

FRIDAY SERMON

02 August 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 read Chapter 97 of the Holy Quran in Arabic and then he said :

We have already reached the last Friday of this Ramadan commonly known as *Jummatul Wida* which may be translated as the Farewell Jummah. Very often than not when we reach this particular Friday the end of Ramadan is not far away. But this time it is still 5 or six days away. Some Muslims hold the mistaken belief that there are some special extraordinary qualities in this particular Friday. They think their mere presence in the mosque to attend this Jummah will absolve them of their sins. Such a belief is more prevalent in the South Asia regions. But nowhere in the Holy Quran nor in the hadiths do we hear of such statements. In Islam in order to get oneself absolved of one's sins, one has to ask forgiveness of Allah and be determined not to sin again. The emphasis is on the individual and his actions and not on a certain day with special sins-effacing capacity. Hence the significance of this day is more in the fact that it is a blessed Friday and it is the last one for the blessed month of Ramadan this year. And no one knows for sure, with certainty whether he or she would ever see such a day in one's life again. Hence the need to make some additional devotions in it to catch up for some of the negligence that has been made in Ramadan or it is just an opportunity to do more prayers and charity during the day.

From published information in the newspapers and on the net the new moon of Shaawal 1434 will be born on Wednesday 7th August at 01:50AM. Hence it is most likely that it will not be visible in Mauritius on the same day around 6 to 7pm at the time of sunset. To be visible the moon needs to be in the sky after about 20hours at least. Therefore there is no possibility of seeing the moon on Wednesday 7th August. In all likelihood Eid will be celebrated in Mauritius and in most places around the world on Friday 9th August. Anyhow Namaz has been fixed in our mosque Baitul Rahma to be performed at 9AM on whichever day Eid will be. Members should see to it that they pay their *Sadaqatul Fitr(Fitrana)* prior to that date or at least before the performance of Eid Prayer. The amount to be paid will be different for each individual or family. The equivalent amount in rupees is the cost of 4½ lb of rice or flour that you usually consume. The *Sadaqatul Fitr* is obligatory on each Muslim and has to be distributed among the poor members of society especially the Muslims so that they might also partake in Eid festivities. This is one feature of Islamic teachings that cater for the poor.

Now let me give you the translation of the verses that I read in the beginning:

“In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful.

Surely, We sent it down on the Night of Destiny.

And what should make thee know what the Night of Destiny is?

The Night of Destiny is better than a thousand months.

Therein descend angels and the Spirit by the command of their Lord — with every matter.

It is all peace till the rising of the dawn.”(HQ 97:1-6)

Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has commented on these verses at several places in his writings. We can read about them in his books *Buraheen Ahmadiyya* Volume 4, *Fatah Islam*, *Izala Awhaam*, *Shahadatul Quran* to name but a few. However we should say that very few of these passages have been translated or rendered into English. At almost all these places he says that he agrees with the usual meanings that the Ulama have given for these verses. However he says that they are not the only meanings. He insists that during the time of the Holy Prophet(saw) the world was plunged in darkness and there was a need for this darkness to be dispelled. So Allah sent the Holy Prophet (saw) “to bring people out of darkness into light” as we understand from the Holy Quran. So even in his own time the world was again plunged into darkness as far as spirituality was concerned so Allah sent him as the Promised Messiah. He says:

“I have come from heaven with angels on my right and left. Angels whom God will send, nay, is already sending into willing hearts. This, to help complete my mission. Even if I speak or write nothing, even then the angels who have descended with me will carry on their work. They have maces in their hands, given to them so that they may break the cross and break the idol of man- worship. Maybe the ignorant will ask, what does it mean - this descent of angels from heaven? Let them know it is the custom of God that when a prophet or apostle or saint descends from heaven to reform and restore a people to faith, then angels also descend with him, in his company. These angels enter human hearts willing and ready. They draw them to virtue and keep drawing them, until unbelief and misguidance disappear and the dawn of belief and righteousness shows its face. As indeed God Almighty Himself says in the Holy Quran: "In it - the Night of Power - descend angels and a New Spirit, all by the command of their Lord and charged with every kind of affair. Peace it is, peace - till the rising of the dawn". (Holy Quran Chapter 97:5-6).”

