

Brothers and sisters

Suppose we have been expecting a friend, relative or honorable guest to stay with us. Our guest is here a guest which we all have been patiently waiting for, a guest which will stay with us for only three more weeks. Have we prepared for his ~~arrival~~ by cleaning up our houses, buying and cooking the things they like to eat, designating them a place to sleep, wearing our best garments in front of them, sacrificing our time and money to please this guest? Have we taken time off of work to tend to our guests needs and wants. We have been expecting an honorable guest to come to our place, and then finally he arrives. When the guest arrives we find him to be generous, kind, full of forgiveness and pardon, while accompanying this guest makes us feel good and increases us in faith and good deeds. This guest reminds us of our Lord and His verses which guide us to that which is correct and warns us of that which is evil. No doubt, this is a guest which all of us would love and would be more than welcome in hosting. So for twenty-nine or thirty days, we develop an emotional relationship with this guest then we start becoming worried and anxious over the day when this guest will leave. Eventually, the time comes and the day of his departure is here, and our 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 we always desire his return later. Now that we realize his departure, we do not know if we will ever see him again. He might not come next year, or we may not be there when he comes back. How would we feel about this guest, my brothers and sisters, and how would we 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.

O brothers and sisters a blessed guest has come to us. This guest is not human, however it is a guest which our lord chose for us to observe fasting, prayer, charity to receive forgiveness and guidance....Yes, it is the month of Ramadan. And this blessed guest has brought with it a blessed gift.... the Quran. the month in which Allah revealed the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad, the month in which Jibreel used to visit the Prophet to review the Quran with him, the month in which the Prophet was the most generous, the month in which the Shayaan is chained up, the month in which if one fasts, prays and observes the night of decree then his/her sins are forgiven, this is the month of victory for the muslims in the famous Battle of Badr and (Fath Makkah). ~~the battle of Ah Jaloot~~. Ramadan, is all of this brothers and sisters, but most importantly Ramadan is a month of forgiveness, repentance and most importantly it is a month of Quranic guidance: Allah says in the Quran:

شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ هُدًى لِّلنَّاسِ وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِّنَ الْهُدَىٰ وَالْفُرْقَانِ

(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 us to worship him alone and provided for us guidance and instructions explaining how to worship him contained in His noble Quran and this is from the greatest blessings and favors which Allah has bestowed upon His Prophet Muhammad. Yes, we may find words of wisdom, advice, and recommendations in many of the books we read and many of the experiences we go through in life, many statements that may guide us or assist us in our every day lives, but know my brothers and sisters that there is no guidance better and more complete than the divine guidance of your lord contained in the Quran, as Allah says:

إِنَّ هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ يَهْدِي لِلَّتِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ وَيُبَشِّرُ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ الَّذِينَ يَعْمَلُونَ الصَّالِحَاتِ أَنَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَبِيرًا

(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)

Allah says: طس تلك آيات القرآن وكتاب مبين هدى وبشرى للمؤمنين

Ta-Sin these are the verses of the Quran and a clear book, a guide to the right path and glad tidings for the believers.

And Allah says:

الم تلك آيات الكتاب الحكيم هدى ورحمة للمحسنين

alif laam meem, these are the verses of the wise book a guide and a mercy for the good-doers.

And Allah says:

هذا بيان للناس وهدى وموعظة للمتقين

This quran is a clarification for mankind, a guidance and instruction for those who are pious.

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ لِلنَّاسِ بِالْحَقِّ فَمَنْ أَقْبَلَ فَبِمَا نَفْسِهِ وَمَنْ ضَلَّ فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهِمْ
 And Allah says:

Verily we have sent down to you O muhammad the book for mankind in truth, so whoever accepts the guidance it is only for the benefit of himself and whoever goes astray only goes astray for his own loss.....

Accept the guidance of this Quran O servants of Allah, accept the guidance of the Most Knowledgeable and Most Wise Lord of All the worlds, accept the speech of Allah and allow it to enter your hearts so as to cure them and heal them from diseases and sicknesses: as Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَكُمْ مَوْعِظَةٌ مِنْ رَبِّكُمْ وَشِفَاءٌ لِمَا 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)

Take the advice from ^{your} Lord, follow the guidance and instructions Allah sent us in the Quran and imitate and follow the one whom Allah chose as an instructor -the prophet muhammad-, who clarified for us how to understand and implement the Quran in our everyday lives.

