

FRIDAY SERMON OF IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN

12 OCTOBER 2012

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

Incha Allah by the middle of next week we will know for sure when Eid ul Adha will be celebrated in Mauritius. According to those who are familiar with the movement of the moon, most probably Eid ul Adha will be on Friday 26th October 2012. But it may vary and fall on Saturday 27th also. Anyhow we will know by next week the exact date on which we will celebrate it.

If for Eid ul Fitr we fast for about thirty days before it, for Eid ul Adha the emphasis is more on the pilgrimage that some Muslims are able to accomplish to the House of Allah in Mecca and the sacrifice of animals that are carried out by many Muslims around the globe. So we will be saying a few words about this important celebration in today's and next week's sermons *incha* Allah.

We learn from the Book of Hadith that Ibn Abbaas^{ra} narrated that the Prophet^{saw} said: **"There are no days in which righteous deeds done in them are more beloved to Allah than these days, i.e. the ten days (of Zul-Hijjah). They said: O Messenger of Allah, not even *Jihaad* in the path of Allah? He said: Not even *Jihaad* in the Path of Allah, the Most High, except if a man goes out (for *Jihaad*) with his self and his wealth, then he doesn't return with anything from that."** (Al-Bukhaaree, Abu Daawood and others. The exact wording is that of Abu Dawood)

These words of the Holy Prophet^{saw} advise all Muslims to concentrate on doing good deeds particularly in the first ten days of Zul Hajj. You will recall that I said after Eid ul Fitr that each member of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen should read some verses of the Holy Quran every day. By Allah's Grace some members have started doing so and they have even informed me about it. I know about some others who do read their Holy Quran every day. But no householder should keep quiet and stop telling all his children that they have to engage in the reading of the Holy Quran every day. I do not think I will exaggerate if I say that most people watch some television almost every day. Some watch news, some watch documentaries. Others watch TV serials, yet others watch feature films. If we can find some time for such pursuits, I cannot understand why we cannot find time to try to find out what Allah expects from us. I am sure everyone will be delighted if some words in Arabic were revealed to him during his sleep or semi sleep. Such a person will go about and tell his friends about his experience. But the Holy Quran is a whole Book that is being addressed to each one of us by Allah. The book should be read as if Allah is addressing us. We should not be negligent at all in trying to understand what it demands from us. So if you have failed to keep up with the resolution that you took after

Eid ul Fitr, I request you to avail yourself of the opportunity and start doing this good work right from the beginning of this blessed month that is dawning upon us by the middle of next week.

We also note that the Holy Prophet saw also said that the good deeds done in the coming days are better even than Jihad in the usual sense of the words. But if there is a jihad of the self and wealth that nothing remains of the two, then such deeds are superior to all other good deeds that may be accomplished during these ten blessed days. To be brief the Holy Prophet saw has emphasized the greatness of improving the purification of the self and the need for spending in the cause of Allah which are deeds which Allah approves much. This is a very subtle point on which we all should reflect. Allah knows best.

In another hadith the Holy Prophet^{saw} is reported to have said: "There aren't any days greater, nor any days in which deeds done in them are more beloved to Allah Most High, than these ten days (of *zul-Hijjah*). So, increase in them the saying of *Tahleel* (*Laa-ilaaha-ill-Allah*), and *Takbeer* (*Allahu-Akbar*) and *Tahmeed* (*al-hamdu-lillaah*)."

So we should all see to it that we sit down for some time every day and keep repeating these words and reflect about their meanings. Since I presume that most of us by now should be saying *istighfaar* (the seeking of forgiveness from Allah) almost hundred times every day, I will say that we should continue with this practice during the coming days. It is incumbent upon a Muslim who strives to get a deep understanding of Islam that he or she should strive to do good as much as he or she can because he does not know which deeds will be accepted by Allah. That is why we should resort to simple deeds done with regularity. One should try to remember Allah and keep saying these *Zikr* whenever one has a free moment. Ideal moment for practicing the remembrance of Allah (*Zikrullah*) is after *Namaz Fajr* and after *Esha* prayer.

Since during these past weeks we have been talking about the greatness of the Holy Prophet Mohammad^{saw} we may also spend the blessed hours of the coming days in sending *Darood* upon him and praying for his umma by asking Allah to have mercy on all of us. As I said before, the world of Islam is always at risk from many dangers. Some of these dangers are from the inside and some from the outside. In the early days of the divine manifestation we were taught to pray in the following words: "*Allahoumma ahye man fi hayaatehi salaahan lil islame wal Mouslemeen Allahoumma ahlek man fi halaakehi salaahan lil islame wal Mouslemeen.*" The translation of these words are as follows: "Our Lord keep that one alive in whose life there is good for Islam and the Muslims and destroy that one in whose destruction there is good for Islam and the Muslims." I personally think that these days we should be offering fervent prayers to Allah for the protection of Iran and the Muslim world at large although we may not agree with everything that Iran does. America and its allies including Great Britain, France and Canada are trying their best to harm the Muslims as they have been doing during the past hundred years. They covet what Allah has given the Muslims and they practice a divide and rule policy by exploiting the differences of Muslims. Other prayers that we may resort to were revealed to Hazrat Masih Maood^{as}. Those which come to mind right now are:

- "*Allahoumma arham ala ummate Mohammadin rahmatan aamma*" which we translate as "Our Lord manifest an all-encompassing mercy on the umma of Mohammad^{saw}"
- "*Allahoumma asleh ummata mohammadin*" which we translate as "Our Lord set right the affairs of or reform the umma of Mohammad^{saw}."

