

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 we spoke about the discrepancy that exists between Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream's words and its actions. We explained with copious quotations from the present caliph that there is a widening gulf between what he preaches in public and what he counsels his people to do in private official letters. When we read Hazrat Masih Maood (as) we understand that among his true and sincere followers there should be a perfect harmony between what is preached and what is practiced. Unfortunately these days the leadership of Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream has proved by words and by deeds that they are not following the Promised Messiah (as) but their own low desires. For a Jamaat that proclaims that it exists to reform Islam and to accomplish the tasks entrusted to the Promised Messiah, namely to spread love and justice and peace in the world, we see that present day mainstream Jamaat Ahmadiyya is far off the standard of behavior expected by the Promised Messiah. With unislamic policies established by the caliph and zealously executed by his ignorant followers we see more hatred and injustice within the Ahmadiyya community than elsewhere. These days Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream cannot claim any high moral ground because it has failed to follow the teachings of Islam, of the Holy Prophet (saw) and of the Promised Messiah (as) as was expected of it. It is a sad state of affairs and we can only pray that Allah intervenes to make the leaders realize their folly before it is too late.

When we look back in History we learn that the two main groups of Muslims are the Sunnis and the Shias. From the death of the Holy Prophet (saw) in 632 CE until the death of Hazrat Ali around in 661 C.E, there was only one community. With the death of Hazrat Ali and in 680AD that of Imam Hussein slowly those people who were related with him and the family of the Holy Prophet started showing great respect for the family of the Holy Prophet, namely to Hazrat Fatima, Hazrat Ali , Imam Hassan and eventually Imam Hussein. With the passing of years some even started saying that the Holy Prophet (saw) had designated Ali as his successor but his rights were usurped and then Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique became caliph. However we all know that Hazrat Ali never said any such thing. He accepted the caliphate of the three elders namely, Abu Bakr, Omar and Usmaan and he even helped them with his advice. The majority of Muslims sided with history as it unfolded and they rejected those who said that it was Ali who should have been caliph. Eventually there was a division within the Islamic community and the majority will be known as Sunnis and the minority will be known as Shias. Since that time until today these two groups are fighting it out. So amongst Muslims for about fourteen centuries two groups of Muslims speak ill of each other and they try to destroy one another. In Pakistan the fighting has been going on since its creation. In the Middle East television channels and governments are continuing the fight. Recently I heard a report on what is going on over there between these two groups and what kind of language they use against each other and I could not understand how a Muslim who believes in the Holy Quran and loves the Holy Prophet can say such things to a fellow Muslim. On the pulpit they curse one another whereas we all know that the Holy Prophet (saw) forbade a Muslim to curse another Muslim. Civilized people do not perpetuate differences. Civilized people schooled by the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) know how to narrow differences so that people can live in

harmony with one another. Or at least they accept to live in peace and harmony despite the differences.

In Christianity also there have been differences and the community was split between Catholics and Protestants in the sixteenth century. We are all aware that for at least hundred years the two groups have been at each other's throat around Europe and many people died and their properties were looted. But eventually some people came forward with new ways of thinking and they understood that they should learn to live amicably despite their differences. This ushered in the Renaissance in Europe and eventually the Enlightenment.

Unfortunately within Islam we do not see this at all. At least not yet. Allah sent the Promised Messiah with the mission of reforming Islam and He gave him a Jamaat. Now due to some manifestations from Allah, some people have been telling the leadership of the Jamaat that they have deviated from the teachings received. Should the Jamaat use its might to cause harm or to bring people together to find agreement? Should not the mainstream Jamaat humbly think that since these divine manifestations are not happening amongst them there might be something wrong with them? Should they not be asking themselves if they might have made a mistake in understanding "what is Khilafat" indeed? The fact that the mainstream Jamaat tries to boycott these people and stifle their voice means that the Jamaat is on the defensive and cannot counter the arguments being presented. Had it been in a position to counter the arguments of the new claimants it would have done so. But the caliph and all his missionaries are miserably failing in this task. They do not counter the arguments because they know that they have been saying many things which are contrary to what the Promised Messiah has said. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has always advised us to seek what is true. This quest for truth should be the basic concern of each Ahmadi Muslim. We cannot just be a passive Ahmadi who does not make the personal effort needed to be an active member of the Jamaat not just in *Tabligh* (to increase our numbers) or just in financial sacrifices (to increase the Jamaat's wealth) but particularly in fear of Allah to save our soul. No one will save our soul for us. Each one has to make his personal efforts relying on the Help of Allah because each one will be alone when the time of questioning will come. Most of us are very negligent of that hour and we should not be. The Holy Quran is replete with verses reminding us of Allah and why we should cultivate His Fear in our heart. We should make it our duty to read it regularly and be guided accordingly. These days there are plenty of Holy Qurans available. But it does not appear that there are many who make the necessary efforts to read and understand it. *Ḥaḍrat Ḥakīm Maulānā Nūrud-Dīn* used to relate that there was an elderly lady who was very pious. He used to visit her from time to time. Once he asked her, "Dear Lady, tell me if you need anything. I will get it for you." She said, "Son, I am in quite a comfort. I do not need anything." He used to say that he insisted, "You must need something." But each time she said, "I am comfortable. Every peace is here. There is no inconvenience." Then she elaborated, "We are a son and a mother only. Allah sends us two loaves of bread, morning and evening. I eat one and my son eats the other. We go to sleep on the same bed because we have only one blanket. When my side gets cold, I ask him to change side and he complies. So, that side too becomes warm. After a short while, when his side gets cold, he asks me to change my side, and I change my side, and he becomes comfortable. Therefore, we do not need anything."

