

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:

Last week I spoke about faith. Today I would like to quote from an extract of the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) about what we should believe in. This extract has been published before and has been spoken about but we need to remind because people are used to forget. This extract will be of course from Noah's Ark (*Kishti Nuh*). This is a very important book for everyone who calls himself an Ahmadi Muslim. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has said that there are at least two books that each Ahmadi Muslim should read in his lifetime and Noah's Ark is one of them. The other one is *Tazkeratous Shahadatain* in which he related in details the martyrdom of Sahibzada Abdul Latif of Afghanistan. He says:

“Relevant to a proper observance of my teaching it is essential that one should firmly believe that there is an all-Powerful, all-Sustaining Supreme Being, the Creator of everything, Changeless, Everlasting and Eternal. He does not beget, nor was He begotten. He is Holy, so that there is no need or occasion for Him to go on the Cross, or suffer in any way, or be subject to death. He is such that being far removed, He is still very near; and being very near, He is still very far. Although He is One, and absolutely unique, His manifestations are diverse and multifarious. Whenever there occurs in man a new change, for the changed man He becomes .a new God, dealing with him on the basis of a fresh manifestation, the man witnessing a change in God in proportion to the change in himself not that there occurs any change in God, He being Eternal, Changeless and most Perfect in Himself; but with every change in man for the better, God also reveals Himself to him in a fresh and clearer manifestation. *With* every progressive effort on part of man God also shows Himself with higher and more powerful manifestation. He displays extraordinary manifestation of His power and glory only, when man shows an extraordinary change in himself-this being the root and the bedrock basis of the marvels and miracles witnessed at the hands of all servants God, these powers, is the foremost essential condition of our Movement. Inculcate this belief in your hearts, giving to its implications and requirements the first and top most priority over all considerations of self, over its comforts and relationships. By means of actions in the field of your daily life, with unflinching courage, show a steadfast loyalty in His way. Others in this world do not give Him preference over material means and the support they hope to get from their friends and relations. But do you give him the first place, so that in heaven you should come to be reckoned His people.”

Here we will pause for an instant to add some comments of our own to make the text more understandable to the common reader. In a nutshell Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has described the God that we should believe in. Above everything He is All Powerful. There is no power on earth

or in the heavens which can match Allah's Power. In fact our mind cannot imagine the true Power of our Lord. We just can have an idea. The One who truly knows Allah's Power is Allah Himself. However for us it is sufficient that we should conceive Him to be All Powerful. Whenever we are in need of something or we are in a predicament or we find ourselves in a tight corner or we are ill or we are in debt or we are without a job and we are in need, we should know in our heart of heart that there is a Being who has created us and He is Allah, all Powerful and He can grant our needs and solve our problems if He so wishes. We should also be fully confident that if we pray to Him and ask Him for His Help in full sincerity He will grant us that Help because in several places in the Holy Quran He has promised that He rescues the believers from their problems or their distresses. The Holy Quran speaks of the four main attributes of Allah in Sura *Al Fatiha*. These attributes are "Lord of all the worlds" (*Rabbil Aalameen*), The Gracious (*Al Rahman*), The Merciful (*Al Raheem*) and Master of the day of Judgement (*Maalike yaumid deen*). These are known as the mother of attributes. From them all other attributes of Allah are derived. In fact there are some 99 other attributes of Allah that have been mentioned in the Holy Quran and the books of Ahadith. But what we have seen mentioned are not all the attributes of Allah, Only Allah knows their number, if there is any other of His Attributes.

We should also remember that this God is the same that created Hazrat Adam (as), Hazrat Nuh (as), Hazrat Ibrahim (as), Hazrat Musa (as) and Hazrat Isa (as) and all the 124 thousands prophets including Hazrat Mohammad (saw). The God that they worshipped is the same that we worship. That Allah is One and there is no other One like Him. In fact our connection with all these personages of the past is that we worship the same God. That Allah is not subject to change or to growth or to decay like all other created things that we see on earth or in the heavens. He does not depend on anyone. All depend on Him. He has created man so that man might know Him. In a famous hadith *Qudsi* it is said that Allah said "I was a hidden treasure; I desired to be known and I created Adam". The Adam spoken here is understood to be the first person who to whom Allah spoke. Through Him Allah sent His initial guidance for human beings. From then on each human who accepted Allah's guidance was properly directed until Allah' guidance was completed in the person of the Holy prophet (saw) with the Holy Quran. Since the time of the Holy Prophet (saw) people are put in contact with Allah through following the teachings of the Holy Quran. The Holy Quran gives us a good insight in the Being we call Allah through the many attributes of His that it has explained.

