

FRIDAY SERMON OF IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN

20 JANUARY 2012

After reciting the *Tashahhud*, the *Ta'uz* and the first chapter *Al Fatiha* of the Holy Quran Imam Zafrullah Domun read the first seven verses of chapter 2 in Arabic and gave their translation as follows:

I am Alla h, the All-Knowing.

This is a perfect Book; there is no doubt in it; it is a guidance for the righteous,

Who believe in the unseen and observe Prayer, and spend out of what We have provided for them;

And who believe in that which has been revealed to thee, and in that which was revealed before thee, and they have firm faith in what is yet to come.

It is they who follow the guidance of their Lord and it is they who shall prosper.

Those who have disbelieved—it being equal to them whether thou warn them or warn them not—they will not believe.

Alla h has set a seal on their hearts and their ears, and over their eyes is a covering; and for them is a great punishment.—Al-Baqarah, 2:2- 8

Then he said:

Since last week we have been speaking about how important it is for each one amongst us to devote some time everyday to the reading and study of the Holy Quran. We also said that the cumulative effect of such a practice will be enormous in a lifetime. It is a habit that we should start cultivating and instilling in our children whilst they are young just like all the other skills and habits that we teach them so that they might be successful in their life. Personally I think that if we succeed in creating in our children a desire to learn, to understand and to practice the Holy Quran in their daily life we would have given them one of life's most precious gifts. Most parents go to great trouble to give to their children the best of this world but few do really care whether they have knowledge of the Holy Book or not. I remember that when we were quite young our mother used to encourage us to learn the Holy Book in our holidays. Although at that time we were learning only the Arabic words, yet this habit has been good to me and my brothers throughout our lifetime. Amongst us there are many who have taken great care to continue reading their Holy Quran throughout their lives even in their sixties. I would not like to think ill of anyone but I am not sure that everyone especially our young ones have seriously made a commitment to impose upon themselves a ten to fifteen minute reading of the Holy Book every day even after what I said last week. I would be very happy to know through an email who has started doing it and who has not and why. If you share your thoughts with me I may, Allah willing, tell you how to overcome the obstacles that you may be finding in your path. Anyhow my task is only to advise you. To do or not to is up to you.

Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} has translated and commented upon the verses that I have just read and I would like to share with you today what he has said. He says:

““*Aif Laam Mim*” I am All^ah, Who knows best. That is to say, I, Who Am All-Knowing and All-Wise, Whose knowledge is not matched by the knowledge of anyone else, am revealing this Book.

Then the greatness of the Holy Qur’^an is referred to and it is said: *Zalekal kitaabo* This is that Book. That is to say, a **grand and sublime Book which derives from Divine knowledge**. It is established with regard to it that its source and spring is the Eternal Being of the All-Wise.

By using the word “that”, which denotes distance, God Almighty has indicated that this Book derives from the knowledge of that Being with high attributes, who is Matchless and Peerless and Whose perfect knowledge and profound mysteries are very far from the limits of human sight. Then the praiseworthiness of its form and structure are described by saying: *laa raiba fihe*.

The body of the Qur’^an is so well reasoned that there is no room left in it for any kind of doubt; meaning that, unlike other books, it is not a mere tale or story, but is comprehensive of conclusive arguments and reasoning, and sets forth clear proofs of its objects and purposes, and is in itself a **miracle** which operates like a sharp sword for the removal of doubts and suspicions, and does not leave the matter of the recognition of God at the conjectural stage of **He should be**, but carries the matter to the certainty of, **He is**. Despite the grandeur of these purposes which are greatly concerned with effect and reform, it proceeds to define the **fourth purpose which is its ultimate object**, which is the provision of guidance for the righteous. It announces that it is: *hodal lil muttaqeen*.

This Book has been revealed for the guidance of those who, on account of their pure interiors, sane reason, firm intelligence, eagerness for search of truth, right motives, would, in the end, arrive at a high degree of faith and recognition of God and perfect righteousness.

In other words, those about whom God knows that their nature is suited to this guidance and they can make progress in true insights, will in the end be guided by this Book; and this Book would reach them and God would enable them to follow the right path before their death. Thus, God Almighty has clearly stated that those who in the knowledge of God are worthy of being guided and possess the quality of righteousness by their nature will surely be guided through the Holy Qur’^an.

The succeeding verses set forth the details and pronounce that:

Those who in the knowledge of God are likely to believe will all gradually believe, and only those will be left outside concerning whom God knows that they will not embrace Isl^am and, whether they are warned or not, they will not believe, or will not arrive at the perfect stage of righteousness and understanding.

Thus in these verses God Almighty has made it clear that only they can derive benefit from the guidance of the Qur’^an who are righteous and whose true nature is not overcome by any darkness of their ego”

[Bra hin-e-Ahmediyya, Ruha ni Khaza’in, Vol. 1 pp. 198-203, footnote 11]

As readers would have easily noticed this is not just a translation of these verses. They are a translation with commentary to help us understand what Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} understood from these verses. But we can also infer from other verses and also from experience that it is the reading and understanding of the Holy Quran that can help a person to get rid of the darkness of his or her ego. Since no one’s ego is completely purified, hence the task of tending to its purification may take a whole lifetime. Hence why, the reading of the Holy Book should be a habit for a lifetime.

