

FRIDAY SERMON OF IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN

22 JUNE 2012

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

Today I will touch briefly on a few topics. The first one is the month of Rajab. On Wednesday or yesterday we entered the month of Shabaan, that is the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the Islamic calendar. In about thirty days we will *insha* Allah reach Ramadan. Usually whenever the moon for Rajab, the month before *Shabaan* was seen in the lifetime of the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup> he used to greet it with these words "'O Allah, make the months of Rajab and Sha'ban blessed for us, and let us reach the month of Ramadan (i.e. prolong our life up to Ramadan, so that we may benefit from its merits and blessings)." Through this hadith we learn how much the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup> relied on Allah's Grace for the prolongation of his life so that he might partake of the blessings of the month of Ramadan. So in view of the month of Ramadan which is fast approaching we should also pray so that Allah may help each one amongst us to derive the full spiritual and physical blessings associated with this month.

In Islam no celebration exists in the month of either Rajab or Shabaan. One will notice that even in Mauritius there are special worship for the night of Ascension (*laylatul Mi'raj*). Usually the night of *Miraj* is taken to be that of the 27<sup>th</sup> night of Rajab. However those who have studied this matter closely give several conflicting dates for the night of this great event. So no one knows for sure on which particular night this event took place. We Ahmadi Muslims believe that this event did not take place in fact but it was a special kind of vision that was shown to our beloved Prophet Mohammad<sup>saw</sup>. Our young ones should be aware of this fact and they should be able to talk about it easily with their friends. There are plenty of very good articles on the net on this matter. They should find the time needed to study and to be aware of this event.

The other point on which I want to say something today is that we should be very careful as Ahmadis to strive to follow the teachings that we have received from Hazrat Masih Maood<sup>as</sup>. Personally I think that he has given us a very enlightened view of how to practice Islam. If we follow the path that he has shown us definitely we would become the recipients of Allah's favours. If not we would be the worst people alive because after having accepted the truth we have shown through practice that we have denied it. Several times I have quoted

from his writings about this matter. There is no need to repeat them here. They are available on the net and can easily be consulted.

As an Ahmadi Muslim our conduct should be exemplary in all circumstances of life. If we are a child we should behave well especially towards our parents and all the elders we encounter. Unfortunately we have to admit that these days not much respect is shown towards the elders. Whatever the role that we play in life we should learn to be a model of good behaviour. These days we see that there are many distractions that keep people away from Allah. But as an Ahmadi Muslim should not we be asking ourselves whether we are on the right track or not? Should we allow ourselves to be engrossed in all sorts of amusements and ignore the presence of Allah? Or should we be unlike others and give Allah the pre-eminence that He expects from us. It is quiet important for all of us to think about the end. Sooner or later the end will come and you will have to confront the reality that you will see yourself face to face with Allah to render an account of your deeds. We all should make a collective effort to remind one another about what is really important in life. Today I have chosen some verses of the Holy Quran and some hadith to remind ourselves of some fundamental teachings. I hope it will benefit one and all. Reflect upon them and see what effect they make on your soul. Allah says:

“Surely, this Qur’an guides to what is most right; and gives to the believers who do good deeds the glad tidings that they shall have a great reward. (17; 10)

Thy Lord has commanded, “Worship none but Him, and *show* kindness to parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age with thee, never say unto them any word expressive of disgust nor reproach them, but address them with excellent speech. [17:24]

“And lower to them the wing of humility out of tenderness. And say, ‘My Lord, have mercy on them even as they nourished me in *my* childhood.’”

Your Lord knows best what is in your minds; if you are righteous, then surely, He is Most Forgiving to those who turn *to Him* again and again.

And give thou to the kinsman his due, and to the poor and the wayfarer, and squander not *thy wealth* extravagantly.

Verily, the extravagant are brothers of satans, and Satan is ungrateful to his Lord.

And if thou hast to turn away from them while seeking thy Lord’s mercy for which thou hopest, *even then* speak to them a gentle word.

And keep not thy hand chained to thy neck, nor stretch it out an entire stretching, lest thou sit down blamed *or* exhausted.

Surely, thy Lord enlarges *His* provision for whom He pleases, and straitens *it for whom He pleases*. Verily, He knows *and* sees His servants full well.

Kill not your children for fear of poverty. It is We Who provide for them and for you. Surely, the killing of them is a great sin.

And come not near unto adultery; surely, it is a foul thing and an evil way.

And kill not the soul which Allah has forbidden save for just cause. And whoso is killed wrongfully, We have surely given his heir authority *to demand retaliation*, but let him not exceed the *prescribed* bounds in slaying; for *therein* he is helped *by law*.

And give full measure when you measure, and weigh with a right balance; that is best and most commendable in the end.

And follow not that of which thou hast no knowledge. Verily, the ear and the eye and the heart — all these shall be called to account.

And walk not in the earth haughtily, for thou canst not rend the earth, nor canst thou reach the mountains in height.

