

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:

Recently I read an extract from the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) which I had never read before. Although the subject matter is not new but the way that the text has been written is quite interesting. He says:

“Speak truly, do you fear to sin and do you stay away from all those things that are against *Taqwa* as much as a person would fear using a deadly poison?

Speak truly, have you reached that stage of *Taqwa* which has been described in the Holy Quran?

Speak truly, do you have in you those signs that manifest themselves after obtaining true certainty?

At this time you should speak the truth and you should not lie and say if you have in you the love of Allah that you should truly manifest or that you do show in His Path the sincerity and firmness that is expected of you?

Can you take an oath in the name of Allah and declare that you have purified yourself from this dead world as you should have? Can you also say that you have manifested the sincerity, the unicity and uniqueness with which you should have run to Allah, the One who has no associate?

Do not speak with hypocrisy and do not wish to please people with boasting because Allah exists in fact and hears each of your words and sees each of your actions. When you speak think of this Powerful God whose anger is a fire that can consume you and who can make false braggarts in an instant the fuel of hell.

So say it truly; are you not entangled with the desires, love and wealth and provisions of this world or not? So if you really had certainty about Allah you would never have taken this poison. And the world would have died of this poison had Allah not established this Jamaat.”

(Nozoule Masih - Rohani Khazaain Vol 18 pages 471-2)

In this extract, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) is talking to all those who declare themselves to be Muslims. He wants each one of us to examine our thoughts and our actions by asking ourselves the abovementioned questions. Try the exercise and you will see how many Muslims fail this test. Most of us think that it is easy to be a Muslim. But the truth is that it is not easy at all unless you are ready to accept a certain type of death over your desires. It is only when you have accepted this death voluntarily that you will be given a life in which you will live for Allah only. Most Muslims think that they are doing quite well as a Muslim and that Allah has declared us to be “the best people for the guidance of mankind.” Hence we are the leaders and others should just follow us. But this is far from the truth. Each one amongst us should understand that we have a lot of work to do with the purification of our own selves if we really want to be amongst the inheritors of Paradise. Each one amongst us should examine his or her conscience and keep asking himself whether he or she is on the right track or not. Asking Allah to forgive our sins should be a daily practice for each one of us. If we learn from the Hadith that the Holy Prophet (saw) did *istaghfaar* more than seventy times per day, just imagine in what measure sinners like us are in need of it.

Again I advise you all to make this habit a permanent feature of your life. In the conditions of bai'at also we have vouched that we would be doing *istighfaar* daily. So we should cultivate this habit. And while we are engaged in saying *astaghferoullah* meaning "I seek forgiveness from Allah" we should also review all the sins that we have committed and are ashamed of. Such thoughts will create a sense of humility in ourselves and with a repentant heart we will turn to Allah and beseech forgiveness. We learn from the hadith that the Holy Prophet (saw) has recommended us to say *astaghferoullah* at least after each *Farz* prayer. Those who are conscious of their wrong doings seek forgiveness of Allah many times during the day or the night. Those who commit sins but are careless do not care to ask Allah for forgiveness because they do not have a certainty in the existence of Allah despite the fact that they say they are Muslims. So they go on committing sins.

By the end of the extract that we have read above Hazrat Masih Maood (as) says that the whole world would have become the fuel of hell had Allah not created Jamaat Ahmadiyya. He means by this that the teachings that he has imparted to the world would be sufficient in themselves to save all those who follow them not to become the fuel of the fire of hell. Hence only those people who take to heart those teachings that the Promised Messiah has given and strive in their daily lives to practice them could be saved. The Promised Messiah's teachings are nothing but the teachings of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). The Promised Messiah did not bring any new teachings. He came to show the world the true teachings of Islam which had been abandoned with the passage of time. He came for an Islamic revival through the spread of the true teachings of Islam. He came to show men how to live with their fellow human brothers and sisters and also to show them to establish their relationship with Allah. It is our duty as members of his Jamaat to uphold and spread these teachings around the world. Furthermore the Promised Messiah said:

"I have been commanded to nurture the moral qualities of people. Since all this endeavour possesses a Messianic character, God Almighty has named me the Promised Messiah. Having proclaimed this, I realize that the Christians would also oppose me. But how can I be afraid of opposition when I have been commissioned by God! If I had forged this claim, even slight opposition would have vanquished me. But I have not put forward this claim on my own. I am ready to explain my claim to any right-minded person and to use all lawful and recognized means to satisfy him. I speak the truth that this is the age in which Muslims, according to their belief, and Christians, according to their ideology, were waiting for someone to come. This is the promised time. He who had to come has come, whether anyone accepts him or not. God Almighty always manifests mighty signs in support of those whom He sends to the world. He inclines the hearts so that they should accept him. Whatever had been divinely determined in respect of the Promised Messiah has come to pass. Whether anyone believes or not, the Promised Messiah has arrived, and I am he."

