

Friday Sermon

4th September, 2009

Summary

- **Holy Ramadan and the Holy Qur'an**
- **Etiquettes of reading the Holy Qur'an**
 - **Blessings of the Holy Qur'an**
 - **Peace in society**

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

Chapter 2, Verse 186

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..

Holy Ramadan and the Holy Qur'an

The Holy Qur'an was revealed in the month of Ramadan

Huzur (aba) explained the verse

The Holy Qur'an has a special connection with Ramadan

The Holy Quran was revealed in the Holy month of Ramadan,

Angel Gabriel used to repeat the Holy Qur'an with the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) every Ramadan

Angel Gabriel repeated the Holy Qur'an twice with the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) in the last Ramadan of his life

Fasting in Ramadan is to made obligatory, because

The Holy Quran
was revealed

The Shariah was
perfected

Therefore, it is essential to recite the
Holy Qur'an during this holy month

Huzur (aba) advised to

Complete the reading of the Holy Quran twice during Ramadan

If not possible, aim to finish at least once

Attend *Dars*

Attend *Taraweh* prayers

Listen to the Holy Qur'an CD/ audio while driving

Every effort should be made to read and listen to as much of Qur'an as possible.



Recite the Holy Quran regularly, look for commandments given in it and then act on these for the rest of the year

Keep raising the standard of adherence to these commandments

How to appreciate the true significance of Ramadan?



Must comprehend the essence of *Taqwa* and good deeds

The true spirit of the fasting should be understood

They to whom We have
given the Book follow it
as it ought to be
followed...

الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ
يَتْلُونَهُ حَقَّ تِلَاوَتِهِ

Chapter 2, Verse 122

Huzur (aba) explained

The Qur'an should be read regularly, while reflecting on its words, and with efforts to put its teachings in practice.

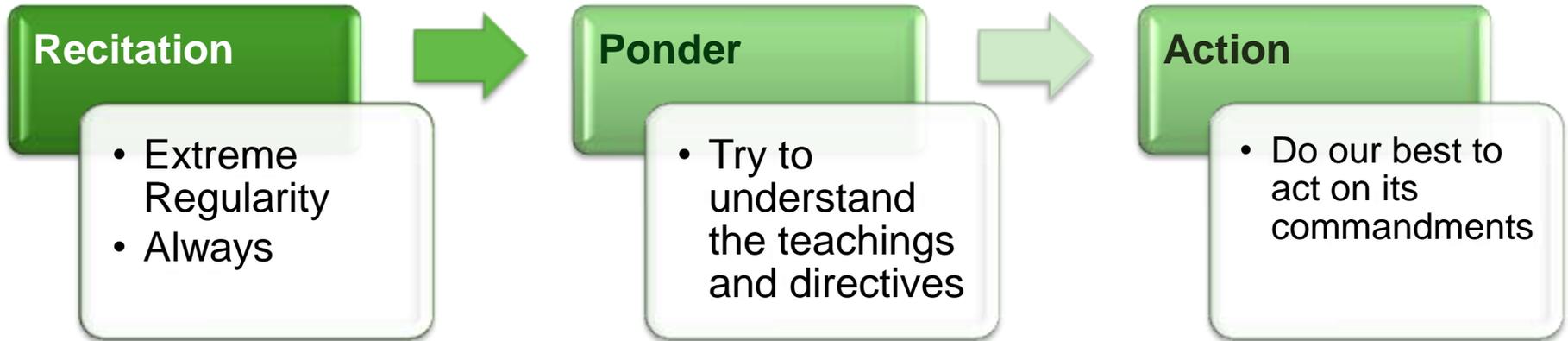
Huzur (aba) explained the key principle

Verse 2:186 states that the Qur'an has been sent as a guidance for people

Until it is read with deliberation, guidance cannot be attained and the difference between right and wrong cannot be understood.

