

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:

We are beginning a new year. As we have been taught by the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) whenever something good happens to us we should always praise Allah. So we say *Alhamdulillah*, that is, All praise belong to Allah who has kept us alive another day. Most people these days are given to merry making. But the true believer in Allah does not do like others. For him if the New Year's Day should have any significance he should increase his worship and remembrance of Allah with a heart full of thanks. Why? Because the believer should strive as best he can to be thankful to Allah under all circumstances. If there is any resolution that needs to be taken it should be the determination to strive to obey Allah more than has been done in the past. The believer always tries to do better. He does not sleep on his laurels. He says like Hazrat Masih Maood as "*ousseh deh chukeh hai jaan o maal baar baar abhi khauf e dil mein hein ke hai na bikaar*" meaning "*they have sacrificed their life and wealth to Him several times yet they still feel that they have not done enough*". As an Ahmadi Muslim our life should be characterized by this desire to do our best to be accepted among the best of Allah's servants in His Sight. If we think that our life has any other purpose, we are simply mistaken. One of the characteristics of those who are close to Allah that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has also taught us is that the close ones are those who "*issi fikr mein rehteh hein roz o shab keh razi wo dildaar hota hai kab*". We translate this verse as "they are constantly engaged with the thought as to when will their Beloved be pleased". It is important for us to give Allah the importance that is due to Him. In the Holy Quran this instruction is thus spelled out thus: "*Ya ayyohal lazina aamanout taqoullaha haqqa toqatehi wa laa tamoutounna illa wa antoum mouslemoun*"(3:103) which we translate as "O ye who believe !fear Allah as He should be feared; and let not death overtake you except when you are in a state of submission" In other words we should become conscious of Allah to the degree that Allah will be pleased with us. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has also taught us that Allah is a great treasure that we should strive to get. He says:

"How unfortunate, indeed, is the man who does not even know that he has a God with power over all things! Our Paradise, indeed, is our God: our highest enjoyment is in God, for we have seen Him and all beauty found in Him. This treasure is worth having, even if at the cost of one's life; and this is a jewel which should be purchased even if obtainable only by sacrificing one's entire life. O ye that are devoid, run to this spring, for it will slacken your thirst. It is the spring of life that shall save you. What am I to do, and how am I to impress this glad tiding upon your mind, with what drum should I go crying through the streets that This is your God, so that all

should hear? And with what unguent am I to treat the people so that their ears open to hear!”

To me this is one of the most beautiful extracts from his writings where Hazrat Masih Maood as has spoken about Allah and how desirous he was for other people to know that such a God does really exist. Here we have a glimpse into the heart of the Promised Messiah where he eagerly wants people to know the treasure that Allah truly is. He has known Allah to some extent and what he knows makes him say such words. He wants the people to stop following things that are perishable. He wants them to turn their attention to what is everlasting. He had the strong belief, nay the certainty that Allah is what is really true. He has created us so that we might know Him and when we know Him we will know true happiness. That true happiness is not found in material objects but in Allah. Our mission as a human being is to search for this Supreme Being who will lead us to true felicity.

In another extract from his writings he explains to us what concept of Allah we should have in mind. He says:

“Relevant to a proper observance of my teaching it is essential that one should firmly believe that there is an all-Powerful, all- Sustaining Supreme Being, the Creator of everything, Changeless, Everlasting and Eternal. He does not beget, nor was He begotten. He is Holy, so that there is no need or occasion for Him to go on the Cross, or suffer in any way, or be subject to death. He is such that being far removed, He is still very near; and being very near, He is still very far. Although He is One, and absolutely unique, His manifestations are diverse and multifarious. Whenever there occurs in man a new change, for the changed man He becomes .a new God, dealing with him on the basis of a fresh manifestation, the man witnessing a change in God in proportion to the change in himself not that there occurs any change in God, He being Eternal, Changeless and most Perfect in Himself; but with every change in man for the better, God also reveals Himself to him in a fresh and clearer manifestation. With every progressive effort on the part of man God also shows Himself with higher and more powerful manifestation. He displays an extraordinary manifestation of His power and glory only, when man shows an extraordinary change in himself-this being the root and the bedrock basis of the marvels and miracles witnessed at the hands of all servants of God. Belief in this God, with these powers, is the foremost essential condition of our Movement. Inculcate this belief in your hearts, giving to its implications and requirements the first and top most priority over all considerations of self, over its comforts and relationships. By means of actions in the field of your daily life, with unflinching courage, show a steadfast loyalty in His way. Others in this world do not give Him preference over material means and the support they hope to get from their friends and

relations. But do you give him the first place, so that in heaven you should come to be reckoned His people.”(Noah’s ark)

