

FRIDAY SERMON OF IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN

08 JUNE 2012

Summary:

Tribute to Ataoul Quddous who passed away on Saturday last. Comments on verses 154-158 of chapter two of the Holy Quran. Some revelations.

After reciting the *Tashahhud*, the *Ta'uz* and the first chapter *Al Fatiha* of the Holy Quran Imam Zafrullah Domun read verses 154 to 158 of chapter 2, *Al Baqara* of the Holy Quran and then he said:

As members are well aware, our nephew Ataoul Quddous, may Allah illumine his tomb (*nawwarallaho marqadahou*) son of our sister Salima passed away on Saturday last. He was 33+ years old. Since birth he had been suffering from a rare disease. But despite that he had the spirit of a fighter and he showed great patience and a love for life in the comfort of his home under the loving care of his parents and brother and kinsmen. By the Grace of Allah he was endowed with a good mind. Despite the fact that he could not go to school he was given a rudimentary teaching at home and during the course of years he would develop a keen interest in the world around him. With what he learned from the school of hard knocks of life he was more aware of what was going on in the world than those around him. He was very regular with his five daily prayers and very often he would wake up for *tahajjud* prayers, according to what my sister has told me. Despite all the odds he was always of a cheerful disposition and very often I have seen how he would cheer up all the young ones who gathered around him on our Friday family meetings at my mother's place. All members of the family from the oldest to the youngest had a very special regard for him. Because of the special place that he had in our heart I am sure that everyone will dearly miss him for some time to come. We sincerely pray that Allah grants his parents and brother and all members of the family an extraordinary patience to bear this loss. Our heart is sad and our eyes are filled with tears but we are all resigned to the will of Allah, our Lord, the One who gives and takes life and the One who gives comfort in a time of distress.

During the past 18 months I was closely involved with him and his family. I used to accompany them to the clinic seeing specialists. Despite the fact that he was well aware of the condition of his health he showed great courage and determination to do whatever he could to fight his disease. He was ready to undergo all risks involved to get a cure. Where I could observe closely his fighting spirit I also saw how well knit his family was. His father, Bye Farhad was always determined to do whatever could be done to help him and he was at his beck and call day and night. His mother was a personification of patience who sacrificed her own self to look after the comfort of all the members of the family. Even one of the doctors told me how impressed he was with the patience and devotion of her mother. His brother Kaleem-ud-din was the young member of the family on whom

all could rely because of his broad shoulders. He tried his best to relieve his brother of all types of distress and afforded him all the help that he could provide. He also went to great pains to beautify their living quarters. Through a certain decree this family went through a lot of distress and by the Grace of Allah they all showed an extraordinary patience in difficult circumstances. I am sure Allah will grant them each one the best rewards for their deeds.

In Sura *Al Mulk* chapter 67 Allah tells us very clearly why He has created life and death. He says “Blessed is He in whose hand is the kingdom and He has power over all things. *He is* the One who has created death and life so that He might try you *and see* who amongst you is best in conduct and He is the Mighty and the Most Forgiving.” Life on earth is a series of trials. Some might think that those who are close to Allah are not tried. But that is not true at all. The Holy Prophet ^{saw} is reported to have said that Prophets face more trials than anyone else. In fact when we are a bit advanced in age and we observe what is going on around us we see that life is a succession of trials. But these trials alternate with some moments of joy as well. So Allah has advised all Muslims in the verses that I have read “O ye who believe! Seek help with patience and Prayer; surely, Allah is with the steadfast.” Whenever we are faced with distressing circumstances or whenever we need to get something done or we need something we should seek help with patience and prayer. The word *sabr* according to *Mufradaat* of Raghib has the following meanings: “to adhere steadily to what reason and law commands and to restrain oneself from what reason and law forbid and from manifesting grief agitation and impatience”. So according to Islam Allah expects us to do whatever we might think useful to relieve us of the cause of our distress but at the same time we should seek help from Allah through prayers. Since we believe Allah to be all Powerful He may set in motion means of which we might not be aware to help us. We have to use material means but not exclusively. We should also use spiritual means that is why we should pray. This is how Allah has taught Muslims to try to solve their problems and we need to constantly bear all this in mind. And Allah says that He is with those who are steadfast. Patience is a great virtue and it helps us to weather through many difficult circumstances in life. When we are young we are not quite patient. But it is a virtue that we should cultivate and it is of great help in many circumstances.

In the next verse Allah says “And say not of those who are killed in the cause of Allah that they are dead; nay, they are living; only you perceive not”. This verse may refer to those who die fighting in the cause of Allah. From our perspective among those living on earth we think that these people have died. But Allah says that they are not dead but living. Similarly we may also conclude that people who have done good deeds and have died are still living in the presence of their Lord.

