

FRIDAY SERMON

5th April 2024

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Today is the last Jummah of the blessed month of Ramadan for this year. Some people wrongly believe that this Jummah has special characteristics attached to it. For example, they believe that by attending this particular Jummah, their sins will be forgiven. But nowhere in the literature can we find that this is true. It has the common characteristics of a Jummah except for the fact that doing virtuous deeds in Ramadan are rewarded more than in other months, hence the benefits associated with its attendance are more than one Jummah in other days.

Since we are five to six days from the end of Ramadan, we should make the best use of the time left to increase our devotions to Almighty Allah. Eid here in Mauritius will be either on Wednesday next or Thursday next. May Allah grant each one among us the opportunity and may we show through our behaviour that we have understood what Ramadan is all about and that we are among those who do their best to derive maximum benefits from it especially in its last days. Incha Allah.

I wish to share with you today some hadiths and some extracts from the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) about the Holy Quran. In Ruku 23 of chapter Al Baqarah, the following is said about fasting:

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ بُدًى لِلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ

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.

(2:186)

For us individuals, we develop a connection with the Holy Quran particularly in Ramadan although we are not supposed to abandon it in other days. In this way, we try to imitate the recitation that Hazrat Gibril came to make the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) do of all the verses he received during each of the months of Ramadan of his prophethood. As a follower of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw), we are expected to follow in his footsteps. Hence, we read the Holy Quran during Ramadan and we keep on reading and reflecting on it during the other days of the year. If we have not yet started doing this daily reading, we should start it now. Let me give you some hadiths that will help us to remember its importance.

1. 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 [Hasan]*
2. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “Every Prophet was given miracles because of which people believed, but what I have been given is Divine Inspiration which Allah has revealed to me. So, I hope that my followers will outnumber the followers of the other Prophets on the Day of Resurrection. “*Source: Bukhari no. 4981, Muslim no. - 152 [Sahih]*
3. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “Indeed Allah, through this Book, raises some peoples and lowers others.” *Source: Muslim no.– 996 [Sahih]*
4. 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 [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]

5. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “The most accurate and truthful speech is the Book of Allah [swt]” *Source:* Nisa’i no. - 1578 [Sahih]

6. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, Allah [swt] said, “I have sent you [O Prophet] in order to put you to test and put those to test through you. And I sent the Book to you which cannot be washed away by water, so that you may recite it while in the state of wakefulness and sleep. *Source:* Hadith Qudsi, Muslim no. 2865a - [Sahih]

7. 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.” *Source:* *Targhib wa-Tarhib* no. 4/24, Jami as-Sagheer no. 5495 [Sahih]

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

9. 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 - [Sahih]

10. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “The Qur’ān is an intercessor and its 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 [Sahih]

11. The Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, “The best of you are those who learn the Qur’ān and teach it.” *Source:* Bukhari no. 5027, Tirmidhee no. 2909 [Sahih]

12. 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 [Hasan]

These are not new hadiths. In the past also we have reminded ourselves of them and we are doing it again so that we might be aware of them and that we do our best to live them in our daily life. Hence, we should develop a love in our heart to read and understand the Holy Quran. May Allah help us to do so by His Grace.

Now we will read an extract from the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as). He said:

“It is only the Quran that is worthy of being recited because, in fact, this is the very meaning of the word *Quran*. [...] If we did not have the Quran, and if these collections of Hadith had been the crowning glory of our faith and belief, we would not even have been able to show our faces to other nations out of shame. I reflected on the word *Quran* and then it became evident to me that this blessed word in itself contains a magnificent prophecy. The prophecy is that this book alone is the *Quran*, i.e., a book that is worthy of being recited, and there will be a time when this will be the case even more so than before. In the era when other books will also be recited alongside the Quran, the Quran alone shall be worthy of being recited so that the honour of Islam may be saved and falsehood may be uprooted; other books will deserve to be forsaken completely. This is also the meaning of *Furqan* (distinction). In other words, this book alone shall stand to distinguish between truth and falsehood, and no other compilation of Hadith, or any other book for that matter, shall be equal in value or stature.” (*Malfuzat* [English], Vol. 3, 2019, pp. 9-10)

“Now forsake all other books and read the Book of Allah day and night. Truly devoid of faith is the one who does not turn to the Quran and who remains day and night engaged in studying other books. Our community ought to become absorbed with heart and soul in studying and reflecting on the Holy Quran and should not let themselves become overly preoccupied with studying the Hadith. It is most regrettable that the Holy Quran is not given the same attention or studied as Hadith. At this time, if you employ the weapon known as the Holy Quran, you shall be victorious. No darkness will be able to stand in the face of this light.”

“In short, it ought to be remembered that until an individual brings about a pure transformation and purifies the soul, one cannot gain an understanding of the insights and excellences of the Holy Quran. The points of wisdom and divine verities comprised in the Holy Quran are ones which quench the thirst of the soul. Alas! If only the world knew of that which brings pleasure to the soul, and then came to realise that what they require is comprised within the Holy Quran, and the Holy Quran alone.

Hearken! The greater a transformation one brings about in oneself, the more one is admitted into the class known as ‘saints.’ The divine verities of the Holy Quran are not unveiled until one enters the class of the saints. People have erred in understanding what the word ‘saints’ actually implies; they have understood it in a strange manner of their own. The fact of the matter is that saints are those people who inculcate within themselves a pure transformation and then, due to this transformation, their hearts are cleansed of the darkness and rust that covers it in the form of sin. Satan’s rule over them is eradicated and the throne of Allah Almighty then reigns over their hearts. Then, such people are strengthened by the Holy Spirit and receive the bounty of God Almighty.

I give you glad-tidings and proclaim that whosoever among you transforms himself from within is from among the saints. If a human being takes even one step towards God, the grace of Allah the Exalted races

towards him and supports him. It is true and I also inform you that an individual cannot attain the knowledge comprised within the Quran through cunning. Intellectual ability and mental progress on their own cannot attract the knowledge of the Quran. The actual means is righteousness. God is the teacher of a righteous person. This is why the Prophets are often uneducated in secular fields of study. This is why our Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was sent as an unlettered man. Despite the fact that he was not educated in any school nor taught by any teacher, he still presented insights and verities that have stunned and astonished experts in the worldly sciences. A holy and perfect book like the Holy Quran was made to flow from his lips, which silenced the whole of Arabia through its literary eloquence and articulacy. What was the underlying quality in the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, such that he outstripped all others in knowledge? It was righteousness. What could be greater proof of the pure life of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, than the fact that he brought a book like the Holy Quran, which has astounded the world with the knowledge that it contains. The fact that the Holy Prophet (saw) was unlettered is an example and an argument to show that righteousness is required for the acquisition of Quranic and heavenly knowledge, rather than worldly guile.”

May Allah grant us understanding and may we all submit ourselves thoroughly to Him under all circumstances. Ameen.