

2. Ramadan - The Month of al-Quran and Charity

قال الله تعالى

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ (١)

Allah swt says in Surah al-Qadr (97:1): "Verily! We have sent it (this Quran) down in the night of Al-Qadr (Decree)."

Brothers in Islam: Ramadan is the month of The Quran; a Book whose light will never fade and which is a path that never leads one astray. The Glorious Quran is to man as the soul is to the body; it is a light for guidance. Whoever does not read the Quran or put its injunctions into practice is dead, despite the fact that they may speak and can move. Whoever does not put it into practice has gone far astray even if they are apparently successful in all areas of life.

Allah swt says in Surah al-Anam (6:122): "Is he who was dead (without Faith by ignorance and disbelief) and We gave him life (by knowledge and Faith) and set for him a light (of Belief) whereby he can walk amongst men, like him who is in the darkness (of disbelief, polytheism and hypocrisy) from which he can never come out? Thus it is made fair-seeming to the disbelievers that which they used to do".

A human being without the guidance of the Quran is like any living being without air or water; all their endeavours will end up in bankruptcy.

Allah swt says in Surah Fusilat (41:44): "And if We had sent this as a Quran in a foreign language other than Arabic, they would have said: "Why are not its Verses explained in detail (in our language)? What! (A Book) not in Arabic and (the Messenger) an Arab?" Say: "It

is for those who believe, a guide and a healing. And as for those who disbelieve, there is heaviness (deafness) in their ears, and it (the Quran) is blindness for them. They are those who are called from a place far away (so they neither listen nor understand)..”

أيها المؤمنون: There is no doubt that the relationship of many Muslims with the Quran is one of abandonment of either its recitation or implementation of its injunctions. It is no exaggeration to say that the diseases of past nations have affected the Muslims, while they are unaware of this.

Allah swt says in Surah al-Baqarah (2:78):“ And there are among them unlettered people, who know not the Book, but they trust upon false desires and they but guess..”

The scholars of Tafseer say about this ayah: ‘It means: they know nothing about The Book except for its recitation, for it never passed their lungs and throats. This is because of the fact that there was a spiritual absence in their recitation and therefore, they were unable to ponder over its meanings’.

Among the causes of the absence of reflection on the meanings of the Quran is the failure to explore and understand the laws of Allah in relation to human-beings and natural phenomena. Also to blame is the sanctification of erroneous concepts and wrong interpretations of life that have become widespread among people and which are caused by unrestrained love for this world and the hatred of death.

Ziyad Ibn Labid Al-Ansari (ra) narrated that the Messenger of Allah (sas) mentioned something and then said: ‘...and that is when there will be no more knowledge.’ We said, ‘O Messenger of Allah! How will the knowledge disappear while we have the Quran with us and we teach it to our children and they will also teach it to theirs?’ The

Prophet (sas) retorted: ‘I thought you were one of the most knowledgeable of the people of Madinah! Are there not people of the book who have their scriptures with them and yet they take no benefit from what is inside their Books?’ (At-Tirmidhi)

One is stricken with grief and shock when we see the stance that many Muslims have adopted with regard to the Book of their Lord. They have been covered by darkness and wander aimlessly; the foreign systems and ideologies that they have embraced have done nothing for them. How can it be that we have the light and yet follow the paths of other nations?

The Messenger of Allah (sas) lived for sixty-three years; we are used to believing that old age and the change of circumstances of life cause hair to turn grey. What then will you think of a man who attributed grey hair to some ayaat of the glorious Quran that he used to recite? Abu Baker (ra) asked the Messenger of Allah (sas) about what caused some of his beard to become grey, he (sas) replied: ‘It was caused by Surah Hood, Al-Waqi’ah, An-Naba’ and Surah At-Takwir.’ (At-Tirmidhi)

Brothers in Islam: The blessed month of Ramadan should be regarded as a wonderful opportunity for every Muslim to save himself from destruction and to purify their soul in preparation for the Qur’anic guidance that is inherent in night prayer.