The following verse should be memorized by all Muslims and constantly kept in mind. Allah says: “**And We will try you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of wealth and lives, and fruits; but give glad tidings to the patient.**” Trials in life may take many forms. At times we may go through a period of fear and at another we may not have enough food to eat. Worse still we may lose our wealth or even at times we may lose close relatives or we may lose the harvest of our plantations. Such trials are no respecter of persons. But Allah tells us that we should be constantly patient under all these adverse circumstances of life. Despite all such odds Allah tells us that those who are patient will be amply rewarded. Who are those who are patient? They are those people who when a misfortune falls upon them they do not start speaking nonsense and question why such calamities have befallen them. They understand that they are not their own masters. They understand that they were not born through their own volition and they will not die when

they want to and they do not have the capacity to control all the events in their life. They understand that Allah has created them and that He is the One who controls life and death and that He has power over all things. Those who have such an understanding, when they find themselves in adverse circumstances they only say “*Inna lillahe wa inna elayhe rajeoune*”. We translate this as “to Allah we belong and to Him we will return”. This sentence helps the Muslim to persevere in life despite the many odds that he or she might face. We may also say that these words contain the essence to make one humble and resort to Allah because we come to understand that we are not in control and that everything that we may be enjoying is quite ephemeral. Our wealth, our life, our belongings our close relatives are not at all permanent. What is permanent is only Allah as He says in the Holy Quran “*Koullou man alayha faan wa yabqa wajho rabbeka zoul jalale wal ikraam*” meaning “All that is on earth will pass away and there will abide for ever only the Person of thy Lord, Master of Glory and Honour”(55:22). Hence, the need for each individual to fully realize that he or she has to develop a permanent relationship with Allah. This relationship should be such that no adverse circumstance of life can break or damage it.

In the last verse which I read to you at the beginning of my sermon Allah says “It is these on whom are blessings from their Lord and mercy, and it is these who are rightly guided.” In other words Allah will reward those who say “*Inna lillahe wa inna elayhe rajeoune*” with His blessings and mercy and will properly guide them. Reflect on these verses and you will easily understand how they reveal to us the secrets of our existence. If we ignore this message we will be confronted with very bad circumstances and it would be very difficult to cope with them. But once we understand that Allah has given us existence and we owe it to Him to be alive we can easily accept to go through difficult periods of our existence.

I have chosen to speak about these verses because they are like a balm on bruised hearts. Difficulties, trials and adverse circumstances are an intrinsic part of our life. It is up to us to learn to ride through them with the perspective that Allah wants us to develop through the teachings that He has given us in the Holy Quran. Once we get these perspectives right we are better equipped to face all trials and tribulations that befall us.

From the conversations that I have had with my sister I can say that by the Grace of Allah she was endowed with an unshakable faith in Allah and she faced all these circumstances with great equanimity. I think that the next generation should talk to her and try to understand what was it that has kept her going through all these tough times. Having been closely associated with her and having seen how she took these blows one by one she reminded me of the saying “When the going gets tough, the tough gets going”. As a stalwart she stood up and never showed any sign of despondency or weakness. She has given us an example of courage, fortitude, patience and acceptance of Allah’s Will which will be remembered for some time. Anyhow I am sure that Allah will reward her and her family in the best possible way for what they have gone through.

During the final phase of Ataoul Quddous illness, by the Grace of Allah we continued to get consolation from Allah through dreams or revelations. We already knew that death was decreed and that we would not be able to do much. But no one knew when that death would come. This brought home the idea that “*wa maa kaana le nafs in an tamouta illa be iznillahe kitaabam mo’ajjala*” which we translate as “and no soul can die except by Allah’s leave – a decree with a fixed term.”(3:145). But as each day passed we understood that the inevitable moment was coming nearer. Anyhow Allah took his soul when his term expired. We pray for him that Allah admits him in His Mercy and grants him a place in *Jannatoul Firdous*. We also pray that Allah grants patience and acceptance to his mother, father and brother and all close relatives. In fact when he died for a very long

moment despite my occupations I kept receiving the words "*Sabr o Raza*" meaning patience and acceptance. And as the time for the janaza prayer drew near Allah revealed constantly to me "*man youhyil izama wa heya ramim*" which we translate as "who will quicken the bones when they are decayed?" In fact this is part of verse 79 of Sura Yasin (ch 36) where Allah says: "And he coins similitude for us and forgets his own creation and he says "who will quicken the bones when they are decayed?". Then Allah says "Say He who created them the first time will quicken them and he knows full well the condition of all created things." In fact when late Said Taujoo, may Allah illumine his tomb(*nawwarallaho marqadahou*) another young man of our Jamaat died in July 2003 I received the same revelation. Allah knows best why. Anyhow these words remind us that definitely after death we will be given a new life and we will have to answer for all our actions. At least ten days before Ataoul Quddous death Allah revealed to me a with a great force "*Balillaho mawlakomoul haq wa howa khayroun nasereen*" . Definitely Allah is your True Lord and He is the best of helpers."May Allah forgive us all. We pray:

"Our Lord, do not punish us, if we forget or fall into error; and our Lord, lay not on us a responsibility as Thou didst lay upon those before us. Our Lord, burden us not with what we have not the strength to bear; and efface our *sins*, and grant us forgiveness and have mercy on us; Thou art our Master; so help us Thou against the disbelieving people."(2:287)