

Ramadhan, the Month of Purity

(2/12/98)

Qaala (swt) says:

SHAHR RAMAD.AAN 'ALLADHE UNZILA FE -HI AL- QUR'AAN HUD(A)N LI- AN- NAAS WA-
BAYYINAAT MIN AL- HUDAA WA- AL- FURQAAN

- Assalam wa alaikum wa rahmatullah, brothers and sisters, Allah (swt) mentioned in the ayah that I recited about the blessed month which is approaching soon:

"Ramadhan is the month in which the Quran was revealed, a guidance for mankind, and clear proofs of the guidance and as a criterion" [TMQ 2:185]

- And it is this topic of **Criteria** that I want to address today.
- We know that from the very first day that this Deen was revealed that it was a **pure Deen**, devoid of impurities and falsehood.
- From the very first Ayaat, where Allah (swt) ordered:

IQRA' BI- ISM RABB -KA 'ALLADHE KHALAQA
KHALAQA AL- 'INSAAN MIN ALAQ

**"Read: In the name of thy Lord who created, Created man from a clot."
[TMQ 92:1-2]**

- We know that this Message is a pure Message. Islam came and Rasuulullah (saw) came not only for the time in which it was revealed and not only for the people of that time, but for the whole of mankind. Allah (swt) says:

"Wa maa arsalnaaka illa rahamatal lil -Aalamiin"

"We have sent you (Muhammad) as a Messenger for mankind"

- Islam came to change the impurities in this world and to cleanse them. It came to change the criteria by which people act to the criteria, which Allah (Swt) defined for us.
- And today it is apparent if we look around us, the way people act and what an impure basis they have.
- E.g. we can see recently the killing that happened in Bradford, we can see people in this society believing that they are free to do as they please - to satisfy their own desires and material benefit.
- E.g. recently it was **World Aids day**, when they were pushing in the media the notion that, *"its O.K. to have pre-marital relationships as long as you use protection."*
- E.g. **Jerry Springer**, Ricki Lake shows = reflection of society.
- E.g. the Clinton & **Lewinsky** case in America is a prime example which illustrates the criteria and the belief that they have.
- E.g. the tension in the last few weeks over the issue of **Iraq** - also shows us their false portrayals that the Western nations stand out for 'Peace and Justice' where everyone knows that the real motive of the Western nations the issue of Iraq is their own interests. Even though **France & Russia** seemingly support Iraq we should not be fooled and deluded into think that they have any other criteria other than pursuing their own interests. And if we are not naïve we would see that Iraq owes both of them major loans.
- It is not something that they hide, they say it from their own mouths, they are the ones who expound the notions of **'you only live once'**, 'live life to the max', 'we are free to

do as we please', etc. I'm sure all of you would have heard these statements or similar ones, even within this University.

- However, they are not content at having these criteria of expediency, or benefit or pleasure and pain. Rather they wish to **instill these** rotten ideas into our minds and the minds of the Muslims.
- We can see the effects of this campaign upon the Muslims at a local level, national and even an international level.
- E.g. My sister takes my 1 and a half year old **nephew to a crèche** in which everybody is Muslim, including the staff. Recently they have been organising a Christmas Party, when my sister questioned them on this, they replied, "**Well it's only a bit of fun**". One of the people even said, "*Well he was our Prophet as well*".
- E.g. When I go shopping with my father I see Muslims standing in the queue for the **national lottery**.
- E.g. We all must know examples of the **corruption** in Pakistan and the way the regime operates and its relationship with the wealthy landlords.
- E.g. The signing of the **Wye Peace** accords by Arafat & Hussein are also examples for us which show this rotten criteria at work.
- E.g. The conflict between Syria & Turkey, Afghanistan & Iran in the last months also shows us other than Islam being used as a criteria or basis for action.
- We should realise that it is Allah (swt) that created this Universe and it He (swt) who created us and our surroundings. As Allah (swt) says in the Quran:

"FA- LI- YANZ.UR AL- 'INSAAN MIN MA(A) KHULIQA"
"**Now let man think from what he is created!**" [TMQ 86:5]

- So it is for Him to decide what we should do and what should refrain from, He is the one who defines our purpose in life, our criteria and how we should solve our problems.
- Allah (swt) clearly explained our objective in life, He (swt) said:

"I created the jinn and humankind only that they might worship Me."

- So the reason why we perform any action must be in line with this objective. Our Objective as Muslims is to **attain Jannah** because we believe that we will be accounted for all our deeds and based upon these we will be either granted entry into Jannah or dismissed into Jahannam. We should believe in this in the same way that water flows and that fire burns. This should be the motivating factor in our lives, it is the basis upon which we plan our lives. It is the sole reason why we pray salah 5 times a day, pay the Zakat and fast in the month of Ramadhan.
- Allah (swt) did not tell us to leave the real world and not trade, study, or get married. Islam doesn't believe in monk-hood, the Prophet (saw) said: "**Laa rahbaniya fil Islam**", "**There is no monasticism in Islam**".
- **Rather Allah (swt) defined for us the values in life.**
- So He gave us rules relating to having a **business** in which we are obligated to seek profit. So we trade according to the rules of Allah (swt) and according to the aim he prescribed for us.
- He gave us some rules relating to the **physical implementation** of His rules, e.g. the law of Qisas for the murderer:

"Yaa ayyuhal laziina aamanu kutiba alaykumul qisas fil qatla"
"**O you who believe the law of Qisas is prescribed for you in cases of murder**" [TMQ 2:178]

- E.g. **Jihad** - to remove the Physical obstacles in the way of the Da'wa like the battle of Badr which the Prophet (saw) fought in the blessed month of Ramadhan.
- And He gave us rules relating to worships like Salah and Siyam (fasting).
 - We do not fast because it is some cultural tradition or because it feels good.

