

# FRIDAY SERMON

24 May 2013

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by Imam Zafrullah Domun

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

As you are all aware on Tuesday last Abdus Salaam Bhugaloo of New grove went to meet his Lord. *Inna Lillahe wa inna elayhi rajeoune*. As you are all quite aware Abdus Salaam was one of the brothers of our two sisters namely Zaiboune and Nazreen who are members of our Jamaat. Abdus Salaam was 55 years old and he has left his wife and four children. To me and other members of our Jamaat Abdus was a dear friend. The earliest recollections that I have of him was when he accompanied his father late Abdur Rahman Bhugaloo (may Allah illumine his tomb) to Dar-us-Salaam mosque in the late 1960's and early 1970's. He was only a boy then but his mild manners and his usual smile endeared him to all he came into contact with. Later on he would stay in Rose-Hill to attend secondary school for a long time and we would become more acquainted. When I went to work near the airport in the early 1990's he came to build many offices for us. While I was the amir of Jamaat Ahmadiyya I dealt with him as the person in charge of the New Grove mosque which was built adjacent to their house on a land given by his parents. By the way they were the only Ahmadis of their village since late 1950s. For a long time he has acted as the imam and khatib of the mosque for Jumma prayers. I think that anyone who has known Abdus should have been impressed by his mild manners, the eternal smile that beamed on his face and his readiness to help and his humility.

I vaguely heard about his illness and his surgery. But when that late afternoon of Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> may I was told of his sudden death I was really stunned. I knew that people undergoing bypass surgery these days have a very good chance of surviving. So I kept wondering what might have gone wrong that he should have died. So I stayed where I was and kept repeating "*Inna lillahe wa inna elayhi rajeoune*." for sometime with a really heavy heart. Members might recall that in one of my sermons recently I spoke about death and how we should ever remain prepared to meet it. When I said this I wondered that maybe some members might wonder why I said so. Even I did not know why I said so. But I want our members to understand that death is part of life and that it may intrude at a moment when it is totally unexpected. So we should always remind ourselves that it is around the corner and it might show itself at any moment. Well this is Allah's decree. Definitely Abdus Salaam's death appears to all of us as untimely. But it is our faith that Allah does what He wills. In fact we should always keep in mind what Allah has told us in the verses which I have just read. Allah says:

"O ye who believe! seek help with patience and Prayer; surely, Allah is with the steadfast.

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.

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,

Who, when a misfortune overtakes them, say, 'Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return.'

It is these on whom are blessings from their Lord and mercy, and it is these who are rightly guided.”(2:154-156)

These verses are like a balm to bruised souls. Whenever misfortunes hit us we should not start wailing. We should bear it with patience. We need to learn to know that all our relatives are here with us for some time. If they are here today there is no guarantee that they would be here tomorrow and that is why we should live in peace and harmony and not let any strife come between us and our other relatives. Abdus Salaam was a person who cared for his relatives and his friends. Despite all the problems with the Jamaat he never treated us as the Ahmadiyya leadership wanted him to treat us. He had more of the fear of Allah in his heart than the fear of men. It is our prayer and hope that *incha* Allah a person like him will be greeted with the greetings of peace in Paradise for all the good deeds that he performed when he lived. We also pray that Allah will look after all the members of his family especially his small children. *Incha* Allah, Allah will make other provisions for them. We also pray that his sisters and all close relatives will find consolation in the good relationship that he had established with them all despite everything. He was a rare gem amongst all the Ahmadi living. Although he would be sorely missed yet everyone closely related with him should take consolation in the fact that they were privileged to have known him. After Jummah *incha* Allah we will perform his Namaz Janaza *ghaib*.

In the second part of this sermon I wish to speak about the Ahmadiyya caliph and his recent statements in the United States. As you might recall he was in Los Angeles recently and on 11<sup>th</sup> May he made a speech at a hotel in Beverly Hills about “Islamic Solution for world peace”. The event was attended by about 300 guests including members of Congress and elected representatives. He said among other things:

The very meaning of ‘Islam’ is peace, security and giving a guarantee of protection against all forms of harm and evil. Indeed, the Holy Quran declares that this is the teaching that every single Prophet of God taught.

“Islam requires Muslims to abide by its teachings and fundamental amongst them is that they must not only fulfil the rights owed to God Almighty, but just as importantly they must also fulfil the rights owed to God’s Creation. The Quran has shined a bright light on the beauty of the teachings of *all* Prophets by making it clear that they *all* drew mankind’s attention to fulfilling the rights owed both to God and to His Creation...”