To be brief, the time is for prayer in the coming days and we should do our best to use the opportunity that is being given to us to engage ourselves in fervent prayers for ourselves for the Muslims and for the world at large. Unfortunately there are plenty of problems in this world and those who can really make a difference are not doing what needs to be done to solve them. May Allah listen to our entreaties and may He accept them out of His Mercy. We will talk more about the Hajj next week *incha* Allah.

Now I will speak about a document that we have long been waiting for and which we are reading these days. It is the committee report of a special session of the Pakistan general assembly which was held from 5th August 1974 to September 7th 1974. The speaker of the assembly has released a 21 volume report of the cross examination of the third caliph Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad(1909-1982). Unfortunately they have not published the statement of the caliph which was made in two sessions on 22nd and 23rd July 1974. Anyhow as far as we are concerned the statement of the caliph is part of the *Mahzar Nama* published in Urdu. In all these reports contain about 3000 pages. Up till now I have been able to read the first volume only which contains about 205 pages and part of the second volume. The questions are put by the Attorney General in English and the caliph answers in Urdu language. This document has been released in Pakistan due to the efforts of an Ahmadi barrister who said he needed the documents. He had to file in a petition to the Supreme Court and eventually the Speaker of the Parliament was asked to make available the whole document to the petitioner. Someone from Pakistan sent me a link where he had put the whole document. I downloaded it from there. If anyone needs a copy he may send me an email.

What is interesting with this document is that we can have an idea of how the proceedings were conducted in that fateful session of 38 years ago. From what I gather up till now is that the caliph was having a hard time convincing them or answering the questions that were being asked about the number of Ahmadis in Pakistan and how do Ahmadis view other Muslims whether they are Muslims or kafirs. The attorney general gave a few extracts from the writings of the second caliph where he had said that those who do not accept the Promised Messiah are kafirs. The third caliph was at pains to explain in what sense were these statements made. Regarding the number of Ahmadis in the world then i.e. in 1974, the third caliph said that according to his estimate there were around 10 millions in the world and about 3.5 to 4 million in Pakistan. In addition he said that the Jamaat did not carry out any census and the figures he was giving were just a rough estimate. It appears that the Jamaat's official figures appear to be always a rough estimate. The Attorney general quoted official Jamaat figures given to show that there was a big difference on the downside between what the caliph was saying and what some census said. The caliph also explained that he was not an imam in the sense that Shias use the term. He said his main title was "Khalifatul Masih *salis*". He was the Amir of only those who have taken the oath of allegiance with him. A large portion of the time on the first day of cross examination was devoted to what could be inferred from reading a few clauses of the constitution of Pakistan.

As I continue to read I will from time to time make some comments in my sermons in order to keep members informed of what went on in that historical meeting. You will recall that once the fourth caliph Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad said that if this report was published half of Pakistan would become Ahmadis or some words to that effect. Anyhow from what I have gathered up till now I am not seeing this at all. I do not yet know what will come out in the other volumes that I have not read but it does not at all seem to be a walkover for the Jamaat. Anyhow time will tell. Allah knows best.

Regarding the question of treating other Muslims as Kafirs, the third caliph said that he had never used this word at all during his nine years as caliph up to 1974 although he would go on to explain in what scholarly sense the word was used. I personally think that it is time for Jamaat Ahmadiyya International to clarify its position once for all on that matter. Hazrat Masih Maood ^{as} has explained this matter in his book “*Haqiqatulwahi*”. What he said should be translated and explained to others. In addition the leadership should dissociate itself from what the second caliph had said on this matter and say it clearly and loudly that we do not consider other Muslims to be *Kafir* in the way this term is used or is understood. Sometimes an ongoing institution has to dissociate itself from some acts of its predecessors. We all know how the Catholic Church has had to offer apologies for its crimes during its 2000 years old history. Through the Pope the church has had to ask forgiveness for the way it has treated Jews for, the inquisition, for the way it treated Galileo and many others. May be for the Crusades it has not been done yet but *incha* Allah it will come. There was a time when the church thought that salvation is possible only through it. Eventually they have had to change their point of view and accept that other religions may offer it. But to apologize needs courage. Those who do not have it cannot do it. If your ideas are cast in marble and you think that you are right even if you pervert Allah’s teachings then you need to check whether your brain is still functioning properly. Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream also has made many mistakes through the statements of some caliphs and the fanatic zeal of its followers. All these have to be catalogued and apologies have to be offered if the leadership wants to save itself. If you have done wrong you should acknowledge those wrongs and try to repair them and not try to justify them. May Allah have mercy on all of us. Ameen!