



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

# ALI 681: Preparation for the Month of Ramadan AH 1445/2024 CE

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Zoom online class

Saturday, Mar 2, 2024

Jurisprudential (*Fiqhi*) aspects – 40 minutes by Sh Muhammad Mahdi

Spiritual (*ruhani*) aspects – 40 minutes by Sh Hasanayn Kassamali

## Du'ā before the webinar

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ \* اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ.  
اللَّهُمَّ وَفِّقْنَا لِمَا نَحِبُّ وَتَرْضَى، وَلَا تَكِلْنَا إِلَى أَنْفُسِنَا طَرْفَةَ عَيْنٍ أَبَدًا.  
اللَّهُمَّ اشْرَحْ بِالْقُرْآنِ صَدْرِي، وَاسْتَعْمِلْ بِالْقُرْآنِ بَدَنِي، وَنَوِّرْ بِالْقُرْآنِ  
بَصْرِي، وَأَطْلِقْ بِالْقُرْآنِ لِسَانِي، وَأَعِنِّي عَلَيْهِ مَا أَبْقَيْتَنِي، فَإِنَّهُ لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا  
قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِكَ.

*Bismillāh.* O Allah, bless Muhammad and the family of Muhammad. O Allah, grant us success in (doing) that which You love and are pleased with. And never leave us to ourselves for the blink of an eye. O Allah, widen my chest through the Quran, Let my body follow the Quran, Enlighten my eyes through the Quran, Let my tongue speak according to the Quran, And help me to stay on it so long as You let me live, For surely there is no power nor strength except with You.

*The section in bold is recited after Quran tilāwah, taught by Amirul Mu'minīn Imam Ali (a).*

# Ramadan: Spring of Pleasant Life

*Bismillāh*. The Month of Ramadan is the best time to instill *hayatan tayyibatan* in our daily routine. We are so God conscience that we deny ourselves from the basic needs of food and drink, following Allah's command.

مَنْ عَمِلَ صَالِحًا مِنْ ذَكَرٍ أَوْ أَنْثَىٰ وَهُوَ مُؤْمِنٌ فَلَنُحْيِيَنَّاهُ حَيَاةً طَيِّبَةً  
وَلَنَجْزِيَنَّهُمْ أَجْرَهُمْ بِأَحْسَنِ مَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

Q 16:97 Qarai translation: Whoever acts righteously, [whether] male or female, should he be faithful, We shall revive him with a good life and pay them their reward by the best of what they used to do.

Arberry: goodly life; Yusufali: a life that is good and pure.

Allah 'azza wajall commands to perform good deeds and be faithful to achieve the Pleasant Life. We already do that for the entire of the Holy Month through fasting, praying, supplicating, giving alms and seeking forgiveness.

# Why has Allah granted us Ramadan?

*Bismillāh.* He knows the reason wisdom, but based on the Quran, Hadiths, practices of the Ma'sūmīn and the lifestyles of great scholars we can give following reasons:

- a) To awaken us from our worldly stupor
- b) To help us slow down and savor spiritual pleasures
- c) To relieve us of our burdens of sins and heedlessness
- d) To bring us closer to our Lord
- e) To develop sympathy for the less fortunate
- f) To instill self-discipline
- g) To look at the Holy Quran – the final Divine Message, seriously

# Listen to, recite and study the Quran in Ramadan

عَنْ أَبِي عَبْدِ اللَّهِ ع قَالَ: مَنْ اسْتَمَعَ حَرْفًا مِنْ كِتَابِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَ جَلَّ مِنْ غَيْرِ قِرَاءَةٍ كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَهُ حَسَنَةً وَ مَحَا عَنْهُ سَيِّئَةً وَ رَفَعَ لَهُ دَرَجَةً وَ مَنْ قَرَأَ نَظْرًا مِنْ غَيْرِ صَوْتٍ كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَهُ بِكُلِّ حَرْفٍ حَسَنَةً وَ مَحَا عَنْهُ سَيِّئَةً وَ رَفَعَ لَهُ دَرَجَةً وَ مَنْ تَعَلَّمَ مِنْهُ حَرْفًا ظَاهِرًا كَتَبَ اللَّهُ لَهُ عَشْرَ حَسَنَاتٍ وَ مَحَا عَنْهُ عَشْرَ سَيِّئَاتٍ وَ رَفَعَ لَهُ عَشْرَ دَرَجَاتٍ قَالَ لَا أَقُولُ بِكُلِّ آيَةٍ وَ لَكِنْ بِكُلِّ حَرْفٍ بَاءٍ أَوْ تَاءٍ أَوْ شِبْهِهِمَا

From Abū ‘Abdillāh (عليه السلام) : If one listens to the recitation of a letter from the book of Allah, the Almighty Majestic, without reading, Allah writes for him the reward for one good deed, deletes one of his evil deeds and raises for him one degree. If one reads by looking at it but without audible voice Allah writes for him the reward for one good deed for each letter, deletes one of his evil deeds and raises him one degree. If one learns one clear letter, Allah writes for him the reward for ten good deeds, deletes his ten evil deeds and raises him ten degrees. The Imam said, (note that) I do not say, for every verse but for every letter ba, ta, and similar letters (*Al-Kāfi*, v2, H 6)

# Familiarize with the names Quranic surahs

*Bismillāh*. A sūrah (pl. *suwar*) is a chapter of the Quran containing a group of verses that begin with a sentence *bismillāhir-Rahmānir-Rahīm*. In Arabic this verse is known as a *basmalah*. All sūrahs begin with basmalah, except sūrah number 9. There are 114 sūrahs/suwar in the Quran. Although, sūrah 9 does not have the basmalah, there are still 114 basmalahs in the Quran, because al-Naml has two basmalahs (at the beginning and in verse 27:30). All these basmalahs are in integral parts of the Quran and were present at the time of the Prophet (s).

