

FRIDAY SERMON OF IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN

13 JANUARY 2011

**Summary:**

*Need for Ahmadis to learn the Holy Quran. Need to allocate time for study. Reading 15 minutes per day will bring untold benefits in a lifetime. Plenty of means are available to read and learn for every age group. It is important that one should understand the teachings from the source instead of relying on father or elders or maulanas. Arming oneself with the knowledge of the Holy Book one can fight dogmas and unislamic teachings in all its forms. "He who honours the Holy Quran will be honoured in heaven". Other rare quotations of Hazrat Masih Maood<sup>as</sup> about the Holy Book.*

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

All members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen should do their best to mould their life according to the teachings of the Holy Quran and the example of the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup> and the advices of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup>. Some might say that we are tired of hearing this message. It might be true. But hearing a message often and putting it into practice often is not the same thing. As members of this Jamaat we have made a pledge that we will uphold the teachings of Islam as best as we can in our daily life. But how far we are doing it is known only to Allah. An individual can make a claim that he or she is practicing Islam but such a claim would be valid only if he or she knows the Holy Quran and what is expected of all Muslims. In order to know this, one has to devote time to read and to know the Holy Quran. But I know that not everyone is making the necessary efforts to learn and to delve into the teachings of the Holy Quran besides the hadiths and the Books of Hazrat Masih Maood<sup>as</sup>. Observe a good student who attends school or the university. He devotes lots of time to study so that he might pass his examinations. He expects good grades or at least he works enough to get the passing marks because he knows its importance. But for the examination that we all have to take throughout our existence and on which our whole afterlife will depend, few amongst us are concerned. Every day one can see people devoting their time to frivolous pursuits. Yet very few would devote even fifteen minutes to read and study the Holy Quran. I think there is a great neglect here amongst all Muslims which should be corrected. If others are not concerned in making the necessary corrections, members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya should at least show that they are different.

I have said it before and I say it again because it must be repeated. There are 540 *rukus* in the Holy Quran. If one reads one ruku per day regularly and makes the necessary effort to remember its

message, one will complete the reading of the Holy Book in approximately one year. But if one reads two *rukus* every day one will complete reading the whole book in nine months. How much time you might take to read two *rukus*? It will not take you more than ten minutes. But if you read with concentration you might take fifteen minutes. So by devoting fifteen minutes of your quality time to the sacred study of the Holy Book you would be doing something that will be having a positive impact on the quality of your life. Speaking in terms of what we invest and what we reap isn't it a good investment? Definitely it is and each one amongst us should make this investment as from today. If someone can fritter away his time by spending hours on the net gossiping with friends or playing games it should be quite easy for him to devote ten to fifteen minutes to reading the Holy Quran and exchange views with his friends about what he has read. He or she cannot imagine what difference this ten to fifteen minutes of daily reading will do to his life. It is only through experience that one can understand what I am trying to say. If you are not yet convinced to spend fifteen minutes of your life daily to study the Holy Quran just put as your objective that you will be committed to doing this only for the next thirty days. But strive with all your might not to miss even one day for the next thirty days and then you may send me an email telling me what you think of the experience. I am sure that if you read regularly with the objective of increasing your knowledge, you would have achieved that objective. But if you read perfunctorily, you would not achieve anything. So take your decision while you hear or read this sermon that a ten-fifteen minute reading of the Holy Quran will definitely form part of your daily regimen as from now on.

These days there are many means available to get this work done. Elders who are not quite familiar with the internet should continue using the Holy Quran in book forms. But for the internet generation they may use the Holy Quran reading and translations that are available on the net itself. A simple Google search will give you millions of addresses. On [www.alislam.org](http://www.alislam.org) one may hear the reading and read the translation in English or in any other language of your choice. For professionals who use smart phones they may download applications and have the Holy Book with them wherever they are. So today we cannot complain that we do not know Arabic. One can easily hear the Arabic and read the translations. So means to read the Holy Book are not missing at all. What is missing is the desire and determination to devote time to its study. Muslims of this generation should use the means available to increase their knowledge of what Allah wants from them and they should use that knowledge to solve the problems of the world instead of adding to them.

One may ask why this insistence on this subject matter. The fact is that if a Muslim ignores what Allah has said in His Book he is at the mercy of anyone who might exploit his ignorance. But a Muslim should not be an ignorant Muslim. A Muslim will fulfill all his duties towards Allah and mankind when he knows what is expected of him or her. It is only the Holy Quran that tells him what is expected of him. Five minutes *Dars* after daily prayers and Friday sermons do not fulfill this task. The Muslim has to learn from source and that is why this insistence of his knowing the teachings of Holy Book. The Chinese have a very wise way of bringing this point home. They say "Give a man a fish and you will feed him for a day; teach him how to fish and you will feed him for a life time". So, knowing the Holy Quran is the means by which we can give ourselves our necessary spiritual food for our lifetime and we do not need to depend upon others. Armed with this

knowledge we would be able to dispel any darkness fight any type of dogmas and distinguish right from wrong. When we talk we do not just quote authority figures but we quote verses of the Holy Quran. We reason with the verses and not what our elders have said or what our father says or what our maulana says. We are equipped to defend our point of view and we are not at all afraid of the views of others. On the contrary we might ask others to puncture our arguments to show their weak points and if necessary with unassailable arguments we can even attack the arguments of others which we consider to be against the spirit and letter of the Holy Book. This is exactly what Hazrat Masih Maood<sup>as</sup> did as a real lion of God and he invited his opponents to attack his arguments but they responded by attacking his person. He attacked their arguments and they could not respond at all. Knowledge wise our weapon is the Holy Quran and it is the duty of every Muslim to learn to use this weapon.

