

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 verse 2-3 of Chapter *As saff* (61) of the Holy Quran

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا لِمَ تَقُولُونَ مَا لَا
تَفْعَلُونَ ﴿٢﴾
كَبُرَ مَقْتًا عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَنْ تَقُولُوا مَا لَا
تَفْعَلُونَ ﴿٣﴾

He then said:

The translation of these verses are as follows:

“O ye who believe! why do you say what you do not do?
Most hateful is it in the sight of Allah that you say what you do not do.”

If we say we are Muslims, we should always try to match our actions with our words. In other words we should strive to practice what we preach. We cannot under any circumstance think that we can profess something and not practice it. If that were the case we would see that our words and our preachings will have no effect because our actions are belying what we are professing. Hence there should be a complete harmony in what we preach and what we do. This is a very simple matter and it can be easily understood.

Let us take the example of a father who is supposed to be an example to his son. If the father who is a chain smoker tells his son not to smoke what would be the effect of his advice on his son? The advice will be null and void because the son will tell his father that his actions talk louder than his words and are most effective. Similarly if a mother were to tell her daughter that she should not engage in backbiting but she frequently speak ill of others in the house, the daughter will most probably follow her example rather than her advice. Human beings are more influenced by an excellent exemplar rather than by a good preacher who ignores his own teachings. Each one amongst us can find plenty of examples in our daily life which tell us that preaching is effective when it is followed by practice.

We all know that in the Holy Quran a great emphasis is placed on “*amalous swaleh*” meaning “good deeds”. Wherever Allah speaks about the believers he characterizes them as those who first believe and do good deeds. Because of lack of time we will not be quoting these verses right now. But those who regularly recite the Holy Quran know that such verses are on almost each page of the Book. Hence each one amongst us should practice what he believes in. As good Muslims it is incumbent upon each one amongst us to follow each one of the numerous instructions given in the Holy Quran. If despite our best efforts to follow the instructions of the

Holy Quran we lapse into sin we should immediately regret the wrong that we have done and make amends either through fasting or through giving charity or through making a sacrifice. We should also pray to Allah to forgive our lapse and we should be determined not to fall into the same sin again. Even if after our determination we fall again we should again regret, make amends and seek forgiveness. Allah's doors of forgiveness are ever open to sinning believers and we should all use that open door.

Speaking about the aim of the creation of Jamaat Ahmadiyya, the founder Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian said:

“I convey another message to mankind in general and to my Muslim brethren in particular, that I have been commanded that those who seek the truth should enter into a covenant with me for learning the way of true faith and purity and love of God, and for discarding impure life, sloth and treachery. Therefore, it is incumbent upon those who find strength in their hearts to come to me; I shall be their comforter and shall try to lighten their burden. God Almighty will bless my prayers and my care for them provided they are ready with their heart and soul to fulfill His requirements. This is a Divine commandment which I have hereby conveyed...”

Hence being a member of the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as)(1835-1908) entails many responsibilities. As a member of this Jamaat we should be seekers after truth. What does it mean to be seekers after truth? It means, in my humble opinion to be of those people who ask questions about existence. They wonder why they have been created, how should they live their life, what are their duties towards their fellow human beings and towards their Creator. They even want to know who is their Creator and how best to live one's life to meet with His Satisfaction. These seekers after truth enquire about life and they try to understand what is true and false about it. In brief these people who want to be in the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah take upon themselves to give meaning to their life and that is why they enter into this covenant with the Promised Messiah and in his absence to the one whom Allah nominates to represent him. The quotation that I have just read was the first that the Promised Messiah wrote asking people to come to enter into an oath of allegiance with him. In the end he cited the relevant revelation in Arabic, the translation of which is as follows:

“When thou hast determined a matter then trust in Allah and build the Ark under Our eyes and according to Our instructions. Those who enter into covenant with thee enter into a covenant with Allah. Allah’s hand is above their hands.”

Someone might say that what happens now when the Promised Messiah is no more. We have been saying since sometime now that the caliphate as we know it no longer assumes the successorship of the Promised Messiah. The reason is that they have closed an important door to the blessings of Allah by their own hands and without any proper authority to do so. They have assumed an authority that Allah did not give them by saying that they have been appointed by Allah though they have been elected by men. Hence Allah, to show His Power