Brothers and sisters

know that Allah only wants what is good and beneficial for his servants this is why he sent to us guidance and instructions in the noble Quran, this is why Allah prohibits us from the evil and harmful things and makes permissible for us the good, righteous things, Allah says:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُ بِالْعَدْلِ وَالْإِحْسَانِ وَإِيتَاءِ ذِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَيَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْعَشْأِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ وَالْبَغْيِ يُعِظُكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ

Verily, Allâh enjoins Al-Adl and Al-Ihsân , and giving (help) to kith and kin : and forbids Al-Fahshâ' (i.e all evil deeds,), and Al-Munkar (i.e all that is prohibited by Islâmic law), and Al-Baghy (i.e. all kinds of oppression), He admonishes you, that you may take heed. (An-Nahl 16:90)

And the prophet Muhammad does the same as Allah says:

الَّذِينَ يَتَّبِعُونَ الرَّسُولَ النَّبِيَّ الْأُمِّيَّ الَّذِي يَدْعُوهُمْ سَكُونًا عِنْدَهُمْ فِي التَّوْرَةِ وَالْإِنْجِيلِ يَأْمُرُهُمْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَاهُمْ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُذِلُّ لَهُمُ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَيُحَرِّمُ عَلَيْهِمُ الْخَبَائِثَ وَيَضَعُ عَنْهُمْ إِصْرَهُمْ وَالْأَغْلَالَ الَّتِي كَانَتْ عَلَيْهِمْ فَالَّذِينَ آمَنُوا بِهِ وَكَرَّوْهُ وَتَصَرَّوْهُ وَاتَّبَعُوا النُّورَ الَّذِي أُنزِلَ مَعَهُ أُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ

Those who follow the Messenger, the illeterate Prophet who can neither read nor write whom they find written with them in the Taurât (Torah) and the Injeel (Gospel), - he commands them ^{to} Al-Ma'rûf ; and forbids them from Al-Munkar ; he permits for them as lawful At-Taiyibât [(i.e. all good and lawful things) and prohibits them from Al-Khabâ'ith (i.e. all evil and unlawful things), he releases them from their heavy burdens , and from the fetters (bindings) that were upon them. So those who believe in (Muhammad SAW), honour him, help him, and follow the light (the Qur'ân) which has been sent down with him, it is they who will be successful. (Al-A'raf 7:157)

So if we trully believe in Muhammad and love him then we should honor him, help him and follow the light and guidance in this Quran, if we do this then we will receive many benefits, from them...we will never fear nor grieve:

فَمَنْ يَتَّبِعْ هُدَايَ فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ

as Allah says: "So whoever follows my guidance then there shall be no fear upon them nor shall they grieve"

And Allah says that whoever follows his guidance that they will neither go astray nor be distressed:

فَمَنْ اتَّبَعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا يَضِلُّ وَلَا يَشْقَى

"Then whoever follows my guidance he shall neither go astray nor be distressed"

Allah says that he will increase the guidance of those who accept his guidance:

وَالَّذِينَ اهْتَدَوْا زَادَهُمْ هُدًى وَآتَاهُمْ تَقْوَاهُمْ

"While as for those who accept guidance, Allah increases their guidance and bestows upon them piety..

And Allah says that he will make firm and strengthen the faith of those who believe:

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

"Say O Muhammad, Ruh ul Qudus (Jibreel) has brought the Quran down from your lord with truth, that it may make firm and strengthen the faith of those who believe, and as a guidance and glad tidings to those who have submitted as Muslims"

And Allah says:

وَنَزَّلْنَا عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ تِبْيَانًا لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةً وَبُشْرَى لِلْمُسْلِمِينَ

"and Allah says that he sent the Quran as an exposition of everything, a guidance, a mercy and glad tidings for those who have submitted themselves as muslims"

So how excellent are the ones who follow the Quranic guidance, they will be guided, they will be greatly rewarded, they will be successful, they will never fear and grieve, they will never go astray nor be distressed, they will be healed and cured from diseases of ignorance, doubts, hypocrisy and differing. For verily Allah revealed this quran for the benefit of mankind and to make them think deeply, contemplate and ponder over the verses contained in it so as to receive guidance, so when you hear the verses of your lord being recited take heed and pay attention.

Allah says:

أَفَلَا يَتَذَكَّرُونَ الْعُرَانَ أَمْ كَانَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ أَقْفَالًا

"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)

Allah says:

أَفَلَمْ يَتَذَكَّرُوا الْقَوْلَ أَمْ جَاءَهُمْ مَا لَمْ يَأْتِ آبَاءَهُمُ الْأَوَّلِينَ

Have they not pondered over the word of Allah or has ~~there~~ come to them what had not come to their fathers. (23:68,

Allah says:

كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ مُبَارَكٌ لِيَدَّبَّرُوا آيَاتِهِ وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

This is a book (the Quran) which we have sent down to you full of blessings that they may ponder over its verses and that men of understanding my remember 38:29,

so ponder over this blessed Quranic guidance being recited during this blessed month of ramadan and strive hard to implement the verses which you recite, understand and memorize so as not be as those whom allah says:

