

FRIDAY SERMON

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Alhamdolillah, by the end of today's evening almost one quarter of the month of Ramadan would have gone. I hope and pray that everyone among us is doing his/her best to make the most of it. If we are fasting, we keep asking Allah for the necessary capacity to keep fasting till the end of the month despite the odds that we may face. If we cannot fast due to some circumstances, we continue to ask Allah to help us to fast in future depending on the causes of not fasting. If we are not fasting because we are very sick and we feel that we will not be able to replace these fasts we should do a lot of *Istighfar* and do our best to give *fidya* to expiate for these non-observed fasts. Allah is very lenient to a mankind but we should never think that we can cheat in these matters because Allah knows everything and no one can deceive Him. He or she who thinks that one can deceive Allah will end up deceiving oneself. Anyhow we still have about twenty days of fast in front of us and we should renew our efforts to try to do better in all the days and nights to come. May Allah enable each one among us to do so. Ameen.

Today we will be talking about verse 186 of Sura Al Baqara where Allah says:

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ ۚ فَمَنْ شَهِدَ مِنْكُمُ الشَّهْرَ فَلْيَصُمْهُ ۖ
وَمَنْ كَانَ مَرِيضًا أَوْ عَلَىٰ سَفَرٍ فَعِدَّةٌ مِّنْ أَيَّامٍ أُخَرَ ۗ يُرِيدُ اللَّهُ بِكُمُ الْيُسْرَ وَلَا يُرِيدُ بِكُمُ الْعُسْرَ ۖ وَلِتُكْمِلُوا
الْعِدَّةَ وَلِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا هَدَيْكُم وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾

Translation

“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)

Each year very regularly we read this verse and several times we have commented upon then in past Ramadan. Here I would like to speak more about reading and understanding the Holy Quran during this month particularly and as a routine in the other months of the year. Let us remind ourselves about some hadiths about how important the Holy Quran should be for each one among us.

The Hadiths are as follows:

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: Tirmidhî no. 2926.

Allah’s creation is so vast that up till now man has not been able to make a true assessment of what it is despite all the progress that has been witnessed in human history. So, if we take a few minutes to just think about these few words of this hadith we can only marvel at what these words are saying. Hence, we should do our best to try to learn Arabic and make an effort to read and understand this great message that was given to the Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw), namely the Quranic text.

In another hadith the Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw)said:

“Every Prophet was given miracles because of which people believed, but what I have been given is Divine Inspiration (*Wahy*) 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.” (Bokhari & Muslim)

So just imagine how powerful the words of the Holy Quran are and what effects it had on the heart of some of his opponents when they heard it. You might recall how Hazrat Umar(ra) had a change of heart when he heard the first eight verses of sura Taha which is as follows:

2. Tā Hā .†

3. We have not sent down the Qur'ān to thee that thou shouldst be distressed,

4. But as an exhortation for him who fears *God*,

5. *And* a revelation from Him Who created the earth and the high heavens.

6. *He is* the Gracious *God Who* has settled Himself on the Throne.

7. To Him belongs whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth, and whatsoever is between them, and whatsoever is beneath the moist subsoil.

8. And if thou speakest aloud, *it makes no difference*, for He knows the secret *thought* and *what is yet* more hidden.

9. Allāh—there is no God but He. His are the most beautiful names.

طه ٢

مَا أَنزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْقُرْآنَ

لِتَشْقَى ٣

إِلَّا تَذَكُّرَةً لِّمَن يَخْشَى ٤

تَنزِيلًا مِّمَّنْ خَلَقَ الْأَرْضَ وَالسَّمُوتِ

الْعُلَى ٥

الرَّحْمَنُ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ اسْتَوَى ٦

لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمُوتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا

بَيْنَهُمَا وَمَا تَحْتَ الثَّرَى ٧

وَأَن تَجْهَرُ بِالْقَوْلِ فَإِنَّهُ يَعْلَمُ

السِّرَّ وَأَخْفَى ٨

اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ

الْحُسْنَى ٩

In the early days of Islam Hazrat Umar (Ra) was a bitter enemy of the Muslims. After sometime he decided to go to kill the Holy Prophet(saw). Some one talked to him on the way and told him that his sister and cousin have already joined the Muslims. He was furious and he went to their place. In the meeting he started fighting the cousin and when his sister intervened, he slapped her and he wounded her and blood started coming out on her face. He asked for the fragments that they were reading. When he read the above verses, he is reported to have said “is it this what we are opposing- the One who sent these words should be worshipped”. Then he went out to where the Holy Prophet(saw) was and accepted Islam. He was the 40th Muslim of the early days. This is a very interesting story but I have shortened it to make the point that the words of the Holy Quran should be read and pondered upon. The fact that we are born Muslims should make us people are ever ready to lead their life in conformity with the Quranic teachings.

In the next hadith we read:

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

Arab history is witness to the fact that those who were honourable were humiliated when they opposed the Quranic message and those who were considered unimportant became the leaders not only of Arabia but a lot more.

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.

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. 207 - [Sahih]

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

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

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]

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]

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 [Sahih]

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]

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]

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 receive an immeasurable amount of reward." *Source:* Abu Dawud no. [Sahih]

In the end we will read an extract from Hazrat Masih Maood(as) about the importance of the Holy Quran in his life. He said:

"I call Allah to witness that the Holy Qur'an is a **rare pearl**. Its outside is light and its inside is light and its above is light and its below is light and there is light in every word of it. It is a spiritual garden whose clustered fruits are within easy reach and through which streams flow. Every fruit of good fortune is found in it and every torch is lit from it. Its light has penetrated to my heart and I could not have acquired it by any other means. And Allah is my Witness that if there had been no Qur'an, I would have found no delight in life. I find that its beauty exceeds that of a hundred thousand Josephs. I incline towards it with a great inclination and drink it into my heart. It has nurtured me as an embryo is nurtured and it has a wonderful effect on my heart. My self is lost in its beauty. It has been disclosed to me in a vision that the garden of holiness is irrigated by the water of the Qur'an, which is a surging ocean of the water of life. He who drinks from it, comes to life; indeed, he brings others to life. [A'ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 5, pp. 545-546]

May Allah help each one among us to value these precious advices and may we live a life that Allah is pleased with us now and forever. Ameen