

FRIDAY SERMON OF IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN

04 NOVEMBER 2011

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

By now I think that everyone knows that Eidul Adha for this year has been fixed for Sunday 6th November both in Saudi Arabia and in Mauritius. This is a rare coincidence. Usually we, in Mauritius have been celebrating Eidul Adha one day after the Saudis. But this year the moon was visible here and in Saudi Arabia on Thursday 27th October and hence Eidul Adha has been fixed for next Sunday. According to some news reports that I have read, more than 1.5 million foreign pilgrims have already arrived in Mecca by last week. But the Saudis are expecting 1.8 million foreigners for Hajj this year in addition to about 700,000 to 800,000 Saudi residents. This year the Hajj ceremonies will take place amidst a growing tension between Iran and the Saudis. Let us hope and pray that we do not hear of any unfortunate incident between these two countries that might disrupt the Hajj ceremonies. May Allah enable Muslims everywhere to learn to solve their differences around a table rather than through fighting. In this field all Muslim groups have a lot to learn.

So, as from this morning after Fajr (8th day of Zul Hajj) the pilgrims will start preparations for the hajj ceremonies. They will enter the state of ihram. They will move to Mina which is at a distance of about 10 kilometers from Mecca. Some will walk the distance. Others will use available transport systems. In Mina there are thousands of fireproof tents that have already been prepared for their convenience. They will spend the night in Mina and tomorrow morning after Fajr they will start converging on Mount Arafat which is at a distance of 14.4 kilometers. All pilgrims should be there by the time of the Zohr Prayer. They will perform *Zohr* and *Asr* prayer and they will stand in the valley of Arafat to pray until sunset. Standing and praying at Arafat is the peak of the Hajj. There is no Hajj without this halt. They spend the night in *Muzdalifa*. The journey is about 9 km long. Here they will start collecting pebbles for the next day's rites. They leave *Muzdalifa* for Mina before sunrise on the tenth day, which is on Sunday next. At Mina they will then perform the first **Ramy**, throwing seven pebbles at the largest of three columns known as *Jamarat*. This act is a symbolic stoning of the devil, based on historic tradition. God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, the story goes, as proof of faith. It is believed that at this spot in Mina, the devil appeared and tried to dissuade Abraham from heeding the command. Abraham responded by throwing stones to scare him off. Millions of pilgrims converge at the **Jamarat bridge**, which houses the three columns representing the devil, in order to re-enact the story.

Furthermore in remembrance of the readiness of Abraham^{as} to sacrifice his son Ismail because Allah had told him to do so, Pilgrims thus must slaughter a sheep, goat, cow or camel - or more likely, pay for it to be done in their names.

At this point, pilgrims trim or shave (men only) their hair and remove their ihram clothes. Many will then proceed to **Mecca** to perform Tawaf and Sa'ee, first circling the *Kaaba* seven times, then walking seven times between the hills of Safa and Marwa. When all is finally done, they return to their campsite in **Mina**. We see that on this particular day the Hajjis are very busy and they have a lot to do.

From the 11th to the 13th the Hajjis rest at Mina. On each day, they will again symbolically stone the devil - this time throwing seven pebbles at each of the three pillars. When their time in Mina is finished, pilgrims return to **Mecca** to perform the final circulation of the *Kaaba*, a "farewell" circumambulation (*tawaf*).

Very briefly I have tried to give you an idea how Hajj is performed so that you may know and understand what the Hajjis are doing during the following sacred days. And in the state of Ihram wherever they are the Hajjis are busy reciting what is known as the *talbiyya*. They recite as follows: '*Labbaika Allahumma labbaik, Labbaika la sharika Laka labbaik, Inna-l-hamda wan-ni'mata Laka walmulk Laka, La sharika Laka*' (I respond to Your call O Allah, I respond to Your call, and I am obedient to Your orders, You have no partner, I respond to Your call All the praises and blessings are for You, All the sovereignty is for You, And You have no partners with you.)"

It is to perform these ceremonies in the order that I have briefly explained that every year so many Muslims converge to Mecca in the month of Zul Hajj. Unfortunately we Ahmadi Muslims have been barred from performing Hajj. We pray that insha Allah a day will come when Allah will open the way for us to be present in Mecca during the days of Hajj. So should we just let these sacred days pass by without doing anything? As I said last week we should spend more of our time in the remembrance of Allah as He has taught us. Besides we know that once Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} who could not perform Hajj spent his time in prayer on the Day of Arafat after Zohr & Asr prayer till sunset. We learn of this event as follows from the pen of Molvi Abdur Rahim Dard:

“Eid ul-Adha came off on April 13th, 1900. About 300 followers of Ahmad^{as} gathered at Qadian on this occasion from Sialkot, Amritsar, Batala, Lahore Wazirabad, Jammu, Peshawar, Gujrat, Jhelum, Rawalpindi, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Patiala, Bombay, Sanaur and Lucknow etc.

