

# FRIDAY SERMON

21<sup>st</sup> March 2014

After reciting the *Tashahhud*, the *Ta'uz* and the first chapter *Al Fatiha* of the Holy Quran, Imam Zafrullah Domun said:

As I said last week the Jamaat Ahmadiyya created by Hazrat Masih Maood (as) in 1889 under divine instructions is now 125 years old. It was on a Saturday that Hazrat Ahmad (as) started giving *bai'at* to all his disciples who had made the journey to Ludhiana on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1889. Since then many persons have become convinced of the truthfulness of the claims of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) and they have accepted him as the Promised Messiah and Mahdi. Exactly how many persons are in the Jamaat of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) these days is not at all known because no attempt is made to have a good count. But exaggerated claims of being in hundreds of millions have been proved to be thoroughly incorrect. Anyhow number is not at all important. In spiritual battles numbers are not important at all. Allah says in the Holy Quran "*Kam min fe'atin qalilatin ghlabat fe'atan kasitan beiznil lah*". The translation of part of this long verse is as follows: "But those who knew for certain that they would one day meet Allah said, "How many a small party has triumphed over a large party by Allah's command! And Allah is with the steadfast."(2:250). In order to bring change in the world Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has made it clear to all his disciples or followers that they have to adopt a set of beliefs and conduct that are in thorough conformity to the teachings of Islam. He condensed the essence of Islamic teachings in the form of the ten conditions of *bai'at*. Anyone who claims to be an Ahmadi Muslim should see to it that he understands these conditions of *bai'at* well and that he tries to mold his life according to them.

If each one amongst us would wonder what these conditions of *bai'at* are we will notice that none amongst us know them by heart although generally speaking we might be leading our life according to them. From time to time it is important for all of us to remind ourselves of these conditions of *bai'at* so that they might stay fresh in our mind and that we might be aware of them in such a way that they might act as guideposts to us in our daily life. I may tell you to refer to such and such websites or books to read them. But most amongst us would not do so. That is why I would like to quickly remind all of us these conditions of *bai'at* as Hazrat Masih Maood (as) spelt them. He said:

The one who wants to enter into an oath of allegiance (*bai'at*) shall solemnly promise:

1. That he shall abstain from associating any partner with Allah (Shirk) right up to the day when he shall be put into his tomb.
2. That he shall keep away from falsehood, adultery, ogling at women , debauchery, dissipation, cruelty, dishonesty, mischief and rebellion; and he will not allow himself to be carried away by his passions, however strong they may be.
3. That he shall regularly offer the five daily prayers in accordance with the commandments of Allah and the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him); and he shall try his best to be regular in offering the pre-dawn supererogatory prayers (Tahajud) and he shall send blessings (Darood) on the Holy Prophet Mohammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him); and he shall make it a daily routine to ask forgiveness for his sins, to remember the bounties of God with love in his heart and to praise and glorify Him.
4. That, under the impulse of any passion, he shall cause no harm whatsoever to the creatures of Allah in general, and to Muslims in particular, neither by his tongue nor by his hands nor by any other means.
5. That he shall remain faithful to Allah in all circumstances of life, in sorrow and in happiness, in adversity and in prosperity, in felicity and in misfortunes; and he shall under all circumstances remain resigned to the decree of Allah and keep himself ready to face all kinds of indignities and sufferings in His way and he shall never turn his back away in the face of any misfortune; on the contrary, he shall march forward.
6. That he shall refrain from following any un-Islamic custom and any lustful inclination, and he shall completely submit himself to the authority of the Holy Quran; and he shall make the Word of Allah and the Sayings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) be the guiding principles in every walks of his life.
7. That he shall entirely give up pride and vanity and he shall spend all the days of his life in humbleness as a weak creature, with cheerfulness, forbearance and meekness.
8. That he shall hold the faith, the honor of the faith, and the sympathy for Islam dearer to him than his own life, his wealth, his honor, his children and all his other dear ones.
9. That he shall keep himself busy in the service of Allah's creatures for Allah's sake only; and he shall try to benefit mankind to the best with his God-given abilities and favors.
10. That he shall enter into a bond of brotherhood with this humble servant of Allah, pledging obedience to me in everything good, for the sake of Allah, and remain faithful to it till the day of his death; and this brotherly bond will be of such a high standard that its likeness will not be found in any other worldly relationship and connection that may exist between a servant and a master.

