

FRIDAY SERMON

31 March 2023

By Imam Zafrullah Domun

One week is already gone in this year's blessed month of Ramadan. One has a feeling that time is rushing by. So whatever good deeds we can do should be done now. We should not wait for the last ten days. This month is Mubarak. Meaning it is full of blessings. Its beginning is blessed and its ending is even more blessed. As good believers, we should strive to get all its blessings by doing our best to fast and to multiply our good deeds during our fast and also during the night after we have broken our fast.

When I say good deeds, I mean engaging in the following: prayers in congregation as best as we can, reading the Holy Quran at least one part everyday if possible, reciting *astaghfaar* asking forgiveness for all our sins, reading *nawafil* prayers during the days and nights and prolonging time in *sajdah* making supplications for everything we need and for others as well and for the solving of our personal and family problems if we have them.

In addition, find the time to engage in the remembrance of Allah by reading Darood, *la hawla wa laa quwwata illa billahil alyil azeem* and *Subhanallahi wa behamdehi subhaanallahil Azeem*. In brief, what I mean is that we should not lose our precious time in any frivolous activity. We should do our best to do what we can to become a practicing Muslim who tries his/her best to follow the best model (*uswatoune hasana*) that Allah has given us, namely, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw). Whatever we wish to do but we find it difficult to do, we should ask Allah for help and Allah will give all the help that we need to become a better person pleased with what Allah does and He being pleased with us *incha* Allah.

May Allah grant each one among us the capacity to do whatever we should be doing to please Him but, above everything, that He treats us with His Indulgence because we will not come up to the mark unless He lifts us so to say to help us to practice virtue. We cannot do it on our own. Let us never forget this.

Last week, we tried very briefly to explain the first two verses of Ruku 23 of Sura Al Baqara which deals with fasting in the blessed month of Ramadan. We read that fasting is prescribed for us so that we develop within ourselves a consciousness of the presence of Allah wherever we are and that we do not overstep the limits that he has prescribed for us. Furthermore, those who are sick or on a journey need not fast but they should replace the fast when they are cured of their illness and when they are back from their

journey. In addition, those who find it difficult to fast for whatever reason should provide food for a less fortunate person and this action will replace his fast. And lastly, we are told that there are innumerable benefits in fasting.

The next verse is as follows:

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 هَدَاكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ (١٨٥)

The month of Ramadan is that in which the Quran was sent down as a guidance for mankind with clear proofs of guidance and ^[a]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. ^[b]Allah desires to give you facility and He desires not hardship for you, and that you may complete the number, and that ^[c]you may exalt Allah for His having guided you and that you may be grateful. (2:185)

First of all, we are told that the Holy Quran was revealed in the month of Ramadan. From the books of hadith, we learn that the Holy Quran started being revealed in the month of Ramadan in the year 610AD. The first verses revealed were the first five verses of Sura 96 Al Alaq. Later on, after the migration, we learn that during the month of Ramadan, Hazrat Gibrail visited the Holy Prophet (saw) and made him recite the Holy Quran up to what had been revealed. That is why scholars have said that the Holy month of Ramadan is the month of the Holy Quran. It is widely read during the month both on the individual level and in tarawih in mosques. Allah says that the Holy Book is a guidance for mankind. So, to be properly guided, one has to follow the Holy Quran. Furthermore, it offers evidence for the guidance that it gives and it is the means by which we can know what is good and what is bad. Then, we are told that those who witness this month, meaning those who are alive in it, should fast and those who are sick or on a journey should fast afterwards. Allah then gives the reason why there is an exception for those who are on a journey or who are sick. They are given this permission because Allah does not want to overburden His Servants but He wishes to grant them ease and not difficulty. Then the verse says “**and that you may complete the number, and that ^[c]you may exalt Allah for His having guided you and that you may be grateful.**”

Although the Holy month of Ramadan is the month of patience, Allah expects us to complete the number of days of fasting and exalt Him for having guided us to Islam and also show gratefulness. We should do our best to fulfill all these objectives of the fast.

As Ahmadi Muslims, we are expected to deeply understand the Holy Quran. We will now read some hadiths which will give us some idea of the greatness of the Holy Quran so that we might be more motivated to read the Holy Book.

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “The superiority of the speech of Allah compared to all other speech is like the superiority of Allah over His creation.” Source: Tirmidhee no. 2926 - حسن [Hasan]

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “Indeed Allah, through this Book, raises some peoples and lowers others.” Source: Muslim no. 996 - صحيح [Sahih]

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “Whoever recites the Qur’ān secures knowledge of prophethood within his ribs [bosom], though Divine Revelation is not sent upon him. It does not befit one endowed with the Qur’ān that he should be indignant with those in anger, nor should he indulge in any act of ignorance with those who are ignorant, while the Speech of Allah is there in his chest.” Source: Hakim, Targhib wa Tarhib no. 2/301 - صحيح [Sahih]

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “You will not come back to Allah with anything better than that which came from Him, i.e. the Qur’ān.” Source: Mastadrik al-Hakim no. 2077 [Sahih - صحيح]

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “The most accurate and truthful speech is the Book of Allah [swt]” Source: Nisa’i no. 1578 - صحيح [Sa- hih] إنَّ أَصْدَقَ الْحَدِيثِ كِتَابُ اللَّهِ

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “It is imperative for you to have Taqwa [fear/consciousness of Allah] for this is the accumulation of all good. And upon you is Jihad in the path of Allah for it is the monasticism of the Muslims. [Finally]...upon you is the Remembrance of Allah and the recitation of His Book, for it is light for you on earth and [a means by which] you will be mentioned in the Heavens.

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “...Having doubt in the Qur’ān is [kufr] disbelief....” Source: Abu Dawud no. 4603 - حسن [Hasan]

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “Fasting and the Qur’ān will intercede for the slave on the Day of Judgement. Fasting will say, ‘O My Lord! I prevented him from food and desires, so accept my intercession for him.’ And the Qur’ān will say, ‘I prevented him from sleep during the night, so accept my intercession for him.’ ... thus they will intercede.” Source: Musnad Ahmad no. 6337 - صحيح [Sahih]

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “The Qur’ān is an intercessor and it’s intercession is accepted and its plea is believed. Whoever makes it lead him – it leads him to Paradise and whomsoever places it behind him [the result will be] he is dragged to the Fire.” Source: Ibn Hibban no. 124, - صحيح [Sahih]

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “Cleanliness is half of faith and Alhamdulillah [Praise be to Allah] fills the scale, and Subhan Allah [Glory be to Allah] and Alhamdulillah [Praise be to Allah] fill up what is between the heavens and the earth, and prayer is a light, and charity is proof [of one’s faith] and patience is a brightness and the Qur’ān is a proof on your behalf or against you. Source: Muslim no. 223 - صحيح [Sahih]

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) 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 [Hasan.]

The Prophet Muhammad (saw) 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. 1398 - صحيح [Sahih]

The Messenger of Allah (saw) said, “Whose Faith [Iman] amongst the various creations astounds you?” They [the Companions] said, “The Angels” He said, “The Angels - Why would they not 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 Book 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: Bazzar no. 3/318, Silsilah Ahadeeth as-Saheehah no. 3215 - صحيح [Sahih]

We will stop here for today and continue next time *incha* Allah. May our faith in Allah continue to improve throughout our life. Ameen.