Early in the morning, on the day of the ‘Arafat, Ahmad^{as} sent a note to Maulawi Nur-ud-Din^{ra} saying that all those present at Qadian should write their names and places of residence and send them on to Ahmad^{as} who intended to spend the day and a part of the coming night in prayers for them. The Molawi Sahib informed everybody of this and sent in a list of names to Ahmad^{as}, who spent all the time in special prayers.”(Life of Ahmad page 722 from www.alislam.org)

Since I read about this incident I have tried to free myself on the Day of Arafat in order to devote myself to prayer as far as I could and between *Zohr* and sunset. I think that it is a good way to compensate for the fact that we cannot go for Hajj. All those who want to make a good use of their time and seek Allah's blessings may do the same. We can use this time to pray for our own selves for members of our families

for the Jamaat and for all Muslims in general without forgetting all of our children who are taking part in examinations. I hope and pray that Allah accept all your prayers.

Now I would like to say a few words about the Holy Prophet's Hajj. Allah's instructions making Hajj obligatory were revealed in 9 AH.. Once the performance of Hajj was made obligatory the Holy Prophet sent Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique as the Amir of hajj in 9AH. In the tenth year AH, the holy Prophet announced that he will perform the Hajj that year. When Muslims around Arabia knew that the Holy Prophet would be performing Hajj, many of them decided to participate in that historic event. There are many important things that would happen during the Hajj. It was during these days that the Holy Prophet saw received the last verse of the Revelation namely "*Alyawma akmalto lakoum dinakoum wa atmamto alaikoum nemati wa razito lakomoul islama dina*" Which we translate as "**This day have I perfected your religion for you and completed My favour upon you and have chosen for you Islam as religion.**"(5:4). It is commonly believed that this is the last verse or part thereof that was revealed. Another distinction of this Hajj is that the Holy Prophet Mohammad^{saw} pronounced his farewell address in Arafat. That speech in itself can be made the subject of several sermons. Suffice it to say here that the Holy Prophet put in few words a summary of his teachings and he asked all Muslims to observe them and to transmit them to those who were absent. The third most important distinction of this Hajj was that the Holy Prophet showed to the Muslim world what are the rites of the Hajj. He is reported to have said "**Take your rites from me, for this Hajj alone is the real and true Hajj.**" Since then all Muslim Pilgrims have been performing the Hajj ceremonies copying him.

Hence we see the close relationship that exists between Hazrat Ibrahim and Hazrat Mohammad^{saw}. Hazrat Ibrahim and his son Ismail and Ishaq and his wives were paragon of virtue, But their good deeds were almost forgotten by the time of the coming of the Holy Prophet^{saw}. At that time the sacred ceremonies that were initiated about 2500 years previously by Abraham were lost through the passage of time. There were about 300 idols in the *Kaaba*. Idolaters were dancing naked in it. People had forgotten what they were taught. The transmission of the good teachings through generations was a complete mess. But Allah still had pity on His Creatures. So He sent them Mohammad as "a mercy for mankind" to remove idol worship from the land of Arabia and from the heart of the people. Muhammad was successful in stamping out idol worship from the land of Arabia by the Grace of Allah and he established the worship of the True Lord of the Universe fulfilling what was started in previous times especially by Hazrat Ibrahim and his son Ismail. Unfortunately through the passage of time even Muslims have been remiss and have allowed some unislamic teachings to creep within Islam. But sincere to His engagement to care for His Creatures, Allah continued to provide guidance. Hence He sent Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} the Promised Messiah and Mahdi to teach Muslims part of the teachings that they have misunderstood or forgotten. By the Grace of Allah he taught us again what real *tauhid* is. Moreover he corrected the wrong beliefs of Muslims about Jihad and about the coming of a bloody Mahdi that they were awaiting. He showed to the world with cogent reasoning that the Jesus that the people are awaiting is not the Israelite prophet but another person who would resemble him in manners and deeds. He has proved beyond any doubt that Jesus Christ is dead according to the Holy Quran.

But unfortunately as he predicted his Jamaat also has shown sign of senility both in deeds and beliefs. They have forgotten what teachings they received as some old people keep forgetting about what they were taught. Similarly they have started behaving in odd ways whereas they received the necessary instructions to be the guide of mankind as was promised by Allah. In view of these disturbing events that have taken place within the Jamaat that the Promised Messiah created under divine instructions, Allah has once again sent His representatives to correct what the Ahmadiyya leadership has forgotten. As I said this is the way adopted by Allah since the beginning of time and this is what will go on forever. Allah is the only one to know when people start deviating from the right path and as the ultimate Guide He is the one who rescues whom He pleases and let go astray whom He pleases. However we should not understand this to mean that Allah has determined that people should be led astray. It is only when people stop using whatever means that Allah has given them that they lead themselves astray. Allah has given man freewill and he is supposed to use it to reach logical conclusions and stop following the opinion of others without understanding them. Every age needs an Ibrahim who is ready to break people's idols in order to make them think. Whether we like it or not such people will always make themselves known whenever Allah feels that it is the right time for such people to be known to the world. Members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen are here for the purpose of helping others to know that this is the sunnat of Allah according to the Holy Quran and that this sunnat will continue till the end of times according to Hazrat Masih Maood^{as}. Let us hope and pray that even though we cannot go for Hajj, Allah does not deprive us of its blessings.

Namaz Eid will be performed incha Allah in our mosque here at nine o'clock in the morning. It will be a public holiday and hence all members should be here on time. May Allah be with you all and incline your heart towards virtuous deeds always. Please do not forget that as from tomorrow after Fajr until Tuesday after *Asr* we should be making Takbir after all *Farz* prayers. We will meet incha Allah on Sunday.