

FRIDAY SERMON

10 May 2013

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

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

As people who have accepted Hazrat Masih Maood (as) we have some obligations. It is very important for each one of us to be constantly reminded of these obligations. In his books and speeches Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has left no stone unturned to make us understand what is expected of us as Ahmadis. We live in a world where there are many amenities which makes life easy for us. Whilst most people lead a more or less easy life the path to sin also has become quite easy. If on the one hand the internet has put at people's fingertips several of the great libraries of the world, it has also opened several avenues for people to indulge in improper behaviour. If we are able to stay away from what is improper and try to make the best use of all that is good that the internet has to offer we would be indeed blessed. What can really help anyone to navigate easily in the world is God consciousness or *Taqwa*. Hazrat Masih Maood has spoken lengthily on this matter. Some of his words we have been sharing with our members in our sermons. There are some others which are as interesting and important which have not been shared yet. So today I will read and comment if necessary some more extracts from the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as). He said:

“The purpose of God Almighty in setting up this Jama‘at is that the true understanding of God, which has disappeared from the world, and true righteousness and purity, which are not to be found in this age, might be re-established. Arrogance is rife throughout the world. The divines are caught in the pride and vanity of their learning. You find that the condition of the mendicants belies their objectives. They are wholly unconcerned with self-improvement, and all the disciplines which they have devised are error and innovation. They are only words and form and have no spiritual reality. Their exercises and devotion have a different form altogether like meaningless repetitions which cannot be traced back to the Holy Prophet(saw) I find that they pay no attention to inner purification, nor can their artificial disciplines purify their hearts, nor can they acquire the light of true understanding through them. This age has become empty of true righteousness and purity. The way of the Holy Prophet(saw), which is the means of purification, has been discarded. Now God Almighty desires that the time of Prophethood should be revived in this age and the same righteousness and purity should be reestablished. Thus, the purpose of God Almighty in setting up this Jama‘at is that through it the lost understanding might be re-established in the world.”

This extract is from one of the Promised Messiah's speeches. Hence it is our duty that we should do our best to get a true understanding of Almighty Allah. We need to try to understand His Being, His Attributes and His actions. A lifetime will be exhausted but no human being will completely understand Allah through all these aspects. That is why great emphasis has been put on our daily prayers and our seeking Allah's guidance to tread the right path - the path of those whom He has blessed and that we constantly ask Allah to increase our knowledge as He said to His Prophet "And say: O my Lord increase my knowledge." In the early days of the divine manifestation in Mauritius, Allah taught us to pray in these words "*O Mon Seigneur Eclairer mon coeur par le mystere de Ton Identite*". This is in French and we may translate it as "O my Lord enlighten my heart with the mystery of your identity". I am saying this just to bring home the point that there is a great compatibility between what we were being taught and what Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has said. So there was a need to re-establish the knowledge of Allah on earth and secondly to establish purity of heart and true righteousness. This small sentence should be a matter for reflection for everyone who declares himself to be an Ahmadi Muslim. Everyday, nay almost every hour we should be asking ourselves whether we are increasing our fear of Allah and whether our heart has become purer or not. One cannot increase in God fearingness whilst at the same time he or she is harming his other brothers or sisters. Furthermore the Promised Messiah said "Arrogance is rife throughout the world. The divines are caught in their pride and vanity of their learning." If that were the case in the early days of the history of the Jamaat it is still the same today but the actors have changed. Today those who were supposed to preserve the teachings of the Promised Messiah pride themselves that they know better and they deny big chunks of his teachings. So the situation is the same. The process has to start again. Then Hazrat Masih speaks about the Sufis and their practices and how far they are away from the practices of the Holy Prophet (saw). They do not lay emphasis on inner purification which to the Messiah is the not the purpose at all. Inner Purification should be the aim of all religious practices. So Allah wished that people should get the true understanding and follow the example of the Holy Prophet (saw) and for that reason Jamaat Ahmadiyya was created.

