

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

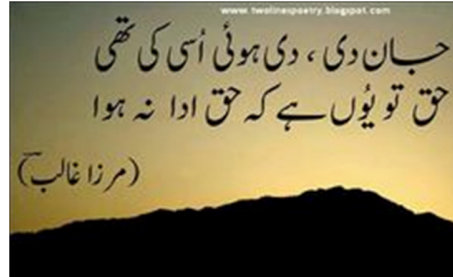
By Allah's Grace, we have almost reached the end of the Holy month of Ramadan for this year 1441 of the lunar calendar and, of course, 2020 of the solar calendar. The birth of the new crescent of Shawwal will be at 17:38 UT meaning 21:38 Mauritian time on Friday 22nd May. Hence, the new moon will not be visible anywhere in the world on Friday. Even on Saturday 23rd May 2020, the new moon will be only slightly visible in Africa and Canada. But on Sunday 24th, it will be visible throughout the world. Therefore, there is a slight chance that, depending on the conditions of the weather, we might witness the moon on Saturday. Else, we will definitely see it on Sunday. So, it seems that we should prepare ourselves for 29 or 30 days' fast. Eid will be either on Sunday next or more likely on Monday next. Personally, I think that this is the first time that I am witnessing such a situation, i.e. Eid is celebrated on the second day following the new crescent of Shawwal. After all, this is a year of firsts. We just have to accept it. We will know better tomorrow *incha* Allah.

Today is the last Jummah for this month of Ramadan. According to the Hadiths, it is just a Friday like any other day. Some Muslims in some countries attach many special attributes to it. But that is not the case with us Ahmadi Muslims. According to the hadiths, Friday is an Eid day for all Muslims and we should treat it thus. This is the day when people stop working to attend the Friday Prayer and sermon. Furthermore, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) told us that on Friday there is a special moment when Allah accepts the prayers of His Servants who might be praying on that particular moment. However, we have not been told about that particular time. Some learned religious people have proposed some particular time but Allah knows best when it is.

As good Muslims who have been striving to win the pleasure of Allah by developing a greater awareness of Him in our life we should do our best in these last hours of the month of Ramadan, today and tomorrow to manifest an intense devotion to Allah. We may achieve this by focusing our attention on reading the Holy Quran, on reciting *Istaghfaar*, on reciting Darood and on reciting several other Zikr during the remaining hours of Ramadan. We do this with the hope that *Incha* Allah, Allah will treat each one amongst us with His Mercy, His Forgiveness and His Generosity.

Let us not congratulate ourselves that what was expected of us we have accomplished. We should aim at doing the best we can to adopt the habits that will endear us to Allah but we

should never think that we have done enough. Only Allah knows if it is enough or not. You will know if you are doing well by the way He treats you but even then you should be careful and remain humble and always stay at His Door and keep beseeching His Help and show devotion to Him under all circumstances. An Urdu poet has expressed such a sentiment thus



Jaan di di houwi oussi ki thi

Haq to youn hay ke haq ada na houwa

“We have given our life for His Sake – But this life was given to us by HIM

The truth is that we have not been able to do what had to be done.”

The poet laments that even by sacrificing one’s life for God’s sake, one does not fulfill all the obligations that we owe Him.

Hazrat Masih Maood (as) expresses similar thoughts in a poem entitled “*Ilamaatul Muqarrabeen*” meaning the characteristics of those who are close to Allah. He says:

خدا سے وہی لوگ کرتے ہیں پیار جو سب کچھ ہی کرتے ہیں اُس پر نثار

It is only they who love God who sacrifice everything for His Sake.

اسی فکر میں رہتے ہیں روز و شب کہ راضی وہ دلدار ہوتا ہے کب؟

Day and night, they are preoccupied with the thought of how they can please their Beloved.

اُسے دے چکے مال و جاں بار بار ابھی خوف دل میں کہ ہیں نابکار

They have given Him their Life and wealth several times and yet they have this fear in their heart that it is still inadequate.

لگاتے ہیں دل اپنا اُس پاک سے
وہی پاک جاتے ہیں اِس خاک سے

Those who attach their heart to that Pure One become pure through this spirit (of selflessness).

It is this spirit that we should try to inculcate in ourselves. Ramadan comes and we are inspired to please our Lord. Ramadan goes away after one month and we are even more inspired to carry out the good deeds that we have become accustomed to in the remaining months of the year. In this way, year in and year out we keep on improving ourselves until we depart from this world, as a person who has willingly accepted deprivation in order to please the Creator.

Hazrat Molvi Nuruddin (ra), a close companion and first caliph of the Promised Messiah (as) once on the last Friday in Ramadan said:

“Our imam (Hazrat Masih Maood (as)) used to say that person is really unfortunate when he witnesses the month of Ramadan but did not bring about any change in himself. There are still 5 to 6 days of fasting left. So, strive a lot within these days and supplicate a lot and try your best to turn to Allah and recite *Istighfaar* and *La hawl* lots of times. Try your best to listen to the Holy Quran, to understand it and to make others understand it and give as much charity as you can and encourage your children also to do the same. May Allah grant me and you all as well the *tawfiq* (enabling grace) to do so” (*Khutbaat Noor* New Edition in Urdu p 562).

I think that most of us should by now understand what we mean when we say “*Istighfaar*”. But the word “*la hawl*” might not be as familiar. Here reference is made to the words “*La hawla wa la quwwata illa billahil Aliyil Azim*”. It is usually translated as “There exists no power or strength but in Allah, the High and the Great”. From the Hadiths, we understand that the Holy Prophet (saw) encouraged us to recite these words often because there are remedies for more than 100 diseases in them and the least of these is anxiety. But on the surface one might think that this cannot be. But when you have tried it and experienced its effects, you will know how true are the words of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). When Hazrat Molvi Nuruddin is telling us that we should recite it, he means that we should proclaim that Allah is the source of all strength and Power and that we are fully dependent upon Him.

There is no denying the fact that in the month of Ramadan a majority of Muslims strive to obey Allah as much as they can. But once Eid arrives, most people forget the lessons of Ramadan and they revert to their old habits and they do not remember Allah or fear Him as they should. However, when we read about the Holy Prophet (saw), we see that he was an active Muslim throughout the whole year and not just in Ramadan. As his good followers, this is what should be our objective in life. We should do our best to improve ourselves everyday of our life.

So, before Ramadan ends, let us all use the available time to beseech Allah that He fills our heart with certainty from Himself and that we continue to progress in our perception of it throughout our life. Then Incha Allah in the other months of the year we would all still continue in our spiritual struggle and not be negligent of our duties and obligations. May Allah accept all the fasts that we have kept and may He grant to each one among us a large measure of righteousness which will go on increasing till we depart from this world. May Allah also help us all to continue to be mindful of Him wherever we are by His Grace. Incha Allah. Ameen.