Pursuing the matter further he says:

“The descent from Heaven, that is to say, angels and the Holy Spirit takes place only when a great human - an elect - draped in vicegerency and blessed with divine revelation, descends upon this earth. The Holy Spirit is specially charged to work for this man. And the angels, they descend upon willing hearts all over the world. Then wherever there are men of goodwill and ability the light emitted by this man descends. The whole world is then under the influence of a pervasive light. Angels enter men's hearts and set them in the right direction. Love of the One God begins to attract. Simple and straight hearts become charged with the love and search of truth. The weak are endowed with strength. Everywhere a wind of wholesome change

begins to blow. The cause of the reformer begins to prosper. A hidden hand moves men to righteousness. Whole nations begin to feel the push. So much indeed, that the ignorant among men begin to think the world has taken a turn towards the right, all on its own. In reality the change is the work of angels who descend from Heaven along with the vicegerent of God, and lend special strength for the acceptance and understanding of truth. They awaken those who were asleep and alert those who were lost. They give hearing to the deaf, quicken those who were dead, and raise the entombed out of their graves. Then do men suddenly open their eyes and begin to perceive and understand what was hidden from them before. The angels who help the Vicegerent are not beings apart from the Vicegerent. They are the light that shines on his face. They are the many signs and symptoms of his courage and will. This light, that is, these signs and symptoms draw towards themselves men suited to the change, by their magnetic quality. Physical distance may or may not separate them, the men drawn may be friends or complete strangers. "

Furthermore he adds:

"Islam today is a light hidden in a box. Or, it is a sweet-water spring covered by leaves and twigs and straw. The fair face of Islam cannot be seen. Its beauty cannot be viewed. It is the duty of Mussalmans to do their utmost to show the world how lovely Islam is. They could have sacrificed their properties and their lives to this end. They have not done so. But they suffer from ignorance, rank ignorance. They ask, are not the old books enough? They know nothing about new dangers, with their ever-new challenges, which cannot be met except by new methods. Prophets and Messengers have come time after time. In the time of each, were there not old books already in use? So, take it for certain that when there is darkness in the world, heaven must send its light from above. In this very booklet I have mentioned the Quran, Chapter al- Qadr (Chapter 97). In this chapter God Almighty gives glad tidings to believers that His Revelation, His Prophet, have been sent during a night - a night of Power. Every reformer, every restorer of faith, who comes from God descends as it were from above during such a night of power. Do you know what a night of power is? Night of Power is a time when terrible darkness envelopes the world. That time - so dark it is - demands light, light to dispel darkness. It is a metaphorical expression. It is a dark time, called a dark night. It is not a night literally so. It is a time, which because of its darkness is described as a night. It begins to settle down 1,000 months after a prophet or his spiritual successor has come and gone. One thousand months is equal to an individual life span. At the end of this period human senses also come to an end. When so much time has elapsed, heaven sows the seed for the birth of one or more reformers to appear at the head of the new century. We have a further hint in the words of God "The night of

power is better than one thousands months" (Holy Quran 97:4). Which means that those who are able to see the heavenly light descend during the night of power are better than the 80 year old who were not present at the time of the descent of this light. One moment of light received during this night is better than a thousand months before the night. And why? Because during this night angels of God and the Holy Spirit descend with the permission of the God of Majesty along with the reformer of the time. Not for anything, but in order that they may move willing hearts and shows them the many paths to spiritual security. They - the angels and the Holy Spirit - open the new paths and draw the curtains. Then the darkness of indifference and ignorance disappears. And instead appears the dawn of spiritual life and light."(Victory of Islam P20)

So there is a need for every Muslim whether he is an Ahmadi or not to open his heart and seek to know if we are living in such times or not. We should use the rest of the days and night of this blessed month of Ramadan to seek the forgiveness of our Lord from all our sins whether they were deliberately done or whether they were unwittingly done. We should strive to partake of a large share of God consciousness. Whether we like it or not unless and until we are saturated with God-Consciousness we will not achieve the purpose of our life however great are our worldly achievements. Remember that worldly achievements are only for the world. Each one amongst us should be concerned about the end purpose of life. We should be doing our best to achieve it. So do not let go of these precious coming moments and do your utmost so that Allah may help you to witness and partake of a *laylatul Qadr* to the best of your abilities *incha* Allah. Should anyone witness the *laylatul Qadr* he or she should pray as the Holy Prophet (saw) has taught us : “*Allahoumma innaka afouwoune tohibboul afwa fa'fo anni*” meaning “O my Lord You are the Eraser of sins, you efface sins, efface my sins”. Let us pray and hope that Allah will help each one of us to witness such a night in our lifetime. Moreover if we live in the time of a reformer may Allah help each one of us to partake of the blessings of the descent of angels that come with him.