
by Imam Zafrullah Domun

This is the first Friday after the Holy month of Ramadan. We will avail ourselves of this opportunity to remind ourselves about some matters that might prove beneficial to us for the rest of our life *incha* Allah. There is no doubt that a majority of Muslims do their best to multiply their good deeds during the month of Ramadan. Most people read more of the Holy Quran than in any of the other months. Similarly, a majority of people make voluntary alms and all who have the means to do so have to give what we call *Sadaqatoul Fitr* or *Fitrana*. In addition, there is a great enthusiasm to read prayers on time and everyone does their best to pray in the mosque. Furthermore, people read a lot of voluntary prayers and do their best to participate in Tarawih prayers and many also offer the *Tahajjud* prayer prior to the *suhur*. As far as cultivating good moral qualities are concerned, almost everyone tries to show their best behavior and they exercise restraint even when they are provoked. To put it briefly, we might say that during Ramadan, a majority of Muslims reflect upon their life and strive to make it better. Now that Ramadan is gone, will it not be wise upon us all to make a list of resolutions as people do on the occasion of New Year and try to follow them through until the next Ramadan. This will help us continue focus on the areas where we should concentrate our efforts with a view to improve our own self, a task which occupied much of our time during Ramadan. I think that if we can carry the spirit of Ramadan along with us until the next one, our spiritual life will markedly improve compared to all those years when we were not so determined. As I said in the Eid Sermon, a better knowledge of the Holy Quran will help us enormously and we should do our best to read it every day. Even if you read only one *Ruku* everyday, it does not matter as long as you continue to do so every day. It was with this in mind that I started the two sermons that I made during Ramadan about the hadiths concerning the merit of the Holy Quran. So, I will continue today with the hope that each one amongst us would be reading some portion of the Holy Quran everyday until we meet the next Ramadan *incha* Allah. This is not a difficult matter at all. If you intend to do it, Allah will make it easy for you to carry out though by His Grace. So we continue to read some more Hadith about the Holy Quran.

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “The parable of the believer who recites the Qur’ān is that of a sweet citrus fruit, its fragrance is nice and its taste is

nice. The parable of the believer who does not recite the Qur'ān is that of a date, it has no smell but its taste is sweet. The parable of the hypocrite who recites the Qur'ān is that of basil, its fragrance is nice but its taste is bitter. The parable of the hypocrite who does not recite the Qur'ān is that of the colocynth [bitter desert fruit], its smell is bitter and its taste is bitter.” Source: Tirmizi no. 2865.

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “And recite the Qur'ān in the early dawn. Verily the recitation of the Qur'ān in the early dawn is ever witnessed [17:78].” The Prophet said, “It is witnessed by the angels of the night and the angels of the day.” Source: Tirmizi no. 3135.

Abdullah ibn Amr says, Allah's Messenger said to me, “Recite the whole Qur'ān in a month.” I said, “But I have the power [to do more than that].” Allah's Messenger said, “Then finish the recitation of the Qur'ān in seven days, and do not finish it in less than this period.” Source: Bukhari no. 5054.

The Prophet Muhammad said, “When someone is in Salah [prayer] then they are in deep conversation with their Lord Almighty, so you should see if anyone is engaged in this deep conversation with their Lord [i.e. Salah] and do not make your voices loud one over the other in your recitation [of the Qur'ān].” Source: Musnad Ahmad no. 7/188.

Abdullah ibn Masud said, “The Messenger of Allah asked me to recite the Qur'ān.” He said “Messenger of Allah, [how] should I recite to you whereas it has been sent down to you? He [the Prophet] said, “I desire to hear it from someone else.” “So, I recited Surat an- Nisa [4] till I reached the verse: “How then shall it be when We shall bring from every people a witness and bring you against them as a witness?” [4:41]. I lifted my head or a person touched me in my side, and so I lifted my head and saw his tears falling [from the Prophet's eyes]. Source: Muslim no. 800a.

Someone asked Aishah, Mother of the Believers, “Tell me about the character of the Messenger of Allah “She said, “Do you not read the Qur'ān?” I said: “Yes.” Upon this she said: “The character of the Messenger of Allah was the Qur'ān.” He said: “I felt inclined to get up and not ask anything [further] till death [due to the answer being so profound]” Source: Muslim no. 746a.

