

**FRIDAY SERMON OF IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN**

**13 APRIL 2012**

**Summary:**

Need for an Ahmadi to know what Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad <sup>as</sup> has said. Without this knowledge no one can follow him as he or she should. Hazrat Ahmad<sup>as</sup> a distributor of spiritual insights. How Allah helped him in his mission. Mainstream Ahmadiyya practice contrary to teachings received. Hazrat Masih's own impression about some Ahmadis. Who are the green and who are the dry branches? What should be an Ahmadi's standard of behavior. How mainstream Ahmadis have failed. Usefulness of small boats when the big one is sinking.

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

Members would have noticed that these days I am quoting profusely from the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood<sup>as</sup> to help an Ahmadi Muslim to know what is expected of him or her. In fact Hazrat Masih Maood<sup>as</sup> has often told us that we should make it a must to strive to read and understand his writings. In a couplet from his poems he says: "*Wo khazaene jo hazaron saal se madfouna the ab mein deta houn agar koyi mile oumeed waar*". We translate this as follows "*Now I am giving all those treasures that were buried for a thousand of years to the one who is desirous of them.*" In fact any reasonable and wise man who reads the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood <sup>as</sup> cannot remain indifferent to it. Even those who had not joined his Jamaat have praised his writings. Once I spoke about this matter by quoting Maulana Kalam Azaad who was at one time the president of India, but I am not going to repeat that here. It is sufficient for all Ahmadis to bear in mind that Hazrat Masih Maood <sup>as</sup> was a knower of Allah par excellence and that he has left for all of us spiritual treasures aplenty. Therefore it is incumbent upon all Ahmadi Muslims worthy of that name to strive his or her best to be aware of what Hazrat Masih Maood<sup>as</sup> has said from the source. In one extract he says:

"I say with force and certainty that truth is with me and that by the Grace of Allah in this field I am the one who is victorious. As far as my sight can go I see the world under the influence of my truthfulness. In the near future I will be granted a mighty help because there is another tongue that supports what I say and there is another Hand that strengthens my hand which the world does not see but which I see.

Inside me a heavenly soul speaks which enlivens each word and each letter that I speak.” (*My translation from Izala Awhaam*)

These are the words of the person whom each Ahmadi Muslim whether he is a woman or a man has accepted to follow to lead them to Allah. I think it is not at all difficult to imagine how much importance we should give to what he has said. Hence it is our duty as his followers to devote time and effort to understand his writings. Once we are equipped with the light of what he has said we will always be in a position to dispel any darkness whenever it starts manifesting itself. We have been arguing for some time now that Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream as a whole is going through this period of darkness these days and it needs the Promised Messiah’s teachings as a whole to dispel its ignorance.

But what is unfortunate is that very few people can read and understand the writings of the Promised Messiah. Furthermore even from that small group there are many who would never dare to say anything contrary to the official line of thought even though they might not be convinced. This is the situation of Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream today where there is no debate concerning doubtful doctrines. The leadership dictates and the followers just acquiesce because of their ignorance and the dissidents are thrown out and boycotted. And they dare to tell the world that they practice enlightened Islam and that they would one day rule the world with this “enlightenment”. *Al hamdo lillah* Allah has made better provisions for us and has taken us away from such people who have distorted the true teachings of the Promised Messiah and have invented teachings and practices of their own.

An Ahmadi Muslim is a seeker of knowledge. He or she cannot content himself with bland conformism and tell the world that it is practicing true Islam. A true Ahmadi Muslim should understand what true God fearingness is and practice it. Briefly speaking about the situation in the time of the Holy Prophet, Hazrat Masih Maood<sup>as</sup> tells us:

“It is possible that hearing abuse and impostures and vilifications of all kinds directed against this truthful Jamaat, some of its members might become impatient and might desire the hasty chastisement of the enemy, but they should always keep in mind the way of God Almighty which He adopted with regard to the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup>. Therefore, I direct you repeatedly and emphatically to keep away from all occasions of disorder and dissent, because the task that you desire to accomplish—i.e., to fully convey the message to your opponents—has now been taken by God Almighty in His Own hand. Your task now should be to occupy yourselves with prayers, seeking forgiveness, worshipping God, and the purification and cleansing of your souls. Thus make yourselves deserving of the favours and attention of God Almighty which He has promised. Though God Almighty has made me great promises, and there are many great prophecies which I am sure will be fulfilled, yet you should take no pride in them. Avoid every kind of jealousy, envy, rancour, backbiting, arrogance, pride, all overt and covert ways of evil and vice, sloth and heedlessness. Remember well that the good end is always for the righteous, as God Almighty has said “*Wal Aaqebato lil muttaqeen*” meaning “And the end is for the God-fearing” Therefore, be concerned to become righteous. [**Malfuzat, vol. 3, pp. 282-283**]

So in the light of such teachings the mainstream Jamaat is just taking pride in what was said and has been promised thinking that Allah is on their side even if they have moved away from righteousness. Unfortunately this is the direct consequence of position of authority received rather than one that is deserved according to Allah.

