

# FRIDAY SERMON

23 August 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 said:

These days we are moving away from the month of Ramadan where we engaged ourselves most of the time to devotions to Allah. During that month, besides fasting, we saw to it that we prayed on time and that we constantly engaged in reading the Holy Quran. In addition as best as we could we prayed *Nawafil* prayers and we tried to remember Allah more than we did in other days of the year. By trying to follow Allah's instructions as best as we could we legitimately expected that we went out of Ramadan with an additional measure of God-Consciousness (*taqwa*). But experience has shown us that when Ramadan is gone we do not have the same enthusiasm for devotions to Allah as we had during the month of Ramadan. Rare are those few Muslims who day in and day out, throughout the year, maintain a high level of devotions to Allah. Nonetheless as ordinary Muslims we all should do our best not to be negligent of our duties to Allah. We should pray with a view to knowing more about Allah and to enjoy all the spiritual benefits that such prayers may bring us. Each one amongst us should be able to understand the structure of Sura *Al Fatiha* and pray with this understanding in mind. We all should know that in order to get this understanding we should be determined to put in the necessary efforts that will bring about this understanding. Since these days most young ones in their early twenties are quite familiar with the English language I suggest that they download the book "Commentary on Sura *Al Fatiha*" by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) from [www.alislam.org/library](http://www.alislam.org/library) and that they read it. Although this book does not contain all that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has said about this particular Sura, yet it has enough to give us plenty of food for thought for the rest of our life.

As you are all well aware we are presently living in very difficult times. Indecency is raging everywhere. Very early in life children (both boys and girls) are being exposed to new technologies and their young minds are quite vulnerable to its influences. Since children are easily influenced, they can easily become the victims of adults who are on the move looking for preys. If in the past there were some barriers between the mixing of the sexes, these days all these barriers have been blown away. Today technology has made it possible for all sorts of indecencies to take place even between people who do not live in the same country. Without going into details, what I want to say is that as Muslims who want to uphold Islamic teachings because we are convinced that such teachings are the best we should not become like others and indulge in these same indecencies. As far as we can we should stay away from entertaining even friendly conversations online with acquaintances of the opposite sex. It is these conversations that open the way to inappropriate behaviors. If we are sincere in our prayers when we say "Guide us to the right path", Allah will help us and will protect us from slipping.

Hasn't Allah told us in the Holy Quran: "Recite that which has been revealed to thee of the Book and observe prayer. Surely Prayer restrains one from indecency and manifest evil; and remembrance of Allah is indeed the greatest virtue. And Allah knows well what you do."(29:46).

Although the first part of the verse is addressed particularly to the Holy Prophet (saw), we all know that through him it is addressed to all of us. Hence this need of constantly reading the Holy Quran and delving into its meanings. I think, we Ahmadis-Muslims should do more to understand the Holy Quran and to live our lives according to it. From this verse we also learn that although we have been created weak and we are tempted to committing all sorts of sins, yet by being regular in our prayers such tendencies will be kept at bay. Hence the prayers that we offer every day are the keys to our own self-purification and eventually to our salvation. It is for this reason most probably that the Holy prophet(saw) has said that “prayer is the key to paradise.” I have quoted from memory. Allah knows best.

Most people think that it is safe to speak about everything online. This is not true at all. All your conversations may be tracked and so you should beware what you say online. Wherever you go online, it can be tracked. So you should be very careful of exposing yourself. Now if we think about this internet and about the fact that Allah says that He records everything that we say or do, we can easily understand that if Allah has allowed man to create something that can track whatever he does to a certain degree, it is not improbable at all that Allah, who is far more Powerful can track even more of all our actions! Now, armed with such a thought we should be careful with what we say and do because Allah says in the Holy Quran that we will be questioned about everything and Allah knows best.

As Muslim believers we are “the best people raised for the guidance of mankind”. At least this is what Allah expects the Muslim Umma to be and what He created the Muslim Umma for. Allah has given us the best teachings and he expects us to follow these teachings for our own benefit. In the Holy Quran Allah say: “Definitely this Holy Quran guides to what is most right ; and gives to the believers who do good deeds the glad tidings that they shall have a great reward”(17:10). Therefore it is incumbent upon us to understand the wisdom that underlies all Islamic teachings. Concerning all instructions received from Allah we should start from the premise that it is good and in our best interests and based on wisdom. Consequently it is our duty to understand it in that light. However we should also strive in all our dealings to be fair with all concerned and deal with justice with one and all. The Holy Quran is replete with verses speaking about the need to be just. So much emphasis has been placed on this cardinal virtue that Hazrat Umar has included one such verse to be repeated every Friday for everyone to hear and meditate. Of course, as you all know that verse is:

“Verily, **Allah** enjoins **justice**, and the doing of good to others; and giving like kindred; and forbids indecency, and manifest evil, and wrongful transgression. He admonished **you** that **you** may take heed. ” (16:91)