Huzur (aba) explained that in order to truly honour fasting, each believer should recite the Qur'an in such a manner..

Recitation of the Holy Quran



This alone will grant us nearness to God and will be a source of acceptance of our fasting.

- The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that one who honours the Holy Qur'an will be honoured in the heavens.
- He also said that salvation is not something which will be given after death. Rather, true salvation shows its light in this very life.

Huzur (aba) explained that “honoured in heavens” means that believers will be given blessings of Allah, they will be saved from the evils of the society and their prayers will be accepted.

Huzur (aba) referred to the *Hadith* that initial effort has to be made by man to seek Allah and in return Allah enhances our meagre efforts manifold

Huzur (aba) said it is our good fortune

- We have joined the Community of the Promised Messiah (on whom be pace)
- We have had insight into the status of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) as the *Khatamun Nabiyyeen* (Seal of all the Prophets)
- This honour distinguishes us from others and demands that we truly understand the teaching of the Qur'an and infuse its true honour in our hearts.
- Our each word and deed should reflect the teachings of Islam. If this is not so, it will be case of treating the Holy Quran like a 'discarded thing'.



And the Messenger
will say, 'O my Lord,
my people indeed
treated this Qur'an as
a discarded thing.'

وَقَالَ الرَّسُولُ يَا رَبِّ
إِنَّ قَوْمِي اتَّخَذُوا هَذَا
الْقُرْآنَ مَهْجُورًا

Recitation and
following the
teachings of the Holy
Qur'an is the only
way that would save
us from treating
Qur'an as a
discarded thing!

Serious food for thought for each Ahmadi

Chapter 25 , Verse 31

Huzur (aba) said

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that the Qur'an is a source of true salvation....

.. Muslims should value this magnificent water of spring as a favour of God and then practice what it teaches.

They will then see how God will alleviate their problems.

Our responsibility to implement the teachings of the Qur'an is increased in light of this saying of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) about the condition of the Muslims.

Ahmadis, with their actions should change the negative image of Muslim as prevalent in the world.

فَإِذَا قَرَأْتَ الْقُرْآنَ
فَاسْتَعِذْ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ
الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

And when thou recites
the Qur'an, seek refuge
with Allah from Satan the
rejected

Etiquettes of reading the Holy Quran

Chapter 16, Verse 99

The key message of the verse

Huzur (aba) said Satan has challenged man to deviate from righteousness whereas every word of the Qur'an leads to guidance..

Before reading Allah's teaching one should pray most sincerely to be protected from the attacks of Satan

If an effort is not made to safeguard ourselves from the impediments of Satan, he will stop us from understanding the Qur'an

This is why one needs to read the Qur'an after coming into the refuge of God otherwise, the true message of the Holy Qur'an cannot be grasped.

إِنَّ رَبَّكَ يَعْلَمُ أَنَّكَ تَقُومُ أَدْنَىٰ مِنْ
ثُلثِي اللَّيْلِ وَنِصْفَهُ ۖ وَثُلثَهُ
وَطَائِفَةٌ مِّنَ الَّذِينَ مَعَكَ ۗ وَاللَّهُ
يُقَدِّرُ اللَّيْلَ وَالنَّهَارَ ۗ عَلِمَ أَن لَّنْ
نُحْصِيَهُ فَتَابَ عَلَيْكُمْ ۖ فَاقْرَءُوا مَا
تَيَسَّرَ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ ۗ

Chapter 73, Verse 21

Surely, thy Lord knows that thou stands up *praying* for nearly two thirds of the night, and *sometimes* half or a third thereof, and also a party of those who are with thee. And Allah determines the measure of the night and the day. He knows that you cannot keep its *measure*, so He has turned to you in mercy. Recite, then, as much of the Qur'an as is *easy for you*.

Etiquettes of reading the Holy Quran

The key message of the verse

God revealed to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace)

'...all good is in the Quran.'

(Tadhkirah, 2007 edition, p. 444).

