

Assalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu, my dear brothers and sisters in Islam. How would you feel and what would you do if a ^{guest} came to visit you. A guest which you have been patiently waiting for since last year, a guest which will stay with you for a whole month. Many of us would get prepared for this guest by cleaning up our houses, buying and cooking the things they like to eat, designating him a place to sleep, wearing our best garments in front of them, sacrificing our time and money to please the guest. ~~This practice is a polite way of making the guest feel the most welcomed next time he or she comes back.~~ Imagine, for a whole year you have been expecting an honorable guest to come to your place, and then finally he arrives. When the guest arrives you find him to be generous, kind, full of forgiveness and pardon, this guests companionship makes you feel good and increases you in faith and good deeds. This guest reminds you of your Lord and His verses which guide you to that which is correct and warns you of that which is evil. No doubt, this guest is a guest which all the Muslims love and would be more than welcome in hosting. So for for twenty-nine or thirty days, you have developed an emotional relationship with this guest than you started becoming worried and anxious over the day when he leaves. Eventually, the time comes and the day of his departure is here, and your beloved and blissful guest, is leaving and leaving soon. This wonderful guest is so polite that he does not come back very often, so that you always desire his return later. Now that you realize his departure, you do not know if you will ever see him again. He might not come next year, or you may not be there when he comes back. These anxious thoughts of fear and hope provoke your heart to cry and your eyes to shed tears. How would we feel about this guest, my brothers and sisters, and how would you treat this guest?

No doubt we would all honor this guest and give this guest top priority in our lives and use this opportunity wisely and be on our best behavior. What if this guest was bringing you the most precious of gifts?

O brothers and sisters this blessed guest is the month of Ramadan, and the blessed gift it came with is the Quran. The month in which Allah has revealed the Quran which is full of guidance ~~it is the 'furqan' the criterion to distinguish between right and wrong,~~ as Allah says in the Quran:

(The month of Ramadan in which was revealed the Quran, a guidance for mankind and clear proofs for the guidance and the distinguishing between right and wrong. So whoever of you sights the month of Ramadan he must observe fasting that month....) al Baqarah 2:185

Allah The Most Merciful created His creation and provided for them guidance contained in His Quran ~~and made the Quran that which distinguishes between truth and falsehood.~~ And this is from the greatest blessings and favors which Allah has bestowed upon His Prophet Muhammad as well as all of the creation. So what type of guidance does this Quran contain? Allah says:

(Verily, this Quran guides to that which is the best (most just/correct) and gives glad tidings to the believers who work good deeds of righteousness, that they shall have a great reward) Al Israa'a:9)

Sheikh Muhammad al Ameen ash Shanqiti said: Verily this noble and great Quran which is the best of the holy books/divine revelations being the most comprehensive regarding every aspect of knowledge. The Quran is the last revelation which Allah has revealed to mankind. This Quran guides to that which is the most correct, most appropriate and just. This verse generalizes and mentions collectively everything which the Quran contains of guidance leading to the most just, most appropriate and the best of ways in all aspects of life, unconditionally. If we were to follow the other verses which explain this verse which clarify the specific ways in which the Quran guides to all good, we would find that it is the Quran as a whole which does this. This is because the Quran is comprehensive and all encompassing as to what is contains of guidance to good, in this world and in the hereafter." (Adwaa al Bayaan 3/303-304, Dar Kutub al Ilmiyyah)

And Allah says about the Quran:

ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

"This is the Book (Quran) whereof there is no doubt, a guidance to those who are pious and fear Allah.(Baqarah :2)

Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مَوْعِظَةٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ وَشِفَاءٌ لِّمَا فِي الصُّدُورِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ

"O Mankind! There has come to you a good advice from your Lord (The Quran, enjoining all good and forbidding all evil) and a healing for ~~diseases of ignorance, doubts, hypocrisy, and differing,~~ which is in the chests- a guidance and a mercy for the believers. (Yunus: 57)

Allah says:

وَمَا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ إِلَّا لِتُبَيِّنَ لَهُمُ الَّذِي اخْتَلَفُوا فِيهِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً لِقَوْمٍ يُؤْمِنُونَ

“And we didn’t send down the Book (Quran) to you (Muhammad) except for the reason that you may clarify to the people the things in which they differ, and as a guidance and mercy for those who believe.”(An Nahl: 64)

And Allah says:

وَيَوْمَ نَبْعَثُ فِي كُلِّ أُمَّةٍ شَهِيدًا عَلَيْهِمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ وَجِئْنَا بِكَ شَهِيدًا عَلَى هَؤُلَاءِ وَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تِبْيَانًا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً وَبُشْرَى لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ

“And (remember) the day when We shall raise up from every nation a witness against them from amongst themselves. And we shall bring (Muhammad) as a witness against these. And We have sent down to you the Book (Quran) as an exposition of everything, a guidance, a mercy, and glad tidings for those who have submitted themselves (to Allah as Muslims)”(An Nahl: 89)

~~Allah says:~~

~~قُلْ نَزَّلَهُ رُوحُ الْقُدُسِ مِنْ رَبِّكَ بِالْحَقِّ لِيُثَبِّتَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَهُدًى وَبُشْرَى لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ~~

~~“Say (Muhammad), the Angel Gabriel has brought the Quran down from your Lord with truth, that it may make firm and strengthen those who believe, and as a guidance and glad tidings to those who have submitted (to Allah as Muslims)”(An Nahl: 102)~~

~~And Allah says:~~

~~طس تلك آيات القرآن وكتاب مبين (1) هدى وبشرى للمؤمنين~~

~~“Ta-Sin, These are the Verses of the Quran and a Book that makes things clear. A guide to the right path and glad tidings for the believers (in Islamic Monotheism)”(An Naml: 1-2)~~

~~And Allah says:~~

~~تلك آيات الكتاب الحكيم (2) هدى ورحمة للمتقين~~

~~“These are the verses of the Wise Book (Quran). A guide and a mercy for the good doers.” (Luqman 2-3)~~

Allah described those who follow the Quran and what they will be rewarded with:
the guidance of the Quran

Allah says:

أُولَئِكَ عَلَى هُدًى مِنْ رَبِّهِمْ وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

“They are on true guidance from their Lord and they are the successful ones.”(Baqarah :5)

So what is the result of denying or concealing this guidance:

Allah says:

إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يَكْتُمُونَ مَا أَنْزَلْنَا مِنَ الْبَيِّنَاتِ وَالْهُدَى مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا بَيَّنَّاهُ لِلنَّاسِ فِي الْكِتَابِ أُولَئِكَ يَلْعَنُهُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَلْعَنُهُمُ اللَّاعِنُونَ

“Verily those who conceal the clear proofs, evidences and the guidance, which We have sent down, after We have made it clear for the people in the Book, they are the cursed by Allah and cursed by the ones who curse others.”(Baqarah: 159)

~~Allah says:~~

~~أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ أَمْ عَلَى قُلُوبِ أَقْفَالٍ (24) إِنَّ الَّذِينَ ارْتَدَوْا عَلَى أَعْقَابِهِمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الْهُدَى الشَّيْطَانُ سَوَّاهُمْ وَأَقْبَلَهُمْ~~

~~“Don’t they ponder and think deeply regarding the Quran or are their hearts sealed and locked from understanding it? Verily, those who have apostated and become disbelievers after guidance was made clear to them—the Shaitan (Satan) has adorned for them their false hopes and Allah prolonged their lifespan.”(Muhammad 24-25)~~

O brothers and sisters realize and be reminded of the guidance which this noble Quran contains. This is from two aspects:

1. The dire need of Non-Muslims to realize, recognize and know the guidance contained in the Quran. Mankind in general and especially the Non-Muslims are confused, wavering and uncertain in their lives. Everyone, collectively and individually with their own religion, sect, method, system, ideology . While the majority of these ways and systems are based upon altered religious beliefs, personal desires and opinions, ideas, imaginings, and false hypotheses. Much of ~~mankind~~ do not even have a religion or set of beliefs or principles to live by. They have no

the non muslims

treaty or guidance to guide them to what is correct, better and more appropriate regarding their lives. The majority of mankind have been overwhelmed influenced by Atheism, stubbornness, arrogance, desires and misled by doubts and speculations. Not to mention the influence of the twentieth century upon their intellects which teaches them that Religion is something 'old fashioned, defective, retarded, backwards, falling behind, lacking that which the modern day life call for, ~~something which has~~, etc...' Furthermore, claiming that religion plays no role in the social behavior of the community, country or state. They consider religion to be something which is separate from the political and state affairs and has no place in these matters. This is what they claim.

