

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 verses 173-4 of chapter 7 of the Holy Quran and then he said :

Last week because of lack of time I was not able to share with my friends one other revelation which I received. So we will start with where we left. With great force I received the words "*Alasto berabbekoum*" meaning "Am I not your Lord?". This poor self replied with fear "Iy wa rabbi definitely thou art our Lord". The three first Arabic words in the sentence may be translated as follows: "Yes by my Lord" . When we look in the Holy Quran we see this phrase "*Alasto berabbekoum*" only in one verse as I have just read. Let me give you the translation so that it might be easier to understand what we are talking about. Allah says:

"And when thy Lord brings forth from Adam's children — out of their loins — their offspring and makes them witnesses against their own selves *by saying*: 'Am I not your Lord?' They say, 'Yea, we do bear witness.' *This He does* lest you should say on the Day of Resurrection, 'We were surely unaware of this.'

Or *lest* you should say, 'It was only our fathers who attributed co partners *to God* in the past and we were *merely* a generation after them. Wilt Thou then destroy us for what was done by those who lied?'(7:173-4)

It is not my intention to speak about the hadith explaining this verse nor the many comments that masters of spirituality have written about this verse. Maybe in one of our Jalsas we might talk about the importance of this verse with regard to all people in general. What I want to say right now is that to me this is a confirmation that members of our Jamaat have to and do respond to this call that Allah is our Lord and we do not recognize anyone else besides Him as Lord who can dictate to us our course of action. We are living at a difficult time in the history of mankind. If most people are able to enjoy a rather modest way of living yet there is a constant fear that everything may disappear due to the lunacy of one of the countries' leaders. Man has been created to serve God through the way he serves his fellow human beings. As such each one of us is free and has to respond to the call of Allah and recognize Him as our Lord and it is not becoming of us to recognize anyone else.

In his Friday sermon of last week in Canada the Ahmadiyya caliph has spoken again about his khilafat and his progress in the world. As usual he tries to impress upon his followers that what he is doing is the right thing. His interpretation of Islam is the best and he and his Jamaat is the chosen Jamaat to make Islam triumphant in the world. These days there are many dissident groups in Jamaat Ahmadiyya as a whole. What I say against the Jamaat and its leadership is quite mild compared to what the others say. All their sayings and writings are available on the net and may be examined at any moment. But the caliph had this to say about all these small groups without naming them:

“There are many people who join the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama’at but because they are those who fail to discharge their obligations to Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya, so the Decree of Allah causes them to separate from the Jama’at-e-Ahmadiyya. For the sake of their worldly concerns and desires either they are separated from the Jama’at or they themselves announce their separation from the Jama’at.

But has the rate of progress of the Jama’at ever suffered as a consequence of such people separating from the Jama’at? Has an obstacle ever been created in our way by such things? Never. When one such person leaves Allah bestows upon us a whole body of people instead. When the dry branches are cut off or pruned, evergreen and living branches sprout in greater measure as a result.

So because this is a promise of God that the system of Khilafat must continue, so Allah has Himself undertaken the task of pruning and weeding. It can never be the case that Allah, the Exalted, should not take care and fail to fulfill the prophecy made by His most beloved and dearest human being. Most certainly, this prophecy has been fulfilled and shall continue to be fulfilled.”(from www.alislam.org)

I will not speak about the others. Let them speak about their own selves. But I will speak about what happened here in Mauritius. Caliphs are very good at speaking about the great ideals of Islam like love, peace and Justice just like the Christians and several other major religions do, even the Jews. But when the time comes for them to put these ideals in practice they fail to do so through their own example but they will supply you with an example from the life of the Holy Prophet (saw). A Muslim has to show through his personal example and the personal example of his Jamaat that he is putting the practice of the Holy Prophet (saw) into action. In Mauritius when the caliph was told about revelations he started spitting fire. To begin with he cuts the relationship by excommunicating us. Second he puts his propaganda machine at work to maintain a social boycott against us. Third he sees to it that he breaks our family ties. In this task almost all his followers imitate him like monkeys because they follow him but they do not obey Allah's instructions nor do they follow the example of the Holy Prophet (saw). Someone might say that I keep repeating myself in my sermons. The fact is the caliph keeps saying the same thing over and over wherever he goes and we need to keep telling the people how he is not a man of his words but he just repeats a mantra to make the majority of Ahmadiis believe that they are right in doing what they do.

