

Dear brothers and sisters

All praise is due to Allah, Lord of all the worlds. May peace and blessings be upon His Messenger, his household and companions.

The holy month of Ramadan is upon us.

Besides fasting, this is the month in which we reconnect with the Quran through Taraweeh, Qiyam, Tilawah, and contemplation.

A few short reminders to improve relationship with the Quran during the holy month and hope to continue building this relationship throughout the year.

Many times, we hear the following verses presented when talking about Ramadan:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ الصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous – (Baqarah 2:183)

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

The month of Ramadhan [is that] in which was revealed the Qur'an, a guidance for the people and clear proofs of guidance and criterion. (Quran 2:185)

The first verse - to achieve taqwa (righteousness).

The second verse - the purpose of revealing the Quran is for the guidance of people.

Besides the obvious connection that fasting is prescribed in Ramadan and that the Quran was revealed in Ramadan, is there another connection?

ذَٰلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ ۚ فِيهِ ۚ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of Allah – (Quran 2:2)

Ken's story.

Quran is guidance for those who have taqwa (consciousness of Allah).

If we put these verses together, we can achieve taqwa by fasting in Ramadan and that through our taqwa we can further get guidance from the Quran, which was revealed in Ramadan for the guidance of people.

The month of Ramadan is the month of the Quran; The Glorious Quran is to man as the soul is to the body; it is a light for guidance.

During the next few weeks, you will be preparing for the holy month. Today, I want to bring to you certain aspects of Quran to have a better understanding about this treasure that we hold so dear.

Start Ramadan, listen and read Quran and go back to normal life. Or

Develop a deep relation

Fall in love with Quran

Be addicted to Quran

Many ayahs seem like you heard them for the first time. Used to happen to sahabah. Omar RA at the time of Prophet's (PBUH) death.

Al-Imran (The Family of Imran) - 3:144

وَمَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ أَفَإِنْ مَاتَ أَوْ قُتِلَ
انْقَلَبْتُمْ عَلَىٰ أَعْقَابِكُمْ وَمَنْ يَنْقَلِبْ عَلَىٰ عَقْبَيْهِ فَلَنْ يَضُرَّ اللَّهَ شَيْئًا
وَسَيَجْزِي اللَّهُ الشَّاكِرِينَ

3:144 AND MUHAMMAD is only an apostle; all the [other] apostles have passed away before him: **if, then, he dies or is slain, will you turn about on your heels?** But he that turns about on his heels can in no way harm Allah - whereas Allah will reward all who are grateful [to Him].

Al-Hashr (The Gathering) - 59:21

لَوْ أَنْزَلْنَا هَذَا الْقُرْآنَ عَلَى جَبَلٍ لَرَأَيْتَهُ خَاشِعًا مُتَصَدِّعًا مِّنْ خَشْيَةِ اللَّهِ وَتِلْكَ الْأَمْثَالُ نَضْرِبُهَا لِلنَّاسِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ

📖 HAD WE bestowed this Qur'an from on high upon a mountain, you would indeed see it humbling itself, breaking asunder for awe of Allah, And [all] such parables We propound unto men, so that they might [learn to] think. - 59:21

Al-Hadid (Iron) - 57:16

أَلَمْ يَأْنِ لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَنْ تَخْشَعَ قُلُوبُهُمْ لِذِكْرِ اللَّهِ وَمَا نَزَلَ مِنَ الْحَقِّ وَلَا يَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْكِتَابَ مِن قَبْل فَطَالَ عَلَيْهِمُ الْأَمَدُ فَقَسَتْ قُلُوبُهُمْ وَكَثِيرٌ مِنْهُمْ فَاسِقُونَ

📖 57:16 IS IT NOT time that the hearts of all who have attained to faith should feel humble at the remembrance of Allah and of all the truth that has been bestowed [on them] from on high, lest they become like those who were granted revelation before, and whose hearts have hardened with the passing of time so that many of them are [now] depraved?

An-Nisa (The Women) - 4:82

أَفَلَا يَتَدَبَّرُونَ الْقُرْآنَ وَلَوْ كَانَ مِنْ عِنْدِ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ لَوَجَدُوا فِيهِ اخْتِلَافًا كَثِيرًا

📖 4:82 Will they not, then, try to understand this Qur'an? Had it issued from any but God, they would surely have found in it many contradictions!

The messenger of Allah has taught us an excellent dua in relation to the Quran.