Although Allah is unique yet His Manifestations are many. If we only take the earth which is only a speck in the vast expanse of the Universe we are left speechless. Discoveries about how it was formed, what it contains are still being made. Recently I read an article in which it was said that scientists have estimated that there are around Eight million, seven hundred and four thousand species that share this planet excluding bacteria and other simple organisms. This is only an estimate. It may be somewhat more or somewhat less but this is the best estimate that has been made up till now. Up till now about Eighty-six percent of all land-dwelling species and 91 percent in the water have yet to be discovered and cataloged by science. It appears that animals are preponderant with about 7.77 million species of which 953,434 have been described and cataloged. Of plants they estimate that there are about 298,000 species (of which 215,644 have been described and cataloged). Concerning Fungi they estimate there are about 611,000 species of which 43,271 have been described and cataloged. There is another group known as Protozoa

which are single-cell organisms with animal-like behavior, such as movement and they estimate this group to contain about 36,400 species of which 8,118 have been described and cataloged. Another group is known as Chromists. They estimate their number to be around 27,500 species and they include brown algae, diatoms, water molds, and only 13,033 have been described and catalogued. One can have more details about this matter at many places on the net. The point that I am trying to make is that although Allah is one yet we see His creation to be multifarious as Hazrat Masih said. For the time being we are not speaking about all the elements and gases or about the vastness of space and its contents. To us when we say that Allah is the *Rabb* all these ideas about what He created may come to mind and at the same time we should acknowledge that man has still not explored all that had to be known. In fact man cannot and will never be able to fathom all that Allah has created because despite all the technology that man can muster his knowledge is still quite a little concerning Allah and His Creation.

Then Hazrat Masih tells us that it is in proportion to the change that we bring in our own selves with the help of Allah that we witness a change in our perception of Allah. As an Ahmadi Muslim it is important for each one amongst us to strive to embark as early as possible on a program of self transformation if we fully want to realize why we are a member of the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah. Such a program will help us to kill all animal tendencies in us and make us moral beings who understand what is right and what is wrong and eventually make us spiritual beings and become ready for life after death. Allah has given each person freewill and reasoning power. We use both to take our own path. Some will be led to hell and others to paradise depending upon the choices they make. In Allah's plan He caters for the needs of human beings by sending them from time to time some of His servants who may guide others to the path that will take them to Paradise or will help them to better understand the path that needs to be taken. This is a Favor from Allah and He gives it to whomsoever He pleases.

Hazrat Masih expected each Ahmadi Muslim who would join his Jamaat to understand this fundamental point that he should strive to connect with Allah. In fact by joining the Jamaat one is expressing one's commitment to live the teachings given in one's daily life so that one may journey towards Allah. Most people in the world are committed to worldly gains. But an Ahmadi Muslim should have his eyes on Allah. His ultimate destination is Allah. He should know from the start that his life will end with Allah and he should be ever prepared for this face to face meeting. I remember this quite well that Hazrat Masih has written somewhere else that Allah has made it very clear to him that He controls the ins and outs of this universe although people may believe it or not. It is a fact. That is why we see that repeatedly in his writings and discourse Hazrat Masih has laid a great emphasis upon all of us to strive to establish that contact with Allah. This is our lifetime mission and it is accomplished on a day to day basis. If we give Allah the greatest importance in this life He will look after us here and in the hereafter we would be considered to be among His People. This is what he is telling us in the extract that I have just read.

When we read the history of the prophets, when we read the history of Islam, when we read the history of the noble companions, when we read the history of several pious men who have appeared in Islam during the past 14 centuries and when we read the history of the Promised Messiah and his companions we can easily see that those who have given preference to Allah have always been well provided for by Allah. They all might have seen difficult circumstances in

the beginning, but in the end they were triumphant over their opponents. Allah has never and will never abandon those who are with Him. If you examine the trials that that mainstream Jamaat Ahmadiyya has been going through in Mauritius and elsewhere, you will easily know that once innocent, God Loving people have been expelled from the Jamaat Allah extended His Hand to welcome them in His fold. Many have been bragging that they have *khilafat* and they cannot be touched. Allah returned all their evils on their own head. A large group has been put to trial because of a small group and that large group had nothing to show for its credibility except its material wealth and its numbers compared to the small group. They have trampled the teachings of the Promised Messiah under their feet and they have shown how they have not been following his teachings. They preferred following their low desires thus showing that their belonging to the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah did not avail them at all. Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream in Mauritius and particularly its leadership has shown by their example they are not at all sincere in their declaration of obedience to the teachings of the Promised Messiah. May Allah give all of us in Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen the courage and the determination to stay firm in the path of Allah and may we all win His pleasure in this world and in the next.