[Malfuzat, vol, 2, p. 285]

He says that he has been commanded to nurture people's moral qualities. The holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) is reported to have said "I have been raised to perfect people's morals" In his book written with special help from Allah Hazrat Masih has explained in detail how the perfection of morals take place, Any Ahmadi Muslim worthy of the name should make it his or her duty to study this book. As you might know I am speaking of the book "The philosophy of the teachings of Islam". Once you engage in its study it is also important to discuss it with your immediate circle of friends in order to deepen your understanding of its contents. More than one third of the book is devoted to the need for acquisition of good morals and how one should go about it. People join the

Jamaat not just to become a member. If that is the aim it is useless. People should join the Jamaat because they want to transform themselves. They should aim at developing their soul so that they get rid of their animal nature and become true moral beings, that is, those people who can distinguish between right and wrong. Once they become moral beings they should aim at becoming spiritual ones .Only spiritual beings can really answer “yes” to all the questions that had been posed by the Promised Messiah in the extract that we quoted in the beginning. And they are a rare breed whereas, in fact, each Ahmadi Muslim should have been one. The words of the Promised Messiah are quite profound. One should meditate over them if one wishes to truly understand them.

Speaking about his appointment as a reformer he said:

“I have no wish to be worshipped as an idol. I desire only the Glory of God, Who has commissioned me. He who looks upon me with disrespect dishonours God Who has appointed me. He who accepts me, accepts God Who has sent me. Nothing can be better for a person than to tread the path of righteousness, and not to hasten to deny him who claims to have been appointed by God for the revival of the faith at the turn of the century. A righteous person can understand that at the turn of the fourteenth century, in which thousands of objections have been raised against Islam from all sides, a Reformer was needed to prove the truth of Islam. This Reformer has been named Messiah, Son of Mary, because he has come to break the cross. God desires that as in the ancient days He delivered the Messiah from the cross of the Jews, He should now deliver him from the cross of the Christians as well. As the Christians have been guilty of great imposture in deifying a human being, the honour of God demanded that one bearing the name of Messiah should be appointed to demolish this imposture. This is God’s doing though it appears strange to the eyes of these people.

[Anjam-e-Atham, Ruhani Khaza’in, vol. 11, pp. 320-321]

Hazrat Masih Maood (as) made it clear that he had no desire for self aggrandizement. He was doing only what Allah asked Him to do. In addition he was looking only for the Glory of Allah in the work that he was doing. Allah’s glory should prevail in the world. Christians have distorted Allah’s glory by inventing doctrines that associate others with Him. The Promised Messiah’s task was to destroy the Christian distortion and show Allah and the prophet Isa to the world as they truly were. For those who are familiar with his teachings and explanations he definitely proved that the teachings of present day Christianity were not those of the first Messiah. Lovers of truth will always appreciate what the Promised Messiah taught and they will always be inspired and motivated by all his writings. That is why I say that each Ahmadi Muslim who loves truth should make an effort to understand what the Promised Messiah has truly said. Once he knows what he said he would be able to judge whether the present day leaders of the Ahmadiyya community’s words and deeds are in conformity to his.

Speaking about why it is important to accept him, the Promised Messiah said:

As I am the Promised Messiah and God has openly manifested heavenly signs in my support, everyone who in, the estimation of God, has been sufficiently warned regarding my advent as the Promised Messiah and has become aware of my claim will be accountable to God, for no one can turn away with impunity from those who have been sent by Him. This sin is not against me but against the Holy Prophet (saw) for whose support I have been sent. He who does not accept me, disobeys not me but him (saw) who had prophesied my coming. I hold the same belief with regard to believing in the Holy

Prophet (saw) as well. He who has heard the call of the Holy Prophet(saw) and has been made aware of his advent and who, in the estimation of God, has been sufficiently apprised of his Prophethood, if such a one dies a disbeliever he would be condemned to eternal perdition.

[Haqiqat-ul-Wahi, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol.22, pp. 184-185]

In this world where everyone appears to be more concerned with only the life of this world we should care also for the religion of Allah. We should uphold what is true in all circumstances even if the truth might be against us. We should care for what we have understood from the Promised Messiah and from Allah and should lead a life devoted Allah and service to mankind. May Allah help us to do so *incha* Allah.