سَمَثُ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا التَّوْرَةَ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَحْمِلُوهَا كَمَا حَبَلٌ يَحْمِلُ أَسْفَارًا يَسْ مَثُ الْقَوْمِ الَّذِينَ كَذَّبُوا

The likeness of those who were entrusted with the Torah but who subsequently failed in those obligations, is as the likeness of a donkey which carries huge books (but understands nothing from them). How bad is the example of people who deny the verses of Allah.....(62:5)

For verily this Quran is a book of guidance and a book which was revealed to be implemented upon this earth, not just memorized and recited upon the tongues This quran is a book to be acted upon by the limbs, by performing all the commandments contained in it, and staying away from all the prohibitions contained in it. This Quran should be memorized within our hearts and manifested in our beliefs, tongues and action, if the Quran truly enters our hearts then we will find that our entire persona and personality would be that of the Quran, you would find us loving what Allah loves and hating what Allah hates, you would find us worshipping Allah alone, you would find us giving precedence and top priority to Allah and His Messenger's statements over our own desires and wants, you would find us loving the prophet Muhammad and his sunnah more than our selves, our fathers, our sons and all people in

بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الظَّالِمِينَ

existence...If the Quran truly entered our hearts we would spend abundantly upon our Masaajid and Muslim communities, If the Quran truly entered our hearts we wouldn't be dealing with Ribaa (Usury), we wouldn't be using drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and things which harm us, we wouldn't be shaving our beards, or leaving our houses without our hijabs, if the Quran truly entered our hearts we wouldn't be disrespecting our parents, lying, cheating, stealing, if the Quran truly entered our hearts you would find us loving, respecting, honoring and thinking good about our Imams and the administrations of our communities, if the Quran truly entered our hearts we would not spread the faults of our Muslim brothers and sisters so as to harm them, if the Quran truly entered our hearts we would not spend our time backbiting and slandering other Muslims, if the Quran truly entered our hearts you wouldn't find us calling upon dead people or graves for assistance, wealth or removing hardships, if the Quran truly entered our hearts we wouldn't be bigoted or blind follow anyone unconditionally except the prophet Muhammad, if the Quran truly entered our hearts we would cry much and laugh little, if the Quran truly entered our hearts we would truly be victorious over our biggest enemy-the shaytaan. So let's work on ~~opening our hearts to allow~~ ^{allowing} this Quranic guidance to enter within our hearts so as to be guided and forgiven during this blessed month of Ramadan.

Second khutbah:

The guidance which this noble Quran contains 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 treaty or guidance to guide them to what is correct, in their lives. The majority of mankind have been overwhelmed and influenced by Atheism, stubbornness, arrogance, desires and misled by doubts and speculations. Not to mention the influence of the media upon their intellects which teaches them that ~~religion~~ ^{Islam} 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.~~ ^{This is what they falsely promote.} 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. So when the Muslims act upon the Quran and implement it in their every day lives we hope that many will be guided to Islam and at the same time the proofs and evidences will be established upon mankind.

^{non-muslims}

Secondly: 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 base morals and ethics. Many Muslims look towards the western nations 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 ~~for 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.

Today, many of the Muslims throughout the world ~~Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan, Egypt, Burma~~ ^{and in turmoil} are going through Ramadan being slaughtered while we live comfortably here in ~~the land of non-Muslims~~ ^{America}. Many of the Muslims throughout the world 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: ^{why} ~~What has changed~~, and what is the reason for this, and how can we resolve these problems?

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 Ramadans of the past -where the Muslims were mighty- is not difficult to observe: it is simply due to the absence and deficiency of the Quran within our lives. ~~The Quran that Allah (swt) revealed as a guidance for all of mankind and a criterion to distinguish the truth from the falsehood. 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, know that being distracted by worldly affairs and individual disobedience to Allah and His messenger leads to the destruction of communities. 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.~~

~~recited in taraweeh~~

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 and the Quran 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, happiness, strength, might, ^{as well as forgiveness} over their personal desires, the shaytaan and enemies of Islam. But this Ramadan, when ~~the Quran~~ is partly implemented within ourselves firstly and in the lands, the Muslim Ummah faces subjugation by non-Muslims in almost every sphere of life, ^{regardless of the recitation of the Quran.}

The Muslims saw victory

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.

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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 Messenger of Allah, say: When you enter into the (eenah) transactions with usury/interest, and hold the tails of oxen, and become pleased with farming and agriculture, and give up 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.

~~Some try to explain the problems in the muslim lands as being political, economical, social etc... Some say it's because of non-muslim nations interfering but I tell you all, it is the sole result of the muslims leaving off the guidance of the Quran and sunnah~~

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~~political~~