

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

After reciting the *Tashahhud*, the *Ta'uz* and the first chapter *Al Fatihah* of the Holy Quran, Imam Zafrullah Domun read verse 57 of chapter 33 of the Holy Quran and then he said:

We are in the third month of the Islamic calendar, namely *Rabi ul Awwal* 1435. As usual preparations are in full swing here in Mauritius amongst the Muslims and also some other Muslim countries for the celebrations concerning the prophet's birthday. In some Arab countries like for example Saudi Arabia this date is a non event. But in countries like India, Pakistan, Indonesia and Bangladesh where more than half of the Muslim population of the world lives the birthday of the Holy Prophet (saw) is celebrated. As usual opinion amongst the experts is divided on this subject. Some say that the day should be celebrated whilst others say that it is an innovation that leads to perdition. The position of Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream on this matter is slightly different. Around 1929 following the publication of an ugly book about the Holy prophet (saw) in India, the second caliph of the Jamaat took the initiative to hold *seeratun nabi* conferences to dispel people's misconceptions about the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). Thus several such conferences were held, but not on a particular day where knowledgeable people, even non Muslims were invited to speak about the different aspects of the life of the Holy Prophet (saw). I am not aware if such programs are held in London or in other well-known capitals of the world these days because I do not see any reports published about them. Anyhow today there are better means to make people aware of the noble character of the Holy prophet (saw) and maybe these conferences do not fulfill the original aim for which they were started.

In Mauritius as you are well aware such an event is held where even the prime Minister and other VIPs are invited to attend and where they speak about the noble character of the Holy Prophet. But when it comes to translating words into actions we do not see any concrete example taking place. Unfortunately even in Muslim countries we see how these days the teachings of the Holy Prophet (saw) are being trampled upon because those who are in power use their power to ride rough shod over the people instead of serving the people. So we see that endless speeches may be made in conferences, innumerable books and articles may be printed and even distributed, yet a commitment to the teachings of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) is still far ahead. Yet, because as a routine, a conference has been usually held in the past, so it continues to be held even today without any need to assess whether it is achieving anything or not. Groups have just to go through the motions.

According to the Holy Quran our relationship with the Holy Prophet (saw) should not be confined to a conference or reading a book. As a Muslim Allah has taught us that the Holy Prophet (saw) is the best exemplar. Allah says:

“*Laqad kaana lakoum fi rasoulillahe ouswatoune hasanatoune leman kaana yarjoullaha wal yawmil aakhera wa zakarallaha kasira*” meaning “Verily you have in the Prophet of Allah an excellent model for him who hopes to meet Allah and the last day and who remembers Allah much.” (33:22). Hence for the Muslim no one in the world is to be followed except the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). He is the hero for all time. It is unfortunate that because of the influence of the mass media when we are young we are inclined to take actors or actresses or singers as our heroes. In fact as a Muslim if we have only one person that we should try to imitate then he is the Holy prophet Mohammad (saw) and no one else. It is incumbent upon all Muslims whether they are man or woman that we should do our best to imitate the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) in our daily life. It is our duty to learn how he lived through his words and deeds and try to follow in his footsteps as best as we can. So for us it is not at all important when the Holy prophet (saw) was born or when he died. Our life will have any significance only when we realize that the Holy Prophet was a beloved of Allah and we wish to become a beloved of Allah and hence we should follow in his footsteps. Allah tells the Holy Prophet (saw) in the Holy Quran “ *Qoul in kountoum tohibbounallah fattabeouni youhbib komoullaho wa yaghfirlakoum zonoubakoum , wallaho ghafourour rahim* ” meaning “Tell them “if you love Allah then obey me and Allah will love you and will forgive you your sins . Allah is Most Forgiving and Merciful” So let us remember this well that our salvation lies with our obedience to Allah and His Prophet Mohammad (saw).

If for any reason someone thinks that obedience to Allah and his prophet is an easy matter that person will be deluding himself. In order to be able to obey Allah and his messenger one has to ask Allah Himself for help. Hence the prayer “*ihdenas siratal moustaqeem*” which means “Guide us on the right path”. This is a prayer that we repeat in all the 17 obligatory (farz) Rakaats and at least 15 sunnat Rakaats that we are expected to perform daily. This prayer is thus repeated at least 32 times daily. Just imagine what should have been its effect if it is read so many times with full consciousness and with great eagerness. To put it simply its effect will be that it will lead you to Allah and away from all sorts of indecency. If our prayers are not leading us away from indecency we should understand that we are not praying properly because the Holy Quran says that “*Innas swalaata tanha anil fahshaae wal mounkare*” meaning “ *definitely prayer restrains one from indecency and manifest evil* ”(29:46). So take some time and think about it and ask yourself how far you are praying in the true sense of the word. However wherever you might be in a scale there is no cause for despair because at any moment Allah is waiting for His Servant to come to Him so that He might grant him or her all the favours that He has in store for him or her. However the world might appear attractive to us, in the end what is important is the relationship that we have developed with Allah.

To help us in this task of developing our relationship with Him, Allah tells us in the Holy Quran:

“Allah sends down His blessings on the Prophet and His angels pray for him. O ye who believe, you too should invoke His blessings on him and salute him with the salutation of peace.”

