

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

All praise is due to Allah who has, out of His Grace, allowed us to carry on fasting up till now and we all hope that insha Allah we will be able to complete all the fasts for this holy month of Ramadan. As usual, in a twinkling of an eye we have almost reached the end. We learn from Hazrat Ayesha (ra) that after completing nineteen days of Fasting, the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) showed even greater determination for Ebadaat than before. She said:

“The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) used to strive more in worship during Ramadan than he strove in any other time of the year; and he would devote himself more (in the worship of Allah) in the last ten nights of Ramadan than he did in earlier part of the month.” (Muslim).

Hazrat Abu Huraira (ra) reported:

“The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) used to observe *i`tikaf* (spiritual retreat in a mosque) every Ramadan for ten days; in the year in which he passed away, he observed *i`tikaf* for twenty days.” (Al-Bukhari).

Hazrat Ibn Abbas (ra) reported:

“The Prophet was the most generous of all people, and he used to become more generous in Ramadan when Gabriel met him. Gabriel used to meet him every night during Ramadan to revise the Qur’an with him. So, Allah’s Messenger then used to be more generous than the fast wind.” (Al-Bukhari)

Abdullah ibn `Amr reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said,

“Fasting and the Qur’an will intercede on behalf of Allah’s servant on the Day of Judgment:

Fasting will say, “O my Lord! I prevented him from food and desires during the day, so accept my intercession for him.”

And the Qur’an will say, “O my Lord! I prevented him from sleeping by night, so accept my intercession for him.”

The intercession of both will thus be accepted.” (Ahmad)

So, these days, namely the last ten days of Ramadan, are really days and nights full of blessings and opportunity for the servant of Allah, man and woman, to do one’s best to receive full pardon from Allah for all the sins that we might have committed. I will share with you some more hadiths to that effect:

Hazrat Abu Huraira (ra) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“The five (daily) prayers, and from one Friday prayer to the next, and from Ramadan to Ramadan are expiation for sins committed in between provided one stays away from the major sins.” (Al-Bukhari)

Hazrat Abu Huraira (ra) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Whoever observes fasts during the month of Ramadan out of sincere faith, and hoping to attain Allah’s rewards, then all his past sins will be forgiven.” (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Hazrat Abu Huraira (ra) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Whoever stands (in the voluntary night prayer of) Ramadan out of faith and in hope of reward, his previous sins will be forgiven”. (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

Abu Hurayrah (ra) reported that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said:

“Whoever stands (in the voluntary night prayer) in *Laylat Al-Qadr* out of faith and in hope of reward, his previous sins will be forgiven”. (Al-Bukhari)

So, we are in that last period of the month of Ramadan when we know for sure that it will soon end. No one can know for sure whether he or she will have another such opportunity again in his/her life. So, it is in our advantage that we summon our courage, drive away our laziness, think about all our sins, think about the opportunity that Allah is granting us for forgiveness and do everything that will help us to be forgiven. Out of His sheer magnanimity Allah may also forgive our future sins as He did for the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) when He said to him:

2. Verily, We have granted thee a clear victory,

3. That Allāh may cover up for thee thy shortcomings, past and future, and that He may complete His favour upon thee, and may guide thee on a right path;

إِنَّا فَتَحْنَا لَكَ فَتْحًا مُبِينًا ﴿٢﴾
لِيَغْفِرَ لَكَ اللَّهُ مَا تَقَدَّمَ مِنْ ذَنْبِكَ
وَمَا تَأَخَّرَ وَيُتِمَّ نِعْمَتَهُ عَلَيْكَ وَ
يَهْدِيكَ صِرَاطًا مُسْتَقِيمًا ﴿٣﴾

These are favours that Allah can give, if so He wishes, to anyone of His servants whom He enables to show devotion to Him. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) received these words and Allah has gratified his followers as well with these words. Whatever the level of our sins, we should never be discouraged and we should always remember and keep in mind the following verse of the Holy Quran:

قُلْ يَا عِبَادِيَ الَّذِينَ أَسْرَفُوا عَلَىٰ أَنفُسِهِمْ لَا تَقْنَطُوا مِن رَّحْمَةِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَغْفِرُ الذُّنُوبَ جَمِيعًا ۚ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ

Translation:

Say, “O My servants who have committed excesses against their own souls! despair not of the mercy of Allah, surely Allah forgives all sins. Verily He is Most Forgiving, Merciful.” (39:54)

That’s why I have been saying that especially in this month we should all turn to Allah together as He has commanded us and we should also turn to Him as He has taught us in the Holy Quran and which He revealed to me the past week “*Touboou ilallahe tawbatan nasouha*”. This is part of a verse of the Holy Quran which is addressed to believers as follows:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا ثُبُّوا إِلَى اللَّهِ تَوْبَةً نَّصُوحًا عَسَىٰ رَبُّكُمْ أَن يُكَفِّرَ عَنْكُم سَيِّئَاتِكُمْ وَيُدْخِلَكُم جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِن تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ يَوْمَ لَا يُخْزِي اللَّهُ النَّبِيَّ وَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مَعَهُ نُورُهُمْ يَسْعَىٰ بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَبِأَيْمَانِهِمْ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا أَتْمِمْ لَنَا نُورَنَا وََاغْفِرْ لَنَا ۖ إِنَّكَ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