Most probably there are many amongst us who have read these words many times over and there are many who might not have read them or are not at all keen to read them. In a nutshell, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has given us the essence of the teachings of Islam in these words. Each one amongst us should make it a duty that we do read and reflect upon these words as much as we can. I suggest that you read them at least once every week, or every month or every year. Whatever you do will be an increase on what you are presently doing. May Allah help each one amongst us to imbibe the true teachings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) and that we really become an example of Islamic teachings in action.

Members will note that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) made it very clear that an Ahmadi Muslim should never indulge in Shirk. This is an affirmation of the first article of faith where we should declare that there is no God (*ilaha*) but Allah. A Muslim has to believe

that there is only One God and that He has created this Universe and He is its master. Some people may make the claim that there is no God at all and that the Universe is self creating. But for an Ahmadi Muslim who has taken the Holy Quran as his guide Allah exists and there is no one who shares His Power. He is Unique. This is a fundamental belief of Islam and under all circumstances we should stick to it. Sometimes the trials of life may push us to think otherwise but in our heart of heart we should never associate anything or anyone with our Lord Allah. We should believe that He exists and we know of his existence by following His teachings that He has imparted to us through the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). These teachings have been revived in this age through Hazrat Masih Maood (as). It is quite unfortunate that within Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream in order to preserve the organization some people think that the caliph is, may Allah forbid, on par with Allah. They think that the caliph may impose on the Jamaat instructions that run contrary to the clear commandments of Allah. Anyhow that is another story. Let us read from Hazrat Masih Maood (as) about the Lord that he has presented to us. He says:

“It is a false and stinking notion that belief in the Unity of God can be achieved otherwise than through the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]; nor can man achieve salvation without it. How can there be faith in the Unity of God unless there is perfect certainty with regard to His existence? Be sure, therefore, that belief in the Unity of God can be achieved only through a Prophet, as our Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] convinced the atheists and pagans of Arabia of the existence of God Almighty by showing them thousands of heavenly signs. Up till today, the true and perfect followers of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] present those signs to the atheists. The truth is that till a person observes the living powers of the Living God, Satan does not depart from his heart, nor does true Unity enter into it, nor can he believe with certainty in the existence of God. This holy and perfect Unity is appreciated only through the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him].**[Haqiqat-ul-Wahi, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 22, pp. 120-121]**

Furthermore he adds:

“The Holy Qur'an comprises teachings which work towards endearing God. They exhibit His beauties and remind us of His beneficence, inasmuch as love is created either by the observation of beauty or by the remembrance of beneficence. The Qur'an teaches that by virtue of His excellences God is One, without associate. He suffers from no defect. He comprehends all good qualities and manifests all holy powers. He is the Originator of all creation and is the fountainhead of all grace. He is the Master of all recompense and everything returns to Him. He is near and yet far, and He is far and yet near. He is above all, but it cannot be said that there is someone below Him. He is more hidden than everything else is but it cannot be said that there is

something more manifest than Him. He is Self-Existing in His Being and everything is alive through Him. He is Self-Sustaining and everything is sustained by Him. He supports everything and there is nothing that supports Him. There is nothing that has come into being on its own, or can live without Him on its own. He comprehends everything, but it cannot be said what is the nature of that comprehension. He is the Light of everything in heaven and earth and every light has shone forth from His hand and is a reflection of His Being. He is the Providence of the universe. There is no soul that is not sustained by Him and exists by itself. No soul has any power which it has not obtained from Him and which exists by itself.

### **Two Kinds of Divine Mercy**

His mercy is of two kinds. One, which has been eternally manifested without being the result of any action on the part of anyone. For instance, heaven and earth, the sun, moon and planets, water, fire and air, and all the particles of the universe which were created for our comfort, and all those things that were needed by us, were provided before our coming into being. All this was done when we were not even present. No action had proceeded from us. Who can say that the sun was created on account of some action of his, or that the earth was created in consequence of some good action of his? This is the mercy which came into operation before the creation of man and is not the result of anyone's actions. The second kind of Divine mercy comes into operation in consequence of human action. This needs no illustration.” [Lecture Lahore, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 20, pp. 152-155]

As an Ahmadi Muslim it is our duty to establish a relationship with Allah. That is why we should pray daily and strive to do as many good deeds as possible. If at times we should advise others if we see that what they are doing will cause them harm, our duty above everything is to our own selves. Each one amongst us should understand what sins are and we should do our best to avoid them. Even if we have sinned we should not lose heart and think that we are condemned for ever. We need to understand that Allah forgives everything but Shirk. If we have sinned we should fall in prostration and beg for our forgiveness. May Allah help each one amongst us to be an Ahmadi Muslim as Hazrat Masih Maood (as) expected us to be.