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “It shall be said to the Companion of the Qur'ān, ‘Recite [of what you have memorized] and rise up, recite [melodiously] as you would recite in the world. For indeed your rank shall be at the last Ayah [verse] you recite.’” Source: Tirmizi no. 2914.

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “The one who learns the Qur’ān is like the owner of a hobbled camel. If he pays attention to it, he will keep it, but if he releases it, it will go away.” Source: Bukhari no. 5031.

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “It is a bad thing that some of you say, 'I have forgotten such-and-such verse of the Qur’ān,' for indeed, he has been caused [by Allah] to forget it. So, you must keep on reciting the Qur’ān because it escapes from the hearts of men faster than camel do.” Source: Bukhari no. 5032.

Abdullah ibn Masood, the Companion said, “It was difficult for us to memorize the words of the Qur’ān but easy for us to act by them. After us will be people for whom it is easy to memorize the Qur’ān, but hard to act by it.”

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “When the Companion of the Qur’ān performs Salah, reciting it by night and day, he retains it and if he doesn’t [use it in] Salah he forgets.” Source: Silsilah Ahadeeth as- Saheehah no. 597.

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “...And I have left you two heavy [important issues]: The first of them is the Book of Allah. In it is the Guidance and the Light. Whoever holds firmly to it and takes from it he [then] is upon the Guidance. Whoever errs with respect to it goes astray. So take from the Book of Allah Almighty and hold firmly to it. [the second thing] is Ahl – Bayti [My Family – included wives, children, son-in law etc] I remind you by Allah with regard to My Family, I remind you by Allah with regard to My Family”. Source: Muslim, Ryadh as-Saliheen no. 346.

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “I leave behind for you, that by which if you stick firmly to you will never go astray, the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Prophet”.

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “Indeed this Qur’an is a rope – one end of it is in the Hand of Allah and the other end is in your hands. So hold firmly to it [the result would be] that you would never go astray and never be destroyed [no matter what the circumstance].” Source: Ibn Hibban no. 122 - [Sa-hih]

Ali said: “I heard the Messenger of Allah say, ‘Fit-nah will certainly come.’ I asked what is the way out O Messenger of Allah? He replied, ‘The Book of Allah [swt] is the way, for it contains information of what happened before you, news of what will come after you and a decision regarding matters that will occur among you....It is decisive [fasl] and not a joke [hazl]. Whoever leaves it, is a tyrant and Allah [swt] will break him, and if anyone seeks

guidance elsewhere [other than the Qur'an] Allah will lead him astray. It is the rope of Allah [swt], the wise reminder, the straight path, whims would not deviate it nor the tongue become confused, and the scholars cannot be fully satisfied [i.e. still more to explore]. It is not worn down by repetition nor do its wonders ever cease.....He who quotes it speaks the truth, he who acts according to it is rewarded, he who judges according to it is just, and he who invites people to it [i.e. the Qur'an] is [himself] guided to the Straight Path....”

Source: Tirmidhee no. 2906 [Da'eef - the chain is weak but the meaning is Saheeh –scholars comment that this is more likely the statement of Ali and not the Prophet].

On the authority of Ziyad ibn Lubayd the Prophet (s.a.w) said, ‘....and knowledge will go [or disappear].’ He said, ‘O Messenger of Allah how will knowledge leave [disappear] whilst we read the Qur'an and our children read the Qur'an and they will make their children read it till the Day of Judgement.’ He said, ‘May your Mother loose you I thought your one of the men of understanding of Madinah. Don't you see these Jews and Christians reading their Torah and Gospel but they don't practice anything of it.’ Source: Ibn Majah no. 4048 - [Sahih].

The Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) said, “There will come a time on the people when there will remain nothing of the Islam except its [ism] name and nothing will remain of the Qur'an except its [rasm] outward form. Their masjids will be full of people/very well built but will be empty of guidance. Their scholars will be the most evil under the heavens; from them [fitnah] turmoil will emanate from them and to them will it re-turn.” Source: Baihaqi, Shu'bul Iman no. 2/788

May Allah help each one amongst us to learn the Holy Quran and may our life be guided by it. Ameen.