

“In the name of ALLAH, the BENEFICENT, the MERCIFUL”

NOOR-I-ISLAM

(INTERNATIONAL)

AHMADIYAH ANJUMAN ISH'AT-I-ISLAM (LAHORE), CANADA

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HAPPY RAMADAN
RAMADAN KAREEM
RAMADAN MUBARAK

“O you who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may guard (against evil); and those who find it hard to do so may effect a redemption by feeding a poor man” (2:183-184)

“The month of Ramadan is that in which the Qur’an was revealed; Therefore, whoever of you witnesses the month, he shall fast during it, and whoever is sick or on a journey (he shall fast), a (like) number of other days” (2:185)

(AL-QUR’AN AL-KAREEM AL-MAJEED)



GUIDANCE FROM THE HOLY PROPHET

Night of POWER & MAJESTY

“Lailat al-Qadr”

ibn Saleh

Canada

Ramadan is a great season for Muslims. Throughout the month, they feel very close to Allah. Only those who fast know from personal experience that to deprive oneself of the pleasure of eating and drinking when hungry, thirsty and tired on a long, hot summer day, does not make the fasting person bored or depressed. On the contrary, when he remembers that he is doing that solely to please Allah, he feels a sense of satisfaction which is very rare in human experience but it is also very real. He is particularly happy because he is able to overcome even the most pressing of human desires which is closely intertwined with man's sense of survival. When man can

triumph over his strongest desires, he becomes well trained in the art of placing duty before self-interest. He gains the sort of freedom to which every human being should aspire. It is freedom from being enslaved by desire. Examples about in the history of Islam of people who were so courageous that they stood out for the right they believed in the face of great personal danger to themselves and to their families. They come from all parts of the Muslim world. They belonged to different races, different traditions and different environments. They shared in common the fact that they had the same training to overcome through fasting the pressures of self-interest.

Most people think that the Night of Power falls on the 27th of Ramadan, that is the night which follows sunset on the 26th. There are certain Hadiths to support that view. If we take all the authentic Hadiths which refer to this point, we cannot come out with any definite conclusion other than saying that the Night of Power is one of the odd nights of the last third of the month. It is important, therefore, to seek it in one of the five nights of 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 29th of Ramadan.

When we examine this 30-day course of training we find that it progresses in a very subtle and gradual way to the high level of its last ten days and reaches its pinnacle with the Night of Power. Fasting itself works on man and enhances his sense of duty. As he goes on from one day to another, the significance of this hard

experience becomes clearer and clearer. Difficult as the task is, he is not bored with it. He is after its great prize. When he has been fasting a few days, he is on the lookout for anything which is certain to increase his reward from Allah. We have been recommended by the Prophet to spend much of the nights of Ramadan in worship.

People may be slow coming to act on this recommendation in the first few days. More of them do come every day to share in the blessings which are experienced by everyone who goes through his fasting days with patience and stands up in worship for parts of the nights of Ramadan. When two thirds of the month has gone by, a Muslim feels that he has been elevated very highly above his own standard 20 days earlier. For 20 days he has been in the company of sincere worshipers, and for 20 days he has been earning Allah's pleasure which makes his life blessed, although he may not be physically aware of it. Those 20 days have prepared him for a higher task, following the Prophet's guidance.

Al-Bukhari relates a report by Aisha, the Prophet's wife, who states: **"When the last 10 days (of Ramadan) arrived, the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to tighten his dress, stay up the whole night and wake up his household."** This authentic Hadith stresses the fact that the last 10 days of Ramadan are singled out for special significance. Although we are recommended to spend a part of each night of Ramadan in prayer, which is known to all Muslims as "taraweeh", the Prophet's guidance suggests that we go into a stage of full mobilization, as it were, in the last 10 days of the month. The Prophet (pbuh) used to do two important things in those 10 days of Ramadan.

"my LORD, you are much forgiving and you love forgiveness, therefore, forgive me"

The Prophet stayed up all night. A more literal translation of the Hadith may be rendered as "he made his night alive," this he did through night worship. He spent the whole night praying, reciting the Qur'an, celebrating Allah's praises, thanking Him for His bounty, etc. When he did so, his night came alive.

