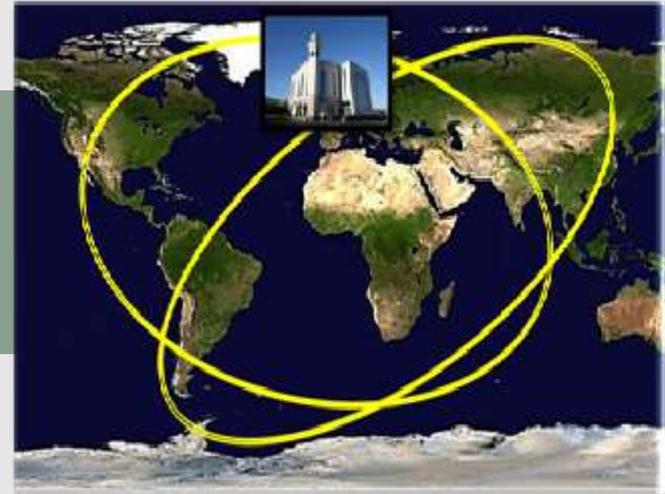


RAMADHAN AND THE HOLY QURAN: THE SOURCE OF GUIDANCE AND SALVATION



SERMON DELIVERED BY HADHRAT
MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD (ABA);
HEAD OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM
COMMUNITY



RELAYED LIVE ALL ACROSS THE
GLOBE

July 11th, 2014

NOTE: Al Islam Team takes full responsibility for any errors or miscommunication in this Synopsis of the Friday Sermon

Summary

Huzoor (aba) based today's Friday sermon on the significance and excellence of the Holy Qur'an.

The teachings of this great law-bearing Book can facilitate our spiritual, religious and moral development, as well as our worldly progress.

On the day of judgement, our conduct will be judged according to the teachings of the Holy Quran; This will determine if we were believers or not!

May each one of us derive beneficence from this significant treasure in the month of Ramadan. May Allah the Exalted enable all of us to do so!

Two funeral prayers.

The
significance
and
excellence of
the Holy
Qur'an

Huzoor based today's Friday sermon on the significance and excellence of the Holy Qur'an.

The
connection
between
Ramadan and
the Holy
Quran



'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.' (2:186)

Sayings of the
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Prayers

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The teachings of this great law-bearing Book can facilitate our spiritual, religious and moral development, as well as our worldly progress.



The statement; '**The month of Ramadan is that in which the Qur'an was sent down...**' informs us that this last law-bearing and perfect Book is connected to Ramadan.



By connecting Ramadan to the Holy Qur'an the significance of Ramadan is emphasised..



Thus, a true believer should try and derive as much beneficence from this month as possible.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said 'The month of Ramadan is that in which the Qur'an was sent down...' is a phrase which informs of the magnitude of Ramadan. He also said that due to this magnitude, the reward of fasting is also very high and great. ..

[Thus] read the Holy Qur'an while fasting, reflect over it, listen to or read its commentaries.

One meaning of: '**The month of Ramadan is that in which the Qur'an was sent down...**' is that the revelation of the Holy Qur'an started in this month. Therefore, we should at least try and finish one reading of the Holy Qur'an during Ramadan and reflect over it.

The Holy Quran is 'a guidance' for those people who wish to seek guidance from it and indeed guidance cannot be sought without reading and understanding.

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The Holy Quran gives logic and reasoning behind its teachings with clear proofs, so that its followers can understand these.

It is human nature that once reasoning for doing something is understood, then it becomes easy to put it in practice.

A person who follows the teachings of the Holy Quran appears clearly distinct in his practice and spirituality from others.

No other book or religion can stand up to the Holy Quran. The Holy Quran declares that it is from God Almighty from the start till the end and is safeguarded in its original form; indeed the Holy Quran announces that it will be safeguarded forever.

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This is what Allah the Exalted teaches us as this will enhance our life and our ending.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) explains ‘...a guidance for mankind with clear proofs of guidance and discrimination...’:

‘This means that: The Holy Qur’an has three qualities. First, it guides people to the knowledge of the faith that had disappeared. Secondly, it sets forth the details of such knowledge as had been briefly stated in previous scriptures. Thirdly, it sets forth the decisive word concerning matters over which differences had arisen and thus distinguishes between truth and falsehood.’

This it is a comprehensive and complete Book which is matchless and in which everything has been stated completely.

It is a favour of Allah the Exalted that He enabled us to accept the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). He also facilitated us to understand the significance and knowledge of the Holy Qur’an through him.

