

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:

Differences of opinion amongst Muslims have been manifesting itself since the death of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) in 632AD. We have often heard the hadith where the Holy Prophet (saw) is reported to have said “A difference of opinion in my community is a blessing”. I will not question the authenticity of this hadith although there are some who question it. Suffice it to say that we take it as genuine because very often a difference of opinion helps to understand issues more clearly and helps to avoid what is commonly known as groupthink. So it means that sometimes we may have a difference of opinion with those who exercise authority and that does not mean that all of a sudden we become deadly enemies who want to kill each other. On the international level we are seeing these days how the difference of opinion that exists between Saudi Arabia which represents Sunni Islam and Iran which represents Shia Islam are manifesting themselves in very serious declarations and in proxy wars in the Middle East. When they do so all the enemies of Islam are quite happy because they know that they can break Muslim’s might by dividing the Muslims and make them fight one another. This has been going on for a long time in history. Muslims unfortunately are not yet ready to set aside their religious differences and collaborate politically to increase their international clout. It is a sad situation and there does not seem to be a solution in sight. There are 57 Muslim majority countries in the world out of the 194 countries that form part of the United Nations Organization. But very often we see that they do not see eye to eye on most matters. This is an unfortunate situation and we do not see any unity in action. On the contrary when we see what is going on in Syria, in Egypt and elsewhere we see that Muslim countries are still unable to offer concerted actions although they all say that they follow the Holy Quran and they stick to the teachings of Islam.

Last week the Americans published a report about religious intolerance in the world in 2013. Violence and discrimination against religious groups by governments and rival faiths have reached new highs in all regions of the world except the Americas, according to the Pew Research Center report. Social hostility such as attacks on minority faiths or pressure to conform to certain norms was strong in one-third of the 198 countries and territories surveyed in 2012, especially in the Middle East and North Africa. The Washington-based center, which is non-partisan and takes no policy position in its reports, gave no reason for the rises noted in hostility against Christians, Muslims, Jews and an “other” category including Sikhs, Bah’ais and atheists. It did not mention Ahmadis but we all know how much Ahmadis are persecuted in Pakistan and some other countries. Recently I read an article where an American politician was making an appeal to the government of Saudi Arabia who has imprisoned two Ahmadis for what they believe. Hindus, Buddhists and folk religions saw lower levels of hostility and little change in the past six years, according to the

report's extensive data. As some restrictive countries such as China, Indonesia, Russia and Egypt also have large populations, Pew estimated that 76 percent of the total global population faces some sort of official or informal restriction on their faith.

You will not at all be surprised to learn that the countries which show most intolerance in religious matters are Muslims despite the fact that there is a very specific verse in the Holy Quran which says "*Laa iqraha fiddeen*" meaning "there is no compulsion in religion."^(2:257). In fact the countries where there is most restrictions on others' religion are Egypt, China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia. Everyone says that Islam is the most tolerant of religions and its adherents are very peace loving. Yet one wonders how come that in practice we do not see this almost at all!

Such has been the case with those who have not accepted the promised Messiah who was sent as Hakaman wa adalan for all Muslims. Now let us see how those who say they represent him have been acting.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) came to teach Muslims to perfect their morals and to practice tolerant Islam that was practiced by the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). As Ahmadis Muslims who recognize him as the Promised Messiah and Mahdi we are duty bound to understand his teachings and practice the same way in our daily life. We all know how in 2001, the then fourth caliph, acting upon the report submitted to him by his then amir excommunicated us from the mainstream Jamaat while at the same time he predicted an evil end for us. We believed then and so is our belief today that the caliph did not act with Justice in this matter. Eventually within a short time he was replaced and the amir who thought that he was irreplaceable was also replaced in 2011 after being mercilessly humiliated. During this period of time, namely since the beginning of 2001 up till now most members of mainstream Jamaat Ahmadiyya have taken it upon themselves to vie with one another in frowning upon the members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen.

I have always maintained that all Ahmadis who have acted so have been wronging their own souls. They have done so by listening to their bigoted leaders and they have ignored Islamic teachings provided by Allah. Some of their propagandists said boycott exists in Islam and as true and good Muslims they were just practicing Islam. These are the same people who will not hesitate to indulge in public unislamic behaviors which are better left unsaid and yet they tell you they are practicing Islam by applying social boycott upon us. I have always maintained that most Ahmadis including their leaders do not know what is Islam or even Ahmadiyyat and that is why one can see such a paucity of the practice of real Islamic values within the Jamaat. The basis of the social boycott that has been applied in Mauritius is the following letter signed by the Vakil Ala Chaudri Hamidullah on 26 May, 2004. It says:

"With reference to my circular dated Feb 21, 2004, in which I have conveyed the following instruction of Hadrat Khalifatul Masih V aba that,

“Some members of the Jamaat invite those who have been penalized by the Jamaat in their social and other functions. This should never be done. Being on speaking terms is one thing, but to cultivate social relationship with them is quite another. Such people are not to be completely boycotted, but it is important to make them feel our displeasure, or else they will never come to realize their error. Not only are their contributions like Chanda, etc not accepted, they should not be invited to participate in social gatherings, so that they may feel remorse for their wrongdoing and repent and offer istighfaar.”

