

Let us read and understand the Qur'an diligently during the month of Ramadan.

All praises are due to **Allah**. I testify that there is nothing worthy of worship except **Allah**, the uniquely One who has no partners in **His** one-ness. And I testify that the Prophet **Muhammad** is a slave of **Allah** and **His** Messenger.

Dear Believers! **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah al-Baqarah**:

“O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed to you as it was prescribed to those before you, that you may learn God-consciousness and self-restraining fear (taqwa).” (S.2 V.183)

“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. So, whoever sights [the new moon of] the month, let him fast it. ... ”** (S.2 V.185)

Allah has singled out the month of **Ramadan** not just as an obligation to fast in, but as the month in which the **Qur'an** was revealed. It was also the month of **Ramadan** in which the Angel **Jibril** used to meet the Prophet **SAW** every night to revise the **Qur'an** with him. So, there is in fasting and in the recitation of the **Qur'an** a common means by which we can bring about **Taqwa** in ourselves. For they both regulate the manner in which we spiritually proceed towards **Allah**, they represent means by which we can purify our souls, and spiritually ascend in our dispositions.

Allah says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah al-Baqarah**:

“This is the Book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of **Allah.”** (S.2 V.2)

So, the people of **Taqwa** are those who honor **Allah** as **He** should be honored, this entails that they honor the **Qur'an** as it should be honored and who recite it as it should be recited, who reflect and ponder upon its verses as it should be pondered. **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah as-Sad**:

“[This is] a blessed Book which We have revealed to you, [O **Muhammad], that they might reflect upon its verses and that those of understanding would be reminded.”** (S.38 V.29)

In other words, **Allah** is informing us that this Book which **He** has revealed to us, contains much good, has deep benefit, tremendous barakah, so who reflect upon its verses will attain unto its deep meanings and then act upon what it is telling them to do. **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah al-An'am**:

“And this [Qur'an**] is a Book **We** have revealed [which is] blessed, so follow it.”** (S.6 V.155)

So, the following of the **Qur'an** is what bequeaths lights in the heart, contentment in ourselves, and true unconditional happiness in our lives. And **Allah** says in the **Qur'an** in **Surah Ibrahim**:

“[This is] a Book which **We have revealed to you, [O **Muhammad**], that you might bring mankind out of darkneses into the light by permission of their **Lord** - to the path of the Exalted in Might, the Praiseworthy”** (S.14 V.1)



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O Fasting Believers! Indeed both the fast and the recitation of the **Qur'an** will intercede for their people on the Day of Judgment. The Prophet **SAW** said: "Fasting and the **Qur'an** intercede for a man. Fasting says, 'O my **Lord!** I have kept him away from his food and his passions by day, so accept my intercession for him.' The **Qur'an** says, 'I have kept him away from sleep by night, so accept my intercession for him.' Then their intercession is accepted." [Ahmad]

Let us recite the **Qur'an**, ponder upon its meanings, for through this **Allah** sends down **His** baraka and **His** peace and **His** mercy.

The Prophet **SAW** said: "If anyone recites a letter of God's Book he will be credited with a good deed, and a good deed gets a tenfold reward." [Tirmidhi]

May the peace and the blessings of **Allah** be upon prophet **Muhammad SAW**, his family and all of his Companions. May **Allah** be pleased with the Rightly Guided **Caliphs: Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthman and Ali**, and all those who will follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment.

O **Allah!** Accept our prayers, all our **ibada and** all of our good deeds and forgive us for our **sins**.

O **Allah!** Guide us to the right path and make us of those on whom **You** bestows **Your** mercy.

O **Allah!** Accept us for **Your** service and for the service of **Islam** and **Muslims**

O **Allah!** Give **shifa** to all those who are sick.

O **Allah!** Grant safety and security to everyone here in Japan as well as all over the world. **Aamin ya Rabbil Aalamin**.