Next, I will present some extracts of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) about the significance and status of the Holy Qur’an.

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The expression *Khatam-un-Nabiyyin* which has been applied to the Holy Prophet [pbuh] demands that the Book that was revealed to him, should be the most perfect of all books and should comprise all excellences; and indeed so it is. ... As the spiritual power and inner perfection of the Holy Prophet [pbuh] were of the highest degree, .. therefore the Holy Qur'an occupies that high station and rank which has not been reached by any of the previous books or scriptures.

.. Thus he was the *Khatam-un-Nabiyyin* and his Book was the *Khatam-ul-Kutub*. From the point of view of every aspect of a miraculous word, the Holy Qur'an is at the highest stage. The perfection of the Holy Qur'an is seen and its miraculous character is proved from every point of view, that is to say, from the points of view of excellence of composition, of the sequence of its subjects, of its teaching and its perfection and of the fruits of its teaching.... . From whichever point of view it is looked at, it is a miracle.

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' I have reflected over the word Qur'an and it was disclosed to me that this blessed word contains a great prophecy which is that this alone is the Qur'an, that is, a book worthy of reading. A time will come when more than ever it alone will be the Book worthy of reading when other books will also be read along with it. At that time this alone will be the Book worthy of reading in order to protect the honour of Islam ..

This is what 'Furqan' means: that is, this Book alone will distinguish between truth and falseness ... Extremely faithless is the person who does not show regard to the Holy Qur'an and is inclined to other books all the time. Our Jama'at should try and be occupied with the Holy Qur'an and ponder over it wholeheartedly and give up being inclined to Ahadith. It is of great regret that the Holy Qur'an is not deliberated over as Ahadith are! Take the weapon of the Holy Qur'an in hand to triumph at this hour. No darkness will be able to withstand this light!

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'How can change and reformation be brought about? The answer is with Salat alone, which is real Prayer. Reflect over the Holy Qur'an for it contains everything; detail of virtues and vices and news of times to come.'

.. . As the Holy Qur'an is connected to Ramadan, if habit is formed during these days to read it, reflect over it and practice its teachings in our lives, it will avail in future.

'.. It is the distinction of the Holy Qur'an alone that Allah the Exalted has given the antidote of every ailment in it and has explained the training of all faculties. Removal of any evil that is mentioned is also given. Therefore, continue to recite the Holy Qur'an and continue to pray and try and keep your conduct in line with its teaching.'

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'The second miracle of the Holy Quran, which we can perceive and witness in our own time, is the marvellous transformation of the Companions of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, through their submission to the Holy Quran and under the influence of the Holy Prophet's^{sa} companionship. When we look at the kind of people they were and how they behaved before they accepted Islam, and how they were transformed by the company of the Holy ..., we have to concede that this change was indeed miraculous and it was brought about specially by the Hand of God...'

'..Without doubt the Quranic effects are extraordinary because no one can give an example in the world of another book having such effect! Who can give proof that another book brought about as amazing a change and reformation as the Holy Qur'an did!.... If their beings were to be pounded in severe misfortunes and were wrung through tough clamps, their sap extracted would be nothing but Divine love.'

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'The reality is that as long as Muslims are not fully observant and adherent of what Allah the Exalted has taught in the Holy Qur'an they cannot attain any kind of success. The further they go from the Holy Qur'an the further they become from degrees and paths of success. Practicing the Holy Qur'an alone is the source of progress and guidance.'

'Be alert all the time and do not take a single step contrary to Divine teaching and the guidance of the Qur'an. I tell you truly that anyone who evades the least one of the 700 commandments of the Qur'an, shuts upon himself the door of salvation. ...'

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' The ways of true and perfect salvation have been opened by the Qur'an and all the rest is its reflection. Therefore, study the Qur'an with care and hold it very dear with a love that you have not for anything else. As God has said to me: 'All good is contained in the Qur'an'. This is wholly true. Those people are to be pitied who prefer anything else to it. The fountainhead of all your prosperity and salvation is the Holy Qur'an. There is no religious need of yours which is not filled by the Qur'an. On the Day of Judgement, the Qur'an will confirm or deny your faith'.

**On the day of judgement, our conduct will be judged according to the teachings of the Holy Quran;
This will determine if we were believers or not!**



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'There is no other book under heaven beside the Qur'an which can furnish you with salvation. God has been very Beneficent towards you that He has bestowed a Book like the Qur'an upon you. ... Then value this favour that has been bestowed upon you. It is a very dear favour; it is great wealth. If the Qur'an had not been revealed the whole world would have been left like a dirty lump of flesh. The Qur'an is the Book in contrast with which all other guidance amounts to nothing.

