

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 of the Holy Quran and then he said :

While explaining the purpose of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has said among other things:

“God Almighty desires to draw all those who live in various habitations of the world, be it Europe or Asia, and who have a virtuous nature, to the Unity of God and unite His servants under one Faith. This indeed is the purpose of God for which I have been sent to the world. You, too, therefore should pursue this end, but with kindness, moral probity and fervent prayers.”

Hence we understand that we should all work to unite the people of the worlds under one faith namely Islam. This was one of the reasons for which Allah had raised the Promised Messiah and it is incumbent upon us all to follow that same objective. But the means that we should use in pursuing this noble aim are to behave towards others with kindness and to show to others that we manifest in our own selves the great moral qualities taught by the Holy Prophet (saw). Finally we should not rely on our own efforts and means but we should pray fervently to Allah so that He might change the hearts of the people so that they might be inclined to illumine themselves with the teachings of Islam. Hence a follower of Hazrat Ahmad (as) is a kind person. He manifests kindness towards others whether they are friends or foes. If anyone fails in showing kindness to others he fails as a follower of Hazrat Ahmad (as). Similarly if an Ahmadi-Muslim does not strive to manifest the noble moral qualities like patience, thankfulness, modesty(*haya*), truthfulness, personal sacrifice, chastity, courage, benevolence and humility etc, such a person has failed to understand what Hazrat Ahmad (as) stood for. Similarly if an Ahmadi-Muslim does not understand that he or she should regularly entreat Allah to fulfill the purpose for which He had send His Messiah, such a one fails to follow Hazrat Ahmad (as) as he or she should. So being an Ahmadi Muslim is not to lead an easy life. Hazrat Masih Maood(as) has advised us saying:

“And you, too, should partake of the Holy Spirit by compassion and by purifying your souls. Because without the Holy Spirit true *Taqwa* cannot be attained. And, totally shedding all base desires of the self, choose for the sake of winning the pleasure of God that path compared to which no path can be narrower and straiter. Don't fall in love with the pleasures of the world, for they take you away from God. Choose a life of austerity for the sake of God. The pain which pleases God is better than the pleasure which makes Him angry. And the defeat which pleases God is better than the victory which invites the wrath of Allah. Renounce the love which brings you nearer to the

wrath of Allah. If by purifying your hearts you come to Him, He will help you whichever path you tread and no enemy shall ever be able to harm you. You can never ever win the pleasure of Allah unless you, relinquishing your desires, abandoning your pleasures, sacrificing your honour, disowning your wealth, discarding your life, bear such hardship in His Way as make you suffer the pangs of death. But once you suffer such hardship, you will sit in the lap of God like a beloved child. And you will be made heirs of the truthful who have preceded you. The door of every blessing will be opened to you. But there are few who belong to this category.”(The Will p10)

Trying to win the pleasure of Allah by treading the straight path is quite difficult. But Allah will make this path easy for the one who is sincere in his pursuit and does not forget his destination. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has spoken to us in many ways to bring home the idea that we should become solely devoted to Allah whilst we are living on this earth. He said:

“Remember this well that if a person states that he believes God to be One , without any partners, and also believes in the Holy Prophet of Islam and likewise believes in other matters of faith , but if the declaration is limited only to being a verbal statement and the heart does not acknowledge it, then these will be mere utterances that cannot lead to deliverance . Deliverance cannot be attained until such time as the heart believes and this is manifested only when deeds and actions testify to it, Until this is achieved nothing is of any use.”(Malfuzaat Vol 9 pp102)

This statement is very important. One should pause and reflect carefully upon what has been said in it. The Promised Messiah continues:

“I state the truth that the real objective is achieved when one turns to god , having left all other diversions to one side , when religion is given true priority over the actualities of this world . Remember ! A person can deceive others who can be deceived by his observance of the five daily prayers or some other good deeds, but God cannot be deceived. Therefore good deeds should be performed with a genuine feeling. This is the one thing that adds beauty to one's deeds and enhances them.

It should be remembered what the *Kalima* , which we as Muslims recite daily , means? The *Kalima* means that a person affirms verbally and testifies with his heart that for him the One who is worthy of worship and love, and the One who is the desired objective is God Almighty and none other besides Him. The word '*ilaha*' has the meaning of being 'the beloved', 'the true objective', 'the one who is worshipped'. This declaration (of the *kalima*) is, in a concise form, the whole teaching of the Holy Quran that has been taught to Muslims. As it is not easy to remember a great and detailed book, the *kalima* has been taught so that a person can keep the essence of

Islamic teachings constantly in mind. The truth is that until this reality develops within a person there is no deliverance. That is why the Holy Prophet of Islam has said: "He who declares there is no God but Allah will enter Paradise." He who truly believes in *laa ilaha illallah* (there is no God but Allah), such a person will enter paradise.

