

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

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

Members will recall that at the end of my sermon of 24th May 2013, I said that Allah had revealed to me the following:

*Ek Nishan hai aane wala aaj se kouch din ke baad
Jiss se gardash khaeinge dihaat o sher aur maraghzaar*

These are verses from a poem of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) and we translate these verses as: *In a few days a sign will manifest itself through which villages and towns and pastures will suffer a change of fortune.*

I understood from these words that unfortunately the world would witness some terrible misfortunes in the coming days. At that time I could not say where such events would take place, But that much I was convinced that those events would bring in plenty of destruction of houses or belongings and even of people and crops. Then came the floods in Central Europe at the end of last month. Most probably many amongst you have seen on Tv how terrible was the sight of this river throughout at least three countries in Europe. There is no doubt that almost everyday we do hear about catastrophic events occurring in many parts of the world. But there are some misfortunes which are considered out of the ordinary and that is why the experts on these matters speak of “records” or “unprecedented events”. Today I will say a few words about this recent flood in Central Europe. Then *incha* Allah I will say a few words about the upcoming month of Ramadan.

It is not my intention to read to you newspaper reports of these events. But I just want to share with you a summary of what has been going on. If you want to know more you can go on the net or YouTube and inform yourselves. Up till now there are at least five countries that have been affected by these floods which are due of course to heavy rains. These countries are Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Slovakia. Up till now (Wednesday 12th June 2013) 19 persons have died across these countries. The greatest toll is ten from Czechoslovakia. But thousands have been displaced. They are expecting the damage to be in billions of Euros. You might recall that there was a record flood in these regions in the year 2002. The damage then was estimated at about \$26 billion. But this one is the worst, according to what has been published. In one of the rivers the water level swelled to historic high of 7.46 meters on Sunday -- nearly four times its normal level and exceeding that of previous record floods of 2002. In Hungary the Danube reached about 8.91metres (29feet). According to a newspaper report “The torrent of flood waters in Germany has turned vast areas into a sea of brown water and sparked a mass mobilization of emergency workers, as well as what Merkel's spokesman said was the biggest ever army deployment in the country.” Through such reports one can only imagine how frightening the situation should have been over there.

In the beginning of the flood the situation was very difficult in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. At one moment a hospital had to be evacuated and they had started transferring the animals in the zoo as well. Some Metro Stations were closed and at least sixteen train lines had to stop operating.

The town of Deggendorf in Bavaria near the border with Czechoslovakia and Austria was completely cut off from the world. People have had to be evacuated by helicopters. Aerial Tv pictures showed houses that were drowning in water and for some the water level had reached the first storey or even more.

From the reports that I have read it is not yet over. Anyhow we pray that the misery for the people may end as soon as possible. Here is another instance where Allah tells His servant of an important event before it happens. Although the precise location of where that event would take place was not given, yet once it happens everyone can witness it. Some cynics would say that such events are quite common. This one was not a common one. It broke previous records. Those who have eyes should see.

Personally I think that the words revealed to this humble self referred more particularly to these floods. Allah knows better if they refer to other events as well. The believer on seeing the signs of Allah strengthens his faith in Allah. If one predicted event has taken place, others might as well take place. Allah knows best when. Unfortunately we see that those who are at the helm in directing the affairs of men are not doing their best in following policies that are in the best interest of the people. They serve themselves first and they dis-serve the people. This situation has been going on for a long time now and everywhere one does not see those people who can really serve the people coming forward. Unfortunately we do not have material means to effect change in the world. We should use what we have available, namely prayers. We should increase our conviction that Allah is All Powerful and He can do as He pleases. We should place our hope in Him and not only in available material means. Allah might bring something about that might save the world from the path to destruction that it has taken or we might rephrase to say the path that its leaders have taken. The potential for the destruction of the world many times over are available since the early 1960s. But these days there are more countries who have nuclear weapons and this definitely has increased the danger of a nuclear conflict. The big powers only speak about reducing nuclear arms to make the world a safer place but they do nothing to reduce or eliminate their own nuclear arsenal. They have allowed Israel to keep its arms but they are bent upon preventing Iran from getting it. This is how especially USA and the western powers want to preserve their hegemony in the world. Only Allah knows how we can be saved in this impending doom.

Hazrat Masih Maood (as) wrote about events leading to the first world war in the following words:

*Wake up quick, O you who sleep; for this is not the time for slumber,
My heart is in anguish due to what Divine revelation has communicated to me.
I see the earth turned upside down by the earthquake;
The time is very near and the flood is at the gates.
The Benevolent Master stands at the roadside;
The righteous has nothing to fear from the terrible storm.
No boat can save you from this flood;*

Every scheme has failed, and there remains only the One Who is Oft-Returning with compassion.[Durr-e-Thamin, p. 68]

Concerning the verses that I have spoken of in my revelations, let me quote you from the Promised Messiah's poem where he spoke about them and the events that were about to engulf the world in the first world war and even the Russian revolution. He said:

*“A sign will appear some days from now,
Which shall devastate country and town and meadow.
So suddenly will people be seized by Divine wrath,
An undressed person will have no time to secure his loincloth.
They shall all be suddenly shaken by the earthquake;
Be it men, or trees, or rocks, or oceans.
In the twinkling of an eye the earth will be thrown upside down,
Blood will flow like in streams.
Those whose night garments were white as Jasmine,
Will wake up in the morning clad in red.
Men and animals will lose their senses,
And pigeons and nightingales will forget their songs.
That hour will be hard upon every traveller;
And every wayfarer will lose his way in agony.
With the blood of the dead,
Mountain streams will become red as red wine.
Men high and low will be convulsed with fear;
Even the Czar, at that hour, will be in a wretched state.
This sign will be an example of Divine Wrath,
And Heaven will attack with a drawn sword.
Hasten not to repudiate it, you ignorant fool,
For on the fulfillment of this sign depends my truth.
This is the word of God, and it will surely be fulfilled;
Be patient a while, and be righteous and forbearing.
Never imagine that this mistrust will be forgiven;
It is a credit and shall be repaid to you in full.*

[Brahin-e-Ahmadiyya, part 5, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 21, pp. 151-152]

Now let us speak about matters that gives reason for hope and for the upliftment of our spirit. I mean the upcoming month of Ramadan. As you might have observed the new moon for the month of *Shabaan* was visible in our sky on Monday 10th June. Ramadan will start in one month's time. Usually the Holy Prophet (saw) had his eyes on Ramadan before its arrival. So should we. We learn from the book of Hadiths that he used to pray when he saw the arrival of even the previous month Rajab:”*Allahumma baarik lana fee rajaba wa sha'bana wa ballighna ramadaan*” meaning “O Allah! Bless us in the month of Rajab and Shabaan, and make us reach Ramadhan(by granting us life until then).” This is a very simple prayer. It is important for all of us as practicing Muslims that we should be aware of this prayer and remember to pray it when next time we meet the month of Rajab. From this prayer we understand that the Holy Prophet sought Allah's blessings in the two months preceding Ramadan and he asked Allah to help him to be alive and meet the month of great Blessings that Ramadan usually is. By so doing he

recognized and taught us that we should recognize that Allah is the source of all goodness and that our life is in His Hands and we should be thankful to Him. Although statistically speaking most of us will be alive until Ramadan yet no individual has any guarantee that he or she would be alive. That is why we should copy the example of the Holy Prophet (saw) and pray that Allah keeps us alive and help each one amongst us to fully enjoy all the blessings that are attached to the month of Ramadan.

As we have said before and we should continue to emphasize we should do our best to copy the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) in all walks of life. You should know that every time he saw the new moon he used to pray. There are different versions of this prayer. There is the one that is in our Ahmadiyya books. But here is another version which I have found in the book of hadith compiled by Tirmizi: “*Al-laa-hum-ma `a-hil-la-hoo `a-lay-naa bil-yum-ni wal `i-maa-ni was sa-laa-ma-ti wal `is-laa-mi wat taw-fee-qi li maa tu-hibbu wa tar-dhaa. Rab-bee wa rab-bu-kal-laah.*”. We translate these words as follows: “O Allah , let this new moon appear to us with prosperity, faith, safety, Islam and with the ability to perform deeds which you would like and approve of. My Lord and Your Lord (O Moon!) is Allah”. Only some words are different from the one that we were taught when we were children. Anyhow these words are very pertinent. We seek from Allah blessings for the new month. We ask him for what is usually hoped for. We ask for our faith , namely that we do not lose it but rather that it should be increased. We ask for prosperity, for safety. We ask to become a true Muslim through doing good deeds that Allah is pleased with and appreciates. And lastly a reminder that the Lord of the moon and our Lord is the same. If one thinks carefully about this occasional prayer one cannot fail to see how amid his daily avocations the Muslim is made to think about Allah.

Gaining knowledge is a never ending process. Whatever the level of one's knowledge there is still much to learn. By the Grace of Allah I have read quite a lot about the month of Ramadan during my life but I never came across the following prayer concerning Ramadan. It is reported in a well known book of hadith named *Kanzul ummal* wherein there are some hadiths which are not reported in the six well known books. Its wordings are:

Al-laa-hum-ma sal-lim-ni li-ra-ma-daa-na wa-sal-lim ra-ma-daa-na-li wa-sal-lim-hu-li mo-taqab-ba-laa.

Translation: “O Allah! Safeguard me for the Month of Ramadhan (by making me see the Month of Ramadhan healthy and fit so that I can take maximum benefit from it), and safeguard the Month of Ramadhan for me (by making the conditions in it such that I can take maximum benefit from it) and accept it from me.” (*Kanz-ul-Ummal, Vol.8, Pg. 584 Hadith 24277*)

I find this prayer to be very interesting. The Muslim's mind is drawn to the essence of life on earth. Despite his freewill he cannot just do anything. He should recognize that he has to rely upon Allah and seek all sorts of blessings from Him. May Allah help each one amongst us to make these prayers and may Allah accept all of them from us *incha* Allah.