This is the translation of this verse as given by Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream. However another well known scholar has translated the same verse as follows:

“Verily, God and His angels bless the Prophet: [hence,] O you, who have attained to faith, bless him and give yourselves up [to his guidance] in utter self-surrender!”

I prefer the second translation because it translates the relationship that should exist between us and the Holy Prophet (saw). We are expected to lose ourselves in obedience to him. Every day in our prayers several times we send blessings on him. In fact the meaning of the *darood* that we send on him are requests to Allah to elevate his rank. Consequently the benefits of this Darood are returned to us at least ten times more. In fact in one hadith the Holy Prophet (saw) is reported to have said : “He who reads a single *Darood* upon me, Almighty Allah blesses him ten times, ten of his sins are forgiven, and he is increased ten times in rank. (*Mishkaat*). In other hadiths we understand that the way to send blessings on the Holy Prophet (saw) is to use the same words that we use in the prayers namely “*Allahoumma swalleh ala Mohammasin wa aala aaleh Mohammasin kama swallayta ala Ibrahim wa ala aaleh Ibrahim Innaka hamidou Majid and Allahoumma baarik ala Mohammasin wa aala aaleh Mohammasin kama baarakta ala Ibrahim wa ala aaleh Ibrahim Innaka hamidou Majid*”. The translation is quite well known and I am not repeating it right now. But we should all know that if we want Allah to have a special regard for us we should learn to repeat *Darood* several times during the day. There are many people who have adopted this practice throughout the ages and it proved quite beneficial for them and so should we try to do.

There are many hadiths about *Darood*. Here are some that might give an idea how blessed is its recitation.

“On the day of Qiyamah the person closest to me will be the one who has sent the most Durood unto me.” (TIRMIZI)

“On Fridays, send Durood abundantly on me, as it is presented before me.” (ABU DAWUD)

“For the reciter of durood, Allah sends 70 blessings on him and the angels make dua for him 70 times.”(TIBRANI)

On the Day of Qiyamah, besides the Shadow of the Throne, there would be no other shadow. On that Day, Allah Almighty will especially Grant three kinds of people a place under His throne:

1. Whosoever removed some difficulty of my Ummah and solved its hardship
2. Whoever revived my Sunnah
3. And Whoever recited Doorud Sharif on me abundantly

Allah Almighty has appointed a group of angels who travel the world, and in my Ummah, whoever sends salutation to me, those salutations are presented to me by these angels.”
(IBNE HABBAN)

Recite durood sharif abundantly on me, it will be a means of cleanliness and purity for you.”
(ABU YA’LA)

All these hadiths only point us to the importance of taking the habit of reciting the *Darood* very often. In Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream there have been some pious people who have been regularly reciting *darood* between Maghrib & Esha prayers almost daily. In the books and articles that I have read during the course of my life I have often met with anecdotes in the life of some people who have read *Daroods* and who have had their personal problems solved. Unfortunately I do not have the references under hand or else I would have quoted some to tell you how some people had their very difficult problems solved through the recitation of *darood*. May Allah open for each one amongst us the doors to the blessings of *darood*.

In the end I would like to read an extract from the writings of the Promised Messiah about the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). He says:

“That light of high degree that was bestowed on perfect man was not in angels, was not in stars, was not in the moon, was not in the sun, was not in the oceans and the rivers, was not in rubies, emeralds, sapphires, or pearls; in short, it was not in any earthly or heavenly object. It was only in perfect man whose highest and loftiest and most perfect example was **our lord and master, the Chief of the Prophets, the Chief of all living ones, Muhammad, the chosen one** [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]. That light was bestowed on this man and, according to their ranks, upon all those who bore the same colour to some degree.... This dignity was found in its highest and most perfect form in our lord and master and our guide, the immaculate Prophet, the righteous one, testified to by the righteous, **Muhammad, the chosen one** [peace and blessings of Allah be on him].

[A’ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam, Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 5, pp. 160-162]

In another extract he says:

“I always wonder **how high was the status** of this Arabian Prophet, whose name was Muhammad, (thousands of blessings and peace be upon him). One cannot reach the limit of his high status and it is not given to man to estimate correctly his spiritual effectiveness. It is a pity that his rank has not been recognized, as it should have been. He was the champion who restored to the world the **Unity of God** which had disappeared from the world; he

loved God in the extreme and his soul melted out of sympathy for mankind. Therefore, God, Who knew the secret of his heart, **exalted him above all the Prophets and all the first ones and the last ones** and bestowed upon him in his lifetime all that he desired. He is the fountainhead of every grace and a person who claims any superiority without acknowledging his grace is not a man but is the **spawn of Satan**, because the Holy Prophet has been bestowed the key to every exaltation and he has been given the treasury of every understanding. He who does not receive through him is deprived forever. I am nothing and possess nothing. I would be most ungrateful if I were not to confess that I have learnt of the true Unity of God through this Prophet. The recognition of the Living God we have achieved through this perfect Prophet and through his light. The honour of converse with God, through which we behold His countenance, has been bestowed upon me through **this great Prophet**. The ray of this sun of guidance falls like sunshine upon me and I continue illumined only so long as I am adjusted towards it.

[Haqiqat-ul-Wahi, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 22, pp. 118-119]

May Allah help each one amongst us to realize the importance of Allah and His prophet in our own lifetime. Ameen!