Such words are music to the ears of his audience and many have even praised him for what he had said. Then he added :

“True justice and fairness requires that rather than judging Islam in a prejudiced manner or by making false assumptions based on hearsay, a person should study the religion and try to develop an understanding of its teachings before criticizing it and its Founder. An informed decision about any issue can only be made once a person has studied its teachings in depth and strived to learn the truth.

The truth or reality of any faith can only be learned from those who are practicing or striving to follow its true and authentic teachings. Today, it is the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, which claims to follow the original and true teachings of Islam and is spreading it."

Again we do not find anything wrong with what he has said. He then spoke about the fact that members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya have accepted the Promised Messiah and his teachings and then he said:

"The Promised Messiah would guide the world towards living together in love, peace and harmony and would foster a spirit of mutual understanding and reconciliation. The Promised Messiah would do all of this in light of the shining example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (*peace and blessings be upon him*) and the true teachings of the Quran. Furthermore, the Promised Messiah would bring an end to all forms of religious warfare."

After these preliminary remarks the caliph spoke about how the Holy Prophet (saw) showed by his own example how these noble teachings of Islam had to be implemented. Amongst other examples he spoke about the following:

Another incident shows just how much respect the Holy Prophet (*peace and blessings be upon him*) had for all of mankind. Once a funeral procession passed by and as a mark of respect he immediately stood up. Upon seeing this, a companion commented in surprise that:

*"This is the funeral procession of a Jewish person."*

Hearing this, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (*peace and blessings be upon him*) said:

*"Was he not a human? Respect for all humans is obligatory".*

These are the characteristics and qualities which develop mutual respect in society and help develop peace."

Hence we see once again that the Ahmadiyya caliph knows quite well what the teachings of Islam are and he tries to propagate the same to non Muslims. We in Mauritius who bear the fury of the ignorant, prejudiced and backward leadership of mainstream Jamaat Ahmadiyya should keep wondering how can a man who claims that he is the caliph of the Promised Messiah could tell his followers to act the way they have behaved. They are intolerant and they cannot bear that someone should differ with them. They persecute such a one and his followers and they use all the means at their disposal to create disorder within family members and friends. They make as if their bigoted view of Islam is the one that is best. Living in their pond like the proverbial frog they think that their pond is the universe. If the caliph is preaching peace to others why is he creating dissension amongst his own people?

If the caliph is sincere in what he is doing (which I doubt) then he does not know what is going on in Mauritius. Because if he knew he would have done something to correct the situation. Since nothing is being done we should presume that he does not know. But this is

most improbable because many Ahmadis have tried to inform him about the situation here. So we should conclude that he speaks something for the outside world but he practices the contrary amongst his own kind. We may also think that the leadership in Mauritius (meaning the amir, the missionary in charge and all members of the majlis amila) are ignoring his instructions or are failing to point out to him the discrepancy in his words and deeds. Even then the situation is still serious because then the caliph is failing to make his subordinates to implement his instructions because they prefer the inclination of their baser self rather than the teachings of Allah and His Prophet.

Unfortunately there are plenty of examples in the world these days when we see leaders saying something and doing another. The most flagrant example is the leaders of USA. They speak about democracy and human rights and fight against terrorism. But in fact they are the ones who have the worst records in all these areas. Some might be impressed with USA's records in its apparent fight against terrorism but those who know will tell you that USA is the most terrorist state in the world today. They want the world to follow their diktats. This is a long story. Look at Guantanamo prison. Obama said that he would close that prison when he became president in 2008. Up till now he has done nothing. 144 Muslims are imprisoned there without trial. The French might lull some people into believing that they are the promoters of human rights. Amongst their sins they carved Syria and created Lebanon and helped to create Israel. The English have throughout their history pilfered their colonies namely India to enrich themselves and they were never keen to give independence. Being in leadership positions these countries' leaders make grand statements about noble principles but they work underhand against all these principles. This is what the Ahmadiyya caliph is doing these days. He is telling the world that he is a man of peace but out of the world's sight he practices inhumane Islam. He cannot tolerate those who differ from him. He thinks he has a monopoly on truth and his prejudiced followers just toe the line in complete subservience to him but not to Allah. Let us hope and pray that Allah grant them to represent the Jamaat of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) as it should. If they cannot they should vacate the place and let Allah put His own representative. In the end I wish to inform you that among the different revelations that Allah has vouchsafed to me this past week is the following:

*Ek Nishan hai aane wala aaj se kouch din ke baad*

*Jiss se gardash khaeinge dihaat o sher aur maraghzaar*

We translate this verse as: *In a few days a sign will manifest itself through which villages and towns and pastures will suffer a change of fortune.*

As far as I can remember the last time I received these verses were before the events of 9/11. It is our prayer that Allah protect all of us from His Anger. But unfortunately I fear that we are going to see trying days ahead.