We translate it as follows:

“O ye who believe! turn to Allah in sincere repentance. It may be that your Lord will remove the evil consequences of your deeds and make you enter Gardens through which rivers flow, on the day when Allah will not abase the Prophet nor those who have believed with him. Their light will run before them and on their right hands. They will say, ‘Our Lord, perfect our light for us and forgive us; surely, Thou hast power over all things.’” (66:9)

The word “*nasouha*” which qualifies the word “repentance” means “that which is very sincere”. So, Allah wishes that all Muslims who believe in Allah, who have understood that their life here is not a play and a pastime, who have understood the real aim of their life is to be fully and sincerely devoted to Allah, that they should sincerely turn away from all types of sins whether big or small. Ramadan comes every year to help us in this endeavour because Allah loves us and He wishes that we should obey Him and show sincere devotion to Him.

You will recall that in the ruku devoted to fasting in Sura Al Baqara, we read:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۖ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ ۖ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا لِي وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا بِي لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ

We translate as follows:

“And when My servants ask thee about Me, say: I am near. I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me. So, they should hearken to Me and believe in Me, that they may follow the right way” (2:187)

By Allah’s sheer Grace He said to me in one of these nights:

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِي عَنِّي فَإِنِّي قَرِيبٌ ۖ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ الدَّاعِ إِذَا دَعَانِ

Meaning as we have just said “And when My servants ask thee about Me, say: I am near.” This is to emphasize the message for myself and our members as well that Allah is near and He listens to prayers especially prayers offered in these days and nights of Ramadan. Hence, we should all devote more and more time to prayers meaning we should supplicate Him for all our needs. He has with Him powers beyond our understanding and imagination. See how fully the world has been turned upside down by an invisible virus which will land us in a new world. This is another matter. As far as we are concerned, we should not let go of the opportunity available to us to solicit Allah for His Help, His Protection and His Love. This is the time to get our Protection. So do not let it slip out of our hands. Let us spend more time in our *qiyam* by reading more of the Holy Quran than we usually do in *Salat*, let us spend more time in our *Rukus* and *sajdahs* and fill them with begging and weeping so that we might be pure enough when we return to Allah.

Hazrat Ayesha (ra) reported that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) told her that if she ever witnessed the *Laylatul Qadr*, she should pray thus “*Allahoumma innaka afouwoune tohibboul afwa fa’fo anni*” meaning “O my Lord You are the Effacer of sins You love to efface sins please efface my sins”. Now is the time to remember and to pray in these words with the conviction that we will turn our back from all sorts of sins, small or big ones. May Allah grant to each one amongst us this *tawfiq* (enabling Grace). Ameen.

So, in the coming days we should devote more and more time to be fully devoted to Allah. Our time will be better spent by reciting lots of *Istighfaar*, lots of *Darood*, lots of *Tahmid* (*Alhamdolilla*), *Tasbih* (*Subhanallah*), *Takbir* (*Allaho Akbar*) and *Tahlil* (*Laa ilaha illah*). Include time in your daily schedule and start doing it. Eventually you will see that it will become a habit. And it is this remembrance of Allah in *Salaat* and outside *Salaat* that is the key to be purified. I can just advise you but unless you practice you will never know that what is being said is true. May Allah help each one amongst us to make the recitation of the *azkaar* (plural of *zikr*) become the habits of our lifetime incha Allah. Ameen.

On last Wednesday I also received the following words from Allah:

“*Allaho- Laa ilaha illa Hou. Wa Ana Rabbokoum fattaqouni*”

We translate it as “Allah — there is no God but He” then first speech “I am your (plural) Lord Fear Me”. I received these words being fully awake. I was even walking when I received them. The word *rabbokoum* is usually translated as “Your Lord”. But its root meaning is the one who educates, helps someone becoming more aware like when someone receives an education, he or she becomes more aware. This is the meaning of Rabb. In French they say “Enseigneur”. Here Allah emphatically says that

He is the “one who teaches” all mankind and He is responsible for our proper education. By extension, we understand that His teachings have been sent to us through the Holy Prophet (saw) in the Holy Quran. If we want to be properly educated, we should have recourse to Allah by making Him our Protector, by being conscious of Him in every instant of our life and by developing love in our heart for Him. This is some of the meanings of “*Fattaqouni*” which we usually translate as “Fear Me”.

May Allah improve our understanding (mine and yours) and may we all fear Him as He should be feared as He says in the Holy Quran “*haqqa toqatehi*”.

Since we are unable to meet, I suggest that you distribute your funds which we usually collect to poor people in your neighborhood. In that way we will solve the problem of collection. Incha Allah we will speak again next week. Khuda Hafiz.