

Friday Sermon – 1st April 2022



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Sermon 1 & 2: Sermon of Shabania – Manifesto for Ramadan

The way Allah has ordained the teaching of Taqwa through prophets , similarly there are other elements as well amongst this and one another important means is the Holy month of Ramadan for acquisition of Taqwa. The month of Ramadan is best opportunity for acquisition of Taqwa and with divine grace we have reached another month of Ramadan and in two days we will be blessed with this bounty.

The Holy Prophet (s) in the last Friday of Shaban prepared the believers for welcoming Ramadan and presented the reality of the month of Ramadan. Generally this impression brings out the specifics which Allah has established for Ramadan is like weather seasons. Like on some places there are two seasons of winter and summer and some places 4 seasons. In places where there is summer arrangements are made to protect from it but still summers shows its effects. When winter comes it leaves its effects on its own and its effect is independent on act of human being.

Month of Ramadan is an opportunity of time like there are opportunities at divine places where people visit to practice and learn Taqwa then apply it in their normal lives. Amongst such places one is mosque, then other place is the Holy Kaaba. The mosques are available in every place and Kaaba is a place where believers are ordered to visit once. We have many religious places now but from Allah the most established places are only two; one is mosque and second is Kaaba. We have made other places as per our choice and they are fine there is no harm in that. One was ordered to the Prophet to make and the believers were asked to make mosque using their own budget and not Islamic budget. Ibrahim did not make Kaaba using Khums, Zakat money , he made using his own funds. I have mentioned before that Prophet Moosa was ordered to make Bayt and establish salaah then give the good news for their salvation. This was also to be made from the community budget. The mosque and Kaaba is an order from Allah to be made where the believers are settled, there along with their homes they should construct a mosque as well. If believers are spending their lives without a mosque then this is their religious weakness. Then the mosques should be maintained, made busy where education and remembrance of Allah is done.

The Month of Ramadan is an opportunity over time where generally we have this impression that this month is like winter and summer, where it comes and leaves its effects on earth. The way now summer has come extremely where wheat crops that used to be cut on April it is happening in march now. Whether farmers accept it or not the summer has to show its effects. Similarly the winter also has to show its effects without any arrangement from man, only to remain protected from its extreme effect man has to prepare. The Month of Ramadan is not the season like winter or summer instead this month Allah has arranged preparation for believers. This means the other things which are required to acquire Taqwa has been placed in this month. The actual activity has to be shown by believers and not done automatically by Ramadan. For this the Prophet has a detailed sermon by the name of Sermon of Shabania whose Tafsir has been done years before.

When the Month of Ramadan came near in the last Friday of Shaban the Prophet delivered this sermon related to Ramadan. This sermon is present in the book Uyun e Akhbar e Raza. Imam Raza (a.s) is the narrator of this sermon through the chain of all infallible Imams leading to Imam Ali (a.s)

Imam Ali (a) says that one day the Prophet delivered a sermon and said *"O people! The Month of Allah is coming towards you with its blessings and forgiveness"* Iqbal means turning towards something. One who turns towards you and we also desire that he comes towards us and we prepare for its coming is known as Isteqbal. It means to receive, have desire for someone to come towards us. Ramadan is coming towards the people with blessings, mercy and forgiveness. This is not like rain that will pour on man irrespective of whatever state man is whether man desires or not he gets wet. Instead Allah has kept all this in the lap of Ramadan and man need to receive this.

"This month is the most esteemed month for Allah and its days are privileged over all other days of year and life. And its nights are the most superior nights over all other nights. And its moments are all superior to all other moments. This is the month in which you all have been called towards the hospitality of Allah". This means Allah is the host and we all are his guest. *"In this month you are accounted as those who have received Karamat (nobility) from Allah. You breathe in the month of Ramadan are counted as Tasbeeh. Your sleep would be counted as worship. Whatever deed you do in this month would be accepted. Your supplications would be accepted. Thus in month with sincere intention and pure heart desire from Allah the opportunity (Taufeeq) in the etiquettes of fasting of this month and Tilawat of book of Allah. He is unblessed who in this great month remains deprived of forgiveness"* This means the month passes and the person finds no change in himself. If man is not prepared for this month then does not take advantage of this month and is unblessed and accursed. *"You have to fast in this month; one part of which is remain aloof from eating and drinking"*. If the season is of summer like now, you will feel thirstier as you have to do your normal work as well. Ramadan does not mean you need to leave your routine work. This means with routine work you will feel thirsty as well and you have to bear this thirst.

The ability to tolerate is a quality of man to bear things like to bear heat, cold. Everything cannot be ended; certain things need to be there and we need to tolerate them. If there is heat we immediately try to secure from it, we need to tolerate the heat and cold. Those who do this become tough. There are good fruits of summer which come in this season. *"You have to be attentive toward the hereafter and remember the hunger and thirst of that day. In this month the biggest act after fasting and worship is to give charity"*

If you have certain obligations which are in the form of Khums, Zakat from whom generally the believers are careless. Whatever man spends in the way of Allah it is Sadaqa. If you have no obligation on your shoulder then you are amongst fortunate beings but still you need to do Charity and it is the best opportunity. The Shias give Khums that too hardly 2% believers remove and from Zakat we have given up completely. The Zakat is obligatory on nine things as per verdicts in Fiqh and these things are not present with anyone specifically those in urban areas. They don't have livestock, or staple food stock, nor dates which are listed as items of Zakat. But you have shops, plaza, factory, companies, trading and many other things but there is no Fatwa of Zakat on these. The people of that time were not so rich and they were removing zakat on these things but today people are rich and they need to do Zakat. As per the verdicts of Marajae as well that as a precaution to give Zakat on all assets. Quran has not mentioned these nine things and Quran only talks about Zakat on all assets. The tone of Quran is making Zakat obligatory in absolute form. The Prophet made Zakat obligatory on these nine things because these were the assets at that time. But today the assets are different and Zakat will be applicable on these. For upcoming generations these might not remain as these and might be electronic assets. Whatever is counted as assets for the generation the Zakat will be on that and the best season is the month of Ramadan.

