al-Zubayr that ‘Aa’ishah the wife of the Prophet SAWS (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:

“The beginning of the Revelation that came to the Messenger of Allah SAWS (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was good dreams; he never saw a dream but it came true like bright daylight. Then seclusion was made dear to him, and he used to go to the cave of Hira’ and worship there, which means that he went and devoted himself to worship for a number of nights before coming back to his family to collect more provisions, then he would go back again. Then he would go back to Khadeejah to collect more provisions. (This went on) until the truth came to him suddenly when he was in the cave of Hira. The angel came and said, ‘Read!’ The Messenger of Allah SAWS (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, ‘I am not a reader.’ He said, Then he took hold of me and squeezed me until I could not bear it any more then he released me and said, ‘Read!’ I said, ‘I am not a reader.’ He took hold of me and squeezed me a second time until I could not bear it any more, then he released me and said, ‘Read!’ I said, ‘I am not a reader.’ He took hold of me and squeezed me a third time until I could not bear it any more, then he released me and said,

‘Read! In the Name of your Lord Who has created (all that exists).

He has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood).

Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous.

Who has taught (the writing) by the pen.

He has taught man that which he knew not.'

[al-'Alaq 96:1-5 – interpretation of the meaning]

Then the Messenger of Allah SAWS (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) went back with his heart beating wildly, until he came to Khadeejah and said, 'Cover me! Cover me!' They covered him till his fear went away. Then he said to Khadeejah, 'O Khadeejah, I fear for myself,' and he told her what had happened. Khadeejah said, 'Nay, be of good cheer, for by Allah, Allah will never disgrace you. You uphold the ties of kinship, speak truthfully, help the poor and destitute, serve your guests generously and assist those who are stricken by calamity.'

Then Khadeejah took him to Waraqah ibn Nawfal, the son of her paternal uncle. He was a man who had become a Christian during the jaahiliyyah. He used to write Arabic script and he used to write from the Gospel in Arabic as much as Allah willed he should write. He was an old man who had become blind. Khadeejah said, 'O son of my uncle, listen to what your nephew says.' Waraqah said: 'O son of my brother, what have you seen?' [The Prophet SAWS (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him)] told him what he had seen. Waraqah said: 'This is the Naamoos [Jibreel] who came down to Moosa. Would that I were young and could live until the time when your people will drive you out.'

The Messenger of Allah SAWS (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, 'Will they really drive me out?' Waraqah said, 'Yes. Never has there come a man with that which you have brought, but he was persecuted. If I should live to see that day, I will support you strongly.' But a few days later, Waraqah died, and the Revelation also ceased for a

while, until the Messenger of Allaah SAWS (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was filled with grief.

Muhammad ibn Shihaab said: Abu Salamah ibn ‘Abd al-Rahmaan told me that Jaabir ibn ‘Abd-Allaah al-Ansaari said: “The Messenger of Allah SAWS (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, speaking of that period when the revelation ceased: ‘Whilst I was walking, I heard a voice from the sky. I looked up and saw the angel who had come to me in Hira’, sitting on a chair between the heavens and the earth. I felt scared of him, so I came home and said, “Cover me, cover me [with blankets]!” So, they did, then Allah revealed the words:

“O you (Muhammad) enveloped in garments!

Arise and warn!

And magnify your Lord (Allah)!

And purify your garments!

And keep away from Ar-Rujz (the idols)!”

[al-Muddathir 74:1-5].”

Abu Salamah said: al-rujz were the idols which the people of the Jaahiliyyah used to worship. Then the revelation came frequently after that. (Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 4572; Muslim, 231)

That was the beginning of the revelation of the noble Quran which eventually would be completed in a period of about 22-23 years. However, during that period ,every year during the month of Ramadan Hazrat Jibril came to the Holy Prophet (saw) and made him recite that portion of the Book that had

been revealed until then. The tradition of reading the Holy Quran during the month of Ramadan most probably came from this practice. Allah knows best. Anyhow there is a close link between Ramadan and the recitation of the Holy Quran that has been going on for the last fourteen hundred years. Today by Allah's Grace we live in a fascinating time. On the net the Holy Quran is easily available and it is being recited and read and commented upon. We should all try to use these new technologies to deepen our better reciting and understanding of our Holy Book. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has laid a great emphasis on the need for each Ahmadi Muslim to deepen his or her understanding of the Holy Book so that we might each know quite well what is expected from us. So, during this month especially we should do our best to find the time to devote to the recitation and understanding of the Holy Quran.