We would like to remind them that there doesn't remain any divine book/revelation upon the face of the earth which is one hundred percent authentic, correct and free from alterations which exemplifies the correct religion except the Quran. For this reason all of mankind are in dire need of knowing the guidance which is contained within the Quran. That which it contains of its all encompassing topics and subjects which provide the best of guidance for all of mankind in every aspect of their lives. The Quran contains everything which can solve the universal problems of mankind (social, psychological, political, economical) and provide practical solutions for them. The Quran also contains solutions for the many complex moral and ethical problems which have affected many of the Non-Muslims and their nations. So the Quran is that which can guide all of mankind and rescue them from their misguidance and teach them how to live their lives in the best of ways in this world until they die and are resurrected. By doing this we hope that many will be guided to Islam and at the same time the proofs and evidences will be established upon mankind.

second aspect

- 2. The dire need of the Muslims to understand and be reminded of the guidance contained in the Quran which is the main source of their religion. Verily many of the Muslims have been affected and influenced by the adornments of the worldly material life especially now in the 20th century. Many of the Muslims have also been affected and influenced by western laws, ideas, methodologies, traditions, customs and unfortunately morals and ethics. Looking at the west and taking them as an example for guidance in worldly, political, economical, social, psychological, family and sometimes religious affairs. For this reason we want to remind the Muslims that they are first and foremost in regards to understanding the all encompassing guidance contained in the Quran which guides us in all affairs and aspects of life. When the Muslims know, realize, understand and are reminded of this we are hoping that this will encourage them to implement and practice the Quran and the guidance contained within it. After implementing it they can present it to the people as something they have knowledge and experience about; exerting themselves and doing everything in their power to make the people aware of the universal guidance contained in the Quran. Sacrificing everything they love to make this guidance known to mankind because it is the one and only truth upon the face of the earth which will suffice and satisfy them from looking at, being influenced or affected by the Non-Muslims, Far Eastern and Western principles, laws, customs and systems. As a result the Muslims will rescue themselves and the whole world from all the problems which affect them today with the pure divine guidance in the Quran.

Ramadan

So this beloved guest, the best of the months throughout the year has come, with the best of gifts, the Quran which contains guidance for all of mankind - ~~and remember Ramadan is also the month of victory~~ ^{is required, so let us give up to the guidance} So are we going to be guided by this Quran, and forgiven by Allah in this blessed month of Ramadan, are we going to be victorious as the earlier generation Muslims were. Believe me the earlier generations were only successful because of their recitation and adherence to the Quran and the implementation of its guidance in all aspects of their lives.

-----second khutbah

Many of us may know that Ramadan is a month of blessing, a month of reward and a month of fasting. However, many of us may not know that Ramadan was a month of victory in which Allah (swt) blessed the Ummah with ~~conquests on the battlefield~~ ^{many things.}

muslims

Looking back at the Ummah's history is a way to remember, reflect upon and learn from past examples, so that lessons can be drawn for the future. It is a reminder of the key events which took place in the blessed month of Ramadan, during the life of the Prophet (saw) and in the generations that followed.

The most significant event that took place during Ramadan was the beginning of the revelation of the Quran. Prophet Muhammad (saw) was in the cave of Mount Hira when the Angel Jibrael (as) came to him with the first five ayat of Surat Al-Alaq. Allah (swt) revealed:

“Read! In the Name of your Lord, Who has created (all that exists), He has created man from a clot. Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous, Who has taught (the writing) by the pen. He has taught man that which he knew not.”

~~The Quran was revealed in Lailat al-Qadr (Night of Power), a night in which Allah (swt) rewards any Muslim, who spends it in prayer and total devotion to Him (swt), with forgiveness for all his past sins.~~

~~“Verily! We have sent it down in the night of Al-Qadr. And how would you know what the night of Al-Qadr is. The night of Al-Qadr is better than a thousand months.”~~

~~[TMQ 97: 1-3]~~

It was from this very first day that the Prophet (saw) realized that this scripture was not a light message for the people. He understood that this guidance was not confined to Arabia or to any particular part of the world. Rather, he realized that the message of Islam and the Quran had come to dominate over all other religions and books and systems of life. As Allah (swt) said in Quran:

Religion

“It is He who sent His Messenger with guidance and the Deen of truth, to make it superior over all deens (ways of life) even though the Mushrikeen (polytheists) hate it.”

~~And we all remember in this blessed month how the prophet struggled against the tyrants of Makkah, attacking their false gods and systems until he managed to establish an authority in Madinah. There he implemented Allah's systems on this earth, and the land came to be known as Dar Al-Hijrah. After this establishment, the Prophet (saw) and the Muslims were no longer in a position of weakness. Rather they were transferred to a position of authority and strength. All of this by Allah's will and the guidance of the Quran and implementation of it.~~

During the blessed month of Ramadan, in the second year after the Hijrah, on the morning of Friday the 17th, the Prophet (saw) led the famous Battle of Badr in which the Muslims were outnumbered 3 to 1. Just over 300 believers defeated an army of over 900 disbelievers. By Allah (swt)'s leave the Quraysh were humiliated and the Muslims were victorious.