- He (swt) is the one that decides when we should fast and when we should refrain from fasting. From our own minds if we decided why don't we fast all day until Eisha time? Why don't we make it obligatory to fast all through the year? Why don't we fast on the day of Eid?
- We should not become defensive when it comes to the rules of Islam, we shouldn't look for reasons or so called benefits, this is what the West wants they want us to be defensive and invent reasons for them to attack us on.
- Let me give you some examples of what I mean by inventing reasons.
 - E.g. **Salah** - its good exercise. Once you fall into this trap it is a downhill tumble, because I can say to you that I have ancholysing spondilitis (type of arthritis) so it is bad for my back. Allah (swt) gave us an order to perform the Salah we should follow it he didn't give us this reason.
 - E.g. **Pork** - People use the reason that it is bad (or dirty) for you that's why it is haram. Again if a Kafir brings you scientifically proven clean Pork would you eat it? No, because it is haram - Allah (swt) doesn't have to give us an explanation of why He made it haram.
 - E.g. **Fasting** in Ramadhan - some people may say that the reason for fasting is so that we can feel how the poor people feel. Again this is not a reason that Allah (swt) gave us, Allah (swt) stated:

YAA 'AYYUHAA 'ALLADHENA 'AAMANO KUTIBA ALAY -KUM AS. - S.IYAAM KA-MAA KUTIBA ALAA 'ALLADHENA MIN QABLI -KUM LA'ALLA -KUM TATTAQON
"O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you that you may gain Taqwa (piety)" [TMQ 2:183]

- Allah (swt) told us in the Quran that we cannot decide good and bad from our **own minds**, He (swt) said:

KUTIBA ALAY -KUM AL- QITAAL WA- HUWA KURH LA- -KUM WA- ASAA 'AN TAKRAHO SHAY'(AN) WA- HUWA KHAYR LA- -KUM WA- ASAA 'AN TUH.IBBO SHAY'(AN) WA- HUWA SHARR LA- -KUM WA- 'ALLAAH YA'LAM WA- 'ANTUM LAA TA'LAMON
"Fighting is prescribed for you and you dislike it. But it is possible that you dislike a thing which is good for you and that you love a thing which is bad for you. But Allah knoweth and you know not." [TMQ 2:216]

- Inshallah all of us will fast in this month with the correct motive. Rasulullah (saw) said:

"When (the month of) Ramadhan begins, the gates of Paradise are opened" [Bukhari, narrated by Abu Huraira]

"Fasting is a shield. Once you are fasting, you should not speak foul speech nor loud. If a person curses or fights him, let him say: I am fasting. By the One who has Mohammad's soul in His hand, the smell of the fasting person's mouth is better for Allah than musk. The fasting person has two times of happiness: the first is when he breaks fast, the second when he meets his Lord." (Bukhari & Muslim)

"There is a gate in Al-Jannah called Ar-Rayyan which those who fast enter from on the day of judgment. And no one else enters from it. Once they enter from it, it is closed, and nobody else enters from it." (Bukhari)

- So attain the reward and gaining Allah's pleasure should be our motive for fasting and in fact for all our actions.
- And I feel it necessary to point out that the criteria of halal & haram and the objective we have as Muslims should be **permanent** in our lives. I say this because I know that for some Ramadhan is seen as a month in which we do Ibadah to Allah but this is

ignored in their other affairs and in other months. So when it comes to Ramadhan people may be happy to talk about Islam but if we address what's happening in Kosovo to the Muslims or the problems in Indonesia then some may not want to discuss it. We as Muslims must realise that Islam is a Deen that addresses all affairs and gives us solutions whether on an individual level or a societal level.

- Peoples view of Ramadhan is sometimes also restricted, so they miss out the fact that the Prophet (saw) fought the **Battle of Badr** in this month, in fact the Prophet (saw) ordered the Muslims not to fast whilst they were fighting. We may miss the fact that the **Battle of Hitten** was fought by Salahuddin Ayubi against the Crusaders (1187 CE).
- So our view of Ramadhan should not be restricted.
- It shouldn't be the case that only in Ramadhan the Quran is read and Islam is practices, indeed the Prophet (saw) said:

The Messenger of Allah (saaw) said, "Whosoever does not stop saying and acting upon falsehood, Allah is in no need for their to abandon their food." (Bukhari)

- On a final note, I encourage all of us to use the month of Ramadhan to get closer to Allah (swt) in our thinking and our actions.

Aquuulu qawli haaza wa astaghfirullah hi Azeem!