

Lessons from the life of Hazrat Moulana Haroon Abasoomar رَحِمَهُ اللهُ

Love for the Quran Karim

Hazrat Moulana Haroon Abasoomar رَحِمَهُ اللهُ had a deep love for the kalam of Allah; the Holy Quran. He could spend hours reciting it, listening to its recital from others as well as pondering over its meaning. In fact, whenever he recited Quran he pondered over its meaning.

Hazrat رَحِمَهُ اللهُ had great admiration for the Huffaz and would diligently attend Hifz Khatam Jalsahs. He would also lecture in detail about the rights of the Quran on the Ummah.

Hazrat Moulana رَحِمَهُ اللهُ had a habit of reciting Quran Sharif daily and he preferred doing so whilst looking into the Quran itself. So profound was his love for this action that he would even recite Quran Sharif in this manner while driving. He would often say that the enjoyment (lutf) is much more when looking into the Quran, just as it is more rewarding as well. Hazrat رَحِمَهُ اللهُ always emphasised reciting slowly with full tajweed.

He would also make several intentions before Quran recital. Among them were:

1. To attain Allah's pleasure.
2. To gain closeness to Allah.
3. To attain the Nur and Barakah of the Quran.
4. For the reward.
5. For Shifa.
6. It's the right of the Quran to recite it.
7. To ponder over its meaning.

Hazrat Moulana رَحِمَهُ اللهُ would sometimes say: 'I wish I could just seclude myself to recite Quran Sharif and for understanding its meanings.'

Hazrat Moulana رَحِمَهُ اللهُ had the habit of aptly recalling the verses of the Quran that pertain to different situations of life, on those respective occasions. He would do so wherever he was, and not only in a lecture or in a classroom. This was a unique feature in his life.

His love to recite Quran Sharif remained until the end of his life. Even in his final Ramadan (one month before his demise), despite his ill health and dialysis treatments, he completed the Quran Sharif in his Tarawih Salah as well.

Hazrat was the first Hafiz in his family, which is now blessed with close to 20 Huffaz. With his encouragement, many others also became Huffaz. In his initial years at Isipingo Beach masjid, he taught Hifz as well. Hazrat was also instrumental in founding several other Hifz classes in different parts of the country.

May Allah Ta'ala shower his soul with mercies and bless us with tawfiq of bonding with the Quran Sharif. Amin.

A du'a the Tabi'un/Tab'ut Tabi'un would recite when Ramadan commenced

'Abdul 'Aziz ibn Abi Rawwad رَحِمَهُ اللهُ reports: "The Muslims would make the following du'a when the month of Ramadan would commence:

اللَّهُمَّ أَظَلَّ شَهْرُ رَمَضَانَ وَحَضَرَ، فَسَلِّمْهُ لِي، وَسَلِّمْ لِي فِيهِ، وَتَسَلِّمْهُ مِنِّي، اللَّهُمَّ ارْزُقْنِي صِيَامَهُ وَقِيَامَهُ، صَبْرًا وَاحْتِسَابًا، وَارْزُقْنِي فِيهِ الْجِدَّ وَالْإِجْتِهَادَ وَالْقُوَّةَ وَالنَّشَاطَ، وَأَعِزَّنِي فِيهِ مِنَ السَّامَةِ وَالْفِتْرَةِ وَالْكَسَلِ وَالنَّعَاسِ، وَوَفِّقْنِي فِيهِ لِلَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ، وَاجْعَلْهَا خَيْرًا لِي مِنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ

Allahumma azalla shahru Ramadana wa hadara, fasallimhu li wa sallimni fih wa tasallamhu minni. Allahummar zuqni siyamahu wa qiyamahu sabran wahtisaban warzuqni fihil jidda wal ijtihada wal quwwata wan nashata wa a'idhni fih minas sa-amati wal fatrati wal kasali wan nu'asi wa waffiqni fih li laylatil qadri waj'alha khayral li min alfi shahr

Translation: O Allah! The month of Ramadan has arrived so safeguard it for me, keep me safe in it and [accept it] from me. O Allah! Allow me to fast and stand in Salah enduring difficulty and anticipating reward. Bless me during the month with earnestness, the ability to strive, strength and eagerness/energy. Protect me in it from weariness, slackness, laziness and lethargy. Grant me the ability to attain Laylatul Qadr and make it better for me than a thousand months.