As a reminder I would like to quote Hazrat Masih Maood<sup>as</sup> on this matter. He says:

“For you another very essential teaching is this that you do not leave the Holy Quran like a book that has been forsaken, since it is therein, and nowhere else, that life lies. Those who honour this Holy Book shall be honoured in heaven. Those who will hold the Holy Quran superior to every tradition and every other saying shall be given preference in heaven.”(Our Teaching)

Again he says:

We are a witness and testify before the whole world that we have found in the Holy **Qur'an** the reality that leads to God. We have heard the voice of God and have witnessed the signs of the mighty arm of Him who has revealed the Qur'an. We believe that He is the True God and is the Master of the worlds. Our heart is filled with this certainty as the ocean is filled with water. We, therefore, invite everyone to this faith and to this light on the basis of enlightened perception. We have found the **true light** which dispels all darkness and which really renders the heart cold to all that is beside God. This is the only way by following which a person emerges from the grip of passion and the darkness of the ego as a snake sloughs off its skin.  
**[Kitab-ul-Bariyyah, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 13, p. 65]**

Now I will finish with an extract from the book “Chasma Marifat” which is considered among the most important books that the Promised Messiah has written. He says:

It is an obvious fact that the great merit of anything lies in its fulfilling the purpose for which it has been made. For instance, if a bullock is purchased for ploughing land its merit will be judged by the degree to which it is able to discharge its function of ploughing. In the same way, it is obvious that the true purpose of a heavenly Book is that it should rescue its followers from every sin and the sinful life through its teaching and influence, and its power of reform and spiritual qualities, and should bestow a pure life upon them, and after purifying them, should bestow upon them full insight for the recognition of God and should establish a relationship of love and devotion between them and the Peerless Being, Who is the Fountainhead of all joys. In truth, this love is the root of salvation and this is the paradise on entering which all fatigue, bitterness, pain and torment are removed. Without doubt, the living

and perfect revealed Book is the one which should lead a seeker after God to his goal and, rescuing him from a low life, should lead him to the True Beloved, meeting Whom is salvation itself. It should rescue him from all doubts and should bestow such perfect understanding upon him as if he can see God. It should establish such strong relationship between God and him that he should become a faithful servant of God should make a distinction between him and those beside him with diverse types of His help and support and should open the gates of His understanding to him. If a book fails to discharge this duty, which is its real purpose, and seeks to establish its merit by making other irrelevant claims, it would be like a person who claims to be an expert physician, but when a patient is brought to him and he is asked to heal him, he replies that he is unable to heal him, but that he knows how to wrestle, or that he is an expert in astronomy or philosophy. It is obvious that such a person would be called a jester and would deserve the condemnation of all reasonable people.

The chief purpose of a Book of God and a Messenger of God is to rescue the world from a life of sin and to establish a holy relationship between God and the world. It is not their purpose to teach people subjects of secular study and to instruct them in worldly inventions. It is not difficult for a reasonable and just person to understand that the purpose of a Book of God is to lead people to God, and to make them believe in Him as a certainty, and to stop them from committing sin by impressing the majesty and awe of God upon their hearts. Of what use is a book which cannot cleanse a heart, nor can bestow such pure and perfect understanding as should make one hate sin? The attraction of sin is a dangerous leprosy which cannot be healed till the manifestations of the living understanding of God, and the signs of His awe, greatness and power, descend like rain and till a person perceives God with His awe inspiring powers as a goat perceives a tiger which is only two steps away from it. Man needs to be freed from the fatal passion of sin. The greatness of God should so occupy his heart that it should rid him of the overpowering desire of passion which falls upon him like lightning and instantly consumes his store of righteousness. Can such impure passions as attack repeatedly like epilepsy and destroy all sense of piety be wiped out by any self-conceived concept of God? Or can they be suppressed by one's own thinking, or be blocked by an atonement whose suffering has not been personally experienced? Certainly not. This is not a matter of indifference but in the estimation of a wise person it is worthy of consideration above all else as to how he might safeguard himself against the ruin which confronts him on account of his daring and his lack of relationship with God, the root of which is sin and disobedience. It is obvious, that a person cannot give up a certain pleasure for the sake of a conjecture. It is only a certainty that can rescue one from another certainty. For instance, if we are certain that there are a number of deer in a forest whom we can easily catch, we are incited by that certainty to enter the forest for that purpose; but if we are also certain that there are half a hundred lions in the forest and thousands of blood-thirsty pythons, we would be dissuaded from making the attempt. Thus, sin cannot be avoided without this degree of certainty. It is only iron that can break iron. There should be that certainty of the greatness and awe of God which should tear up the curtains of heedlessness, and should make the body tremble, and should make death appear near. The heart should be so overcome by fear that all relationship with the sinful ego should be cut

asunder and one should be drawn by hidden hands towards God and the heart should be filled with certainty that God Who is truly present does not leave a daring offender without punishment. What shall a seeker after true purity do with a book which does not fill this need? Just take some time to digest this extract and you will understand what I am trying to tell you. Let us hope that incha Allah all Muslims will understand the need for getting a knowledge of the Holy Quran so that they might fulfill the purpose of their life. May Allah help all of us in this endeavour. Ameen