He used to relate that when he asked her persistently, "please, let me know if you need anything'." She said, "Due to my advanced age, my eyesight has become weak, and I cannot read comfortably the copy of the Qur'ān I have because of the small writing. So, if you have to give me something, give me a copy of the Qur'ān printed in large font so that I may read it easily." For some people

the physical comforts of life are not that important. They understand the importance of reading the Holy Quran and they love reading it. It provides them with greater comfort. This is a small story but it has lessons for all of us.

On the need to strive for good understanding of religion Hazrat Masih Maood (as) tells us:

“If a believer does not strive for progress he falls. So, the one who is lucky is he who makes constant efforts to understand his religion. No one greater than the Holy Prophet (saw) has ever lived, yet he was taught to pray “*Rabbi zidni ilma*” meaning “ O my Lord grant me increase in knowledge”(20:115). So who can be content with the knowledge that he has and does not feel the need for future progress? As a man gradually progresses in his knowledge and wisdom he would come to know that there are plenty of things that need to be understood.”(*Malfoozaat* Vol 2 p141-2)

No one can say that he has absolute knowledge. It is important to be open-minded and to seek more knowledge. Here particularly the Promised Messiah is speaking about knowledge of religion. There is a need to discuss with others and to share views. It helps to clarify thoughts. But unfortunately within Ahmadiyya Jamaat not much discussion about religion is allowed. Here we are fed through only one mouthpiece and he is the caliph. Whatever he says is right even when he is wrong. The idea of the infallibility of the caliph has been developed to such an extent that is not at all sanctioned in Islam. Everyone is in need of knowledge however learned he might be. The Promised Messiah further said:

“The truth is that as long as man does not think about something open-mindedly and does not concentrate on all aspects and does not listen with attention he cannot free himself from his old ways of thinking. This is why as soon as a man hears something new he should not start opposing it. It is his duty to think about all its aspects with due reflection; then with justice and honesty and above all with Allah’s fear in his heart he should think about this matter in solitude”.
.”[*Malfoozaat* Vol. 4 P 1-2]

So we see that Hazrat masih Maood (as) has given us all the necessary knowledge and advices that we needed in his absence so that we might not go astray. Mainstream Jamaat also is well aware of these teachings. But mainstream Ahmadiyya Jamaat, out of hatred and spite which it should not have nourished, ignore these teachings in order to harm those who do agree with them. We have always been telling mainstream Ahmadiyya Muslims that they are not following the teachings of Allah and of the Holy Prophet (saw). Today by an unfortunate twist of fortune mainstream Ahmadiyya leadership and its followers have deviated from the true teachings of Islam and that is why they need to be reminded of them and that is why Allah sends them His People to remind them of what they are forgetting.

Many times we hear that Islam is a very tolerant religion. In fact its teachings do promote peace and justice. In the past, especially during the time of the early caliphate there are plenty of examples of Islamic justice and tolerance in action. Jamaat Ahmadiyya has been created to be the standard bearer of these values. But we have seen through the treatment meted out to its dissidents within the Jamaat that the Jamaat does not live up to these Islamic ideals. During the golden Islamic period in the ninth century Christians, Jews and Muslims worked and lived together in Baghdad and Spain. The chemistry that existed between these different people brought about great

development in knowledge and science and rediscovery of the Greek civilization's heritage. Eventually it was the Arabs who preserved this knowledge which was transferred to Europe via Italy. The values of tolerance helped to develop, preserve and disseminate knowledge in the world. Today most tolerance is exercised by people of the West and it is no wonder that they are most progressive in science and all types of technology. What I want to say is that Tolerance is a great virtue that helps groups and society to develop in peace and harmony. Jamaat Ahmadiyya is expected to contribute to this development by showing that it can work with those who have a different view than its own especially when such a view can be supported by the Holy Quran, the Holy Prophet (saw) and the Promised Messiah. May Allah always help us not to deviate from His Teachings. Ameen!