It is recorded in Musnad Ahmad and Sahih Abu Hatim on the authority of 'Abdullah bin Mas'ud that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said,

“Whoever was afflicted with grief and distress and says (see the following Dua), Allah, the Exalted and Ever-Majestic, will remove his grief and will change his sorrow into happiness.” It was said, “O Messenger of Allah! (Do) we have to learn these words?” He said, “Yes, whoever hears them should learn them.”

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي عَبْدُكَ، ابْنُ عَبْدِكَ، ابْنُ أُمَّتِكَ، نَاصِيَتِي بِيَدِكَ، مَاضٍ فِي
حُكْمِكَ، عَدْلٌ فِي قَضَاؤِكَ، أَسْأَلُكَ بِكُلِّ اسْمٍ هُوَ لَكَ سَمَّيْتَ بِهِ
نَفْسَكَ، أَوْ أَنْزَلْتَهُ فِي كِتَابِكَ، أَوْ عَلَّمْتَهُ أَحَدًا مِنْ خَلْقِكَ، أَوْ
اسْتَأْثَرْتَ بِهِ فِي عِلْمِ الْغَيْبِ عِنْدَكَ، أَنْ تَجْعَلَ الْقُرْآنَ رَبِيعَ قَلْبِي،
وَنُورَ صَدْرِي، وَجَلَاءَ حُزْنِي، وَذَهَابَ هَمِّي

Translation:

“O Allah, I am your slave, the son of your slave. My forelock is in Your Hand. Your judgment of me is inescapable. Your trial of me is just. I am invoking You by all the names that You call Yourself, that You have taught to anyone in Your creation, that You have mentioned in Your Book, or that You have kept unknown. Let the Qur'an be delight of my heart, the light of my chest, the remover of my sadness and the pacifier of my worries.²”
(Source: Musnad Ahmad # 1/391)

Jibreel was khairul Malaikah
Prophet was Khair ul Mursaleen
Ramadan is Khair ul Ash-hur
Qadar is Khair ul layali
Ummah is Khair -ul- Ummah
The common thread is the Quran.
So let's take advantage of that.

We know that Allah SWT has promised to protect his message. We have the famous ayah:

Al-Hijr (The Rocky Tract) - 15:9

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

🎬 15:9 Behold, it is We Ourselves who have bestowed from on high, step by step, this reminder? and, behold, it is We who shall truly guard it [from all corruption]. =

NUZUL

Quran was brought down in two stages. The first one is from لوح محفوظ preserved tablet to the lowest heaven. انزل refers to the first stage.

Ad-Dukhan (The Smoke) - 44:3

إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةٍ مُبَارَكَةٍ إِنَّا كُنَّا مُنذِرِينَ

🎬 44:3 Behold, from on high have We bestowed it on a blessed night: [3] for, verily, We have always been warning [man]. =

The second stage is from the lowest heaven to the messenger (PBUH) over 23 years. The word used is نزل For example,

Al-Isra (The Journey by Night) - 17:106

وَقُرْآنًا فَرَقْنَاهُ لِتَقْرَأَهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ عَلَى مُكْتٍ وَنَزَّلْنَاهُ تَنْزِيلًا

📖 17:106 [bearing] a discourse which We have gradually unfolded, [128] so that thou might read it out to mankind by stages, seeing that We have bestowed it from on high, step by step, as [one] revelation. †

Abdullah ibn Abbas (RA) said that: The Qur'an was placed in the lowest heaven, and jibreel (AS) took it from there and revealed it to the prophet (PBUH).

Abdullah in Abbas (RA) also said that: The Qur'an was revealed on Laylatul Qadr in the month of Ramadan to the lowest heaven all at once, then it was revealed in parts.

Both are certified Sahih

COMPILATION

1. Revealed to the Prophet SAW and he taught it to Sahabah who memorized it.
2. It was compiled by Zaid bin Thabit RA on instruction of Abu Bakr RA.
3. Manuscripts were rewritten in one Quraishi dialect and all other copies were burnt.
4. In later periods, nuqat and harakat were added for ease.

The reason for knowing this is to appreciate how Allah SWT preserved the Quran and there are no different versions like other religious texts.

Quran is a clear miracle, If anyone tries to change/add/delete, people who know the Quran will be notice immediately.

Quran is such that its message cannot be challenged in debates.

A large group of Huffaz are protecting the Quran so it cannot be corrupted.

Quran is inimitable. No one can produce something like it.