'The Holy Qur'an is a pure Book which came in the world at a time when immense disorder had spread Thus, Allah the Exalted sent a perfect Book like the Holy Qur'an for guidance and to refute all false creeds. It has the refutation of all false religions especially in Surah Al Fatihah, which is read five times a day in every unit of every Salat, complete guidance is indicated.'



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'The Holy Qur'an should be read carefully and should be reflected on. Hadith relates that there are many reciters of the Holy Qur'an who are cursed by the Holy Qur'an. A person who reads the Qur'an but does not practice it is cursed by the Holy Qur'an.

When reciting the Holy Qur'an one comes to a verse about blessing, blessing should be sought from God Almighty and when chastisement of a people is mentioned, refuge should be sought from chastisement. The Qur'an should be read with due care and attention and it should be practiced on.'

'People read the Holy Qur'an in a parrot-like fashion without understanding it, ... However, the true objective of recitation of the Holy Qur'an is to be informed of its truths and knowledge so that man can bring about a change in him! ... Unless the system of the Holy Qur'an and its sequence is not kept in view and it is not fully reflected over, the objectives of its recitation are not fulfilled.'



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'..., the teaching of the Holy Qur'an was all comprehensive. It is in this sense that the law revealed in the Qur'an is perfect and final, and ... no other Book is needed after the Holy Qur'an as there can be nothing beyond perfection.

'Remember, the Holy Qur'an is the fountainhead of true blessings and is a true source of salvation. ...However, how astonishing and regrettable it is when those who believe that it is the Word of God and is a healing formula for salvation also do not practice it. Many among these have not even read it in their entire lives. The example of such people who are so negligent and careless about Word of God is like a person who knows of a clear, sweet, cool spring water that is a healing elixir for many illnesses. Yet, in spite of knowing this and in spite of being thirsty and suffering from many ailments he does not go to it. How unfortunate and ignorant of him!



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'Do not abandon the Holy Qur'an like something forsaken for therein is your life. Those who will honour the Holy Qur'an will be honoured in the heavens and those who will give precedence to the Holy Qur'an over every Hadith and every other discourse will be given precedence in the heavens. There is no other book on the face of the earth for mankind but the Holy Qur'an and for the entire human race there is no other Prophet and intercessor but the Holy Prophet (pbuh).'

These few extracts have been read to draw attention to the significance of the Holy Qur'an and its recitation.

May each one of us derive beneficence from this significant treasure in the month of Ramadan.
May Allah the Exalted enable all of us to do so!

I will lead two funeral Prayers after Salat, one of them is present. Our Kaleem Wasseem Sahib, who was a MTA worker, passed away on 6 July of a heart attack at the age of 54. Inna lillahe wa inna illaihi raji'oon.

He was the paternal grandson of Hazrat Haji Muhammad Din Sahib, Dervish of Qadian and was the maternal grandson of Syed Sadiq Ali Sahib of Saharanpur and the son-in-law of Mubarak Saqi Sahib who was a missionary here and was also additional Wakilul Tabsheer.

Kaleem Sahib was an active member of Jama'at from childhood. During his time in Karachi he was a member of the local and district amila and in Abu Dhabi, he served as Naib Sadr of Jama'at. He immigrated to the UK in 1989 and served as qaid majlis of London region. He also served in finance and Khidmat e Khalq departments and also served during Jalsa Salana. With the inception of MTA in 1997 he was one of its early workers and worked in maintenance and technical fields and also served in other departments. He was currently in-charge of translation and thus served in MTA till his last breath. He was also one of the early MTA news readers and presenters. He had great love for Khilafat and worked with honesty and had a very affectionate relationship with his staff and respected them.

His elderly mother is living. He has left behind his wife, Sarah Waseem Sahiba, two sons and one daughter. His mother says that he had great regard and respect for his parents and was very caring towards them and served them very well. He was very caring towards his siblings. His wife says that she observed that her husband had a real spirit to serve and was ever ready to serve the religion of God Almighty. Whatever task was entrusted to him by Khilafat he would try to undertake it with great passion, enthusiasm and cheerfulness. He had perfect belief that Allah the Exalted provides for everyone and also assured others to trust in Allah when doing something or pray to Him. Hospitality was his great attribute and he was most hospitable towards guests at home, in fact he would invite people over. His sister has written that he did not have even a hint of pretence and one of his qualities was that he read books of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) as she had often observed.