The caliph speaks about the success of Jamaat Ahmadiyya around the world. What he means by success is the number of mosques and Jamiahs that the Jamaat is building around the world and the thousands of people who join his Jamaat. Definitely around the world many Ahmadiyya mosques and many Jamiahs have been built during the past twenty or thirty years. There is no doubt that this is something good. But our real success would be when these mosques are full of sincere worshippers and not just one row for

almost all prayers. Our Jamiahs would have served their purpose when they start producing pious young *murabbis* who are an example for others and who can think for themselves and are not content just to repeat what is the official Ahmadiyya stance. Such missionaries should be the ambassadors of Islam and leave aside their cultural baggage. Maybe part of the success of the Jamaat is that the caliph can make grand tours around the world where he is welcomed by thousands. The question is how many of these thousands respond to him when he is present but are almost oblivious of Allah when the caliph is absent. He himself has pointed out how there is discrepancy in the real practice of Islam in all those places that he is visiting. If success means accumulating money, then definitely Jamaat Ahmadiyya under khilafat has accumulated plenty of money. However how much of this money go to the poor is another matter. When we read the Holy Quran and the writings of the promised Messiah we understand that number and buildings and wealth are not the hallmarks of success. In Islam success is characterized by the cleansing of the base self and manifesting your noble moral qualities. On that score we have seen that a majority of the members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya have failed and in them we do not see the characteristics that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) spoke about. It is true that the decree of Allah has separated us from the mainstream Jamaat Ahmadiyya but not because we are dry branches but because we are such branches who have been imbibed with the truth of Islam under the guidance of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) and that we can become a standalone tree by ourselves. Allah has taken us under His personal care when a caliph thought it wise in his judgment to try to cut us off from the Jamaat of Hazrat Masih Maood (as). Hence by His Grace we are evergreen and we will remain so as long as Allah wishes us to be. Allah has deemed us to be such that we need not be attached to a trunk. He has placed us in earth and He waters us with His rain from above. We are not in need of this khilafat that does not uphold the Islamic teachings.

The Jamaat prides itself on its wealth. Within Jamaat Ahmadiyya it is not money that is lacking by the Grace of Allah. What is lacking are the brains that can make this money grow in order to spend more on those who need it. There are plenty of people within the Jamaat and within Mauritius irrespective of their religion which the Jamaat could have helped. But the Jamaat is not interested in such endeavors. It is more interested in getting some cheap publicity by imitating others rather than working in silence for the relief of the many who are suffering and do not have enough to make ends meet. To the caliph the Jamaat in Mauritius is successful because it has established a Jamaat in Madagascar but it has closed the one in Reunion island. For those who know the facts, Jamaat Ahmadiyya is not progressing as it should have. The Jamaat as a whole in Mauritius are keener in obeying their base self rather than making the effort to put into practice the real teachings of Islam. Hence to talk of progress of the Jamaat despite the fact that some people have been moved out of the Jamaat is quite hollow. Such speech is good only for slavish followers who have given away their brains as well through their obedience.

As far as we are concerned by the Grace of Allah the fruits for following the teachings of Hazrat Ahmad (as) are with us. The caliph keeps saying that khilafat Ahmadiyya is the blessing *per se* and that it will last forever. Anyone, even if he is not a scholar can easily

deduce that there is a great discrepancy between what hazrat Masih Maood (as) said and what the Ahmadiyya caliphs have understood. Anyone who reads with care the books “*Shahadatul Qur'an*” and “*Zarooratoul Imam*” can easily understand what was the true concept of khilafat entertained by Hazrat Masih Maood (as).

Moreover the fact that an institution endures is not a guarantee of its divine origin or that it is on the right path. The greatest example that can be given is the Catholic Church. It has endured for almost 2000 years despite all types of excesses that its popes or archbishops have been involved in without forgetting its priests and nuns. Yet it is still alive and very influential in the world today. Can we then infer that they should be enjoying the blessings of Allah to be so rich, to be owners of so many churches and other buildings and banks and schools and hospitals etc. Should we think that because they are so rich that they should be propagating true beliefs about Allah. It is the same with Jamaat Ahmadiyya. It has definitely the potential to be a force of good in the world. But when it starts ignoring what it stands for namely for brotherhood of men and the establishment of Justice, peace and harmony in the world, then it starts losing its bearings and sooner or later it will end up like the catholic church. But Allah does not want this to happen. So He sends His Friends to explain where the Jamaat is going wrong. Unfortunately, vested interests and mullah-like mentality will strive to prevent the Jamaat to make the necessary reforms in thought and action in order to embrace the *siratam moustaqeem* in time. No caliph has the inhuman ability to be able to think alone about how the Jamaat should go about its work. Even the caliph has had the humility to acknowledge this in his last Friday sermon. Hence he would need a greater contribution from the Majlis Amilas of each country. But if these Amila members are afraid to stick their neck to tell the caliph what is in the best interests of the Jamaat, then the caliph will continue to fail in his mission of accomplishing the objectives of the Jamaat or in reforming it. Hence the caliph has rightly pointed out that he expects greater responsibility from members of the Amila and the Qaza Board. Those who understand and recognize that Allah is their Lord will not hesitate a moment to tell the caliph what policies should be adopted in the best interests of the Jamaat. Those who understand otherwise will just remain silent and let things go as it has been going. For each Ahmadi Muslim if Allah were to ask him or her “*Alasto be rabbekoum*”, automatically his response should be “definitely thou art so, o Allah”. When we reached that level of readiness to acknowledge Allah as the real Lord, we can then speak of success. If not our silence would be better. May Allah help each one amongst us to better understand and to practice the demands of this path incha Allah. Ameen!