

FRIDAY SERMON OF IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN

21 OCTOBER 2011

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

By next week insha Allah we will be entering the sacred month of Zil Hajj 2011 or 1432AH. According to some specialized sites that I have consulted on the net, it appears that the new moon will be born on Wednesday 26th October but it will not be visible almost anywhere. Most probably in many parts of the world the crescent will be visible on 27th October. Hence the first day of Zil Hajj 1432AH will be next Friday 28th October. In that case Hajj will be on Sunday 6th November. In all likelihood it seems that in Mauritius also Eidul Adha will be celebrated on the same date. If that is not the case then Eidul Adha will be celebrated in Mauritius on Monday 7th November. Anyhow by next Friday we will know for sure the exact day for Eidul Adha in Mauritius.

From around the world almost 1.8 to 2 million pilgrims are converging on Mecca for Hajj this year. The Saudi Authorities are doing their best to facilitate the movements of pilgrims around the main halting places of the Hajj ceremonies. A new metro service will move 20,000 pilgrims per hour between these places. This service will be operational only during the Hajj days. It appears that they have invested massively to prevent the accidents of the past. Let us hope that we do not hear of any mishaps affecting large number of pilgrims in the coming days and that all pilgrims may perform the Hajj ceremonies with ease and they may return home safely.

Mecca today is not what it was during the time of the Holy Prophet Mohammad ^{saw}. The beginnings of the Holy Mosque were established under Caliph Omar Ibn al-Khattab (634-644). The caliph ordered the demolition of houses surrounding the Kaaba in order to accommodate the growing number of pilgrims, then built a 1.5-meter high wall to form an outdoor prayer area around the shrine. During the reign of Caliph Uthman Ibn Affan (644-656), the prayer area was enlarged and covered with a simple roof supported by wooden columns and arches. In 777, a major rebuild took place under Abbasid Caliph al-Mahdi (775-785) to accommodate the growing number of pilgrims. The existing mosque was demolished along with more houses in the area and a new mosque was constructed in its place. Measuring 196 by 142 meters, it was built on a grid plan with marble columns from Egypt and Syria decorated with gilt teak wooden inlay. Al-Mahdi's mosque also included three minarets, placed above Bab al-Salam, Bab Ali and Bab al-Wadi.

But to make Mecca what it is King Abdul Aziz (1932-1953) commissioned big extensions projects with the newly received money from oil. Later on king Fahd also made new extensions until recently King Abdulla, the present king launched a new extension project for the Grand Mosque which will cost around \$10.6 billion. This is approximately the Gross Domestic Product of Mauritius for a whole year. The project is intended to allow the complex to accommodate some two million worshippers at a time. The site, where

10,000 workers are already working round-the-clock covers an area of 400,000 square meters (4.3 million square feet) or the equivalent of 2660 football grounds. The project envisages a multi-level extension on the north side of the complex, together with stairways and tunnels to facilitate worshipper's access to the mosque, built around the cubic Kaaba that all Muslims face to pray.

One may ask what is the use of talking about these matters. I am informing you about them so that you might know that there are some people who have taken upon themselves to look after the Holy places of Islam and how they are going about their task. Mainstream Jamaat Ahmadiyya has a tendency to think that they are the one who are sacrificing for Islam and that others are doing nothing. Although the sources of the income are not the same but yet we have to appreciate what others also are doing although they do not have Khilafa as leaders from the mainstream Ahmadiyya Jamaat usually say.

Unfortunately we Ahmadi Muslims have been forbidden by the Saudi Authorities to go for Hajj because they do not consider our beliefs to be Muslim beliefs. According to Islam we all know that they had no right to declare anyone who says he is a Muslim that he is not so. This has been the Jamaat's stand since the beginning. It is unfortunate that misguided Saudis and their like have such a narrow view of Islamic teachings. They try to be exclusive instead of being inclusive. Fortunately it appears that they are revising their opinions. According to newspaper reports published in September this year King Abdulla of Saudi Arabia addressed an international conference on the subject of "the phenomenon of *Takfir* (branding opponents as infidels)... reasons impact and treatment". Among other things he declared "**Islam emphasizes tolerance and forbids calling others *Kafir* (infidels), Islam cannot be spread through extremism, prejudice, killing others, terrorism and acts of destruction, nor do these help in attaining high objects**"(Daily Ahsaf Lahore). As Ahmadi Muslims we can only welcome such declarations because these are the teachings of Islam according to what we have understood from Hazrat Masih Maood as, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi. Now we only pray and hope that the Saudi king will follow through and remove all the restrictions that they have placed on Ahmadis preventing them from accomplishing Hajj.

