

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:

These days we are speaking mostly about basic Islamic teachings. Sometimes during conversations we see that some amongst us are not well aware of what our basic teachings are. We say that we have recognized Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) as the Promised Messiah and Mahdi. Therefore it is our duty to make an effort to know what he has said and once we know we should cherish these teachings and strive to put them into practice. We all know that we do not come on earth by our own will and neither will we depart by our own will. In other words we may even say that living is imposed upon us and we should make the most of it with whatever endowments we have been given. To live is to accept the challenges that life throws at you. As a human being our task is to go through life struggling against all the trials that we may face.

We Ahmadi Muslims recognize Allah as our Creator. We know also that if we want to make the best of this life we should follow the guidance that He has been kind to give us through the Book that He revealed to His Prophet Mohammad (saw) and through the way that the Prophet has put these divine instructions into practice. As we all know the life of the prophet is an open book for us and we should do our best to mould our own life according to his. In this age when Allah sent the Promised Messiah to help all Muslims to understand the true teachings of Islam, it is our bounden duty to delve deep into what he has said and to spread his teachings in the world. You might recall that the Holy Prophet (saw) is reported to have said in his last sermon, among other things **“I leave behind me two things, the Qur'an and my example, the Sunna and if you follow these you will never go astray.”** Although there are many different versions of this hadith, yet the basic message is that he has left two things (*as thaqalain*) and if we hold fast to them we will never go astray. In order to hold fast to them we should first know what they say. Hence, there is a need to study with a view to understand and to put into practice.

There is no doubt that the Holy Quran is a book full of wisdom. It is the real Rope of Allah and not at all Khilafat as we so often hear. Besides Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has also told us that Allah has revealed to him *“Alkхайro koullouhou fihil Quran”* which means that all that is good is found in the Holy Quran. Hence the Holy Quran gives us the best teachings in all circumstances. This is a matter on which we all should reflect. If we think that there is another manmade book that can guide us throughout our life we would be mistaken. What the Holy Quran says is best. Every hadith that does not contradict the Holy Quran has to be accepted as we have been advised by the Promised Messiah when he said:

Regarding the Book and *Sunnah* as authorities, I believe that the **Book of Allah is to be preferred above all others**. If the purport of a *Hadith* is not opposed to the Book of Allah, it would be accepted as authoritative, but we will not accept an interpretation of a *Hadith* which is opposed to the clear text of the Holy Qur'an. So far as possible, we shall try to interpret a *Hadith* so that it should be in accord with the clear text of the Book of Allah, but if we come across a *Hadith* which is opposed to the text of the Holy Qur'an, and it cannot be interpreted in any other way, we would reject it as **spurious**, inasmuch as God, the Glorious, has said: "*Fa ba aye hadicin ba'adallahe wa ayaatehi you'menoune*"

In what discourse apart from Allah and His commandments will they believe? This means that if the Holy Qur'an is conclusive and positive about a matter and its meaning is clear, a believer should not accept a *Hadith* which is clearly opposed to it. To the same effect is the verse: "*Fa ba aye hadicin ba'dahou you'menoune*" According to these verses **a believer must accept the Book of Allah without condition and should accept a *Hadith* conditionally. This is my stand.**[Al-Haq, Mubahatha Ludhiana, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 4, pp. 11-12]

This extract makes it clear how we accept hadiths. To come back to the revelation I suggest that for the time being just think about the words of the revelation "everything that is good is found in the Holy Quran". Keep thinking about it when you go home, before you sleep, when you wake up tomorrow morning and keep reflecting on its meanings and what a call for action is found in these words. Then I hope you will come to understand that you should immediately start by reading a little of the Holy Quran everyday and start to absorb its meanings and start to practice what you learn. In time you will see that your life will be transformed and you will be starting to learn the true meaning of being alive.

As an Ahmadi Muslim we should lead a life which is different from that of others. Neither our girls nor our boys should treat the mixing with members of the opposite sex as a light matter. When you will treat it as a light matter your emotions will take over and all of a sudden you might see yourself being carried away on the waves of these emotions. Being without the experience of years you might make irreparable mistakes that might cost you dearly throughout your life hence it is better to be safe rather than sorry as the saying goes. Each Ahmadi Muslim is responsible for his or her own self and then he should concern himself with others. If mothers and fathers are themselves being negligent in upholding the Islamic values, children will just follow. So parents have to reform themselves and transmit their values to their children. This duty is incumbent upon each generation. Each group of parents has to start the process over again with their children. It is only in such a way that we can expect the values of Islam to be kept alive in the present and future generations. Under no circumstance should we allow our busy worldly schedule to make us show negligence in this important task. Unfortunately most of us do just that. But we need to reverse this trend if we want all our children to be better than us in all fields of life.