This is an extract and the previous one comes from the Promised Messiah’s book “Noah’s ark”. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has written about eighty books. This book was written in 1902 and it contains plenty of advices for members of the community. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) advised his followers to read this book often in order to absorb its teachings and make them part of their lives. Each one amongst us should make a resolution to read this book as often as we can. On the one hand it will make us to be constantly aware of what we need to do and on the other it will uplift us spiritually. Every time I have read the book I have been touched by what it says. In English the book is not more than 44 pages and it can be easily downloaded from [www.alislam.org](http://www.alislam.org) and read within two hours. Everyone should make an effort to reread it at the beginning of the year to start the year on a new footing. Our task is to advice. We are not guardians over anyone. Since not all people will have the opportunity to read I will give you another extract concerning Allah. Hazrat Masih says:

“Our God is a very loyal God, and for those who remain loyal to Him He shows wonderful works. The world wishes to tear them to pieces and to eat them up; and every enemy grinds his teeth on them; but He Who is their friend saves them from every danger, and brings them out triumphant on every field. How fortunate, then, is he who does not let go his hold of such a God? To Him we render our faith, and Him we have recognized. Of all the world He alone is the God Who has sent down His revelation on me; Who, for me, has shown powerful signs; Who has sent me down as the Promised Messiah for this age. There is no God whatsoever except He, in heaven nor on earth. Whosoever does not yield faith to Him, he remains deprived of the good, deprived of blessings, and deprived of succor. From our God we have received Revelation that shines like the sun. We have seen that He alone is the God of the whole world, there is no other God. How powerful indeed is the God we have found, and how sustaining! And how great, how wonderful the qualities of the God we have seen! The truth is that for Him there is nothing that is impossible except what runs counter to His own Promise or His Book. Therefore when you pray to Him, you should not be like those ignorant naturalists who have formed a natural law of their own which does not bear the stamp of God, for they are the rejected ones whose prayers will not be accepted. They are blind not gifted with vision. They are dead, not alive. They put before God a law shaped by them. They put limitations of their own on His Powers, holding Him weak and helpless beyond those limitations. Naturally they will be dealt with in the light of their own conditions.”

So our Allah should become very important to us. We should devote time to learning about Him by studying the Holy Quran, by studying the Hadiths and by also reflecting

on His Creation. All these activities will help us to deepen our understanding of Him and help us to form an opinion of Him that is truly worthy of an Ahmadi Muslim. Besides these studies we should devote time to praying to Him as if we are seeing Him. To us He should be true and we should understand that He has powers beyond our understanding. May Allah enlighten each one amongst us about who He is and may our hearts be ever inclined to His obedience whatever the circumstances.

I suggest that all of you should make the resolution that at the beginning of this year which you may treat as a new start, you will devote more of your time to search for Allah. In other words you will devote more time to reading the Holy Quran and to exhibit proper behavior in all circumstances. Secondly you will pray more by devoting more time to soliciting Allah for all your needs. Each one amongst us has some defect in our character that we would like to eliminate. Use some time to meditate about your own defects and pray to Allah for their elimination. If you do so I am sure that by the end of the year you will see that you have made plenty of improvements and that you are marching towards your goal. I hope that Allah gives to each one amongst us the wisdom to understand the purpose of being a member of Jamaat Ahmadiyya and that each one amongst us become an embodiment of the teachings of the Promised Messiah(as).

A new year 2014 has started. No one knows yet how it will end. Hundred years before; that is in 1914 a similar year started but some events will occur in it that have had far reaching effects up to now and may be will go on for a long time to come. With regard to the history of Jamaat Ahmadiyya the year 1914 would be a crucial turning point. On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 1914 Hazrat Molvi Nuruddin the caliph of the Promised Messiah died. He was caliph since 27<sup>th</sup> May 1908. According to my calculation he was caliph for 2146 days, slightly less than 6 years. He was the most devoted companion of the Promised Messiah. He was a great scholar and he put his knowledge and influence to advance the cause of the Promised Messiah. He was such a great embodiment of virtue that speaking of him the Promised Messiah composed these verses:

*Che khush boudeh har zeh oummat nour uddin boudeh*

*Hamein boudeh gar har dil pour az noure yaqin boudeh*

We translate as “How excellent it would have been had all members of the ummat been like Nouruddin

That would have been possible had all hearts been filled with certainty in faith”

With his departure there would be a split within the Jamaat and the consequences of that split still lingers on today. *Incha* Allah some other time we will talk about this matter in greater detail.