The evil of all these is hateful in the sight of thy Lord.

This is part of that wisdom which thy Lord has revealed to thee. And set not up with Allah any other God, lest thou be cast into Hell, condemned *and* rejected.(17:24-40)

There are plenty of such verses in the Holy Book. If we read the Holy Quran daily they would be a great source of inspiration and an addition to our faith. Let us hope that all understand the importance of this reading so that we might not waste our time here.

Next I will tell you about a hadith which calls for some reflection. It is as follows:

On the authority of Mu'adh ibn Jabal (may Allah be pleased with him) who said:

“I said: O Messenger of Allah, tell me of an act which will take me into the Paradise and will keep me away from the Hell-fire.

He said: You have asked me about a major matter, yet it is easy for him for whom Allah the Exalted makes it easy. You should worship Allah, associating nothing with Him; you should perform the prayers; you should pay the Zakat; you should fast in Ramadan; and you should make the pilgrimage to the House.

Then he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: Shall I not show you the gates of goodness? Fasting (which) is a shield; charity extinguishes sin as water extinguishes fire; and the praying of a man in the depths of night.

Then he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) recited: Their sides forsake their beds invoking their Rubb (the Lord) in fear and hope and they spend out of what we have bestowed on them. No person knows what is kept hidden for them of joy as a reward for what they used to do. [as-Sajdah, 16-17]

Then he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: Shall I not tell you of the peak of the matter, its pillar, and its topmost part?

I said: Yes, O Messenger of Allah.

He (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: The peak of the matter is Islam; the pillar is the prayer; and its topmost part is jihad.

Then he (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: Shall I not tell you of the controlling of all that?

I said: Yes, O Messenger of Allah.

And he took hold of his tongue and said, “Restrain this.”

I said: O Prophet of Allah, will what we say be held against us?

He (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: May your mother be bereaved of you, O Mu’adh! Is there anything that topples people on their faces — or he said on their noses — into Hell-fire other than the harvests of their tongues?

So each one amongst us should be very careful about what we say, We should learn to speak when it is needed and not to talk when it is not needed. We should see to it that the harvests of our tongue do not send us into hell.

Sometimes people ask whether such and such thing is allowed or prohibited in Islam. Here is another hadith which clarifies the matter well for one and all:

« On the authority of an-Nawwas ibn Samaan (Radhi-Allahu 'anhu) that the Messenger of Allah (salAllahu alayhi wa sallam) said:

"Righteousness is good morality, and wrongdoing is that which wavers in your heart and which you dislike people finding out about.( Muslim )

On the authority of Wabisa ibn Mabad who said: I came to the Messenger of Allah and he said: "You have come to ask about righteousness?"

I said: "Yes."

He said: "Consult your heart. Righteousness is that about which the soul feels tranquil and the heart feels tranquil, and wrongdoing is that which wavers in the soul and moves to and fro in the breast even though people again and again have given you their legal opinion [in its favor]."

And from Hazrat Masih Maood <sup>as</sup> we learn:

....O seekers of truth and true lovers of Islam! You are well-aware that the time through which we are passing is so dark that all matters of faith and conduct have become corrupted and a strong wind of error and misguidance is blowing from every direction. Mere words have taken the place of faith. The term 'righteous action' is applied to a few ceremonies, extravagances and vain displays, and there is complete ignorance of true virtue. The philosophy and sciences of this age are also set against spiritual wellbeing. They have an ill-effect upon their votaries and are proven to pull them towards darkness. They stir up poisonous matters and awaken the sleeping Satan. Those connected with such philosophy and such sciences suffer so much from lack of faith that they ridicule Divinely promulgated principles and the prescribed forms of worship like Prayer and Fasting. Their hearts are devoid of any sense of God's greatness.

Most of them are dyed in heresy and steeped in atheism, and though they are descended from Muslims, they are the enemies of the faith. Most students of colleges withdraw from their allegiance to faith and lose all sympathy for it before they have completed their studies. Here I have only mentioned one branch which, in this age, is loaded with the fruits of misguidance, but there are hundreds of other branches which are no less harmful. Honesty and integrity have departed from the world as if they never existed.

Fraudulent and deceptive schemes for earning worldly benefits have multiplied enormously. The most mischievous person is accounted the ablest. All manner of unrighteousness, dishonesty, illegitimacy, deceit, falsehood, cunning and greed are on the increase. Merciless rancour and disputes are multiplying and beastly sentiments and emotions are raging wherever you may look. As people get more and more

proficient and cunning with regard to the current sciences and laws, to the same degree, their natural qualities of goodness, modesty, decency, fear of God and honesty are on the decline.....”

This extract is quite long. May be we will talk about the rest next time.

Most of the times we tend to forget what we need to do. I have shared these hadith and verses of the Holy Quran and words of Hazrat Masih Maood<sup>as</sup> with you so that you might all understand what is important and what is not. May Allah help us all and keep us on the right path that will lead us to Him.