

FRIDAY SERMON OF IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN

22 JULY 2011

After reciting the *Tashahhud*, the *Ta'uz* and the first chapter of *Al Fatiha* Imam Zafrullah Domun said:

As you might recall last week we said that one of the objectives of the Jalsa Salana as described by Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} is for each one of us to increase our conviction. In other words members attending the Jalsa should hear and see such things that will increase their conviction in the truthfulness of the message brought by Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} and consequently in the existence of Allah so that we might stay away from sin. It was my intention to read an extract from the writings of Hazrat Ahmad^{as} about this matter but for some reasons I could not do so. However I thought that in view of the importance of this extract from the book *Kishti Nuh*, I will read it today so that all of us may profit by it. In addition one should make a note of this extract and reread it often. You will also notice that some of the ideas expressed in “How to get rid of the bondage of sin” have been repeated here. I am presenting this extract because I think it is a follow up on what you heard last week. Hazrat Masih^{as} says:

“O ye who seek the Lord, open your ears and listen! Take heed that there is nothing like perfect conviction which delivers you from sin; conviction gives you the power to do good; and conviction alone can turn you into a lover of God. Can you turn away from evil without perfect conviction? Can you hold your base impulses in check without the help of a sure light? Without this perfect conviction, can anyone bring about a real change in himself? Can you attain to any stage of satisfaction and peace of mind without this perfect certainty? Can you at all win any real prosperity without it?.....”

Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} is telling us that without conviction (*yaqin*) we will be denying ourselves everything that is good and makes for a happy and prosperous life. Conviction will deliver us from sins. It will give us the power to do good deeds. It will turn us into real and sincere lovers of God who live in the remembrance of Allah always. It will help us to control our passion because we will be thoroughly convinced that Our Lord will be watching over us and that He is present wherever we are. It will help us to bring about the desired change that we want in our lives. In brief it will give us satisfaction of the mind and real prosperity. Most of us labour under

the delusion that if we had a lot of money we would be most happy. But yet it is quite common knowledge that money cannot buy you peace of mind. It might buy you a large bed but it cannot guarantee you that it will give you sleep. So there is a great need of reflection that needs to be done on this matter to get to its core and to find out how to get it and stay with it.

After explaining that Christian doctrines cannot give anybody the type of conviction that they need for salvation Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} says:

“Woe then unto those Christians who deceive the world by saying that they have been delivered by the blood of Christ when from head to foot they are drowned in evil. They do not even know who their God is. Their life is one of indulgence and ease; with the intoxication of wine in their head they remain unaware of the life with God; and for them there is no share in the fruits of life as lived in purity. Always remember therefore that you cannot come out of darkness without firm conviction, nor can you get the Holy Spirit. Blessed are they who have this conviction, and blessed are they who have been delivered from uncertainties and doubts, for they alone shall be delivered of sin; and blessed will you be when this great treasure of firm conviction is given to you, since on that day sin for you will come to an end. Sin and conviction cannot exist together.....”

So whoever leads a life of ease and indulgence will shut the door of salvation upon himself. These days it would be relevant to ask how far are members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Mainstream particularly and others generally are really keen to live a pure life with Allah. I have read a press release on www.alislam.org where it was announced that thirty thousand Ahmadi Muslims will be holding a convention in the coming weekend in London to say no to extremism and to renew their commitment to lead a life of piety as was prescribed for them by the Founder of their Jamaat, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as}. Now we all know that there is a big difference between teachings and practice. Jamaat Ahmadiyya Mainstream may tell the world that it is not extremist in its views but those who know it from the inside know quite well how bigoted and hidebound and intolerant some of their views are vis a vis their own people. Had the Ahmadiyya people searched for and benefitted from the sort of conviction that Hazrat Masih has explained above a lot of the problems that have cropped up within the Jamaat would have vanished. But unfortunately in every religious group where moral decay starts to settle in, one will observe a great discrepancy between what is practiced and what is preached! Therefore we may easily conclude that since a majority of the members of Ahmadiyya mainstream continue to sin, they have yet to profit from the treasure of conviction that Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} came to teach them to have.

As I said once before since the introduction of the innovation of an International yearly allegiance –taking ceremony (*alami bai'at*), there are many Ahmadis who attend this ceremony

perfunctorily. They think that it has some religious meaning whereas it has none. It is an innovation that has been introduced by one caliph and it is just being followed by another. Does it serve any purpose or has it ever served any purpose? Needs to be demonstrated. Anyhow it is not through these ceremonies that one will find the conviction that Hazrat Masih Maood spoke about. Each Ahmadi should start thinking for himself how far he is observing the ten conditions of his oath of allegiance and he should aim at bringing improvements in his life day by day. It is in Christianity that we hear there are people who renew their vows. In Jamaat Ahmadiyya once you take your oath of allegiance you should try to be sincere and loyal to it throughout your whole life. Yes you should be constantly watching how far you are practicing what you promised to do.