Allah swt says in Surah al-Muzzammil (73:6):“ Verily, the rising by night (for Tahajjud prayer) is very hard and most potent and good for governing (the soul), and most suitable for (understanding) the Word (of Allah).

The blessed month of Ramadan is a great opportunity for the Muslims to wake up for night prayers, seek refuge with Allah and

turn to Him for their needs, for none has the power to answer their call except Allah. The Lord descends to the nearest heaven, in a way that befits his majesty, in the last third of the night and asks: “Is there anyone who seeks My forgiveness so that I can forgive him?”

Imam Tirmidhi reported that the Prophet of Allah (sas) said: ‘There are three persons whose supplications will never be rejected: The just leader, the fasting person when he breaks his fast and the oppressed; when he supplicates and whose supplication is raised above the clouds and the gates of heaven are opened for it and Allah will say, “By My Glory! I shall assist you even if it is after a while.”’

أيها المؤمنون: There are however, some people who raise their hands in prayer and are impatient for a rapid answer; they may even feel despair if their supplications are not speedily answered. The Messenger of Allah (sas) said: “Allah will answer the supplication of any one of you as long as he is not hasty and says: ‘I called my Lord and He did not answer.’”

The delay may also be caused by sins such as the failure to uphold the rights of kinship, or perhaps it may be due to the fact that the prayer emanated only from the tongue and was not rooted in the heart. The Prophet (sas) said: ‘Allah does not accept the supplications from an inattentive heart.’ The heart is not free from turning to the desires of this life and we all know that one who always looks back does not reach his goal in time.

Therefore, to make plentiful supplications to Allah, for supplication is the essence of worship, let nobody slight their requirements however great or small they may be.

Allah swt says in Surah Ghafir (40:60): “ And your Lord said: "Invoke Me and I will respond to your (invocation). Verily! Those who scorn My worship they will surely enter Hell in humiliation!".

Brothers in Islam: The month of Ramadan is a month of generosity and spending in ways that are virtuous. Let every Muslim take part in the generosity of this month and not hesitate to wipe the tears off the faces of orphans, widows and the destitute.

Let everyone keep away from stinginess and greed, for these are two of the bad qualities from which the Messenger of Allah (sas) sought refuge with his Lord. The Prophet (sas) was the most generous of mankind and his generosity multiplied during the month of Ramadan. He would never say ‘no’ when he was asked of anything.

Observe the condition of people today in light of the current trials, tribulations and calamities that are occurring all over the world. We will see that the Muslims are in dire need of a generous help that brings with it relief and progress.

These brothers and sisters are desperately in need of our help with whom they hope to recover from the harsh calamities and weakening incidents. Helping and fulfilling their need in this great month of tranquillity and spiritual development is the need of the hour. It is the month of self-examination, conscience reawakening and freedom from selfishness and lustful desires.

Further, the benefits of charity are not restricted to the beneficiary; the donor also has a share. An example of this is when a generous person gives in charity, their heart becomes gladdened and they become pleased with that. Therefore, this person will be encouraged to give more and gain extra rewards. As for the miser, whenever he thinks of giving in charity his heart feels constrained; he feels as if he

is giving away a chunk of his life, this in turn leads to his whole life feeling constrained. However, nothing destroys the tricks and suggestions of Shaitan more than giving sincerely in charity.

In Conclusion: My dear brothers take the advantage of this blessed month - read, understand, implement and teach The Qur'an to yourself, your family members and others. Please also give your Zakat to purify your wealth and sadaqas as much as you can to please Allah swt. Then, make Dua 'O Allah, please forgive our sins, ignore our shortcomings, accept of Zakat and sadaqas and our efforts to learn, understand and implement The Qur'an into our lives, please show your Mercy, ease our account on the day of Judgement and enter us into Your Paradise, Ameen