Moreover, the Prophet woke up his household for worship. This tells us something special. Since night worship is voluntary, the Prophet used not to wake up anyone for it. We have reports of the Prophet staying in the houses of some of his companions on different occasions. Some of them took that opportunity to join the Prophet in his night worship. They did so of their own accord. The Prophet (pbuh) did not make even an implicit reference that was required of them. In the last 10 nights of Ramadan, however, he broke his habit so as to wake up his household for worship. According to a Hadith related by Al-Tirmithi on the authority of Zainab, the Prophet's stepdaughter by his wife Umm Salamah: **"When only 10 days of Ramadan were left, the Prophet (pbuh) woke up everyone in his household who could manage to stay up for night worship."** The

fact that the Prophet took extra care to wake them up means that, while night worship remained voluntary, its reward on these 10 nights was so great that no one could afford to miss it.

Moreover, one of these 10 nights is the Night of Power. It is the night when the revelation of the Qur'an started. Allah tells us in the Qur'an that "the Night of Power is better than a thousand months." To stay up on that night and to spend it in worship is to attain the best reward any Muslim hopes for.

When we say that it is on that night that the revelation of the Qur'an started, we mean that the greatest event in human history took place on that night. It is the night when Allah chose to address man directly, giving him His message which ensures man's happiness in this world and in the life to come. It means that Allah in His great majesty turned to this insignificant creature, bestowing on him His greatest bounty: guidance which spares him all sorts of trouble and shows him the path which leads him to heaven. Human beings cannot thank Allah enough for this blessing, the least they could do is to

commemorate that occasion by staying up the whole night in worship praising Allah and asking Him forgiveness.

Which of the 10 nights is the Night of Power? There are several Hadiths which urge Muslims to seek that night in the odd number of the last 10 days of Ramadan. In Islamic terminology, the night precedes the day. If we say the night of the 21st day of the month, it means the night which starts with sunset on the 20th of Ramadan. One must not confuse this with the western way which considers the point of midnight the end of one day and the start of another. Our days finish and start at sunset.

Some people always ask: how to worship and what to pray for on the Night

of Power? The answer is that whatever one does for worship is good and will be amply rewarded. One can pray, recite the Qur'an, say tasbeeh and pray for himself, his family and his community. It may be of interest to remember that Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) asked the Prophet (pbuh) this very question. She said: "Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be on you), if I happen to know the Night of Power, how do I pray?" He answered: "Say: My Lord, you are much forgiving and you love forgiveness, therefore, forgive me." That is all the Prophet said to her. It is very simple but it is also very significant. What does any human being want more than to be forgiven? Is there any greater prize than Allah's forgiveness?

ISLAM & HUMAN RIGHTS

Habiba Anwar

London

(Noor-i-Islam is thankful to Habiba for her continuous interest and contributions for our newsletter. Her recent article on the above subject is a well-studied and researched one, but unfortunately, our space is limited. We have decided to publish it in two installments, and this is the first part..... the editor)



Recently, I came across a publication with the fascinating title; **The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**. When I looked for the name of the author and its publisher, it had just three letters; U, N and O and that intrigued me so much that I forgot the job in hand and started reading.

The inside title page had, by way of introduction, the following list: "On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the full text of which appears in the following pages." After the text of the act, the assembly had called upon all member countries to publicize the declaration and, I quote, "cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutes, without distinction based on the political status of countries and territories." The act consisted of seven introductory clauses under the heading **preamble**, and then thirty clauses of the main provision listed as article No. 1, 2, 3 and so on. The first clause of the preamble explained the nature of the entire document. To give you a taste of this

masterly exposition, I quote: "Whereas, the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." And why such a charter was needed is highlighted in the third clause where it states: "Whereas, it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse as a last resort to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law." Then I read the articles of this act, or this charter one by one and that kept me absorbed in it for the rest of the afternoon.