On the verification request of Amir Saheb UK Hudur aba has further instructed that,

“The office bearers of Jamaat and the Auxiliary Organization should immediately walk out of marriage ceremonies at which rites aba rituals as are against the spirit of Islam and Ahmadiyyat are practiced.”

At the end there is a request that these instructions should be passed on to all members of the Jamaat.

It is on the basis of this letter that for the past ten years most Mauritian mainstream Ahmadis have thrown Quranic instructions at their back and have blindly followed their worldly leaders in complete disregard of what Allah has said and what his prophet has practiced and what Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has taught us. From this letter some have understood that they should not say salaam to us. Some have understood that they should not invite us to wedding ceremonies. Some have understood that they should even boycott their sisters and brothers in marriage ceremonies. Some have understood that they should not read what we write. Some have understood that they should criticize us. In brief whatever harm was in their power to inflict they tried to inflict upon us. Recently we learned that some people of the mainstream Jamaat who have attended a marriage ceremony celebrated by us have been removed from their posts in the Jamaat. The Jamaat has misinterpreted the instructions given in this letter to vent their anger at us. Yet the office bearers were also instructed not to attend any ceremony where the rites and rituals were against the spirit of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. With their paucity of judgment they understood to mean where a member of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen was present! But according to reliable sources we understand that the top brass has attended ceremonies where there were singing with musical instruments and many Ahmadis go to watch movies in theatres. In addition to that they also understood that it is haram for them as good practicing Muslims not to pray the *Namaz Janaza* of anyone amongst us. We all know what they did when my father died in

2006. Specific instructions were apparently received for mainstream members not to attend the funeral prayer and so they did.

As far as we are concerned since long we knew that such instructions are not Islamic at all especially when we say we are Ahmadis. By overdoing the implementation of these instructions many Ahmadis gave vent to their hate which was buried deep in their heart and they completely ignored what Allah's commandments are in the Holy Quran. For those who are familiar with mainstream Ahmadiyya Jamaat's history the instruction to boycott was first established by the second caliph after the split of 1914 with Molvi Muhammad Ali's group, most commonly known as the Lahori party. With the passage of time in the 1930s the second caliph publicly announced that it has been his practice to read the Namaz Janaza of several of the members of the Lahori group. Amongst others he has cited the name of Khwaja Kamal uddin, Molvi Ahsan Amrohi and a few others. He said that even if these people did not recognize or accept his Khilafat and they had differences of opinion about a few fundamental matters yet when they died he read their Namaz Janaza. These days the ignorant ones take the second caliph as a Super Authority within Jamaat Ahmadiyya but yet they ignore his practice and his instructions when it does not suit them. He has even in his speeches cited the name of some persons who later moved to the Jamaat in Lahore and broke their *bai'at* with him but with whom he continued to have cordial relationship. Now remember that we are talking about what he said in the mid 1930s, which is almost 20 years after the split. He said that whenever he was asked whether an Ahmadi who was within his *bai'at* could pray behind a Lahori Imam, he always replied in the affirmative. He said it can be done but to him it was *makruh*, i.e something that is allowed but detestable.

Now if we put in perspective the behaviors of Ahmadis towards us, we can understand the gulf in deep religious knowledge of the second caliph and those who are leading the Jamaat these days. I have said it before and I say it again by mistreating us, members of the mainstream Jamaat have been harming their own souls. They were given instructions not to boycott us completely but they preferred a complete boycott. They were told they should misbehave towards us so that we might recognize our own errors. But by the Grace of Allah they are in error and we think that Allah has granted us the true guidance. They have used barbaric practices to alienate us. By Allah's Grace we followed in the footsteps of the Holy prophet (saw) and we have been properly guided despite all their nonsensical fatwas. Definitely we try to do more than 70 times *istighfaar* almost every day like our master Hazrat Muhammad (saw) not because we feel that we did anything wrong vis a vis the Mainstream Jamaat, but because we are conscious as human beings that we need these *istighfaar*.

Unfortunately members of the mainstream Jamaat in Mauritius think that they are doing good deeds by acting upon the instructions of their leaders. But in fact they are wronging their own souls and they do not know it. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) came forward with a mission to transform the world. Unfortunately there is much to be done in that field but

Ahmadis have been shooting themselves in the foot by following the instructions of their leaders instead of following true Quranic teachings which could change their perspectives and purify their souls. May Allah continue to shower His Mercy upon us and may those mainstream Ahmadis who have a conscience reflect upon what we are saying. Next week if Allah wills I will speak about an incident which is almost not known at all within the mainstream Jamaat.