"In this month you need to respect your elders". This is something that has ended in our culture. "Be merciful on young ones and establish relationship with your relatives. Protect your tongues. And those scenes which are not permissible to be seen refrain from them by closing your eyes on them. Those things which are not permissible to be listened you shut your ears on them" The fasting should be of all senses and not just on food and drinks. It should not be that we listen to songs, see movies in the state of fasting. *"Be merciful and honor orphans so that mercy should be on your orphans as well. Seek forgiveness of your sins in this month. Spend your time in Duas specifically during the times of Salaat raise your hands for supplications, as these are the best times for supplication. These are the best times when Allah looks upon those bondsmen who say Labbaik to Allah's call and Allah responds to their calls. When these bondsmen do Munajat Allah says Labbaik to them and responds to them"* This is the preparation for Ramadan and we will enter the month with this manifesto that the Prophet has given to the believers. We should make this manifesto practical in this month.

"There is lot of hardship on believers and you have mortgaged yourself in this month and you need to get it relieved through repentance. And the best the time for this is the month of Ramadan. When you are in the state of fasting or after breaking fast and at all times the doors of forgiveness are open. Your backs , shoulders are breaking from the burden that is on you , and you need to lighten it through prolonged prostrations. Allah has sworn that I will not punish those who offer their Salaat, means do their Salaat with care and those who prostate won't be punished. Allah on the day of judgement when everyone would be in presence of Allah, there Allah will not burn them in the fire of hell and in fact not even the heat of hell fire will come near them".

The Prophet said *"Make others break their fast and feed them. And anyone who makes other believer break their fast then it is like releasing the slaves and all sins are forgiven"*. The Prophet is saying that make arrangement from your money for Iftar of other believers. Someone asked that everyone of us cannot afford this, so what should we do as we don't even have food for our own to break our fast. The Prophet replied *"Protect yourself from the fire of hell by just serving one part of one piece of date and one sip of water"*. Prophet says *"O People! Anyone who improves his ethics, morals in this month gets the permission for passing over the bridge on which steps of many would tremble. Anyone who facilitates his employees (slaves) Allah make him easy on the day of Qayamat. And anyone who stops his evils in this month on others and no one got hurt in this month from him, Allah will stop his anger also on the day of Qayamat. And anyone who honors the orphans in this month"* Generally people insult the orphan. The Quran is ordering for honoring the orphan, that is to give them respect and status not just feeding food. When he meets Allah on the day of Qayamat, Allah will respect and honor him as well. *"Anyone who compromise severed relationships with displeased relatives Allah will be merciful on them on the day of judgement. And one who breaks relationship on the day of judgement, Allah distance his mercy from them on the day of judgement. And one who pleases Allah will abundance salaas, Allah will relieve from hell. Anyone who delivers one obligation in the Month of Ramadan he has delivered 70 obligations. And any one who sends salutations on me in abundance he will be comfortable and relieved on the day of Qayamat. And one who recites one verse of Quran it is like he has recited complete Quran in other days. O People ! know that the doors of paradise are open in this month. Seek from Allah that these doors should not be closed. The doors of hell are closed in this month and seek from Allah that they should never open on you. The Shaitans are chained in this month and seek mercy from Allah that they should remained chained and not dominate us anytime after"*.

When the sermon reached this state, Amirul Momineen (a) stood up and asked *O Prophet what is the best act in this month of Ramadan*. The Prophet replied: *"O Abul Hassan ! It is Wara"* which is one highest category of Taqwa. Then Prophet mourned and he was asked by Ali why you are crying.

The Prophet said, I am crying on what is going to happen to you in this month. Ali said, what is that? O Ali I can see that you are in state of prayer and most accursed person in humanity, worse than those who hamstringed the camel of Saleh will attack you and your beard would be soaked in blood. Ali asked, when this strike will come on you, will my religion be secure? The prophet said, "your religion would be secure and one who killed you, he killed me, one who displeased you, defames you has done same with me. Your relationship with me is like my own self. Your soul is with my soul, your dust is my dust. Allah created and selected you and also me. Allah selected me from prophethood and you for Imamah. One who denies your Imamah denies my prophethood. O Ali ! you are my successor and father of my children. You are husband of my daughter and you are guardian of my Ummah. Your order and prohibitions are of mine. I swear on the essence of one who created me that Allah that placed me on Prophethood and made me the best of creation and you are the Hujjat on the creation of Allah, you are the trustworthy of Allah's secrets and you are governor over people from Allah.

This is the sermon from Prophet and teachings of Prophet for Ramadan. We should not spend Ramadan under cultural rites but on the guidance of Prophet so that we can do the journey of Taqwa in this month and believers should receive all the blessings in this month. May Allah give us the Taufeeq, and forgive us and grant us Taufeeq of servitude in this month.