

FRIDAY SERMON

15 April 2022

By Imam Zafrullah Domun

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ فَمَن شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۖ وَمَن كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ ۗ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ ۚ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا بَدَأَكُمْ ۖ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ٦

Last week, I shared with you an extract of what Imam Ghazali said about fasting. I said that I would be finishing the booklet today. But it has been brought to my attention that I spoke about the booklet last year in my sermons of 23rd and 30th April 2021. Although what he has said is as relevant today as it was last year and even when he lived in the 11th century, I have decided not to repeat it and share some new materials with our brothers and sisters. Those who want to know more about what Imam Ghazali said can refer to the two sermons that I have mentioned above.

The translation of the verse of the Holy Quran which I have just read is as follows:

“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)

What we learn from this verse is that the beginning of the revelation of the Holy Quran started in the month of Ramadan. In fact, we have a hadith which is as follows:

“The Prophet Muhammad said, “The *Suhuf* [scrolls] of Ibrahim were revealed on the 1st night of Ramadhan. The Torah was revealed on the 6th of Ramadhan. The *Injeel* [Gospel] was revealed on the 13th of Ramadhan. The *Zabur* on the 18th of Ramadhan. And the Qur’ān on the 24th of Ramadhan.” (Jami as-Sagheer, Suyuti no. 2734 [Hasan]). The beginning of this revelation started in the year 610 AD with the first 5 verses of Sura Al Alaq (96) which are as follows:

- *2. Convey thou in the name of thy Lord Who created,
- *3. Created man from a clot of blood.
- *4. Convey! And thy Lord is Most Generous,
- *5. Who taught *man* by the pen,
- 6. Taught man what he knew not.

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ
 خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ
 اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ
 الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ
 عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

These words were so powerful that they brought an unprecedented revolution in world history. The story of the first encounter of the Holy prophet Muhammad (saw) with Hazrat Gibra'eel is very interesting and emotional but we will leave it for the moment.

Allah says that the Holy Quran contains “*hoda*” which means “guidance, the right direction, the straight path”. But not only do these teachings of the Holy Quran lead to the straight path but they also give evidence (*bayyenaat*) proving why what it recommends is the best teaching. It is also qualified as “*furqan*”, which means it makes a clear distinction between what is right and what is wrong. Then Allah repeats the instruction that those who witness this month should fast except those who are travelling or are sick. Allah says further that He does not wish to put man to trouble. On the contrary, he wishes ease for them and not difficulties. So, we should complete the number of fasting days and exalt Allah because He has guided us and be among those who are grateful. In brief, this is what has been said in this verse.

Hence, the Muslim has to understand it as their duty to try to know what the Holy Quran says. This should be a lifetime project for each and everyone. This is not a task that can be delegated. We need to read it everyday as much as we can. We should try to absorb its teachings and mould our life according to its teachings. To help us all in this task, I have chosen some hadiths which will give us an idea of the importance that the Holy Quran should have in our life and we should keep asking ourselves whether we are trying to do what is expected of us or not. In the past as well, I have spoken about some of these hadiths but as is always the case, we forget very quickly. So, what I will say will be just a reminder. May Allah help each one among us to take heed. Ameen.

The hadiths are as follows:

1. The Prophet Muhammad said, “Allah has His own people among mankind.” They said: “O Messenger of Allah, who are they?” He said: “The people of the Qur’ān, the people of Allah and those who are closest to Him.” *Source: Ibn Majah no. 215 – حسن*
2. 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. 139*

3. 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 whom 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 Books which has written in them revelation [the Qur’ān] - and hence they believe in it and obey and follow it - they are the ones whose Faith is [truly] astounding.” *Source: Bazz no. 3/318, Silsilah Ahadeeth as-Saheehah no. 3215*

4. The Prophet Muhammad said, “This Qur’ān is the Banquet of Allah. Learn as much as you can from His banquet. This Qur’ān 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....” [also Abdullah ibn Masud said, ‘This Qur’ān is the Banquet of Allah. Whoever enters it is safe.’] *Source: Hakim no. 1/555, Darimi*

Qurtubi in his introduction to his tafseer quotes gives an explanation about this hadeeth as, ‘[the Banquet] is a metaphor. The Qur’ān is likened to something Allah has prepared for people. They have good and benefits in it. Then He has invited them to it.’

5. 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 –*

6. The Prophet Muhammad said, “Whoever says [something] about the Qur’ān without knowledge, then let him take his seat in the Fire.” *Source: Tirmidhee no. 2950 – حسن [Hasan]*

7. The Prophet Muhammad said, “And whoever says [something] about the Qur’ān according to his [own] opinion, then let him take his seat in the Fire.” *Source: Tirmidhee no. – حسن 2951 [Hasan]*

8. The Prophet Muhammad said, “Do not argue in the Qur’ān [meaning do not oppose/ argue against what the Qur’ān says] for in this arguing is Disbelief” *Source: Jami as-Sagheer no. 9739 – Sahih*

9. The Prophet Muhammad said, “Do not argue using the Qur’ān [i.e. in a dispute with one another]. [The negative result would be] you would deny the Book of Allah by using [one ayat] against another [ayat]. I swear by Allah indeed the Believer if he is argued against with

the Qur'ān, he [out of respect] will lose [not continue the argument] ... indeed the hypocrite, if he argues using the Qur'ān, he will win [the argument – because the Believer will not argue back]. *Source:* Silsilah Ahadeeth as- Saheehah no. 3447 - صحيح [Sahih]

10. The Prophet Muhammad said, “Allah listens more attentively to a man with a beautiful voice who recites Qur'ān out loud than the master of a singing slave-girl listens to his slave.” *Source:* Ibn Majah no. 1340

11. The Prophet Muhammad said, “Beautify the Qur'ān with your voices for indeed the nice voice increases the beauty of the Qur'ān” *Source:* Baihaqi

12. The Prophet Muhammad said, “Whoever recites a letter from Allah’s Book, then he receives the reward from it, and the reward of ten the like of it. I do not say that Alif Lam Mim is a letter, but Alif is a letter, Lam is a letter and Mim is a letter.” *Source:* Tirmidhee no. 2910

13. 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. 505 –

14. Bar'a said, “I heard the Prophet reciting Surat at-Tin waz Zaitun [95: By the Fig and the Olive] in the Isha prayer and I have never heard anybody with a better voice or recitation than his.” *Source:* Bukhari no. 7546 - صحيح [Sahih]

In describing the Prophet’s recitation of the Qur'ān, one of the companions said, “He [the Prophet] would extend his voice appropriately and clearly [every letter would be pronounced properly] – [Abu Dawud no. 1465 -Sahih]

15. 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, an-Nisa’i no. 160[Sahih]

16. The Prophet Muhammad said, “Indeed this Qur'ān 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. 12 –

These are some hadiths taken at random from the compilations of Hadiths. May Allah help us to profit from the wisdom found in these words, incha Allah, in the month of Ramadan and in the other months as well. Ameen.