Huzur (aba) said the starting part of the verse enjoins *Tahajjud* Prayer. God states here, read whatever you know,

However, '**Recite, then, as much of the Qur'an as is easy for you**' does not mean that whatever one knows of the Qur'an is sufficient, rather effort should be made to learn as much as possible.

It is most important to read, understand and reflect on the Qur'an.

أَوْ زِدْ عَلَيْهِ وَرَتِّلِ
الْقُرْآنَ تَرْتِيلًا

Hadith relates that one who does not recite the Qur'an melodiously is not from among us.

Or make it a little more than that — and recite the Qur'an slowly and thoughtfully

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that melodious recitation of the Qur'an is also worship.

Etiquettes of reading the Holy Qur'an

Huzur (aba) said recitation of the Qur'an should be such that each word is clear and understandable.

Chapter 73, Verse 5

وَأَذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ وَمَا
أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْكُمْ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ وَالْحِكْمَةِ
يُعِظُكُمْ بِهِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَاعْلَمُوا
أَنَّ اللَّهَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ

And remember the favour of Allah upon you and the Book and the Wisdom which He has sent down to you, whereby He exhorts you. And fear Allah and know that Allah knows all things

Huzur (aba) said unless the Qur'an is read properly, it is not possible to have an insight into the 'favour' that is being referred to in this verse. Reading the Qur'an in itself is a blessing for a believer.

Etiquettes of reading the Holy Qur'an

Chapter 2 , Verse 232

كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ
مُبْرَكٌ لِيَذَّبُوا آيَاتِهِ
وَلِيَتَذَكَّرَ أُولُو
الْأَلْبَابِ

The Qur'an contains the accounts of the previous Prophets, description of the time it was revealed and prophecies for future

It is the task of people of understanding to announce to the world to reflect on the Book and to take heed of its commandments.

This is a Book which We have revealed to thee, full of blessings, that they may reflect over its verses, and that those gifted with understanding may take heed

Etiquettes of reading the Holy Qur'an

Chapter 38, Verse 30

وَإِذَا قُرِئَ الْقُرْآنُ
فَاسْتَمِعُوا لَهُ
وَأَنْصِتُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ
تُرْحَمُونَ

And when the Qur'an is
recited, give ear to it and keep
silent, that you may be shown
mercy

Huzur (aba) said each Ahmadi should inculcate respect for the Qur'an as well as pass it on to the children.

Huzur (aba) said some people are a little careless when the Qur'an is being recited on the TV, they continue to talk.

Either they should stop talking or if it is that important to carry on, they should switch off the volume of the TV.

Etiquettes of reading the Holy Qur'an

Chapter 7, Verse 205

فَأَسْتَقِمَّ كَمَا أُمِرْتَ
وَمَنْ تَابَ مَعَكَ وَلَا
تَطْغَوْا إِنَّهُ بِمَا
تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ

, 'So stand thou upright, as thou hast been commanded, and *also* those who have turned *to God* with thee; and exceed ye not the bounds, O *believers*; for surely, He sees what you do.'

Huzur (aba) said Surah Hud had 'aged' the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), therein is a warning for us.

Huzur (aba) said this is a lesson for us not to limit worship to mere actions but we should try to understand the philosophy behind these commandment.

Etiquettes of reading the Holy Qur'an

Chapter 11, Verse 113

وَهَذَا كِتَابٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ
مُبَارَكٌ فَاتَّبِعُوهُ
وَاتَّقُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ
تُرْحَمُونَ

And this is a Book which We
have sent down; *it is full of
blessings*. So follow it, and guard
against *sin* that you may be
shown mercy

Blessings of the Holy Quran

Chapter 6, Verse 156

وَنُنَزِّلُ مِنَ الْقُرْآنِ
مَا هُوَ شِفَاءٌ وَرَحْمَةٌ
لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَلَا يَزِيدُ
الظَّالِمِينَ إِلَّا خَسَارًا

And We are *gradually* revealing of the Qur'an that which is a healing and a mercy to the believers; but it only adds to the loss of the wrongdoers.

