

FRIDAY SERMON OF IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN

18 JANUARY 2013

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

As you might all be aware, we are in the month of *Rabi oul Awwal*, the third month of the Islamic year 1434. It was in this month that in the year 570 CE or thereabout, 1486 years ago that the Holy Prophet Mohammad <sup>saw</sup> was born. All through the life of the prophet this day, that is, the 12<sup>th</sup> day was never reckoned to have any special importance. But with the passage of centuries when Muslims came into close contact with Christians and saw that Christians celebrated the birth of Christ erroneously on 25<sup>th</sup> December each year, they started giving some importance to this day. I cannot say in what ways they celebrated this particular day. But in recent times we see that the celebration is mostly in the form of making known to non Muslims the noble character and deeds of the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup>. Even during the times of Hazrat Masih Maood<sup>as</sup> there were no such celebrations within the Jamaat. These “celebrations” were initiated by the second caliph with a view to dispel the erroneous views that Non-Muslims had about the character of the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup>. In fact the caliph started a series of conferences at many different places in India where specially appointed speakers from Qadian delivered lectures on the life of the Holy Prophet Mohammad <sup>saw</sup>.

Unfortunately despite all these speeches we see that there are still many Muslims who just pay lip service to the example of the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup>. If in some places some Muslims think that we should fight against others in order to establish an Islamic society, at other places we see that despite having an Islamic constitution those who have power in their hands cannot rule according to Islam. A glaring example is Pakistan. Similarly there are others who just know how to organize events but miserably fail to live according to the example established by the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup>. They may organize public conferences about the life of the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup> but in private they tell their followers to disregard the Holy Prophet’s teachings. All types of stupid arguments are used to justify their leaders’ policies. They do evil, so to say knowingly and they do not seem to care about the consequences of their actions on themselves or on their

followers. A glaring example of such people is the mainstream Ahmadi Muslims. Their speeches about the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup> and the poems that they read about him may make you weep, but in their everyday behavior they seem not to care at all about what he said. Allah does not expect good Muslims to behave in such non Islamic ways. Allah expects all Muslims, men and women, young and old to strive to copy the behavior of the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup> if they want to become the beloved of Allah. He says in the Holy Quran:

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي  
يُحِبِّكُمْ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ط  
وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٣٢﴾

Translation

Say, 'If **you love Allah, follow me: then will Allah love you** and forgive **you** your faults. And **Allah** is Most Forgiving, Merciful.'(3:32).

And at another place He says:

لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ  
حَسَنَةٌ لِمَنْ كَانَ يَرْجُوا اللَّهَ وَالْيَوْمَ الْآخِرَ  
وَذَكَرَ اللَّهَ كَثِيرًا ط ﴿٢٢﴾

Translation:

Verily you have in the Prophet of Allah an excellent model, for him who fears Allah and the Last Day and who remembers Allah much.(33:22)

If we reflect upon these verses and upon many other similar verses from the Holy Quran we will see that Allah expects all Muslims to mould their behavior on the behavior of the Ideal Man, namely Mohammad <sup>saw</sup>, the prophet of Allah. As far as our behavior is concerned it has to be modeled on the prophet's behavior and on no one else. This is the liberating message of Islam. The prophet is the ideal, the rest have an importance as long as they copy him. If they do not copy him, they become totally irrelevant. Such a message helps to liberate the individual from doing the bidding of Tom Dick or Harry. It helps the individual to concentrate on this model character that Allah has shown to him and to ignore all those who want to take his place.

So the prophet's importance has nothing to do with the organization of a conference once a year. The Holy Prophet's importance to the Muslim is his every moment's concern. In the verse mentioned above Allah has mentioned three categories of persons for whom the Holy Prophet

is a model. First is that person who desires Allah. Second is that person who desires the Last day and third is that person who remembers Allah much. The Arabic word which we have translated as “desires” has as its root “*Ra ja wa*” which gives the idea of something that is not here and now but at a distant future. This is why it has been used for Allah and the last day. The person for whom the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup> is a model does not seek immediate gain. His eyes or heart is on something that is far. He copies the behavior of the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup> because he or she wants to have the pleasure of Allah and he or she constantly remembers that there is a day of reckoning and that one has to fear that day because it would be terrible for the guilty. Since such a frame of mind develops in a person that He should be in constant remembrance of Allah so such a person has been qualified as one who remembers Allah much. Since such a person will always be concerned about his life and that it might end at any moment he or she would see to it that he fulfills all his duties towards Allah and towards mankind. Such a person would be so punctilious in whatever he does because he would always be worried lest he or she displeases Allah. This is the importance of our role model Mohammad the Prophet for all mankind. We strive to give meaning to our life by copying him as a model and no one else.