over all things took the matter in His hands again and made his own nominations. Many times before, Allah has revealed the same Arabic words that were revealed to Hazrat Masih Maood (as) to this humble self. Even last week Allah revealed to me “*Innallazina yobaye'ounaka innama yobayeounallah, yadoullaha fawqa aydihim, wa man nakasa fa innama yankoso ala nafsehi*” meaning “Those who enter into covenant with thee enter into a covenant with Allah. Allah’s hand is above their hands. So whoever breaks his covenant breaks it against his own self”. Last week I received only this portion. But in the past several times I received the verse (48:11) in full. What I am trying to say is that by Allah's Grace , in this era I am one of those who have been chosen by Allah to take the pledge of the people and to help them to know Allah and to share their burden. Should anyone who makes a pledge with me break his or her pledge , he or she does not harm me but harms his or her own self. Now, those who want to remain aloof and not seize the opportunity to come closer to truth are also acting against their own selves. Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream's caliph as he is presently exercising his mandate is not the true representative of the Promised Messiah to the best of our knowledge. Among other things they are not showing the true teachings of the Promised Messiah to the world and they have brainwashed most Ahmadis to believe that they are doing so. It is not by multiplying participation at annual conventions and speaking about the noble teachings of Islam that one fulfills the mission of the Promised Messiah. What is urgently needed is for people who are ready to do what is needed to practice those teachings in their daily lives. On that score the caliph and all his representatives fail miserably because they adamantly reject those who have another view without making the necessary proper investigation. Yet everywhere you will hear them repeating that they are the upholders of peace while in fact they have declared war on their own kind within the Jamaat. Their propaganda machine is everywhere at work to deceive those who do not know how bigoted and hidebound they are.

Recently in Mauritius the mainstream Jamaat held its annual convention. According to a newspaper article the amir of the Jamaat spoke about how he and his Jamaat are promoters of peace in society. But unfortunately not many people outside of the Jamaat know how sectarian is this man in his outlook. When a government minister is present the language is peaceful and when the masses are to be frightened in the absence of strangers , the language is quite unislamic and verges even on a complete distortion of fundamental Islamic teachings. He is just following in the footsteps of his caliph. The caliph has been able to make a name for himself as a promoter of peace and justice in the world. The world gets fascinated with his message of “love for all , hatred for none”. The truth of the matter is that he is not a man of his words. When he is called upon to exercise justice he fails by giving foolish reasons and he even distorts the teachings of the Promised Messiah to suit his own thinking. Recently he made a speech about the crisis in Syria. He said among other things that some revelations of the Promised Messiah are fulfilled repeatedly. He spoke about one which related to Syria. But he completely ignores the writings of the Promised Messiah about the coming of reformers within the Jamaat. He never speaks of that because it jeopardizes his own khilafat.

So when we go to the basics and try to understand the main reason for the creation of Jamaat Ahmadiyya we see that it is incumbent upon its leaders and all those who claim to be its adherents that they show through their own example that they are the embodiment of the teachings of Islam. These teachings, once practiced has the magical power to change the

individual. These teachings make a moral man from one who just follows his evil inclinations. Once such a man starts acquiring moral qualities he progresses to acquire spiritual qualities and in so doing he discards all his animalistic inclinations. That person cannot say that he is fulfilling the basic reason for the creation of Jamaat Ahmadiyya if he promotes hatred and all sorts of evil doing towards those who do not share his own views. The Promised Messiah has warned his own followers that their words and deeds should be one if they truly tread the path of righteousness. What we see with the present representatives of Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream is that they say one thing and they practice another. Hence they are committing a grave sin according to the verse that we have mentioned above. They should make amends and repent before it is too late for them. The Promised Messiah has told us

“Do not imagine that [you will be saved merely because] you have joined this Movement. I tell you truly that whoever is saved will be saved on account of his perfect faith. Can you assuage your hunger with one grain of corn or can one drop of water slake your thirst? In the same way, defective faith cannot benefit your soul. Those alone are accounted believers in heaven who affirm their faith with fidelity, sincerity, perfect steadfastness, and giving preference to God above everything else. I am in great anxiety as to how I should make these things enter your hearts and how I can put my hand into your hearts to rid them of all evil. Our God is Most Compassionate, Merciful and Faithful, but if someone’s heart is afflicted with depravity and does not demonstrate his fidelity in practice, he cannot save himself from His wrath. If you entertain a hidden seed of mistrust in your hearts, your joy is vain. I tell you truly that in such a case you will be seized equally with those who do evil deeds in the sight of God Almighty. Nay, you will be seized with ruin before the other people. Let not the life of comfort deceive you, for comfortless days are near when all that the Prophets of God have been telling from the beginning will be fulfilled. Fortunate is the person who believes in what I say and brings about a change in himself.” [Majmu‘ah Ishtiharat, vol. 3, pp. 548-549]

Instead of just making declarations, members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream should show through their own example that they have really understood what the Promised Messiah expected from them by transforming their lives in such a way that others may say and in the eyes of Allah they are the true embodiment of Islamic values. Without such a verifiable example all that they do will be only auto satisfaction. Members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen also should see to it that they strive to do what is expected of them as members of this Jamaat. May Allah help each one amongst us to strive to tread the right path. Ameen.