Al-Isra (The Journey by Night) - 17:88

قُلْ لِّئِنِ اجْتَمَعَتِ الْإِنْسُ وَالْجِنُّ عَلَىٰ أَنْ يَأْتُوا بِمِثْلِ هَذَا الْقُرْآنِ لَا يَأْتُونَ بِمِثْلِهِ وَلَوْ كَانَ بَعْضُهُمْ لِبَعْضٍ ظَهِيرًا (17:88)

🎬 17:88 Say: "If all mankind and all invisible beings would come together with a view to producing the like of this Qur'an, they could not produce it's like even though they were to exert all their strength in aiding one another!" =

Al-Baqara (The Cow) - 2:23

وَإِنْ كُنْتُمْ فِي رَيْبٍ مِّمَّا نَزَّلْنَا عَلَىٰ عَبْدِنَا فَأْتُوا بِسُورَةٍ مِّمَّنْ مِثْلِهِ
وَادْعُوا شُهَدَاءَكُمْ مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ (2:23)

🎬 2:23 And if you doubt any part of what We have, bestowed from on high, step by step, upon Our servant [Muhammad], then produce a surah of similar merit, and call upon any other than God to bear witness for you -if what you say is true! =

We tend to relegate Quran as a holy book only and do not reflect on the meanings of the Quran. This results in failure to explore and understand the laws of Allah in relation to human-beings and natural phenomena. Also to blame is 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, may Allah be pleased with him, narrated that the Messenger of Allah sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam mentioned something and then said

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‘... and that is when there will be no more knowledge.’ We said, ‘O Messenger of Allah! How will knowledge disappear while we have the Quran with us and we teach it to our children and while they will also teach it to theirs?’ The Prophet sallallahu 'alaihi wa sallam retorted: ‘I thought you were one of the most knowledgeable of the people of Madinah! Are there not Jews and Christians who

have their scriptures with them and yet they take no benefit from what is inside them?’ (At-Tirmidhi and others)

Brothers in faith! The blessed month of Ramadan should be regarded as a wonderful opportunity for us to purify our souls in preparation for the Quranic guidance through night prayer. Allah says that which translates as:

Al-Muzzammil (Folded in Garments) - 73:6

إِنَّ نَاشِئَةَ اللَّيْلِ هِيَ أَشَدُّ وَطْءًا وَأَقْوَمُ قِيَلًا

📖 73:6 “Indeed, the hours of the night (i.e. the rising for Tahajjud prayer) are more effective for concurrence (of heart and tongue) and more suitable for words (i.e. for recitation of the Quran and for hearing and understanding it).”

Brothers in faith! 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 alone. 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?” Do any of us ever reflect upon and appreciate this great period which is one of those in which supplications are answered?

Brothers and sisters!

The Quran, the book of blessing, is a precious gift of holy Ramadan that affects the believers’ right down their spines. It is a vehicle for the blessing and a guide to the true path. The Quran is a book of life for us that makes life meaningful and builds our hopes for today and tomorrow. It contains the most beautiful words, it is the greatest treasure of the Creator and the greatest gift to us. It is the divine guide that allows human beings to get to know about themselves and their environment. It is the book of the servants of Allah that transforms the wealth and poverty as well as the sadness and joy of a Muslim into worship. The Quran with its messages of blessing has honored and exalted the human beings. With the Quran nations and communities have become blessed. Whoever opted for it has found salvation and whoever turned their backs on it have been defeated.

Brothers and sisters!

Our great book the Quran has brought together humanity with universal principles and has introduced supreme values for human beings. From the

moment, it started being revealed it has introduced human beings to righteousness, justice, compassion, morality and virtue. It has taught us to differentiate between good and evil, right and wrong, the good and the ugly and what is a blessing and what is malice. This book has brought together our minds and our hearts. It created a notion for us that there is only one Allah and then invited us to worship.

Brothers and sisters!

the Quran taught us to be good servants of Allah. It reminded us that we are not created just to roam about and that we are beings that have responsibilities. It prohibited us from even displaying minute annoyance towards our parents. It taught us to display compassion to our elderlies. It taught us to be good parents. It taught us to be a good wife, a good husband, a good friend and a good neighbor, in short it taught us to be good individuals. It taught us to take care of orphans, the handicapped people and immigrants.

Dear brothers and sisters!

So, let us rebuild our hearts, minds and our lives in the month of blessing, compassion and forgiveness, during the climate of Ramadan. Do not spare your hearts and souls from the messages of the supreme Book. Let us be introduced to the world of realities of the Quran. Let us bring the Quran to the horizons of our hearts and souls. Let us consolidate our knowledge of the Quran with contemplation. Let us not forget that the more we open to the Quran the more we will see all the doors open to us in great abundance. May Allah guide us on this journey of Quran.