

FRIDAY SERMON OF IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN

## 28 OCTOBER 2011

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

Until this morning I could not know whether the moon was visible or not in Saudi Arabia. So we will have to follow the news to know when they will be celebrating Eid and when will be the Day of Arafat. All Muslims who are not participating in the Hajj ceremonies should devote themselves in the coming days to additional prayers and devotions to the best of their capacities.

In fact we learn from the Book of Hadiths that Ibn Abbaas<sup>ra</sup> narrated that the Prophet<sup>saw</sup> said: **"There are no days in which righteous deeds done in them are more beloved to Allah than these days, ie the ten days (of Zul-Hijjah). They said: O Messenger of Allah, not even *Jihaad* in the path of Allah? He said: Not even *Jihaad* in the Path of Allah, the Most High, except if a man goes out (for *Jihaad*) with his self and his wealth, then he doesn't return with anything from that."** (Al-Bukhaaree, Abu Daawood and others. The exact wording is that of Abu Dawood)

From this hadith what we should remember most is that the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup> has told us about the untold merits of doing good deeds during the first ten days of Zul Hijja. In fact any Muslim who has understood the purpose of his life knows that according to the Holy Quran he should do his best to practice good deeds. Just as during the month of Ramadan we have been taught by the Holy Prophet how to spend our days and nights in good deeds so here also the Holy Prophet has counseled all Muslims to do some good deeds. What are those deeds that he has asked us to engage in? We learn from another hadith reported by Ibn Umar that the Holy Prophet is reported to have said "There aren't any days greater, nor any days in which deeds done in them are more beloved to Allah, the Most High, than these ten days (of *Zul-Hijjah*). So, increase in them the saying of *Tahleel* (La Ilaaha illa Allah), and *Takbeer* (Allah Akbar) and *Tahmeed* (al-Hamdu li-Ilah)" [Musnad Imaam Ahmad].

This hadith gives us an idea of what we should be doing during the coming days. But remember that parrot like repetition will not be beneficial. We should engage ourselves in thinking about the profound meanings of what we say. When we say “*Laa Ilaha Illallah*” we should be constantly thinking that we know only Allah as our Lord and we do not worship anyone but Him. If He is our Lord we bow only to Him and everything else is subject to this obedience to Him. No one can stand up to Him. His laws and His instructions are paramount. We will not obey any law or instructions that go against the letter and spirit that He has taught us in the Holy Quran. Those who tell us to disobey Him and to obey them are only trying to maintain their sway upon us by ignoring Allah and hence they are to be disobeyed. We repeat and constantly meditate on the *Takbeer* because it instills in our heart and mind that Allah is the Greatest. No one else has any status which might be considered equal to Him. Similarly when we meditate and repeat “*Al hamdo Lillah*” we understand that Allah is the source of all that may merit any praise. Whether it is a child’s innocent looks that gladdens the heart or a beautiful face or even the starry sky at night or even the varieties of beautiful flowers and fruits that delight our eyes, the praise is always due to Allah. He is the source of all that is beautiful. So the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup> has helped people of his umma to get to the essence by just thinking and repeating the above mentioned phrases. Now it is up to each individual to put into practice the advices given and try to learn firsthand about its effects on one’s soul.

Of course we should not just content ourselves with only these remembrances. Since the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup> has said that good deeds are most pleasing to Allah these days, we should do our best to multiply them. We may engage ourselves in more reading of the Holy Quran, in helping those who are in need. We may also increase our *nafil* prayers and our seeking of forgiveness (*istaghfaar*) with a view to getting all our sins pardoned. Everyone should try to do what is within his or her capacity. We should not try to overburden ourselves lest we harm our own selves. Furthermore all those who have the means should slaughter an animal for sacrifice. This is quite important. The Holy Prophet is reported to have said according to Hazrat Ayesha<sup>ra</sup> that "The son of Adam does not do any action on the day of Qurbani which is more pleasing to Allah than the sacrifice of animals; and he will come on the day of Qiyamah with its hairs, horns and hooves (for reward); and the blood (of the sacrificed animal) certainly reaches Allah before it falls down to the ground. So make yourselves purified therewith." (Tirmizi & Ibn Maja). In

another Hadith related in Sunan Ibn Majah, Zaid bin Arqam reported that the companions of Rasoolullah<sup>saw</sup> asked, "Oh! Messenger of Allah, what is this sacrifice?" He said, "The way of your forefather (Prophet) Ibrahim (alaihis salaam)." They said, "What is for us therein, O! Messenger of Allah?" He said, "There is one reward for every hair." They said, "For wool, O! Messenger of Allah?" He said, "There is one reward for every strand of wool!". Of course here he was speaking about sheep.

One may argue that last week I quoted from the Holy Quran saying that "its blood or flesh do not reach Allah but one's righteousness". Hence we should understand the symbolic meanings of the words of the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup>. It only means that *Qurbani* is so important that nothing of the animal is wasted. Allah's sight is on all our sacrifices. If our intention is pure He will accept all from us. May Allah enable each one amongst us to do as much good deeds as possible during the coming days and may He accept all that we do. Ameen.