In Ramadan, the Prophet (saw) left Madinah with three hundred and five of his companions mounted on seventy camels.

They rode the camels in turn, heading towards a caravan led by Abu Sufyan, who was at the time a leader of the disbelieving Quraysh. Quraysh came out to protect their caravan, so the Prophet (saw) consulted the Muslims on what to do. Abu Bakr and Umar (ra) voiced their support and then al-Miqdad ibn 'Amr (ra) arose and said, “O Messenger of Allah! Go where Allah tells you, for we are with you. We shall not say as the children of Israel said to Moses ‘You and your Lord go and fight and we will stay at home’, but you and your Lord go and fight and we will fight with you.”, then shortly after Sa'ad ibn Mu'adh said, “We believe in you, we declare your truth, and we witness that what you have brought us is the truth, and we have given you our word and agreement to hear and obey; so go where you wish, we are with you; and by He who sent you, if you were to ask us to cross this sea and you plunged into it, we would plunge into it with you; not a man would stay behind. We do not dislike the idea of meeting our enemy tomorrow. We are experienced in war, trustworthy in combat. It may well be that Allah will let us show you something which will bring you joy, so take us along with Allah's blessing.” The Messenger of Allah (saw) was delighted with Sa'ad's words and said, “Forward in good heart, for Allah had promised me one of the two parties, and by Allah, it is as though I now saw the enemy lying prostrate.”

So The two armies then advanced and drew closer to each other on Friday morning on the 17th of Ramadan. The Messenger of Allah (saw) straightened the ranks. The fighting broke out fiercely and the Muslims became stronger, as they chanted “Ahad! Ahad!” (The One!, The One!). Then he ordered his companions to charge and they duly obliged until the battle was over, and the foe was routed. The Muslims emerged victorious despite being outnumbered three to one. The disbelievers of Quraysh fled the battlefield and the Muslims returned to Madinah having achieved a truly great victory.

We should know that it was in this month of reward, the ^{also} ~~20th~~ ^{month} of Ramadan, in the 8th year after Hijrah that the Prophet (saw) returned to Makkah not as the ruled but as the ruler in the opening of Makkah (Fath Makkah). Makkah was conquered without a battle. He entered Makkah and treated the people justly.

He personally went to the Ka'ba, pointed to the idols with his stick and recited the verse:

“The Truth has come and the falsehood has passed away; verily falsehood is sure to pass away.”

After that, all the idols which Quraysh used to worship collapsed on their backs, one after the other, and then they were burnt, broken up and disposed of.

Thus, Makkah was completely liberated and as a result, the main obstacle standing in the way of the Islamic Da'wa had finally been overcome.

in the month of Ramadan

Then ninety-two years after the Hijrah, Islam had spread across North Africa, Persia and Sham. Al-Andalus (Spain) was under the tyrannical rule of King Roderic ~~of the Visigoths~~, who fell defeated by the great Muslim general Tariq ibn Ziyaad at the head of 12,000 troops, in the month of Ramadan. Not only were Roderic and his forces defeated, but Tariq ibn Ziyaad succeeded in liberating all of Al-Andalus, Sicily, and parts of France. This was the beginning of the Golden Age of Spain where Muslims ruled for over 700 years.

It was also in the month of Ramadan, on Friday the 25th, in 658 A.H., that the Muslims defeated the Mongols in the battle of Ain Jaloot.

It was also in this month of fasting when Al-Mu'tasim billah the Abbasid Khaleefah answered the cry of one Muslim woman when she was dishonoured by the Romans. He vowed not to break his fast until they were taken over. He led the army which brought Amoriah (Ankara) to the rule of Islam.

It was in this month of sacrifice, the month of Ramadan that Salahuddin Ayyubi defeated the Crusaders. With a 12,000 strong cavalry, they defeated the Crusaders and returned al-Quds back into its rightful hands. So it should be clear that the month of Ramadan is the month of victory for the Muslims and those who follow Islam correctly.

If we look at the situation of the Muslim Ummah today in this Ramadan or the Ramadans previous to this, we see that it is very different from the examples mentioned so far. Are we following Islam the way it should be followed, are we obeying Allah and His Messenger's commandments, or are we following our own desires and personal opinions?

Today, many of the Muslims throughout the world - ~~Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Afghanistan~~ go through Ramadan being slaughtered while we live comfortably. Many of the Muslims there remain hungry and have nothing to break their fasts with. Many of them cannot sleep one night without being awakened by gun shots or explosions, many of them cannot leave their wives and daughters home alone for fear of being raped or killed.