Islamic teachings, if properly followed helps each individual to develop his or her potential and fosters family life that is conducive to domestic bliss and promotes harmony between all members of society. However when these teachings are not properly followed despite all sorts of grand declarations then instead of peace we see war. Instead of harmony we see strife and instead of happiness we see misery. Allah created Muslims to be model of what it means to be living together in peace and harmony. But when some try to lord it over others they have created instead great misery for a lot of their friends and companions. At many places, in many Islamic countries

these days we see plenty of strife because one group wants to impose its version of Islam over others. The Ahmadiyya caliph wants the world to believe that he and his Jamaat are here to fix the world. But even he is going against the basic teachings of Islam. Recently he has spoken again on the need to observe Justice but yet he does nothing to correct the enormous injustices that he has perpetuated in Jamaat Ahmadiyya Mauritius. To him speaking about the nobility of Islamic teachings with the emphasis that is laid on Justice is enough. There is no need to put it into practice within the Jamaat. From the caliph's sermons we understand he is facing insurmountable problems within the Jamaat. Yet he fails to understand how he has misinterpreted and misrepresented the teachings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as). Yet there is no one within Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream who has enough God-Fearingness in his heart to boldly tell this caliph that he is wrong. He still does not stop telling the members of the Jamaat incorrectly about things which Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said. We have noticed that what he is saying and what Hazrat Masih has said are not the same thing. Being given this deviation from the main teachings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) what will his "progress" be but to tell the people that he has been able to open one or two missions around the world in a year. The truth of the matter, in fact, is that his version of what the Promised Messiah said is gaining ground. The caliph is not serving the Jamaat when he is telling the people that 'khilafat' has replaced *Mujjaddadiyat* in Islam. He fails to understand that he is completely off the mark. But what is more surprising is that mainstream Ahmadiyya Missionaries and "wise ones" remain silent when such blatant lies are being spoken and spread.

We are bound to say that the situation is really pitiable in the Ahmadiyya mainstream Jamaat. From the caliph's sermon of last week we understand that some young people have started asking questions on some matters. Let us hope that they will start asking some more pointed questions about the wrong beliefs that some caliphs want to perpetuate within the Jamaat.

To me if the caliphs are taking this stand, it is because their relationship with Allah has deteriorated or they just pay lip service to Him. I have no doubt in my mind that if they had been sincere and they stuck to the teachings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as), Allah would have graced them with His special Favours as He has graced many of His servants within Jamaat Ahmadiyya. But unfortunately they seemed to be more concerned with administering the Jamaat rather than looking after its best interests. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has made it quite clear for us that Allah will continue to raise Imams, caliphs and *mujaddids* in this umma. He says:

"If it is true that God, the Exalted, has sealed up all blessings and every kind of Imamah (spiritual leadership) and patronage and the ways leading to these are closed altogether, there can be no greater tragedy for the true seekers of God, the Supreme. They are, so to say, as good as dead though living and have nothing in their hands except barren tales, with no substance and truth in them. If the Shias believe this to be true then why do they supplicate in their five daily Prayers: Guide us along the straight path, the path of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy favours? For, this prayer plainly means: Lord, favour us with the way that offers approach to Thee which Thou didst grant to

the Prophets, the leaders, the righteous and the martyrs. This verse manifestly proclaims that the way to the grant of Imamah (spiritual leadership) is ever open and thus should it be. This humble servant of God has sent out to different countries and towns twenty thousand posters to proclaim the proof of the existence of this way. If this blessing is absent then what excellence does Islam claim? (Al-Hakam, March 10, 1902)

Furthermore he says:

“Allah, the Sublime, has in the Holy Quran directed us to supplicate: Guide us along the straight path, the path of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy favours. All commentators are agreed that the direction: the path of those on whom Thou hast bestowed Thy favours; aims at cultivating true resemblance with the Prophets which is the essence of obedience. God sent Prophets (peace be on them) to the world to create their replicas in the earth. If this was not the purpose, then Prophethood loses all meaning. Prophets are not sent to be worshipped. On the contrary, they appear so that people may pattern their lives according to their example and cultivate affinities with them and should identify themselves with them totally. Allah, the Exalted, says: Announce: If you love Allah, then follow me, Allah will then love you (3.32). God will not withhold any blessing from one whom He loves. Following, also means self-obliteration in obedience, which promotes one to the status of complete resemblance. This is accepted on all hands and will be denied only by one completely ignorant or one bereft of all faith (Ayyamus Solh, pp. 163-164).

Next week *incha* Allah I will give some additional quotations from the writings of the Messiah to show that what the caliph want the members to believe is not according to the teachings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as). May Allah always keep us on the right path and may He facilitate our access to Him by granting us His Favours. Ameen.