

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

By Allah's Grace we have reached the last Jummah of Ramadan which is commonly known as the *Jummatoul Widah* which is translated as the "farewell Jummah". Usually Muslims flock to the mosque in great numbers on this particular day for Jummah prayer unlike other Fridays during Ramadan. From the hadiths, nothing is mentioned concerning any special features of this last Jummah. In fact, it resembles any other Friday. Indeed, there is a fabricated hadith in which it is said that "Whoever prays the five obligatory prayers in the last Friday of the month of Ramadan, this will make up for any deficiencies for his prayer throughout the whole year." According to most scholars, this is a fabricated hadith and has no basis in Islamic Shariah and hence no one should think of this day in that light. A believer is expected to show his or her commitment to Allah throughout his life depending on his capacity. Friday is distinguished in Islam as the day when all men have to leave worldly occupations and resort to the mosque for the remembrance of Allah as Allah says in the Holy Quran:

O ye who believe! when the call is made for Prayer on Friday,
hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and leave off *all* business.
That is better for you, if you only knew. (62:10)

Furthermore, we learn from the books of Hadith that on Friday there is a short moment when Allah accepts the supplications of his servants particularly. The Holy Prophet (saw) said **"During it (Friday) there is a time when a Muslim slave does not stand and pray and asks Allah for something, but He will give it to him,"** and he gestured with his hand to indicate how short that time is. (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 935; Muslim, 852).

There is special merit for Friday in general but not for the last Friday of the month of Ramadan. We need to keep this well in mind and understand that we, as good Muslims, should do our best to fulfil all our obligations to Allah as best as we can during the whole year. But in Ramadan we should be more eager to fulfil our duties because Allah will reward us more for each obligatory and supplementary act that we accomplish.

We still have at least four or five days and nights of prayer before the ending of this blessed month. Hence, we should use this remaining time to read as much of the Holy Quran as we can and keep on asking for our sins to be pardoned. We should continue to pray for this forgiveness because Allah has promised it to us through fasting and through prayers at night especially during the night of *laylatul qadr* which may happen in any of the remaining odd nights i.e. the 27th or the 29th if it has not already taken place. May Allah help each one among us to be washed of all our sins as He washed the sins of many of His servants who came before us *incha* Allah. We fast to win His Pleasure and to be aware of Him at any moment in our life. May Allah qualify us with such qualities that we become true *muttaqis* (those who fear his punishment, those who have an intense love for Him , those who are in awe of Him) in His sight, *incha* Allah.

Nothing will help us as much on our journey to develop true God consciousness as the Holy Quran. Last week I shared with you some hadiths about its merits. Today I will share some more with the hope that our members will know more of its importance and will do their best to recite and study the Holy Quran and put into practice all its instructions.

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “Allah has His own people among mankind.” They said: “O Messenger of Allah, who are they?” He said: “The people of the Qur’an, the people of Allah and those who are closest to Him”
Source: Ibn Majah no. 215 - [Hasan]

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “The best of you are those who learn the Qur’an and teach it.” (Source: Bukhari no. 5027, Tirmidhee no. 2909 – [Sahih])

The Messenger of Allah said, “Whose Faith [Iman] amongst the various creations astounds you?” They [the Companions] said, “The Angels” He said, “The Angels - Why would they not have Faith [when they are with their Lord]” They [then] said, “The Prophets” He said, “The Prophets receive revelation so how would they not believe?” They [then] said, “[Us] the Companions” He said, “The Companions are with the Prophets - so how would they not believe? - However, the Faith of people which is amazing and astounding is those who come after you who find the Book which has written

in them revelation [the Qur'an] - and hence they believe in it and obey and follow it - they are the ones whose Faith is [truly] astounding.”

The Messenger of Allah sent Mu'adh to Yemen, so He said: “How will you judge?” He said: “I will judge according to what is in Allah’s Book.” He said, “If it is not in Allah’s Book?” He said: “Then with the Sunnah of the Messenger of Allah” He said: “If it is not in the Sunnah of Messenger of Allah?” He said: “I will endeavour to make Ijtihad [exert effort to make the correct judgement].” He said: “All praise is due to Allah, the One Who made the messenger of the Messenger of Allah suitable.” (Source: Tirmidhee no. 1327)

The Messenger of Allah said, “O Muhajirun, there are five things with which you will be tested, and I seek refuge with Allah lest you live to see them: Immorality never appears among a people to such an extent that they commit it openly, but plagues and diseases that were never known among the predecessors will spread among them. They do not cheat in weights and measures but they will be stricken with famine, severe calamity and the oppression of their rulers. They do not withhold the Zakah of their wealth, but rain will be withheld from the sky, and were it not for the animals, no rain would fall on them. They do not break their covenant with Allah and His Messenger, but Allah will enable their enemies to over-power them and take some of what is in their hands. Unless their leaders rule according to the Book of Allah and seek all good from that which Allah has revealed, Allah will cause them to fight one another.” Source: Ibn Majah no. 4019 - [Sahih]

This appears to be a simple hadith but there are many warnings in it for the Umma as a whole. The Umma should check its actions to understand why so many problems are besetting it these days.