In order to help us, poor fellows to constantly move towards our ideal Allah has made it obligatory for all of us, young and old, women and men to pray for our Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup>. Allah says:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ  
يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا  
تَسْلِيمًا ٥٧

Translation:

Allah and His angels send blessings on the Prophet. O ye who believe! you *also* should invoke blessings on him and salute *him* with the salutation of peace.(33:57)

The invocation of blessings on the Holy Prophet is one of the means by which one can get nearer to him in actions and character. However we should not just recite the words of *Darood* without understanding. According to Hazrat Masih Maood <sup>as</sup> we should do so with presence of mind and whilst we remember the favours of the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup> on us. All those who have been considered the friends of Allah have recited *Darood* lots of times. In fact Hazrat Masih Maood <sup>as</sup> has made the invocation of blessings on the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup> one of the conditions for joining Jamaat Ahmadiyya. Any Ahmadi should declare

“That he/she shall regularly offer the five daily prayers in accordance with the commandments of God and the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon

him); and shall try his/her best to be regular in offering the *Tahajud* (pre-dawn supererogatory prayers) and invoking *Darood* (blessings) on the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him); that he/she shall make it his/her daily routine to ask forgiveness for his/her sins, to remember the bounties of God and to praise and glorify Him”

So the Ahmadi Muslim who truly understands what is expected of him or her should make it his/her duty to invoke blessings on the Holy Prophet <sup>saw</sup> not once in a month or during the month of Ramadan but daily with some exceptions which are beyond our control, of course.

These days people are engrossed with worldly affairs. They work a lot to get their livelihood. There is nothing wrong with that. One has to work to earn one's living. However after work or after school many spend lots of time in front of television sets or on computers or smart phones or on tablets talking with friends and others. Unfortunately very little time is spent in prayers and even less time in making other Zikr. How many do read the Holy Quran on a daily basis is best known to Allah. The Muslim is not someone who needs an event to remind him of his duties. The Muslim is the one who takes the personal responsibility of knowing what is expected of him and he strives to find the means to do what should be done.

Since we are the followers of Hazrat Ahmad <sup>as</sup>, I will share with you some extracts from his writings where he speaks in lofty terms on the grandeur of the Holy Prophet Mohammad <sup>saw</sup>. He says:

“O all ye who dwell upon the earth, and O all human souls that are in the east or in the west, I announce to you emphatically that **the true reality in the earth is Islam alone**, and the True God is the God Who is described in the Qur'an, and the Prophet who has everlasting spiritual life and who is seated on the throne of glory and holiness, is Muhammad, **the chosen one** [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]. The proof of his spiritual life and holy majesty is that by following him and loving him we become recipients of the Holy Spirit and are favoured with the bounty of converse with God and witness heavenly signs.[**Tiryag-ul-Qulub, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 15, p. 141**]

In another extract he says:

“I always wonder **how high was the status** of this Arabian Prophet, whose name was Muhammad, (thousands of blessings and peace be upon him). One cannot reach the limit of his high status and it is not given to man to estimate correctly his spiritual effectiveness. It is a pity that his rank has not been recognized, as it

should have been. He was the champion who restored to the world the **Unity of God** which had disappeared from the world; he loved God in the extreme and his soul melted out of sympathy for mankind. Therefore, God, Who knew the secret of his heart, **exalted him above all the Prophets and all the first ones and the last ones** and bestowed upon him in his lifetime all that he desired. He is the fountainhead of every grace and a person who claims any superiority without acknowledging his grace is not a man but is the **spawn of Satan**, because the Holy Prophet has been bestowed the key to every exaltation and he has been given the treasury of every understanding. He who does not receive through him is deprived forever. I am nothing and possess nothing. I would be most ungrateful if I were not to confess that I have learnt of the true Unity of God through this Prophet. The recognition of the Living God we have achieved through this perfect Prophet and through his light. The honour of converse with God, through which we behold His countenance, has been bestowed upon me through **this great Prophet**. The ray of this sun of guidance falls like sunshine upon me and I continue illumined only so long as I am adjusted towards it. [**Haqiqat-ul-Wahi, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 22, pp. 118-119**]

I hope and pray that Allah helps each one amongst us to become a true follower of the Holy Prophet<sup>saw</sup>. Ameen