In another extract Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} tells us:

“Be alert all the time and do not take a single step contrary to Divine teaching and the guidance of the Qur’an. I tell you truly that anyone who evades the least one of the 700 commandments of the Qur’an shuts upon himself the door of salvation. The ways of true and perfect salvation have been opened by the Qur’an and all the rest is its reflection. Therefore, study the Qur’an with care and hold it very dear with a love that you have not for anything else. As God has said to me: *Al khayro koullohou fil Qur’an* (All good is contained in the Qur’an)

This is wholly true. Those people are to be pitied who prefer anything else to it. The fountainhead of all your prosperity and salvation is the Holy Qur’an. There is no religious need of yours which is not filled by the Qur’an. On the Day of Judgment, the Qur’an will confirm or deny your faith. There is no other book under heaven beside the Qur’an which can furnish you with salvation. God has been very Beneficent towards you that He has bestowed a Book like the Qur’an upon you. I tell you truly that if the Book that is recited to you had been recited to the Christians, they would not have perished. If this bounty of guidance which has been bestowed upon you had been bestowed upon the Jews in place of the Torah, some of their sects would not have denied the Day of Judgment. Then value this favour that has been bestowed upon you. It is a very dear favour; it is great wealth. If the Qur’an had not been revealed the whole world would have been left like a dirty lump of flesh. The Qur’an is the Book in contrast with which all other guidance amounts to nothing. [***Kashti Nuh, Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 19, pp. 26-27***]

This is an extract that each one amongst us should remember and ponder over. Then one will fully appreciate what Hazrat Masih Maood^{as} has taught us and whether what we are doing is in accordance with these teachings or not.

Speaking about the excellences of the Holy Quran and its spiritual effects on the individual Hazrat Masih^{as} says:

“In addition to all the excellences and beauties of style and idiom, the Holy Qur’an is the compendium of wisdom and knowledge, and possesses such a spiritual effect that following it truly a person achieves prosperity, inner light and expansion of mind, and becomes accepted of God and worthy of being addressed by Him. The Holy Qur’an creates in its follower those lights and hidden graces and provides him with such certain supports that are not found in others. He receives from God that delicious and comforting word in consequence of which he realizes more and more every moment that by the true following of the Holy Qur’an and true obedience to the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] he has arrived at a stage which is special for those whom God loves, and that he has been bestowed such Divine pleasure and kindness, which had been bestowed upon all those of perfect faith who have passed on before him. He perceives not only in words, but as actual fact, a pure spring of all these loves flowing through his heart and observes such a condition of relationship with God in his open breast which he cannot describe in words or by means of any illustration. He observes Divine lights descending like rain upon his soul. Those lights cast their reflection upon him sometimes in the form of the disclosure of hidden matters, sometimes in the form of knowledge and insights, and at other times in the form of high moral qualities. These effects of the Holy Qur’an have been continuous. Ever since the sun of truth appeared in the world in the blessed person of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him], thousands of people who possessed the capacity and the ability have arrived and continue to

arrive at those high stages by following the Divine Word and obeying the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] that we have mentioned above. God Almighty bestows continuously such favours and exaltations on them and manifests such support and bounties for them that those with clear eyesight recognize that they are accepted of God and that they are under a grand shadow of Divine kindness and enjoy a majestic Divine grace. Observers can see clearly that they are honoured with extraordinary bounties, distinguished with wonderful miracles, scented with the perfume of the love of God, and are invested with the pride of being accepted of God. The light of the All-Powerful so fills their company, their attention, their resolve, their prayer, their eyesight, their moral qualities, their way of living, their pleasure and their anger, their liking and their dislike, their movement and their rest, their speech and their silence, and their exterior and their interior as a precious perfume fills a phial of transparent glass. Those things are acquired through the grace of their companionship, attention and love, which cannot be acquired through the severest discipline. By entertaining goodwill and good faith for them, faith takes on another aspect, a new strength is gained for the display of good moral qualities, self-will and inclination towards disobedience begin to decline, and a satisfaction and sweetness is gained. According to one's capacity and the degree of one's relationship, faith surges up, and affection and fondness manifest themselves, and delight in the remembrance of God increases. By keeping company with them over a long period, one is brought to confess that in their strength of faith, and their moral conditions, their renunciation of the world, inclination towards God, love for God and kindness towards His creatures, and in their fidelity and steadfastness, they occupy such a high place as has no equal in the world. Sane reason immediately perceives that the shackles and chains which bind other people have been removed from their feet and their minds have been cleansed of the narrowness and constraint through which the minds of other people are constrained and fatigued. They are honoured by the frequency of converse with God and are considered worthy of being continuously addressed. They are considered a means of direction and guidance between God, the Glorious and High, and His eager servants. Their own brightness illumines other hearts. As by the advent of spring there is an upsurge in vegetation, in the same way, by their advent, natural light upsurges in obedient temperaments and every fortunate heart desires to make every effort to bring into manifestation its capacities for good fortune, and to be rid of heedlessness, and to be rescued from the darkness of sinfulness, disobedience, vice, ignorance and unawareness. During their blessed time, there is such spread of light that every believer and seeker after truth, according to the degree of his faith, discovers an expansion and fondness for religiosity without any apparent reason and perceives an increase and strengthening of resolve. In short, from their delicate perfume, which they acquire through the blessing of perfect obedience, every sincere person is benefited according to the degree of his sincerity.

It is true, however, that those who are eternally unfortunate, do not partake of it, but advance in rancour and envy and ill fortune and thus fall into hell. This refers to what God says “Allah has put a seal over their heart.”

[Brahin-e-Ahmadiyya, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 1 pp. 528-532, sub-footnote 3]

May Allah enable each one amongst us to derive the maximum benefits from the Holy Quran.