Suddenly, it occurred to me that my religion Islam claims to be a "**Deen**" or a way of life for man prescribed by the Creator of mankind Himself. If it was so, certainly Islam must have provided us with a similar charter, or in fact a better one if it was a divine revealed system. My thoughts immediately turned to Qur'anic teachings and the practice of the Holy founder of Islam as the Qur'an claimed to be a carrier of "**Huda**" the guidance, and "**Noor**" the light. The Holy Prophet of Islam had been mentioned as the teacher of the Qur'an, the purifier of the faithful and the source of wisdom himself being the best exemplar who practiced what he preached. When I questioned some elders, I was led to Qur'anic teachings and the Prophet's sayings on the subject, and I proceeded to study each article on the UN

Human Rights Declaration in the light of Islamic teachings. Since it is not possible to study and compare the contents of all the 30 articles with what had been laid down by Islam 1400 years ago in the space available to me, I will, therefore, first give a brief account of all the provisions of the 30 articles, and then present the Islamic stance on some of them.

It has been recognized and declared that all human beings are born free, and are equal in dignity and rights. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedom set forth in this declaration without any distinction such as race, sex, color, language, religion, political or other opinion, nation or social origin, property, birth or any other status. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude. No one shall be subjected to torture, cruelty, inhumane or degrading treatment. Everyone has the right to recognition. All are equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection by the law. Everyone has the right to an effective remedy for acts violating the fundamental human rights. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile. Everyone has the right to a fair and public hearing by an impartial tribunal in the determination of his rights. Anybody charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty after a fair trial. All will have the right to their privacy, the privacy of their family, home or correspondence, protecting his/her honor or reputation. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement within a country or across borders, and to seek asylum in a foreign country from persecution in his own. Every man and woman has a right to a nationality and they are free to marry and find a family with their free and full consent. Everyone has the right to own property, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, opinion and expression thereof. All men and women have a right to freedom of peaceful assembly and forming clubs and associations. They have a right to vote, to form a government that will rule their country directly or through representation. As a member of society, each member has a claim to social security, the right to work, free choice of employment and favorable conditions of work. The basic rule being equal pay and equal work. Every citizen has a right to rest, leisure and periodic holiday with pay, enabling him or herself to enjoy a standard of living adequate for the health and well being of himself and of his family. Mothers and children are entitled to special care and consideration. All children whether born in or out of wedlock shall enjoy the same social protection. Everyone has the right to education that

which will be directed to full development of human personality and potential, and parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education for their children. Everyone has the right to participate in the cultural life of the community and everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this declaration can be fully realized.

HADITH NABAWI
“so often and so much has Allah impressed upon me the duty owed to a neighbor that I began to think that a neighbor might in fact be made an heir”

Now, let us examine some of these articles against the guidance given to us by the Qur’an and the Holy Prophet of Islam (peace and blessings of Allah be on him).

Basically Islam, as the word implies, is a religion of peace and submission. As such we expect of its teachings to be conforming to what we have studied as the best of the charter. The most important declaration behind the human rights charter is the one emphasizing equality of all human beings. Islam has been very clear about this, declaring that all human beings, being the creation of the one Creator, are equal and in fact, the word used by the Qur’an is **“IKHWAH”** meaning brotherhood, and derives the equality of mankind from the unity of its common Creator. The Qur’an states: **“Oh mankind, be mindful of your duty to your Lord who created you from a single soul, caused to be spread large numbers of men and women, and be mindful of your duty to Allah in whose names you appeal to one another, and be mindful of the ties of kinship.”** (4:2)

The dignity of man, as highlighted in the charter, was recognized and proclaimed by the Qur’an 1400 years before this charter. Consider the following verses: **“..... Man has been made as His vicegerent on earth”** (35:40) and **“surely we have created man in the best mould”** (95:5). Before this, the bible had also proclaimed that God created man in his own image, and the Qur’an has testified the Bible again and again. What other higher status could have been given to man than regarding his as a representative and successor to God Himself on this earth (Khalifatullah).

