

FRIDAY SERMON

17 January 2014

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:

Lots of Muslims around the world have celebrated the day of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) last Wednesday. At the place where I live there has been another innovation this year. In one mosque we could here poems being sung in praise of the Holy Prophet (saw) even before the dawn prayer and it continued for about thirty minutes after. In the Capital city, Port Louis some people led processions with cars, trucks and scooters. During the day a special gathering took place where thousands of Muslims converged in the middle of the island to hear speeches and to eat *Briani*.. Many Muslims took the day off. I do not know how many *degs* of food were prepared. Most probably it should be around 100. Around thirty to thirty five thousand Muslims would have converged to that place to participate in the ceremonies and speech listening and feasting. Around the country in many mosques people participated in several speech and *Naat* functions. For many this is part of how they remember the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw).

But for the Ahmadi Muslim his attitude is quite different. He is the person who takes to heart what Allah has said in the verse that I have just read and which we translate as follows: "*Laqad kaana lakoum fi rasoulillahe ouswatoune hasanatuone leman kaana yarjoullaha wal yawmil aakhera wa zakarallaha kasira*" "Definitely you have in the Messenger of Allah an excellent example for he who desires Allah and the last day and who remembers Allah much." From this verse it is crystal clear that it is incumbent upon any Muslim worthy of that name to sincerely strive to know the path trodden by the Holy Prophet (saw) and he should try to follow it to the best of his ability. A Muslim who just follows tradition might be mistaken along the way. But the Muslim who seeks to know the Holy Prophet's path will never be frustrated because he or she is trying to do what Allah created him or her for. And Allah has said in the Holy Quran "*Wallazina Jaahadou fina lanahdiyannahoum sobolana*" meaning those who strive in our path we guide them to it". We make some efforts with good intention to tread the Holy Prophet's path as a good Muslim and Allah will do the rest. He admits us among those who follow the path of the Holy Prophet (saw).

These days every group of Muslims say that they are the true follows of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). We all know that words, declarations, claims are judged by actions. And we hear similar declarations from plenty of other *Jamaats* and groups. Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream also says the same thing. But it also has to be judged by its actions rather than by just its words. The caliph has spoken about the endless favours of Allah upon the Jamaat in his closing speech in Jalsa Salana Qadian last year. He mentioned instances where people are joining the Jamaat through dreams or programs that they listen to on MTA. There is no doubt that the arguments that Jamaat Ahmadiyya presents against the Godliness of Jesus are irrefutable. I have read that many Arab Muslims were at a loss upon the onslaught of the Christian priests on Islam through their Tv channel from Lebanon. It appears that they prayed for guidance and they eventually ended up tuning to MTA channel and they were greatly pleased and relieved when they heard how Ahmadiyya Scholars were refuting the beliefs of the Christians. Consequently these Arabs contacted the Jamaat through phones and they eventually joined the Jamaat. So

we will not deny that in this particular area the Jamaat has been doing really good work although there is still much to be done and much more could have been done.

In some of his recent Friday sermons the caliph has been speaking about the necessity for reform within the Jamaat. To paraphrase what he has been saying we would say that he seems to be at a loss to motivate Ahmadis to commit to the Islamic way of life. He said that some Ahmadis seem to think that by just doing their prayers and paying *chanda* they have fulfilled the objectives for which they joined the Jamaat initially. From what he says we can easily conclude without any fear of being mistaken that there are many Ahmadis Muslim who have not committed themselves to a life of self reform. The caliph says that there are many who take alcoholic drinks, many who play lotteries and other games of chances. Many women who work are quite regular in paying *chanda* but very negligent in observing *pardah*. He seems to lament the state of some members of the Jamaat. He is not the first caliph to do so. The second caliph also used to say even in the mid 1930s that some members of the Jamaat were like frogs living in ponds and they were not at all aware of what was going on around them and they appeared totally unconcerned. He also said that there were more than twenty thousand Ahmadis within the Jamaat in India then given to taking *houkkah* and they spent more money yearly feeding their vice than they paid *chanda*. Anyhow what we understand is that within the Jamaat the majority of the members do not seem to understand its real purpose. Many will live life as they think fit although they might just do what is needed to be deemed a member in the books. A majority will always fail to understand that they have to keep their reform agenda constantly in front of them if they are to be counted a true member of this Jamaat in the eyes of Allah and as described by Hazrat Masih Maood (as).