All sūrahs have specific name or names, which serve as a sort of heading. *The names of are derived from:* 1) the position (e.g., al-Fatihah – the Opening), 2) the words in the 1<sup>st</sup> verse (al-Falaq (# 113) and al-Nās (#114)), 3) letters in the Hurūf al-Muqatti‘āt (e.g., TāHā (#20), YāSīn (#36) and 4) an important or distinguishing word in the sūra itself, such as al-Hamd (#1) al-Baqarah (#2), al-Mā'idah (#5), al-Anfāl (# 8).

Now let us look at the Arabic rules that apply to the names of the Quranic sūrahs.

# Ramadan must be different in all aspects

*Bismillāh*. In a beautiful Prophetic Hadith, it is said:

لا يَكُونَنَّ شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ عِنْدَكُمْ كَغَيْرِهِ مِنْ الشُّهُورِ ؛ فَإِنَّ لَهُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ حُرْمَةً وَفَضْلًا عَلَى سَائِرِ الشُّهُورِ ، وَلَا يَكُونَنَّ شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ يَوْمٌ صَوْمِكُمْ كَيَوْمِ فِطْرِكُمْ .

Ensure that the month of Ramadan with you should not be like other months. Because with Allah, it (i.e., Ramadan) has a sanctification and excellence over all other months. And ensure that your fasting day in Ramadan is not like the day you are not fasting (when many things are permitted).

Therefore, we should be fully cognizant about everything surrounding our deeds and speech in this month. Don't allow pressures of life or Satan make you oblivious of the spirituality of Ramadan.

# How to bring about the spirituality?

*Bismillāh.* We will discuss a few important Hadith

- 1، مَا أَفْضَلُ الْأَعْمَالِ فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ فَقَالَ يَا أَبَا الْحُسَيْنِ أَفْضَلُ الْأَعْمَالِ فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ الْوَرَعُ عَنْ مُحَارِمِ اللَّهِ ثُمَّ بَكَى
- 2، لَوْ مَاتَ مَنْ بَيْنَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ لَمَا اسْتَوْحَشْتُ بَعْدَ أَنْ يَكُونَ الْقُرْآنُ مَعِي وَكَانَ عِذَا قَرَأَ - مَالِكِ يَوْمَ الدِّينِ يُكْرِرُهَا حَتَّى كَادَ أَنْ يَمُوتَ.
- 3، أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ مَنْ فَطَّرَ مِنْكُمْ صَائِماً مُؤْمِناً فِي هَذَا الشَّهْرِ كَانَ لَهُ بِذَلِكَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ عِتْقٌ نَسَمَةٍ وَ مَغْفِرَةٌ لِمَا مَضَى مِنْ ذُنُوبِهِ

Imam al-Sadiq (a): On you there should be peace and dignity, awe, humility, and lowliness of a slave afraid of his Master, hopeful, fearing, having purified the heart of pollution, sanctified your inner secrets from evil, cleansed your body of dirt.

You have given of yourself to God in the days of your fast, and emptied your heart for Him, and given Him of yourself for whatever He has ordered you and invited you towards.

(*Bihar*, 93:292)



# Imam al-Sajjad (a) pleads to Allah

*Bismillāh.* In the Du'ā to welcome the month he says:

O God  
fill this month with our worship of You  
adorn its times with our obedience toward You  
help us during its daytime with its fast  
and in its night with prayer and pleading toward  
You, humility toward You  
and lowliness before You  
so that its daytime may not bear witness  
against our heedlessness  
nor its night against our neglect!

# Different names of the month of Ramadan

*Bismillāh*

وَالْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ مِنْ تِلْكَ السُّبُلِ شَهْرَهُ شَهْرَ رَمَضَانَ ، شَهْرَ  
الصِّيَامِ ، وَشَهْرَ الْإِسْلَامِ ، وَشَهْرَ الطَّهْوَرِ ، وَشَهْرَ التَّمْحِيصِ ،  
وَشَهْرَ الْقِيَامِ الَّذِي أُنْزِلَ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ ، هُدًى لِلنَّاسِ ، وَبَيِّنَاتٍ مِنْ  
الْهُدَى وَالْفُرْقَانِ

And praise belongs to God who appointed among those roads  
His month, **the month of Ramadan, the month of fasting,**  
**the month of submission, the month of purity, the month of**  
**putting to test, the month of standing in prayer,** in which the  
Quran was sent down as guidance to the people, and as clear  
signs of the Guidance and the Separator!