When we are young it is very difficult for us to understand why Islamic teachings are best. Since our knowledge and understanding are starting to develop it is difficult for us to understand all those restrictions that are imposed upon us. Slowly with the coming of years and more experience the wisdom of the restrictions start dawning upon us. It is

after many years that we come to realize that what Allah revealed to the Promised Messiah in the above quoted revelation is true. But Allah has made provisions for us not to go astray even when we are young by giving great importance to the obedience of our parents. Our Parents are more advanced in years than we are and they know more of life and they have greater experience and they are in a better position to know what is best for us. Most parents always wish for the best for their children. The bond that link children to their parents especially to their mother is most probably the strongest that exist. Parents will make all types of sacrifices so that their children might lead a better life than they have lived. They want their children to have what is best. Hence children are told since their young age to be obedient to their parents. Parents are expected naturally to be very loving to their children and hence there should not be any kind of abuse. Wherever these two ingredients, namely obedient children and loving parents are present, we see that children develop into fully functioning adults.

Our Jamaat, which is Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen, has been in existence for almost eleven years now. Our mission is to understand the teachings of the Promised Messiah in the best possible way and to conform our lives to those teachings. With the limited means at our disposal we are doing what we can. We were forced to create this Jamaat because we needed a legal framework to be able to function as a Jamaat. We subscribe fully to the teachings of the Promised Messiah as best as we have understood them. The fourth caliph wished us ill and there are many within the Jamaat in Mauritius and elsewhere who would be very pleased should an evil fall upon us. When once someone spoke evil to me Allah revealed to me “*wa yatarabbeso bekomoud dawa’ir Alayhim daa’iratous saw*” meaning “they wait for calamities to befall you. On themselves shall fall an evil calamity”. Personally by the Grace of Allah I do not wish for evil to touch anyone. On the contrary if I can help to remove evil I will do my best to do so. Allah wished to elevate the Ahmadi Muslims of Mauritius. He tried them by sending them people from Himself. But most failed to recognize Allah’s Favours. Instead of rendering thanks to Allah for His Favours they rejected Allah’s signs. Most did not have any understanding of the original teachings of the Promised Messiah. They had been listening to missionaries throughout their history and they wished to continue to do the same thing. Missionaries are formatted to think in a certain way and they are not at all given to the pursuit of truth. So any line of reasoning which does not tally with the format that they peddle around is to be rejected. They are the defenders of the status quo and they threaten the people with dire consequences as their caliphs do if they are not obeyed. Hence the people stay within the prison of their thoughts and they cannot see the light which comes from the outside. Through threats and blackmail the Jamaat has been able to keep at bay a large section of the Jamaat from us and they have not been able to understand what we really stand for as you who are with us do. Jamaat Ahmadiyya needs to be reformed and it is not the caliph that will bring about this reform. The leadership has perverted the teachings of the Promised Messiah and we need to let the world know about it.

It is now more than thirteen years since we have been expelled from mainstream Jamaat Ahmadiyya. They thought that we were going to be drowned but Allah has rescued us. They wished us evil but it was they who knew evil over evil. Their amir thought he was within an impregnable fort. Allah removed the ground under his feet and he was removed from his office with humiliation. These days like a true politician he is trying to make a comeback. The missionary tried to raise the people against us by sending us Mobahela letters. Out of 3000 Ahmadis he could find only five to send us his stupid letter. The one who represented all of them according to their amir has been recalled back to Allah. The new amir tries to intensify his campaign of hate and intimidation and it backfired on him. People defy him and they attend our social functions. He retaliates by forcing these innocent and courageous souls to give up their posts within the Jamaat. To paraphrase a famous author we might ask "Has Jamaat Ahmadiyya been created for such infamous acts?" Jamaat Ahmadiyya was created in the first place to rescue people and not to inflict any kind of pain on them. The Promised Messiah was a rescuer. Those who declare that they represent him perpetrate evil in his name. It is an unfortunate situation. Allah has created our Jamaat to show to the world that there are still people who understand what Hazrat Masih Maood (as) really said and they know how to practice his teachings. This is why I make an appeal to all our young ones that they strive to understand our teachings in the best possible way and that they cultivate Allah's fear in their hearts so that they might never do anything that might shame us. As best as we can we are trying to serve Allah's religion. It is the duty of our young ones that they should build on what we have done and that no action of theirs will pull down the building. Personally I pray for you all that Allah puts the light of Islam in your heart, that Allah grants each one amongst us the wisdom, the understanding that will help us to make a good difference in the world *incha* Allah.