People deceive themselves if they think that a parrot-like repetition of the words will grant them entry into paradise. If that were the only reality to be found in it then all deeds would become redundant and useless and the Shariah would (God forbid) be deemed irrelevant. This, however is not the case. The reality of this is that the meaning that is contained in it should enter the heart in practice. When this occurs, a person, in fact enters paradise. It is not after death but in this very life that such a person is in paradise. It is a true fact and is easily understood that when there remains no other beloved for a human being besides God and no other objective, then no pain no sorrow can trouble him. Such is the lofty station that is granted to those who create a true change in themselves and those who attain to spiritual heights."(*Malfuzaat* Vol 9,pp.103-4)

So we should understand that a mere declaration of *Tauhid* is not sufficient. It is the most important first step. And one might even say the easiest step in the journey to Allah. But we all should be eager to practice virtue and to shun all sorts of evil. This is the *raison d'etre* of the life of a Muslim. He understands or he believes there is a God and he does his best to carry out all the instructions that have been imposed upon him because of such a belief. Hence each one amongst us should regularly question our own selves concerning our duties to Allah and to our fellow human beings. To live the life of a true Muslim is not easy but it is not difficult also because there have been so many people who have lived such lives . In another extract from his writings Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said:

It is true that belief in the Unity of God is an excellent belief and one that a true and God fearing Muslim should certainly adopt but for the completion of this belief there is yet another aspect and that is the love of God. The true purpose of the teaching of the Holy Quran is this that just as God is One and Only God, so He should also become one and only Being from the point of view of Love-(that is God should become the object of one's total love). This has always been the true objective of all prophets that have gone before. Hence the declaration "*Laa ilaha illallah*. That is *There is no God but Allah*, while on the one hand prescribes the teaching of the Unity of Allah , on the other it teaches that for the complete fulfillment of this belief there is the requirement of Love.... The meaning of the term *Ilaha* is that of a beloved who is worshipped. Hence , that which forms the root of Islam fulfills totally the meaning of Love. Remember that *Tauheed* that is devoid of love is faulty and incomplete.(*Malfuzaat* Vol3 pp187).

In another extract Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said:

“Those who understand the Unity of God are few indeed. However, when people are reminded they instantly reply that are they not Muslims and do they not recite the *Kalima*? What is regrettable is that they have considered it sufficient merely to recite the *Kalima* with their lips. I say this with complete certainty that if a person becomes aware of the reality of *Kalima Tayyeba*, (the declaration 'there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger ') and if he adheres to it in practice , then he could witness the most wonderful manifestations of Allah's Power.

Understand this matter well that I stand before you not as an ordinary speaker delivering a sermon , nor am I standing here to tell a story. I have to deliver the message which God has vouchsafed to me. It does not concern me whether anyone listens to it or not, whether someone believes in it or not. You yourselves will be answerable for that. I have to fulfill my duty. I am aware that there are many who have entered my Community and they believe in *Tauheed*(Unity of God) but I am sorry to say that they do not in fact believe in it.....”

Now just pause and reflect. This was the time when Hazrat Masih Maood as was present and he could assess the situation first hand and he was saying that many Ahmadis have not well understood *Tauheed*. Now just imagine what should be the situation today. The situation is the same today or even worst. When repeatedly I have been saying that doctrine wise the mainstream Jamaat is at fault , I am vindicated by these statements of Hazrat Masih Maood as. There is a clamor everywhere that Jamaat Ahmadiyya represents true Islam which may be true. But from there to say that Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream practices true Islam as taught by the Promised Messiah, there is a great gap. If one understands *Tauheed* one should practice it and one would derive its benefits. But if its spiritual benefits are not there but we see only material benefits, it means true *Tauheed* is not being practiced.

Now we go back to the extract. Hazrat Masih continued:

..... He who usurps the right of his brother or is dishonest or does not abstain from all manner of immoralities , such a person is not in my view a believer of *Tauheed*. A belief in the Unity of God is such a blessing that when a person acquires it, there comes upon him an unusual change. The 'idols' of rancour, ill feelings towards others, jealousy, pretense and the like no longer remains and he becomes closer to God. Until such time as the inner 'idols' of pride, selfishness, display, rancour and animosity, jealousy and meanness, malice and dishonesty etc actually depart they (idols) remain within. Until such a time (as they leave) how can a person be said to be true to his declaration of *laa ilaha illallah* because there is in such a person negation of complete trust in Allah. Thus it is an undeniable fact that the mere recitation of the belief that God is One, without any partners, cannot be of any benefit. One minute a person is reciting the kalima and the next minute , at the slightest provocation , he turns to anger and wrath as his 'gods'.(*Malfoozaat* Vol 9 pp 106-107)

These extracts are not to be heard and forgotten. These extracts are to be digested. Everyone should make a copy and reflect upon what has been said. Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream should weigh their belief in *Tauheed* against their practices and wonder how far they have departed from the true teachings that they received. Members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen should reflect and see to it that we do not ignore the essence of our teachings and do our best to put them into practice now and forever. May Allah help all of us to become His true Servants. Ameen

Announcement:

*Alhamdo lillah* that Ayal Sooltangos has received a scholarship from France to study medicine for the next four years. Members may have read about this in the papers last week. He is one of two students who have received this scholarship. May Allah grant him success in all spheres of his life. May Allah make this scholarship a blessing for him for his parents Bye Mahmood and Waheeda Sooltangos and for our Jamaat as well.

Ameen.