The question that we need to ask ourselves is: What has changed, and what is the reason for this, and how can we resolve these problems?

Muslims

Indeed it is not enough for us as ~~an Ummah~~ to witness the multitude of problems that exists amongst us today. Rather, we must understand the cause for these problems and act on those causes. The cause of this difference between the Ramadan of today and the victorious Ramadans of the past is not difficult to observe: it is simply due to the ~~absence~~ deficiency of the Quran within our lives, the Quran that Allah (swt) revealed as a guidance and al-Furqan (criterion). The cause of these problems is also because of our deficiencies in practicing our religion the way Allah is pleased with. The cause of these problems is because of our ourselves, many of us have been distracted by our worldly affairs which keep us so busy that we forget what Allah and His Messenger command us to do and prohibit us from. We have deficiencies in the complete and sincere worship of Allah submitting ourselves to Him and His messengers commandments. So in turn we find ourselves in the situations we are in today. The most apparent proof for this is what happened in the battle of Uhud when the Prophet ordered the archers to stay in their positions on the mountain, but when they saw the disbelievers retreating and the large amount of booty and spoils of war they left behind, they disobeyed the prophet's orders and came down from the mountain, gathering up the riches and wealth. But little to their knowledge that the disbelievers were regrouping behind the mountain and while they were gathering up these spoils of war, the disbelievers snuck up from behind them and killed many of the Muslims, all because of the archers disobedience to the Prophet Muhammad. So from this we learn that disobedience to the Prophet Muhammad harms oneself as well as the Muslims as a whole, so don't think that your disobedience only affects yourself, no, for verily all of the Muslims could suffer from one person's disobedience to Allah or his Messenger.

** And as a result of our deficiencies other Muslims are suffering.*

O Brothers and sisters, Allah (swt) did not reveal the Quran simply to be read rhetorically, but rather He (swt) revealed it to be implemented in our lives to adhere to its guidance, obeying its commandments and staying away from its prohibitions.

So, when the Muslims implemented Islam into their lives - when their affairs were governed completely by all that Allah (swt) had revealed (The Quran and Sunnah)- Ramadan was the month of victory over their personal desires, the shaytaan and enemies of Islam ~~and Muslims~~. But this Ramadan, when Islam is partly implemented within ourselves firstly and in the lands, the Muslim Ummah faces subjugation by the disbelievers in almost every sphere of life.

Shaytaan and

So, despite being a giant in terms of its lands, material resources, population, armies and its greatest asset [the one true Religion, Islam] many of the Muslims lie in humiliation before the sight of the world. Why is this? Because we are deficient in our practicing of our religion correctly. While our only hope for guidance and help from Allah is returning back to the Quran and Sunnah and implementing them into our lives.

'Umar ibn Al-Khattaab (radhiallahu `anhu) said: "We were lowly and weak then Allah made us mighty with Islaam. So when we seek mightiness in other than Islaam, Allah humiliates us and brings us low."

As Abdullah ibn Umar said:

I heard the Apostle of Allah, (peace_be_upon_him) say: ^{If} ~~When~~ you enter into the (deenah) transactions with usury/interest, and hold the tails of oxen, and become pleased with farming and agriculture, and give up ^{striving, fighting} struggling for the way of Allah. Allah will make disgrace and humiliation to prevail over you, and will not withdraw it until you return to your original religion.

So This Ramadan, with the Muslims suffering immensely due to their sins and disobedience of Allah and secondly the mischief of the disbelievers, we must not be satisfied by turning to Allah ~~(sw)~~ through prayer and fasting alone. Rather we must also work hard to read, study, ponder the Quran, and Sunnah of Muhammad and implement the Religion of Allah within ourselves and love it and be pleased with it over all other ways of life, so that future Ramadans witness victory after victory once again.

As the Quran and Sunnah were revealed for our guidance to be implemented not just to be recited.

As Mu'adh ibn Jabal (ra) once called the people of the town and said to them, "Today the reciters of Quran are few but the implementers are many, a time will come when the reciters will be many and the implementers will be few." It is as if Mu'adh was describing our time! Today the reciters may be abundant but the implementers are scarce.

So let us work to turn this situation around. Let us work to move our generation from simply being reciters of the Quran to being reciters and implementers and those who understand the noble Quran and act upon it. Let us teach them the Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad and teach them how to follow the Sunnah and leave off the following of desires. Let us make this Ramadan a turning point in our individual lives, let us change ourselves and rectify ourselves with the Quran and Sunnah so we can be victorious and change history and become the mighty nation which we once were. Let us make this Ramadan join the months of victory which our righteous predecessors witnessed.