

### What does *Dars* (teaching) of the Quran mean?

- Given below are some extracts translated from a Friday *Khutba* by Maulana Muhammad Ali, which he delivered in Lahore during Ramadan in the year 1940, on 11th October 1940.

“The Holy Quran was revealed in the month of Ramadan, meaning that its revelation commenced in this month, and on the night of this month known as *Lailat-ul-Qadr*. Therefore, the Quran from its very beginning has a connection with Ramadan.

As soon as Ramadan begins, all over the world wherever there are Muslims, recitation of the Quran begins. People recite it on their own, they recite it for others to hear, they hear it being recited, they read it and teach it.

The entire history of Islam shows the greatest and strongest connection between Ramadan and the Quran, which is evidenced every year.

It was also seen in the blessed life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. There is a hadith that the angel *Jibreel* (Gabriel) used to meet the Holy Prophet every night in the month of Ramadan and “read” to him the Quran. The word *dars* is used here for “reading”. Its original meaning is to repeat. We think that the word *dars* means to explain the meanings of the Quran and expound its interpretation. However, its real meaning is to repeat until it is firmly fixed in the mind. So in Ramadan the angel *Jibreel* used to come to the Holy Prophet to repeat the Quran to him.

Every Muslim either reads or listens to the whole of the Quran during this month. There is a system of *dars* of the Quran established in our *Jamaat*, which by the grace of Allah is starting to be followed by other Muslims in various places.

The fact is that in this age the man who infused love for the Holy Quran in people’s hearts was the Imam of the time, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. He brought about a tremendous revolution among his associates, which was love for the Quran. He followed the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, and he created in the hearts of those who sat with him the most powerful urge and desire to read and teach the Quran, and to do the work of its propagation and service.

Hazrat Maulana Nur-ud-Din (Head of the Ahmadiyya Movement after the Founder) was the pioneer, the foremost one, who laid the foundations of the *dars* of the Quran in the Ahmadiyya *Jamaat*. This institution became very popular and widespread. Now the *dars* of the Quran is given in many places. Such an

institution cannot be established without the deepest urge of the heart and true sincerity. Many useful things are started and then vanish, but what is started with heart-felt desire and sincerity will definitely make progress and its influence will continue.

Hazrat Maulana Nur-ud-Din not only established *dars* of the Quran within our *Jamaat* but following his example this was established among other Muslims as well. This revolution was brought about by the Ahmadiyya Movement. Before this, the neglect of the Quran had reached its utmost limit. There was no education in the Quran in the major religious seminaries of Muslims. Everything else was taught: Islamic law, Hadith, philosophy, literature, etc., except the Quran. I wish people would ponder whether in this situation the man, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, who created love for the Quran in the hearts of his followers and of others as well, could himself be a liar and imposter?

Following the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, we too should strengthen our bond with the Quran during the month of Ramadan. Allah, on two occasions, enabled me to deliver *dars* of all the thirty parts of the Quran in one Ramadan. This labour may now be too much for me due to weakness of age.

**I want to draw the attention of all our friends in the *Jamaat* to this particularly.** This is a tradition and distinctive quality of this *Jamaat*, and others too have copied it from us. Do not abandon this through neglect, and deprive yourselves of this valuable quality. Take care of it.

Let no one be satisfied with the claim that we are Muslims and followers of the *Kalima*. Millions of followers of the *Kalima* were rejected by Allah and became misguided. God does not care if someone is a Muslim or that we are Ahmadi and have accepted Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. What matters to God are your hearts. Remember, what is on your tongue is of little value. To God it is only the heart which is of value. If you become like people about whom the Quran says “if you turn back, He will bring in your place another people, then they will not be like you” (47:38), then God will raise other people in your place. God’s work will be done. The Quran will spread in the world. It will rule over the world. Let it not be that, after doing an exalted and noble work, and achieving good results, you neglect it and give it up. God has bestowed upon you an honour and a privilege. Maintain it and value it.

If you cannot gather a handful of members of the *Jamaat* and present *dars* of the Quran to them, do not worry. Give a *dars* in your house to your family. Read to

them some portion of the Quran and explain its meanings. I want *dars* of the Quran to be such a characteristic of this community that wherever a *dars* is held, people say it must be Ahmadiis who are holding it.

No branch of our *Jamaat* and none of our homes should be deprived of this. Remember also that the purpose of the *dars* is not, as some of our friends think, to bring out some great, amazing and extraordinary points from the Quran. Its purpose is to bring the Quran before you again and again, to reiterate and repeat to you its teachings. Whatever is brought before you repeatedly will rule over your heart, and whatever is kept out of your view will not rule over it.

I will also add that if you cannot find a *dars*, then read the Quran by yourself and ponder over it. No man, woman, old person, child, employee, trader, worker, professional, rich or poor, great or small, should be deprived of it. Reading the Quran must be an essential part of the life of every Ahmadi. Read it yourself and emphasise to your children to read it.

Read the Quran with meaning and understand its significance. Although its mere recitation also has an effect and is of advantage, but the one who reads it with understanding of the meaning, benefits from its spiritual and moral medicine fully.

This Ramadan, let every member of the *Jamaat* resolve to make the Quran a part of his daily life. Read it everyday, not much but little, only a few verses, or failing that, even one verse and ponder over its meaning. No day should be without this. Lay down the basis for this practice in this Ramadan.

There is no doubt that to read the Quran, to teach it, and to give *dars* of the Quran, is a distinctive sign of our Ahmadi community. **It is now up to you to maintain this distinction.** You will benefit from it in numerous ways, and will bring benefit to the world as well.

Allah does not waste the work of the most ordinary person done in the way of the Quran. I am a man of ordinary ability. But look, the spiritual power of my mentor created a zeal and urge in my heart, as a result of which Allah enabled me to do some service of the Quran. I believe that an ordinary man like me could not have done anything without such a heart-felt zeal.

Women too must produce within themselves the eagerness and enthusiasm to do service to the Quran. Is it not possible that Allah may grant a woman to serve His religion and His Book in a way that even men cannot do? This is something that is only up to God to grant.”