

As the year of 2021 concludes, there are many things that we can **READ** on: Covid-19 – Global Supply Chains – Taliban Return to Power – US Capitol Riots – Civil Wars – Olympics – Boris Johnson – NHS – However, the world continues to revolve, people continue to live, what changes?

مَسَّتْهُمُ الْبَأْسَاءُ وَالضَّرَاءُ وَزُلْزِلُوا - وَلَيَبْدَلَنَّهُمْ مِّنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا - وَتِلْكَ الْأَيَّامُ نُدَاوِلُهَا بَيْنَ النَّاسِ

We remain with the lessons that indeed Allah ﷻ is aware of our state, actions, plight and remains in control, so we must turn to Him.

وَلِلَّهِ غَيْبُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَإِلَيْهِ يُرْجَعُ الْأَمْرُ كُلُّهُ فَاعْبُدْهُ وَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَيْهِ وَمَا رَبُّكَ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ
وَقُلِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ سِيرِكُمْ آيَاتِهِ فَتَعْرِفُونَهَا وَمَا رَبُّكَ بِغَافِلٍ عَمَّا تَعْمَلُونَ

With the new year comes a new opportunity of reflection – many people have resolutions; financial, personal, intellectual etc. But for us Muslims we should realise that all New Beginnings should take us back to Allah ﷻ.

Today is a new day, tomorrow a new year, a blank page, a new chapter. We decide what to **WRITE** in our lives, and without doubt it is recorded and will be **READ BACK TO US**.

وَكُلَّ إِنْسَانٍ أَلْزَمْنَاهُ طَائِرَهُ فِي عُنُقِهِ وَنُخْرِجُ لَهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ كِتَابًا يَلْقَاهُ مَنشُورًا
اقْرَأْ كِتَابَكَ كَفَىٰ بِنَفْسِكَ الْيَوْمَ عَلَيْكَ حَسِيبًا مَّنِ اهْتَدَىٰ فَإِنَّمَا يَهْتَدِي لِنَفْسِهِ وَمَن ضَلَّ فَإِنَّمَا يَضِلُّ عَلَيْهَا
وَلَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِزْرَ أُخْرَىٰ وَمَا كُنَّا مُعَذِّبِينَ حَتَّىٰ نَبْعَثَ رَسُولًا

ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رَيْبَ فِيهِ هُدًى لِّلْمُتَّقِينَ

أَتَأْمُرُونَ النَّاسَ بِالْبِرِّ وَتَنْسَوْنَ أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ تَتْلُونَ الْكِتَابَ

الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يَتْلُونَهُ حَقَّ تِلَاوَتِهِ أُولَئِكَ يُؤْمِنُونَ بِهِ وَمَن يَكْفُرْ بِهِ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْخَاسِرُونَ

رَبَّنَا وَابْعَثْ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

وَإِنَّ عَلَيْكُمْ لَحَافِظِينَ كِرَامًا كَاتِبِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ مَا تَفْعَلُونَ

فَأَمَّا مَنْ أُوتِيَ كِتَابَهُ بِيَمِينِهِ فَسَوْفَ يُحَاسَبُ حِسَابًا يَسِيرًا وَيَنقَلِبُ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهِ مَسْرُورًا وَأَمَّا مَنْ أُوتِيَ كِتَابَهُ وَرَاءَ ظَهْرِهِ

فَسَوْفَ يَدْعُو ثُبُورًا وَيَصَلَّىٰ سَعِيرًا

The first command given to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was the command of reading *Iqra*.

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

خَلَقَ الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍ اقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْأَكْرَمُ الَّذِي عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِ عَلَّمَ الْإِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْ

The underlining meaning of the verse is to seek knowledge, the knowledge that will lead you to discover your Lord, which will lead you to discover yourself and your purpose. Therefore the *Ummah* of Muhammad ﷺ is the *Ummah* of *Iqra*, to read, to learn and to discover.

The importance of seeking, understanding, implementing, preserving & sharing knowledge.

Returning back to the beginning - The first five Surahs revealed:

Iqra ayahs 1-5 Surah Alaq (96) Part of Surah Qalam (68)

Surah Muzzammil (73) Surah Muddaththir (74) Surah Fatiha (1)

Al-Alaq – The Command to Learn Sacred Knowledge

This means we have to gain compulsory knowledge. Transition from ignorance to knowledge (*jahilliyyah* to *'ilm*).

Al-Qalam – The Necessity to Improve our Character - Teach people love not hatred through our words & actions, character cannot be faked.

Al-Muzzammil – The Vertical Dimension and Spirituality - The Special Mercy, De-stressing and Connectivity with Allah during *Tahajjud*

Al-Muddaththir – The Horizontal Dimension and Social Aspect

Communicating and Mixing with Society –

Our mission is not to convert. Our mission is to convey.

Al-Faatihah – Psychological Shift - Optimism and Opening - life is difficult if you are always pessimistic. Faatihah teaches us *Hamd* to open your heart, & life to positivity.