As I said last week the family of Hazrat Ibrahim<sup>as</sup> including his wife Hajra and their son Ismail will forever be a paragon of virtue for all generations of Muslims to come. We may understand that these people held Allah to be super important in their lives. Once they were told that a directive had come from Allah they submitted to it. One may recall that when Hazrat Ibrahim was leaving Hazrat Hajra with her little boy Ismail in the desert of Mecca, Hazrat Hajra asked her husband as to the why of such abandonment. From Bokhari we learn that she called him from behind, 'O Abraham! To whom are you leaving us?' He replied, '(I am leaving you) to Allah's (Care).' She said, 'I am satisfied to be with Allah.' She did not ask for any further explanation. She knew that her husband was quite important for her and her child Ismail but she relied more upon Allah. This was a very submissive woman. She lives forever as the example of a woman who abandoned all to Allah's care. Her husband was even more willing to do a greater sacrifice for Allah. He saw in a dream that he was slaughtering his son Ismail and he wanted to implement what he had seen in his dream. We understand from the Holy Quran that Hazrat Ismail was born when Hazrat Ibrahim was quite old. Now, one can just imagine how much he should have loved his child. But for Allah's sake he left him and her mother in the desert alone with only a water skin full of water. This is in itself a great sacrifice and he did it in obeisance to Allah. But when his son Ismail grew up and was able to run he had not forgotten his dream about slaughtering him. But he thought it expedient to ask his son about the matter. All fathers can imagine how difficult it should have been for

him to be ready to slaughter his only son. Yet he was ready to do it. What is extraordinary in this story is that his son also was ready to let himself be sacrificed because according to the Holy Quran he told his father “Do what you have been commanded to do. Allah willing you will find me among the patient ones.” So just think about the readiness of this father, this mother and this son to submit themselves to the will of Allah. Imagine how much this trio was willing to bear because of Allah. Eidul Adha comes to remind us of this great family and their readiness to carry out the instructions that they received from Allah. Eiduladha comes to remind each one amongst us to be ever ready to carry out all the instructions of Allah as spelled out in the Holy Quran if we really want to be remembered as those who are His Servants in this world and the next. Each one amongst us should think and meditate and come up with his own answers how far he or she is obedient to Allah and what efforts he or she is making in that direction. We should not just content ourselves with eating meat on Eid day. Although it is not at all forbidden to eat and drink and to be happy on Eid day yet this should not at all be our only preoccupation. We should concern ourselves with how many times we are just ignoring Allah’s commandments and we are caring about lesser mortals’ commandments as is the case these days within the mainstream Jamaat Ahmadiyya. How many persons you will see within the mainstream Jamaat who would be taking part in sacrificing animals but who have not yet grown up spiritually to know that they have to sacrifice and purify their own selves. They will insist in harming others and yet mistakenly believe that Allah will be accepting their sacrifices. It is unfortunate that the leadership of the mainstream Jamaat has led its members to such delusions. In these days when every Muslim should try to educate himself or herself so that he or she might excel in the virtues displayed by Hazrat Ibrahim, Hazrat Ismail and Hazrat Hajra we see that members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream are practicing a rigid Islam worthy of leaderless and ignorant Muslims.

You will be surprised to learn that the evil-minded Molvi Basharat Naveed has been at work again recently against members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen. As missionary in charge of the Jamaat he should have been among the best of the people who do good and tell others to do good and to avoid evil. But unfortunately he has not been schooled in the University of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. He appears to be a person who has never read “the Philosophy of the teachings of Islam” and who is not at all ready to purify his own self by putting its teachings into practice. He is here with his South Asian cultural baggage which he wants innocent Mauritians Ahmadis to practice. He is here to do

the bidding of the centre and to ignore the feelings of the Mauritians. His outlook about Islam is quite medieval and totally repressive and outdated. I have learnt that he recently forbade an Ahmadi to invite members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen to a social function. Instead of busying himself with such unislamic pursuit he should have tried to see whether within the Jamaat for which he is responsible, members are following the teachings of Islam or not. Had he known what has been going on, instead of concentrating his attention on members of our Jamaat, he would have known that mainstream Ahmadis real brothers and sisters are at loggerheads with one another. In a recent social function brothers were not invited at brothers' places. Can we call these people members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya when they have thrown fundamental teachings of the Jamaat behind their backs? The Missionary in charge should have busied himself with solving such problems instead of misspending his time to prevent Ahmadis from inviting us to social functions.

I have recently learnt that they are threatening mainstream Ahmadis with non performance of their funeral prayer if they do not apply the social boycott against members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen. Mainstream Ahmadis should know that according to Islam any Muslim can lead a funeral prayer. There is no need for either the Missionary in charge or the amir for this purpose. It is the same with a Nikah ceremony. Here what is more astonishing is that the bridegroom may pronounce his own Nikah with only two witnesses as attendees. Islam is quite simple. Those who want to control Muslims have complicated it. Ahmadis should fear only Allah and they should try to follow in the footsteps of Hazrat Ibrahim, Hazrat Ismail and Hazrat Hajra. They should become agents for the promotion of peace, harmony and love within the Mauritian society. Under no circumstance should they give in to their leaders who want them to follow an "Islam" that promotes hatred, exclusion and disharmony within society. We will continue to speak about the Hajj next week incha Allah because we think there is an urgent need to know more about this great Patriarch that was Abraham and his family.