One of his workers Asim Shehzad writes that he worked with Kaleem Sahib for eleven years at MTA and found him honest and sincere and a true devotee of Khilafat. In his capacity as a senior worker he never let the junior workers feel his seniority and dealt with them with warmth and affection as he trained them for work. Once he saw Kaleem Sahib cleaning the MTA complex at Baitul Futuh and asked him why he was cleaning himself, he should get others to do it. Kaleem Sahib told him very proudly that when the complex was inaugurated, one of the advice I gave to the workers, the advice of the Khalifa of the time, was a particular advice about cleaning and when I was giving this advice I was looking towards him, therefore he understood the instruction to be foremost for him and did the cleaning himself.

Once he was viewing old MTA clips of slides of extracts of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and the Khulafa which purported that MTA is an organisation which is playing a large role in furthering the mission of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). While watching these clips he started weeping uncontrollably and said how fortunate is Kaleem to be enabled by Allah the Exalted to be working at MTA.

Once his leave was due and he applied for leave but Ata ul Mujeeb Rashed Sahib said to him not to take leave at that time as there was a lot of work load. He promptly took back his application for leave and tore it up. Ata ul Mujeeb Rashed Sahib has also written to me that he tore up the application most cheerfully and not in annoyance. Imam Sahib also writes that MashaAllah he was enabled to serve with love and sincerity and also gave precedence to Jama'at work to personal interests. He was an expert in his field and worked with great penchant.

Khalid Sahib has also written that whenever during the time of Ravil Sahib who was available at odd hours Kaleem Sahib was approached, he always said that it did not matter, whenever Ravil Sahib was free to come he should come, whether it was night or day. He only asked to be informed in advance so that he could make the preparations. He was ever ready to serve.

I have also observed that whenever he came for mulaqat with his children, he would sit his children in the front and took the back seat himself. Perhaps to ensure the children spoke directly to me and the connection that he had with Khilafat would pass onto their children.

May Allah ever fulfil his desire and his children remain connected to Khilafat. Both the mother and father have brought up their children in a very fine way, MashaAllah.

May Allah always keep the children as useful members of Jama'at and be their Helper and may He grant patience and steadfastness to his wife and also his mother.

The other funeral is of Al Haaj Asim Zaki Bashir ud Din Sahib of USA which will be in absentia; the first funeral will be present. He passed away on 22 June 2014 after suffering from cancer for a few years during which time he did not ever show any sign of despondency. He fought his battle with illness with great courage and patience. He was born to a Christian family on 26 May 1929 and was drawn to religion from childhood. He was introduced to Ahmadiyyat through personal study and interest and with the grace of Allah the Exalted accepted Ahmadiyyat at the age of 19 or 20. He had resolute belief in the existence of God Almighty and had very strong faith. He was a very patient and grateful person; an embodiment of a true believer. He met many elders of the Jama'at and it was in 1940 when he first met Chaudhry Zafrulla Khan Sahib. He had the honour to meet Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III (may Allah have mercy on him). Asim Sahib said during his first mulaqat with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III (may Allah have mercy on him) he felt as if he had a halo of light around him; he said he could still picture it.

He was enabled to serve in the national amila of USA and was also a local Sadr as well as Tabligh secretary and also served as Zaim Ansarullah. He worked at the port in Seattle, USA for which he had to be away from home for two to three months. His job was well paid but once Jalsa fell during his working days and he left work to attend Jalsa. He always participated in Jama'at programmes. Once he was speeding as he drove to some Jama'at work and police stopped him. He had his prayer cap on so the police asked him if he was going to church, meaning the mosque as he wore a Muslim prayer cap. He said yes he was. The police officer happened to be a good person he told him that he could go but asked him to donate the penalty that he was going to charge him to the mosque. As soon as he reached the mosque he very honestly paid \$85, the penalty amount, as chanda. When the Seattle mosque was built he was the highest contributor towards it. This was in 1970 and it was said that his donation amount could have bought a new car at the time. He was very fond of Tabligh and always kept a folding table, some books and flyers in his car. Wherever he went he would set up stall and do Tabligh and distribute literature. He had Jama'at publications and flyer placed in the public library in Seattle. He was concerned about the progress of Jama'at till his last breath. He had great love for the Jama'at and for Khilafat and always advised people to serve the Jama'at. He leaves behind his wife and four children. May Allah the Exalted elevate his station and also enable his children to stay firm on piety.