

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:

Jamaat Ahmadiyya has been created for a group of Muslims who would distinguish themselves in their practice and service to Islam. After 125 years of existence this objective is far from being achieved. It is true that today there are more people who claim to have joined the Jamaat, yet there are still plenty of people who remain out of it. Even amongst those who have joined the Jamaat there are plenty who have not taken to heart the basic mission of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) to establish a relationship with Allah and to care for other human beings by being kind to them. Today after 125 years of existence it is unfortunate to note that the leadership of the Jamaat feels so much comfortable with the power that they yield over the minds of the masses that they can make them do whatever they like. Today unfortunately the leadership of the Jamaat has institutionalized hatred whereas its mission was to create love and peace amongst the people of all nations. Most people do not bother at all to try to understand what Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has really said and they do not care to get the necessary teachings that might help them to get rid of the bondage of sin and strive to achieve the purpose of their life. The truth of the matter is that as an Ahmadi-Muslim we should be concerned and strive to know what the real teachings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) are. It is our duty that we should try to read his books. Even our young ones should make a great effort in this field. We need knowledge to understand what should be the best behavior in all circumstances. So there is a need to go in search of that knowledge. The amount of this knowledge that is available today has never been available at any period in the past. So young and old alike should thank Allah for the availability of such spiritual literature and anyone can quench his thirst with them. I hope and pray that our younger ones will heed this advice of mine and they will try to make a study of everything that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has said. Today there are plenty of means to learn the Urdu language on the net. It is when you understand Urdu that you can truly assess what Hazrat Masih has said. So if you are young today you can set yourself a program of study to try to understand the language. Every day you might try to study for half an hour and within two or three months you will see that you can read some passages quite easily. Don't just lose your time chatting about futile matters. Put your time to good use and you will see how much your life will be enriched. I hope these advices of mine will not fall on deaf ears and there will be many who will set themselves to the task of trying to understand what Hazrat Ahmad (as) has said in his own words. Now I will read you some extracts from his writings:

“I exhort every Muslim to arise for the sake of Islam, for Islam is faced with great difficulties. Help it now, for it is poor. I have come for this purpose and God Almighty has bestowed the knowledge of the Qur'an on me and has disclosed to me the verities and realities of His Book and has given me miraculous signs, so come to

me and partake of these bounties. I swear by Him in Whose hand is my life that I have been sent by God Almighty. Was it not necessary that at the turn of this century, characterized by great disturbances and all-too-obvious catastrophes, a Reformer should appear putting forth his claim clearly? You will soon recognize me through my works. The path of everyone who came from God Almighty was obstructed by the lack of understanding exhibited by the scholars of his time. In the end, he was only recognized through his works, for a bitter tree does not bring forth sweet fruit and God does not bestow upon everyone the blessings that are reserved for the elect. O ye people, Islam has become very weak and is surrounded on all sides by enemies. More than three thousand objections have been raised against it. At such a time, exhibit your faith through active sympathy and be counted among the men of God. Peace be on him who follows the guidance.”

[Barakat-ud-Du'a, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 6, pp. 36-37]

If in the time of the Promised Messiah Islam was weak, one can just imagine what it is now. At the time of the Promised Messiah Turkey was the only great power but it was in decline. In India after the revolt of 1857 the power of Muslims was going down and down. The attacks of the Christians and the Hindus were being countered by the Promised Messiah and as we noted in a previous sermon even some prominent Muslims understood and recognized his contribution. Today there are about 57 Islamic countries and yet they cannot solve their problems and all of them declare that they follow the Holy Quran. Could there be a worst time for Islam? The enemies of Islam represented by the Western Governments are doing their best to disturb peace in Muslim countries. See what is happening in Egypt, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Libya. Thousands of people are being killed or have been killed yet there is no end in sight of any kind of solutions. Recently I read a report from America saying that the civil war in Syria will go on for almost 10 years more and there is no end in sight. Almost everywhere there are fighting going on in Muslim countries. Anyhow this is a long story. What I want to say in brief is that the world of Islam is even in more trouble today than it was a century ago and hence more in need of what the teachings of the Promised Messiah can offer. For your information I wish to tell you that on 23rd March the Ahmadiyya caliph read an 18 minute message on MTA in Arabic addressed to the Arab world. He informed them of the Promised Messiah's mission and his concern for the Arab world. The video is available on YouTube. You may watch it if you wish. Speaking about his mission Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has this to say:

“The reason for calling the Reformer of this age by the name of the Promised Messiah appears to be that his great task would be to put an end to the supremacy of Christianity and to repel the attacks of the Christians and to demolish their philosophy—which is opposed to the Holy Qur'an—with strong arguments and to convey to them fully the truth of Islam. The greatest calamity for Islam in this age consists of the philosophical attacks and religious criticism by the Christians, which cannot be repelled without Divine support. It was necessary that someone should come from God Almighty to combat them.” [A'ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 5, p. 341]

By the Grace of Allah, through very cogent arguments The Promised Messiah has completely destroyed the false beliefs of the Christians concerning the deification of Jesus and the false doctrines of Trinity. In India in the late 19th century when the Promised Messiah declared his divine mission many Muslims had embraced Christianity. But his explanations about the truthfulness of the Holy Quran and the mission of the Holy Prophet (saw) put a brake on the Christian activities in India. The Christians were backed by very powerful Empires of Europe and they had enormous resources at their disposal. Despite that argument-wise they were no match for what the Promised Messiah stood for. At that time the Promised Messiah declared that the intellectuals of Europe were abandoning Christianity and today after almost 125 years we see that his words have been proved to be true. In Europe so many Christians have abandoned their faith that the pope has had to initiate programs for the re-Christianization of Europe.

The Promised Messiah further said:

“Once you have proved that Jesus has joined the dead and have impressed this fact upon the hearts of the Christians, then do believe that that will be the day of the departure of the Christian faith from the world. Bear firmly in mind that so long as their god does not die, their religion will also not die, and it is futile to indulge in any other argument with them. Their doctrine stands on just one pillar, which is the belief that Jesus son of Mary is alive in heaven. Demolish this pillar and you will not find the Christian faith anywhere in the world. As God Almighty desires to crush this pillar and to establish His Unity in Europe and Asia, He has sent me and disclosed to me through His own revelation that Jesus son of Mary has died. His revelation is:

مسیح ابن مریم رسول اللہ فوت ہو چکا ہے اور اُس
 کے رنگ میں ہو کر وعدہ کے موافق تو آیا ہے
 و کان وعد اللہ مفعولاً۔ انت معی و انت علی
 الحق المبین۔ انت مصیبٌ و معینٌ للحق۔¹³

“The translation is: Jesus son of Mary, Messenger of Allah, has died and you have come in his place and his spirit according to God's promise, which was bound to be fulfilled. You are with Me and you have your stand upon truth and you are the helper and supporter of the truth.

In this book, I have established the death of Jesus_{as} and his having joined the dead with very strong arguments. I have established it as a clear fact that Jesus_{as} was never resurrected, nor taken up to heaven in his physical body, but died just as all other Prophets_{as} have died. He has left this world forever. He who worships Jesus_{as} should realize that he has died and has joined the company of the dead for all times to come. You should take advantage of this book for the support of the truth and should stand firm against the Christian clergy. This question should always be the subject of your

attention and you should have full trust that Jesus son of Mary^{as} has certainly joined the company of the dead” .[Izala-e-Auham, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 3, pp. 402-403]

The scandal about the abuses of the clergy within the Christian church has severely affected the moral ground on which Christianity used to sit. They have been shown to be unreliable and these days the Vatican is trying feverishly to find ways to reform the church because of these abuses and several other types of evils. As a faith Christianity does not have much to offer the world.

Speaking about his mission to strengthen faith he said:

“I have been sent to strengthen the faith and to prove the existence of God Almighty to the people, for their faith has become weak, and they take life after death no more seriously than a fable. The conduct of every person proclaims that he has not the faith and trust in God and in the hereafter as he has in the world and its ranks and its resources. Tongues profess a lot but the hearts are suffused with the love of the world. It is the same condition in which the Messiah had found the Jews. As a characteristic of the weakness of their faith, the moral condition of the Jews had deteriorated greatly, and love of God had become cold in their hearts. The same is true in my time. I have been sent so that truth and faith may be revived and righteousness may inspire the hearts. This is the purpose of my advent. I have been told that heaven will once more come near the earth after it had moved far away. These are the reforms that I have to bring about and these are the tasks for which I have been sent. [Kitab-ul-Bariyyah, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 13, pp. 291-294, footnote]

When we read these extracts we have to ask ourselves how far our faith in Allah is solid and how much faith we do have. Being in the reformed Jamaat of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) we should exhibit excellent behavior under all circumstances whether in private or in public. As a follower of Hazrat Ahmad (as) daily we should wonder whether we are following his teachings or not. If we are not we should worry about ourselves. We have recognized someone as having come from Allah. It is our duty to show through our behavior that we have understood his teachings and we are putting them into practice. May Allah help each one amongst us to be of the standard expected *incha* Allah.