The fact is that doing what is peripheral is easy but doing what is essential is quite difficult. Let us see some example. Participating in *Alwassiyat* by giving at least one tenth of one's wealth to the Jamaat is not at all the hard part of the scheme. What is hard is following the basic teachings of Islam in your daily life. To Hazrat Masih Maood (as) it was the dedication to the teachings of Islam by following the example of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) in our daily life that is most essential and not the making of the will. If someone makes a will but does not care to follow Islam, his will amounts to nothing because he has misjudged his priorities. Now if someone does not make a will because he does not have the means to but strives to follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (saw), such a person will be amply rewarded by Allah. This example can be applied in many occasions to show the hollowness of those who contribute money but ignore basic Islamic teachings. One such example can be seen in Mauritius Jamaat. Recently many have been canvassed to join the *Alwassiyat* scheme as their passport to heaven. Many within the Jamaat have been eager to join although they ignore the rules for joining this scheme as explained by Hazrat Masih Maood (as).

What the caliph is lamenting about in his sermons is as present in the Mauritian Mainstream Ahmadiyya Jamaat as it is in other Jamaats around the world. Here in Mauritius we have those swindlers, game of chance players, wife cheaters, and husband cheaters, debt defaulters, money robbers, smokers, wine drinkers, Ponzi schemes organizers, etc who form part of the mainstream Jamaat. But these are the same people who take a great delight in applying social boycott on their brothers and sisters just because they have said "Allah is our Lord". They mistreat a group of people namely members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen just because the latter have accepted someone who says that he comes from Allah for the reform of Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream. Members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream who act in such unislamic manner are depicted in the Holy Quran thus:

“And they were the witness of what they did to the believers.

And they hated them not but only because they believed in Allah, the Almighty, and the Praiseworthy.

To whom belongs the Kingdom of the heavens and the earth; and Allah is witness over all things

Those who persecute the believing men and the believing women and then repent not, for them is, surely, the punishment of Hell and for them is the torment of heartburning” (85:8-11)

All mainstream Ahmadi members who have ignored Allah by participating in an unislamic boycott to please their caliph and amir should take some time and reflect on these verses. They have shown themselves to be more active in promoting vice rather than virtue and they should meditate what Allah has kept in store for them if they do not repent in time.

So my point is that as Ahmadi Muslims we should be committed to live the Islamic way of life as we understand it from the Holy Quran, the *Sunnah* of the Holy Prophet (saw) and also from the writings and pronouncements of Hazrat Masih Maood (as). And wherever there are differences about anything we should refer it back to Allah and His prophet (as) the Holy Quran says:

“O ye who believe! obey Allah, and obey *His* Messenger and those who are in authority among you. And if you differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to Allah and *His* Messenger if you are believers in Allah and the Last Day. That is best and most commendable in the end.”(4:60)

In fact we have had a difference with the leadership of mainstream Ahmadiyya Jamaat since almost 14 years now. We have always wished for a dialogue which has been rejected by the mainstream Jamaat and their response has been wild throughout. At no moment did they ever think that they should have followed the abovementioned verse of the Holy Quran in order to clarify matters. The consequence has been that the mainstream Jamaat has drifted away from the true teachings of the Promised Messiah and they have taken pride in doing so and they try to justify their ugly behavior with intellectual gymnastics. We learn from the teachings of the Promised Messiah that whenever the teachings and behavior of a Jamaat are corrupted Allah intervenes and raises someone whom He guides to propose and implement the necessary reforms. Usually such a person is sent as “a mercy for mankind” meaning that he comes for others’ benefit. His similarity is like a good swimmer who goes to rescue those who are drowning. He puts his life at risk to rescue others who are on the point of losing theirs. But what is the response of those who are drowning? They do not welcome him with open hands. Rather they try to take him down with them under water. Those who are drowning are unable to see how the rescuer’s coming will benefit them. Such is the case of all those who reject us. They would like us to adopt their teachings even though Allah has taught us that some of their deeds and beliefs are really bad. They would like us to follow them and lose the Guidance that Allah has provided for us and them. It is quite unfortunate.

When I was quite young, almost thirty five years ago I read the following revelation of the Promised Messiah “*Kouullo barakatin mim mohammadin sallallahu alayhe wassallam fatabaraka man allama wa ta’allam*”. We read its translation as follows: “**All blessings come from Mohammad (saw); blessed is he who taught and who has been taught**”. This was one of the revelations of the Promised Messiah which made a deep lasting impression upon me. Since then as I aged and several questions cropped up into my mind I always remembered this revelation and it helped to make me understand what should be

important in my life and what should not. It helped me to understand that I should make constant efforts to try to walk the path trodden by the Holy Prophet (saw). Although I am still at it I can say that I am happy that Allah drew my attention to this revelation. Later on a few times it was revealed to me so that I might never forget it. So developing the love of the Holy Prophet (saw) in our heart with the firm conviction that it is the gateway for enjoying all blessings of life has always been a cornerstone of my life. Let us hope that *incha* Allah, Allah will open our heart to the importance that He and the Holy Prophet (saw) should have in our life as a good Ahmadi Muslim should do. May we all turn out to be Muslims in the real sense of the word and not in words only . Ameen!