

FRIDAY SERMON

27 February 2026

prepared by Imam Zafrullah Domun

This is the second week of the blessed month of Ramadan. I hope and pray that all our members on whom fasting is obligatory (*farz*) are doing his/her best to fast in the best possible way by Allah's Grace. Last week we spoke about the main objective of fasting which is to inculcate in a us what we commonly call "*taqwa*" which is translated as "Godfearingness" or "Godconsciousness" at every step of our life.

In the second verse that we read last week Allah speaks about those who should not fast if they are on a journey or are sick or who are unable to fast because of severe weakness in the body. Those who are on a journey or are sick during Ramadan should fast when they have returned home after their journey and when they recovered their health after sickness. Whereas those who find fasting too difficult should make an expiation which means giving food to a poor person for the duration of the fasting days. Regarding this matter of expiation Hazrat Masih Maood(as) said:

"Once I thought about why Fidyah is obligatory. It is for capability. One gives Fidyah so he becomes capable. This can only happen with God's grace. If Allah wishes He can grant a weakling the strength to fast. One should pray fervently that **"O Lord, this is your blessed Month and I feel deprived because I cannot fast. I don't know whether I would be capable to fast next year or not, whether I would be alive or not."** If somebody prays with such sincerity, Allah will bless such a heart with strength."

This is a piece of advice worth remembering and not giving up easily and sitting idly. Furthermore, even if we are not fasting, we can still engage ourselves with many other devotions like doing *nawafil* prayers, reading and studying the Holy Quran and remembrance of Allah and asking for forgiveness (*istighfaar*) giving charity and offering to help others, to name but a few. An active Muslim never gives up. He should never be despondent. He should trust Allah. He does what is within his ability and leaves the rest in Allah's hands, so to say. Allah will come to his/her rescue sooner or later.

Another point worth mentioning in that second verse of Ruku 23 of Albaqara is that Allah says: وَأَنْ تَصُومُوا خَيْرٌ لَّكُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ

Which we translate as "And fasting is good for you if only you knew".

To many people fasting might be difficult. But Allah tells us there are many benefits in it if only we knew about those benefits. Research made by modern scientists have shown that

fasting can also help in the elimination of some diseases as well especially those that we get because of what we eat. This is a great additional benefit indeed.

The next verse in this ruku is as follows:

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 هَدَىٰكُمْ وَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُونَ

“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. (Ch2:186).

In fact, the revelation of the Holy Quran started in the month of Ramadan while the Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw) was in retreat in the cave of Hira. We read about this event in the hadith book of Muslim as follows:

“A’isha, the wife of the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), reported:

The first (form) with which was started the revelation to the Messenger of Allah was the true vision in sleep. And he did not see any vision but it came like the bright gleam of dawn. Thenceforth solitude became dear to him and he used to seclude himself in the cave of Hira', where he would engage in *tahannuth* (and that is a worship for a number of nights) before returning to his family and getting provisions again for this purpose. He would then return to Khadija and take provisions for a like period, till Truth came upon him while he was in the cave of Hira'.

There came to him the angel and said: Recite, to which he replied: I am not lettered. He took hold of me [the Apostle said] and pressed me, till I was hard pressed; thereafter he let me off and said: Recite. I said: I am not lettered. He then again took hold of me and pressed me for the second time till I was hard pressed and then let me off and said: Recite, to which I replied: I am not lettered. He took hold of me and pressed me for the third time, till I was hard pressed and then let me go and said:

" اِقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ * خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ * اِقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ * الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ * عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ "

“Recite in the name of your Lord Who created, created man from a clot of blood. Recite. And your most bountiful Lord is He Who taught the use of pen, taught man what he knew not (al-Qur'an, 95. 1-4).