Then Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} speaks how we shy away from a place where there is a danger to our life. He gives the example of if we know there is plague somewhere we will not go to that place. Similarly if we know there is a ferocious lion around we will not move outside or we will not go near a volcano that is belching out fire. He then says:

“Then if you believe in God with the same firmness of conviction as you believe in the danger from a snake or a thunderbolt or a lion or from plague, it is not possible that you should defy Him by disobedience to incur punishment thereby or that you should want to break the bond of sincerity and loyalty which binds you to Him...”

Here he reminds us that we should not break the bond of sincerity and loyalty that binds us to our Lord. He advises us thus:

“O ye people who have been called to righteousness and truth, rest fully assured that Divine attraction will take its birth in you and you will be washed clean of the ugly blot of sin, only when your hearts becomes brimful of firm conviction. Perhaps you will say that you have this conviction, but you should take care to remember that this feeling is not more than a delusion on your part. That firm conviction is most certainly not yours yet for you do not display the conditions which necessarily must go with it always. You have not yet given up your sinful ways; you have not yet taken up the first step you should have taken the moment this firm conviction became yours. You do not yet fear sin as you should. You can very well think out the question in your mind. A man never puts his hand in a hole he knows to be occupied by a poisonous snake; nor does he ever knowingly partake of a food he has reason to believe has been poisoned. Nor will he thoughtlessly walk into a thicket of trees which harbors a lion. Then how can your hand and feet, your eyes and ears dare to sin when you have the same degree of certainty in regard to the punishment and reward from God on your conduct in life? How in the name of reason can you throw yourself into a fire which you know will burn you to ashes?.....”(Our Teaching page 25)

I will advise you to pause and take sometime to reflect. If on the whole most of us avoid the major sins like robbery, murder or adultery but we do not escape some minor sins that have a really bad effect on our morals. I do not need to elaborate on this matter now. Everyone can think about what he does wrong. Allah has given us a conscience but for some people the voice of their conscience has become dumb. Here particularly I have in mind the leadership of Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream together with all those whose conscience do not prick them so that they might raise their real voice against the wrongs perpetrated by them and their leaders. It is true that throughout its history Jamaat Ahmadiyya has suffered at the hands of its opponents. But Jamaat Ahmadiyya also has inflicted plenty of pain on others specially on its own people. And this I think is worst than what others can inflict upon you. So if Jamaat Ahmadiyya has not been able to improve its own behaviour despite the teachings that it received it means that it does not have solid conviction in the teachings and it continues to sin. It is quite unfortunate.

Hazrat Masih has advised us that each one of us should care for his own salvation above anything else and we should make a personal effort to try to purify our soul of the dross of sin. He says:

“Everyone who is purified, is purified through firmness of conviction. It is conviction which gives you the strength to bear hardships even to the extent of persuading a king to abdicate his royal throne and take to the life of a mendicant. Conviction dissolves all difficulties. Conviction enables a man to see God. All ideas of any atoning sacrifice are false for every kind of purity comes only from firm conviction. The only thing which delivers a man from sin and advances him in sincerity and steadfastness, far ahead of angels themselves is conviction and conviction alone. All religions which fail to show God by means beyond any shadow of doubt are false; and all those religions are false which contain nothing more than a handfull of tales and fables about what happened in the past.”

Members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya who are sincerely convinced of the truthfulness of the mission of Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} should always try to put his teachings into practice. He was a knower of Allah and he knew what he was talking about. He has given us most noble teachings and he always said that those who would follow his teachings will be honoured in the sight of Allah, not necessarily in the sight of the world. These days the leadership of the Jamaat has abandoned his teachings in some areas and they have added their own. So there is a need to stick to the original teachings so that all the promises of Allah may be accomplished. Let us hope that those who have strayed in the name of a better comprehension will take heed on time before they become history. May Allah help each one amongst us to understand and to stick to the path of righteousness in all aspects of our life.

My sermon would have ended here. But since I have learnt this morning that they have done it again, I need to say a few words about this urgent matter. Most Ahmadis are not yet aware but it has been announced on the net that Mirza Masroor Ahmad, their leader went to pay a visit at the Berlin mosque built by our brothers of Anjuman Ishaat Islam Lahore commonly known as the Lahoris. The mainstream Jamaat has yet to talk or write about this visit. Anyhow it appears to be a first step in the right direction. If such an overture usher in a sort of détente between two groups of Ahmadis after a rift of about 96 years, it is a positive development and it should be encouraged and appreciated.. We will give more details about this matter when we hear more. But here in Mauritius the dark forces and ugly face of the Nizaame Jamaat represented by the Naib Amir, the missionary incharge has again used its power to do evil. According to reports that I have received from reliable people, members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen were invited to a nuptial dinner on Wednesday last. The presence of members from Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen was too offensive for the slavish diehard of the caliph. He has used his power and influence once again to do harm. He has put pressure on the host to take his invitation back or else the Nikah ceremony would not be performed. One can only regret that stupid leaders have stooped so low to show how obedient they are to the orders of their master in defiance to the express instructions of Allah in the Holy Quran. Mauritian Ahmadis who know the teachings of Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} need not accept these leaders anymore. They are harming their own souls and now they want to corrupt that of others. But Allah will frustrate their plans and they will fail in spreading their poison in Mauritius. We will talk more about this later on.