But how ironic is this situation that after a long time even Saudis who have been accused around the world to be practicing an austere brand of Islam are coming to their senses but representatives of mainstream Ahmadis are branding other Ahmadis as "enemies of Allah and his prophet" and even as kafirs who must be killed. Here as you may guess I am referring to what the present amir of Jamaat Ahmadiyya in Mauritius, Mr Moossa Taujoo said in his speech on the occasion of Jalsa Salana 2011 and what his guest molvi Abdul Ganee Jhangeerkhan said on the same occasion. These were the leaders who instigated ignorant Ahmadis to help them in their campaign of hatred and spite against other fellow Ahmadis who are their brothers and sisters but are members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen. And when I say that they have distanced themselves from the teachings of Islam as taught by the Promised Messiah they feel offended. This is today's Jamaat Ahmadiyya in Mauritius. If such people were ever to be rulers in any country they would definitely be as cruel if not worse than the Saudis in killing others despite all the purported good works that they declare they do around the world. Now just watch the rise of extremism. The caliph said that members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen should be socially boycotted. But the amir and the molvi pervert these instructions to mean that these are people who are the enemies of Allah and his prophet and all contacts with them should be stopped. Then should we be surprised with what like thinking extremists think and do against members of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat in Pakistan or elsewhere?

There are extremists these days within Jamaat Ahmadiyya although there should not have been. The caliph Mirza Masroor Ahmad should start cleaning on his own doorsteps before advising others what they should do. He should purge Jamaat Ahmadiyya of all extremists' elements. These extremists will harm the Jamaat more than outside enemies. Now can right-thinking Ahmadis wonder if Allah raises others despite the presence of a caliph to reform this Jamaat? In fact there should be no wonder at all. This is the sunnat of Allah. He did it before and He will do it again in the future. When the mass of the people and their leaders forget what is most important and start valuing what is less important Allah reminds all, what they should adhere to by sending His chosen ones to put the people back on the right path even if it displeases those who think of themselves as Allah's dear ones.

Members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya have to be taught that they should go for the essence and not for the form. They should show obedience to Allah and not to a khilafat of their own making. They should always bear in mind that the bird is more important than the cage, the jewel is more valuable than the jewel box. All members of the Jamaat have to see to it how far they are showing obeisance to Allah in their daily life and also take stock of how much they are disobeying Him. They should try to eliminate all the disobedience and strive their utmost to become a personification of obedience like Hazrat Ibrahim and his son Hazrat Ishmael and his wife Hajra. None of these three great personalities hesitated an instant in obeying Allah's instructions.

All the ceremonies of Hajj remind us of the important life events of this noble family. It appears that what they did was so dear to Allah that even after about 1500 years after they were gone Allah perpetuated the Hajj ceremonies through our beloved Prophet Mohammad ^{saw}. From then till the end of times every coming generations of Muslims will have to remember this trio and their love and sacrifice for Allah and try to imitate them. Although a limited amount of Muslims may perform hajj every year yet all Muslims do participate in Eid Ul Adha and they have to remember the purpose of that festival. Those who have the means should offer sacrifice on this occasion. For the hajj about 700000 animals will be slaughtered. But around the world we do not know how many will be. But that is the apparent sacrifice. Allah is more concerned with what goes in our heart. In the Holy Quran He says "**Their flesh reaches not Allah, nor does their blood, but it is your righteousness that reaches Him**" (22:38). All those who offer sacrifices should remember this well. To Allah, it is not our wealth, our status in society or our family or our academic degrees that are important. Allah's sight is on our righteousness. How much do we have in our heart? The greater our righteousness is in the sight of Allah the greater will be our rank in the sight of Allah. What others think is unimportant. We should always aim at increasing our righteousness under all circumstances. If we offer sacrifices on the occasion of Eid ul Adha it is with this purpose in mind. If we are thinking about how much meat we will get to eat we will miss the purpose. But remember that you cannot please Allah by going against His clear cut instructions as have been given in the Holy Quran.

Hazrat Masih Maood ^{as} came to teach us to devote ourselves wholly to Allah. There have been many among his companions who have lived their life in accordance to his teachings. But unfortunately these days the leadership of Jamaat Ahmadiyya has lost their way. They were to be the beacon of light but they have chosen darkness and they are adamant in their wrong beliefs and actions. The real sincerity about which Hazrat Masih spoke is almost nowhere to be seen and the members are totally impervious to any kind of good advice that they are given. They prefer to follow their own egos and ignore Allah's

instructions as I have said before. Since we will be soon entering the sacred month of Zil Hajj we should be asking ourselves how really devoted to Allah we are. We should take stock of the situation and with righteousness in our heart we should examine ourselves and see how far really we have obeyed Allah and how much have we been obeying Satan. Allah has many times in the Holy Quran warned us that Satan is our enemy and we should treat it as such. Our struggle with Satan is almost a perpetual task. We should make it as our life mission to fight it until we defeat it completely. It is in this fight that we should be complete and not in showing loyalty to khilafat which appears to be a dogma that has nothing to do with Islam except the way that Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} has explained it. Let us pray and hope that Allah will have mercy on all of us before His decree strikes. When a people ignores Allah's warning signs Allah will hit it harder in order to humble it. This is what we have learned from the Holy Quran and this is what we have seen happening. Let us also get prepared to be engrossed in more remembrance of Allah and more worship and devotion in the coming days of Zil Hajj as we have been taught by the Holy Prophet. Anyhow we will talk more about this matter in our sermon next week.