Blessings of the Holy Quran

Chapter 17, Verse 83

وَلِكُلِّ وَّجْهَةٌ هُوَ
مَوْلَاهَا فَاستَبِقُوا
الْخَيْرَاتِ أَيْنَ مَا تَكُونُوا
يَأْتِ بِكُمْ اللهُ جَمِيعًا إِنَّ
اللهَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ

And every one has a goal which dominates him; vie, then, with one another in good works. Wherever you be, Allah will bring you all together. Surely, Allah has the power to do all that He wills.

Blessings of the Holy Quran

Chapter 2, Verse 149

وَإِذَا جَاءَكَ الَّذِينَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِآيَاتِنَا
فَقُلْ سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ كَتَبَ رَبُّكُمْ عَلَى
نَفْسِهِ الرَّحْمَةَ أَنَّهُ مَنْ عَمِلَ مِنْكُمْ
سُوءًا بِجَهْلَةٍ ثُمَّ تَابَ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ
وَأَصْلَحَ فَإِنَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

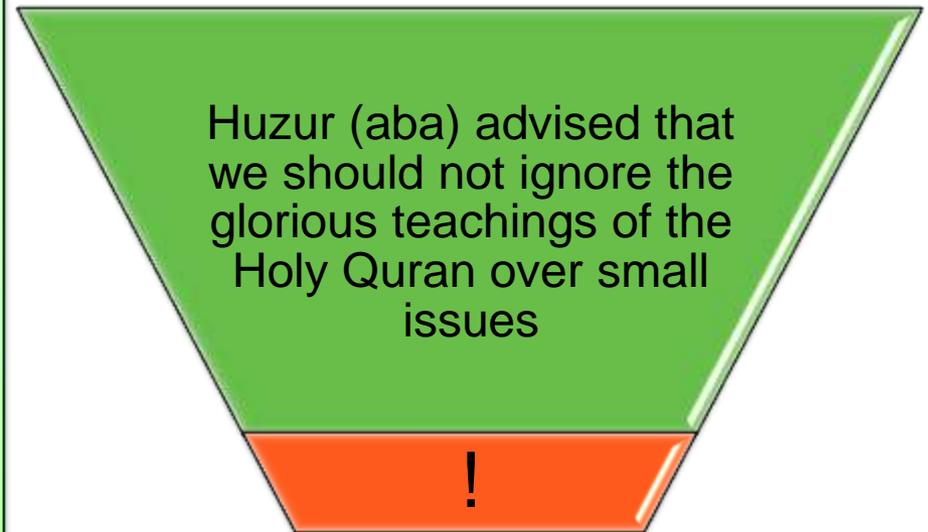
Chapter 6, Verse 55

And when those who believe in Our Signs come to thee, say: 'Peace be unto you! Your Lord has taken it upon Himself *to show* mercy, so that whoso among you does evil ignorantly, and repents thereafter and amends, then He is Most Forgiving, Merciful.

Peace in society

Peace in society

- Huzur said this beautiful teaching enhances peace in society.
- We claim to be Ahmadi Muslims who try to put the teachings of the Qur'an in practice.
- The Qur'an enjoins to send peace on each other, whereas we see discord at times among brothers.
- **We need to reflect on this**



In conclusion

The Qur'an is a great Book that encompasses everything. It is essential for spiritual development and to seek nearness to God, recite it while reflecting over its meanings and practice its directives.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that Qur'an should be reflected on, for it contains everything.

He said it has the remedy for every illness and has the antidote for the evil.

Huzur (aba) prayed



- May God enable us to seek His pleasure through the Holy Qur'an
-
- May we also be able to draw the attention of our children to it's beauty and inspire it's love in them.