So an Ahmadi who wants to be a true follower of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup> does not just content himself with what others tell him. This is not an age when people cannot read or make their own research and confront their own ideas with that of others. An Ahmadi Muslim is someone who makes his maximum effort to try to understand what exactly has Masih Maood as said. A true Ahmadi cannot just content himself to saying that my father told us that this Jamaat is true and so it should be. Hazrat Masih Maood<sup>as</sup> has taught us that we should make a personal effort to understand and to practice. Without practice and without a real commitment to Godfearingness no one can be considered to be a true follower of the teachings of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad<sup>as</sup>. Hence we will never tire of saying that a true Ahmadi is the one who has a good insight in the knowledge that has been bequeathed to us by the Promised Messiah. He took great care to educate members of his Jamaat into the real teachings of Islam. Here is another extract where he speaks in detail about how we should behave ourselves. He says:

“Bear in mind that a person who is liable to be carried away by egoistic passions is not one whose lips can utter words of wisdom and understanding. Everything that such a one says is full of poisonous germs and nothing else. If you wish to speak under the instruction of the Holy Spirit, then cast out all egoistic passions and fury, then your lips will set forth the mysteries of pure and true knowledge, and in heaven you will be accounted something that is beneficial for the world and you will have long lives. Do not deride and do not indulge in mockery. Your speech should betray no meanness or ribaldry so that the fountain of wisdom may be opened for you. Wise words conquer hearts. Ridicule and use of vulgar language promotes disorder. As far as possible, put forth the truth in gentle language so that the listeners are not hurt. He who does not reflect on the reality and, being prompted by his rebellious spirit, uses vulgar language and designs mischief, is unholy. The way to God is never opened for him, nor do the words of wisdom and truth issue from his mouth. If you desire that the way to God should be opened to you, then keep away from egoistic passions and do not indulge in playful discussions for they amount to nothing and are a waste of time. Do not return evil for evil, neither in word nor in deed so that God should support you. You should present the truth to people with a compassionate heart and not by way of mockery and derision. Dead is the heart that makes mockery and derision its practice, and impure is the soul which does not adopt the way of wisdom and truth, nor does it let others do so. If you wish to inherit pure knowledge, do not utter anything out of anger, for such a thing would be empty of wisdom and true understanding. Do not be persuaded to reply to your opponent in contemptuous and derisive terms as employed by the mean and the low and the vulgar. Return a true and wise answer out of the righteousness of your heart, so that you may become heirs to heavenly mysteries. [Nasim-e-Da‘wat, Ruhani Khaza’in, vol. 19, pp. 363-366]

Mainstream members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya usually take pride in their growing numbers and some of them even taunt us about ours. But let us see what Hazrat Masih said about those people who came to grow the numbers in his time. If that was the case when the Promised Messiah was alive, one can easily imagine what the situation now is when we have moved from his time by more than hundred years. Listen to what he says:

“Here I consider it necessary to say that not all those who have entered into the covenant of Bai‘at with me are such that I could express a positive opinion about them. I view some of them as dry branches whom my God, Who is my Guardian, will cut off from me and cast into the firewood. There are some who were sincere in the beginning and possessed anguished hearts, but now they are greatly constricted and no longer exhibit the eager sincerity and light of loving discipleship. Like *Bal‘am* they are only left with their cunning and, like a rotten tooth, they deserve only to be pulled out and cast underfoot. They have become tired and fatigued and this worthless world has caught them in its fraudulent trap. I tell you truly that they will soon be cut asunder from me, except such of them whom the hand of God Almighty should take hold of afresh. Still, there are many whom God has given me forever and they are the flourishing branches of the tree of my being.” **[Fat-he-Islam, Ruhani Khaza’in, vol. 3, p. 40]**

One can easily wonder where the green branch is and where are the dry branches and the decayed teeth that have to be extracted! These decayed teeth that need to be extracted are not the thirty two teeth that are usually found in one person’s mouth. But they run into thousands if not millions who have given the words of the caliphs more importance than the words of Allah and His prophet!

People say we are small in number and we are negligible. But one has to remember that when a big boat starts to sinking what is it that rescues the people on board. Most of you know about the sinking of the Titanic. This incident happened almost exactly hundred years ago, exactly on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1912. It was a newly built ship on its maiden voyage carrying the wealthiest people on earth and those who put it to sea thought that it would be accident proof. But it hit an iceberg. Most of the people died but about seven hundred were rescued by the small boats that were on board. So in the time of crisis only small boats can rescue those who think they are quite safe on big boats. If one ponders on this matter for a while one would easily understand that rescuers always come in small boats. By the Grace of Allah we are the rescuers of the teachings of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad as and we form part of those whom he said they would be with him forever incha Allah. So the fact that we are small now should not be a surprise to anyone. We need to go for quality rather than quantity. May Allah help all of us to stay on the path that He has chosen for us forever. Ameen