Then the Prophet returned therewith, his heart was trembling, and he went to Khadija and said: Wrap me up, wrap me up! So, they wrapped him till the fear had left him. He then said to Khadija: O Khadija! what has happened to me? and he informed her of the happening, saying: I fear for myself. She replied: It can't be. Be happy. I swear by Allah that He shall never humiliate you. By Allah, you join ties of relationship, you speak the truth, you bear

people's burden, you help the destitute, you entertain guests, and you help against the vicissitudes which affect people. Khadija then took him to Waraqa b. Naufal b. Asad b. 'Abd al-'Uzza, and he was the son of Khadija's uncle, i. e., the brother of her father. And he was the man who had embraced Christianity in the Days of Ignorance (i. e. before Islam) and he used to write books in Arabic and, therefore, wrote *Injil* in Arabic as God willed that he should write. He was very old and had become blind. Khadija said to him: O uncle! listen to the son of your brother. Waraqa b. Naufal said: O my nephew! what did you see? The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ), then, informed him what he had seen, and Waraqa said to him: It is *namus* that God sent down to Musa. Would that I were then (during your prophetic career) a young man. Would that I might be alive when your people would expel you! The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: Will they drive me out? Waraqa said: Yes. Never came a man with a like of what you have brought but met hostilities. If I see your day, I shall help you wholeheartedly” (Hadith 160a)

This was the 610 CE. During the next 23 years the whole of the Holy Quran as we know it today was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw). This was the beginning of a revolution in world history. The consequences of the impact of that Holy Book was felt then and is still being felt today. So, when Ramadan, month of great blessings comes we remember that early beginning when four verses only were revealed. Furthermore, since that time Hazrat Gibril would visit the holy Prophet(saw) every year in the month of Ramadan and make him recite the portion of the Holy Quran that had been revealed up till then. That is why even today during the Holy Month of Ramadan people are very keen to listen to Qaris reading the Holy Quran recital every night till the whole book is read till the end. Furthermore, there are many Muslims who make it a duty to read only the Holy Quran during the month of Ramadan. I have read one of the caliphs has said in one of his Friday sermons that the scholars who had written books of Hadith closed their books and read only the Holy Quran during the month of Ramadan. That was how they understood the importance of reading the Holy Quran in the month of Ramadan.

Now Allah has shown us His Mercy again and we are witnessing another blessed month of Ramadan. Besides other actions we should make it our habit to read the Holy Quran every day. There are some people in the world who make three or more recital during the month. If each one among us reads at least once it will be a good deed indeed for each one among us. Now I will read a few extracts from the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) showing how the Holy Quran is important for us.

Expressing his profound love for the Holy Book he said:

دل میں یہی ہے ہر دم تیرا صحیفہ پڑھوں
قرآن کے گرد گھوموں کعبہ مرا یہی ہے

“My heart yearns every moment to kiss Thy Book;

And to perform circuits around the Qur'an, for this is my Ka'ba.”

He said:

قرآن جواہرات کی تھیلی ہے اور لوگ اس سے بے خبر ہیں

*“The Holy Qur’an is a casket of jewels,
but people are sadly unaware of it”*

He said:

“We are a witness and testify before the whole world that we have found in the Holy **Qur’an** the reality that leads to God. We have heard the voice of God and have witnessed the signs of the mighty arm of Him Who has revealed the Qur’an. We believe that He is the True God and is the Master of the worlds. Our heart is filled with this certainty as the ocean is filled with water. We, therefore, invite everyone to this faith and to this light on the basis of enlightened perception. We have found the **true light** which dispels all darkness and which really renders the heart cold to all that is beside God. This is the only way by following which a person emerges from the grip of passion and the darkness of the ego as a snake slough off its skin. [Kitab-ul-Bariyyah, Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 13, p. 65]

Hazrat Masih *Ma’ood* (as) was a knower of Allah (*arif billah*). We are in his jamaat so that we might become a knower of Allah. So, we all have to do what is expected of us so that we really become true *Arif billah*. May Allah help us to throw away our laziness and help us to understand what Hazrat Masih Maood(as) has said and may we all partake of the deep wisdom of the Holy Quran in this Holy Month of Ramadan and in all the rest of the days that we have to live. Incha Allah. *Ameen!*