I will now share with you some Ahadith and sayings of the companion about the Holy Quran. I have chosen some only and hope that we all will profit by them *insha* Allah.

The Prophet Muhammad said, "The superiority of the speech of Allah compared to all other speech is like the superiority of Allah over His creation." Source: Tirmidhee no. 2926. Just reflect about this short hadith and imagine what the grandeur of the Holy Quran might be.

The Prophet Muhammad said, "Indeed Allah, through this Book, raises some peoples and lowers others." Source: Muslim no. 996 –

The Prophet Muhammad said, "Whoever recites the Qur'ān secures knowledge of prophethood within his ribs [bosom], though Divine Revelation is not sent upon him. It does not befit one endowed with the Qur'ān that he should be indignant with those in anger, nor should he indulge in any act of

ignorance with those who are ignorant, while the Speech of Allah is there in his chest.” Source: Hakim, *Tarhib wa Tarhib* no. 2/301

The Prophet Muhammad said, “You will not come back to Allah with anything better than that which came from Him, i.e. the Qur’ān.” Source: Mastadrik al-Hakim no. 2077

The Prophet Muhammad said, Allah [swt] said, “I have sent you [O Prophet] in order to put you to test and put those to test through you. And I sent the Book to you which cannot be washed away by water, so that you may recite it while in the state of wakefulness and sleep. Source: Hadith Qudsi, Muslim no. 2865a

The Prophet Muhammad said, “It is imperative for you to have Taqwa [fear/consciousness of Allah] for this is the accumulation of all good. And upon you is Jihad in the path of Allah for it is the monasticism of the Muslims. [Finally]...upon you is the Remembrance of Allah and the recitation of His Book, for it is light for you on earth and [a means by which] you will be mentioned in the Heavens.” Source: Tarhib wa-Tarhib no. 4/24, Jami as-Sagheer no. 5495

The Prophet Muhammad said, “Fasting and the Qur’ān will intercede for the slave on the Day of Judgement. Fasting will say, ‘O My Lord! I prevented him from food and desires, so accept my intercession for him.’ And the Qur’ān will say, ‘I prevented him from sleep during the night, so accept my intercession for him.’ thus, they will intercede.” Source: Musnad Ahmad no. 6337 –

This means that Allah's slave did not sleep but he was busy reading the Holy Quran.

The Prophet Muhammad said, "The Qur'ān is an intercessor and its intercession is accepted and its plea is believed. Whoever makes it lead him – it leads him to Paradise and whomsoever places it behind him [the result will be] he is dragged to the Fire." Source: Ibn Hibban no. 124.

The Prophet Muhammad said, "If anyone prays at night reciting regularly ten verses, he will not be recorded among the negligent [*ghafileen*]; if anyone prays at night and recites a hundred verses, he will be recorded among those who are devout [*qaniteen*] to Allah; and if anyone prays at night reciting one thousand verses, he will be receive an immeasurable amount of reward." Source: Abu Dawud no. 1398.

So, it's very important for us to read the Holy Quran and to study its meanings and to bequest this same spirit in our children. In one hadith it is reported that the Prophet Muhammad said, "Whoever recited the Qur'ān, studied it, and acted according to what it contains; on the Day of Judgment his parents will be dressed with a crown of light, its brightness is like that of the sun. And his parents will be adorned with two bracelets, of which the whole world is not equivalent to them [in worth]. So, they will say, 'Why are we being adorned with these?' It will be said, 'This is because of your child taking [the recitation, teaching and acting upon] the Qur'ān.'" Source: Hakim, Targhib wa Tarhib –

There are many other hadiths which I will share with you later on. So we pray that Allah helps each one amongst us to make it a habit to read and study this message that has come for us from our Lord and that we do our best to act

according to it *incha Allah*, and that we inculcate the same habit in our children, *incha Allah*. Ameen.