(Kitabud Du'a of Imam Tabarani, Hadith: 914)

Hadith Questions and Answers

Q. What is the proof of reading Witr Salah in congregation during Ramadan?

A. There are several narrations that prove offering the Witr Salah in congregation in Ramadan.

From Rasulullah ﷺ

Sayyiduna Jabir رضي الله عنه reported that Nabi ﷺ led the Sahabah one night in Ramadan, and that he رضي الله عنه also led them -on that night- in three rak'ahs of Witr.

(Sahih Ibn Khuzaymah, Hadith: 1070 and Sahih Ibn Hibban; Al-Ihsan, Hadith: 2409, 2415. Also see Majma'uz zawa'id, vol.3 pg.172, Fathul Bari, Hadith: 1129 and Fathul Qadir, vol.1 pg.409)

From the Sahabah and Tabi'un

'Abdul 'Aziz ibn Rufay' رضي الله عنه states that Sayyiduna Ubayy ibn Ka'b رضي الله عنه -in the era of Sayyiduna 'Umar رضي الله عنه - would lead the people in Madinah during Ramadan. He would lead them in twenty rak'ahs (tarawih) and three Witr.'

(Musannaf ibn Abi Shaybah, Hadith: 7766. Also see, Hadith: 7769 & 7772)

Hafiz Ibn Hajar رحمته الله has cited several such narrations describing the practice of the Sahabah رضي الله عنهم and Tabi'un رضي الله عنهم offering the Witr in congregation in Ramadan as they did with Tarawih salah.

(Fathul Bari, Hadith: 2013)

All of the above prove the practice of offering the Witr in congregation in Ramadan. However, since there is no mention of this practice continuing outside of Ramadan, the Fuqaha (Jurists) have ruled that it may only be offered in congregation in Ramadan specifically.

The Grand Hanafi Faqih (Jurist); 'Allamah Marghinani رحمته الله - the author of Al-Hidayah - states that this ruling is based on the consensus (ijma') of the Scholars. [i.e, The scholars are in agreement that Witr will not take place in congregation outside of Ramadan.].

(Al-Hidayah; refer Fathul Qadir, vol.1 pg.409)

Q. I would like to know the reference for the following Hadith:

Ramadan began and Rasulullah ﷺ said: "This month has come and in it there is a night that is better than one thousand months. Whoever is deprived of [doing good in this month] is deprived of all goodness and no one is deprived of its goodness except one who is truly deprived."

A. Imam Ibn Majah رحمته الله has recorded this Hadith on the authority of Sayyiduna Anas ibn Malik رضي الله عنه.

(Sunan Ibn Majah, Hadith: 1644)

'Allamah Mundhiri رحمته الله states, 'The chain is sound (hasan) insha Allah.

(Targhib, vol. 2 pg. 99)

Q. Is it Sunnah to recite the following du'as in Ramadan. Are they mentioned in any Hadith?

First 10 days:

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ وارْحَمْ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

Second 10 days:

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ رَبِّي مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ

Third 10 days:

اللَّهُمَّ أَجْرِنِي مِنَ النَّارِ

A. These recitals are derived from the famous Hadith which has labelled each 'asharah (set of 10 days) of Ramadan with a specific virtue.

The Hadith says:

'... It is a month whose first (10 days) are [a means of] mercy, the middle (10 days) are [a means of] forgiveness, and it's last [10 days] are freedom from Jahannam.'

The link of these recitals with the Hadith above would be more easily understood, with their translations.

اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ وارْحَمْ وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الرَّاحِمِينَ

Allahummagh fir war ham wa anta khayur rahimin

O Allah forgive and have mercy, and You are the best of the merciful.

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ رَبِّي مِنْ كُلِّ ذَنْبٍ وَأَتُوبُ إِلَيْهِ

Astaghfirullah rabbi min kuli dhambiw wa atubu ilayh

I seek forgiveness in Allah my Rabb from every sin and I turn in repentance to Him.

اللَّهُمَّ أَجْرِنِي مِنَ النَّارِ

Allahumma a jirni mi nannar

O Allah protect me from Jahannam.

Although the above recitals are not Sunnah, there is no harm in reciting these, with the intention of acquiring the mentioned favours of Allah in the appropriate parts of Ramadan.

And Allah Ta'ala Knows best.

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● Refer Fiqh queries to a reliable Mufti or Darul Ifta.