(..... to be continued, Inshallah)

“O ALLAH HELP HIM WHO HELPS THE RELIGION OF MOHAMMED (PEACE AND BLESSINGS OF ALLAH BE UPON HIM) AND MAKE US FROM AMONG THEM. O ALLAH FORSAKE HIM WHO FORSAKES THE RELIGION OF MOHAMMED (PEACE AND BLESSINGS OF ALLAH BE UPON HIM) AND DO NOT MAKE US FROM AMONG THEM.”

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RAMADAN KAREEM

From all of us (Noor-i-Islam Team) to all of us across the globe a Very Happy and Blessed Ramadan Mubarak. **May Almighty Allah grant us health and strength to gather all our tools and get closer to Allah during this month.** It was so encouraging to receive 'Ramadan Mubarak' messages from all over the world that one day tears came out of my eyes and thanked Allah for his Kindness and Mercy in bringing all of us closer and closer everyday. It is not possible for me to mention all of the names here, but I do want to thank the following brothers and sisters for their prayers and messages:

Mujahid (UK), Mohammed Saeed (Pakistan), Mansoor (Guyana), Nasir Ahmed (UK), Rashid Pierkhan (Suriname), Arjumand Sadiq (South Africa), Akbar Abdullah (USA), Mohammed and Akela Haroun (UK), Fakhar-ul-Haq (Pakistan), Amtul Rauf (Canada), Amtul Momin (Germany), Nadara Khan (Trinidad), Hazrat Ameer Dr. AK Saeed (Pakistan), Riaz Ahmedali (Suriname), Hikmat Mahawat Khan (Netherlands), Zahida Hydai (Canada), Kamroeddien Lalmahomed (Suriname), Sulaiman Ahmed (Canada), Prof. MA Hami (UK), Nausheen Sadiq (Canada), Mrs. HR Sadiq (Canada) and the list goes on.

My sincere apologies for the delayed release of this issue. Sometimes, one gets into the worldly matters and routine business so much that THE MOST IMPORTANT work gets delayed and at other times, personal health becomes an issue. No excuses, it is a shame that I have delayed it for a week. I promise to all of my readers and most importantly to Almighty Allah that I will do my best to produce this newsletter on time, in future.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

Brother Masood Akhtar and Sister Samina Malik, both in USA are recovering (ALHamdolillah), BUT, both of them need our continuous prayers. May Almighty grant them complete recovery and a good health. (Ameen)

TAJAMMUL HUSSAIN

(Inna Lillahe was Inna Elehi Rajعون)

Following message has been received from brother Akbar Abdullah, that he wrote to the secretary

general of our central anjuman and we all share his feelings and extend our condolences to the family members of Tajammul Hussain.

"On behalf of the Anjuman accept our heartfelt sympathy and condolence on the recent sudden and sad passing away of Major-General (Retd.) Tajammul Hussain Marhoom, beloved brother-in-law of our respected Brother Rashid Ahmed. We pray that Allah in His Infinite Mercy, grant eternal peace, solace and happiness to the dearly departed soul and bestow on him an abode in the highest pedestal, which He has promised to all righteous people (Ameen). We further pray that Allah Almighty, with His cherished blessings to grant the surviving members of the bereaved family a source of spiritual and physical strength and comfort in their grief and anguish to bear the burden of this irreparable personal loss (Ameen) I remain, affectionately in Jamaat, Akbar Ibn Abdullah"

[Brother Abdullah! ... Thank you very much for sharing the news with us and I do appreciate your comments and prayers for our newsletter. Continuous co-ordination, co-operation, link and exchange of news and ideas among the members of our Jamaat are the only tools to our survival. Jazakumullaho Khairan.]

A PRAYER FROM HADITH

Aishah, Holy Prophet's wife (may Allah be pleased with her) said, The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) used to say in his RUKU and in his SAJDAH:

"Glory to You, O Allah, our Lord! And to You is the praise; grant me protection, O Allah!"

Let us start saying this prayer in our Ruku and Sujood during this Holy Ramadan, and let us not forget to pray for each and every member of our Jamaat. Together we are Allah's Jamaat, individually we are NO-ONE. Allah be with you all.

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