In another extract speaking about the wondrous Powers of Almighty Allah the Promised Messiah said:

"O ye people, fear God and make true peace with Him and put on the garments of righteousness. Let every mischief depart from you. God has unlimited wondrous powers. He has limitless mercy and grace. He it is Who can dry up a terrible flood in an instant. He it is Who can cast away fatal calamities with a single stroke of His hand. But these wonderful powers of His are manifested only to those who become wholly His. Only those witness these extraordinary manifestations who, for His sake, bring about a holy change in themselves and fall down prostrate at His threshold; who become pure like the drop of water which develops into a pearl; and who, being melted by the heat of love and sincerity and devotion, begin to flow towards Him. He takes care of them in misfortunes and delivers them in a wonderful manner from the conspiracies and

designs of their enemies and safeguards them against situations of ignominy. He becomes their guardian and their ally and helps them in their difficulties when no human being can render them any help and His hosts descend in their support. How grateful should we be that our God is Beneficent and Powerful! Will you then desert such a Dear One? Will you transgress His limits for the sake of your unholy selves? It is better for us to die seeking His pleasure than to continue living impure lives. [Ayyam-us-Sulh, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 14, pp. 341-342]

In this extract Hazrat Masih is telling us how great Allah is. But He manifests His Power only for those who abandon their own selves and strive to obey all His commandments. Allah is a great source of help for all of us in this world and we should do our best to establish a true contact with Him so that we might witness His extraordinary Powers.

In another extract he said:

“O my Jama‘at, may God Almighty be with you. May that Mighty Benefactor prepare you for the journey to the hereafter as the Companions^{Sra} of the Holy Prophet^{sa} were prepared. Bear in mind that this world is nothing. Cursed is the life which is only for this world and unfortunate is the person whose all grief and sorrow is for the world. If there is such a one in my Jama‘at, it is in vain that he considers himself to be in my Jama‘at, for he is like a dry branch that will not bear fruit. O fortunate ones! Follow with eagerness the teaching which has been given to me for your salvation. Believe in God as One and without associate, and do not associate anything with Him either in heaven or in the earth. God does not forbid you to employ means but he who turns aside from God and depends entirely upon means is an idolater. God has ever affirmed that there is no salvation without a pure heart, so become pure-hearted and cast aside egoistic rancour and fury. Man’s ego has many impurities but the greatest of all is the filth of arrogance. Had there been no arrogance, no one would have disbelieved. So become meek of heart and have sympathy for all mankind. You preach to them about paradise, but how can your preaching be honest if you should wish them ill in this transient world? Discharge your obligations to God Almighty with fear in your hearts for you will be called to account in respect of them. Supplicate earnestly in your Prayers so that God may draw you to Himself and purify your hearts. Man is weak and sin can only be overcome by the power of God Almighty, and unless one is bestowed power by God, one cannot succeed in overcoming sin. Islam does not teach that you should merely recite the *Kalima* as a matter of form, rather the reality of Islam is that your souls should fall prostrate at the threshold of God Almighty, and that in every respect you should give preference to God and His commandments over your worldly affairs.” [Tadhkirat-ush-Shahadain, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 20, p. 63]

There are many points raised in this extract. It is not possible to comment upon all of them. So I will say a few words about some of them. We all need to understand that we are on a

journey. For about nine months we stay in our mothers' wombs and then we live for sometime and eventually we die and we expect to have another life after our death. The younger we are the less we think about death and this is quite natural and we are quite afraid of it. But once we start understanding what life is all about, maybe in our early twenties or so we understand that death is inevitable. A day will come when we all are going to die, some earlier some later. Once we understand that one day we will die and we will be resurrected and we will have to answer for all our deeds it is incumbent upon all of us to know how to live and make the best of our stay on earth. All that we will be doing in our sojourn here will be taken in account on the day of retribution. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has wished that as members of his Jamaat Allah would prepare us for the journey to the hereafter as Allah prepared the companions of the Holy Prophet (saw). He expects all of us to understand that the life of this world is nothing and that we should do everything with a view on the hereafter. We should learn not to be enamoured with this life and to consider it as a preparation for the hereafter. Hazrat Masih expects each one amongst us to know what his teachings are and to follow them as best as we can. Such an expectation makes it incumbent upon any Ahmadi-Muslim worthy of that name and worthy of their membership in the Jamaat to see to it that the way we live is compatible with the teachings that we have received from the Promised Messiah (as). Hence each one amongst us should be concerned whether we are trying to purify our own selves from all its visible and invisible impurities. This is the work of a lifetime and the sooner we embark upon it the better and we should bear in mind that without the help of Allah we will never be successful in the purification of the self. We should learn to go for the essence of Islam and not be content with its form. All our devotions should move us towards Allah with an increase of fear in our heart. Under no circumstance should we think that we can sin and get away with it. Allah sees us wherever we are and His Angels are making notes of all our actions and words. We should bear this well in mind and live under the constant fear Allah. May Allah instill such fear in our heart that each one of us would become an embodiment of the teachings of Islam and a true and loyal member of the Jamaat of Hazrat Masih Maood (as). Ameen.