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “This Qur'an is the Banquet of Allah. Learn as much as you can from His banquet. This Qur'an is the Rope of Allah, and it is the clear Light and [the effective and beneficial] Healing. It is a protection for the one who clings to it and a rescue for the one who follows it. It is not crooked and so puts things straight. It does not deviate so as to be blamed. Its wonders do not cease. It does not wear out with much repetition. So recite it for Allah will reward you for the recitation of every letter....”

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “...A group of people do not gather in a house amongst the Houses of Allah [i.e. Masjid] reciting the Book of Allah and studying it between themselves – except that tranquillity descends upon them, they are enveloped by mercy and surrounded by the angels – and Allah mentions them with those with Him. [i.e. the higher angels] Source: Muslim no. 9/1023, Abu Dawud no. 1455 - [Sahih]

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “[on the Day of Judgement] ...and a man who acquired knowledge and taught others and read Qur’an. He will be brought, and Allah will re-mind him of His blessings, and he will acknowledge them. He [swt] will say, ‘What did you do with them?’ He will say, ‘I acquired knowledge and taught others, and read the Qur’an for Your sake.’ He [swt] will say, ‘You are lying. You acquired knowledge so that it would be said that you were a scholar; and you read Qur’an so that it would be said that you were a Reciter, and it was said.’ Then He will order that he be dragged on his face and thrown into the Fire.” (Source: Muslim no. 1905a - [Sahih])

This hadith reminds us that we should not try to use the Holy Quran as a means of self-aggrandizement. Allah knows our intention better than anyone else. We should heed Him and what He knows.

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “Whoever says [something] about the Qur’an without knowledge, then let him take his seat in the Fire.” Source: Tirmidhee no. 2950 - [Hasan]

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “And whoever says [some-thing] about the Qur’an according to his [own] opinion, then let him take his seat in the Fire.” Source: Tirmidhee no. 2951 - [Ha-san]

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “Do not argue in the Qur’an [meaning do not oppose/argue against what the Qur’an says] for in this arguing is Disbelief” Source: Jami as-Sagheer no. 9739 - [Sahih]

Here are some sayings about reflecting upon the Holy Quran:

Abdullah ibn Masood, the Companion, said, “When you intend to acquire knowledge, deeply study the Qur’an for in it lies the [principles] of knowledge of the ancient and future generations.” Source: Ghazali, Kitab Adab Tilawat ul

Qur'an

Hasan ibn Ali said, "The people before you considered the Qur'an to be correspondence from their Lord, so they would ponder it by night and perform it by day." (Source: Nawawi, Tibyan fi Adab Hamalatul Qur'an)

Aishah said, "The Prophet spent the night [in prayer] with [a single verse] Ayah from the Qur'an." (Source: Tirmidhee no. 448 - [Sahih])

Ibn Taymiyah said, "Whoever contemplates [*tadabbur*] upon the Qur'an [with the condition] of seeking guidance from it, [then] the path of truth will be made clear." Source: Aqeedah tul Wasityah

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, "Beautify the Qur'an with your voices for indeed the nice voice increases the beauty of the Qur'an." (Source: Baihaqi – Shu'bul Iman no. 2/868 - [Sahih])

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, "The one who does not recite the Qur'an in a melodious manner is not from us." (Source: Bukhari no. 7527 - [Sahih])

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, "The one who recites the Qur'an loudly is like one who gives charity openly, and the one who recites the Qur'an silently is like the one who gives charity in secret." (Source: an-Nisa'i no. 1663, - [Hasan])

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, "Envy is not justified but in case of two persons only: one who, having been given [knowledge of] the Qur'an by Allah, recites it during the night and day [and also acts upon it] and a man who, having been given wealth by God, spends it during the night and the day [for the welfare of others seeking the pleasure of their Lord]." (Source: Muslim no. 815a - [Sahih])

We will stop here for today. We hope that our members will do their best to keep up their good habits of Ramadan as much as they can in the other days of the year and that reading and studying the Holy Quran and putting its instructions into practice will become a permanent feature of our daily life *incha* Allah. Ameen.

