

FRIDAY SERMON

25 July 2014

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:

Today is the 27th day of Fasting. At the least we will have to fast until Sunday or at latest until Monday. From the information that I have gathered, the moon for the month of Shawwal will be born at around 02h42 on Sunday July 27. So for Mauritius it is very unlikely that the moon would be visible on Sunday evening. In all likelihood we might see it on Monday. However, even if we do not see it on Monday because of the weather, Eid ul Fitr should be celebrated on Tuesday 29th July *incha* Allah. We will therefore *incha* Allah read Eid Prayers at Baitoul Rahma mosque here in Pailles at 9.30am. We are starting a bit late in order to allow everyone to come on time. So please be on time.

Today as you are all aware is the last Jummah of this month of Ramadan. It is well known as *Jummatul Widah* meaning the Jummah which bids farewell to the month of Ramadan. Some people mistakenly think that attending only this Jummah will deliver them from all their sins. But nowhere in the Holy Quran or in the hadiths do we have any verse or saying of the Holy Prophet (saw) to corroborate such a view. But from the hadiths we also learn that the day of Jummah is full of blessings in itself and as such this day has come with all the blessings that are usually attached to it. Besides that, as far as we know it has no additional blessing just by being in the month of Ramadan. Anyhow usually on this day the virtuous Muslims spend more time in the remembrance of Allah and in presenting prayers to him and in reading the Holy Quran more than they usually do on other occasions. Hence it is through the actions of the good Muslims that this day has any particular significance. So, each one amongst us should strive to make the best use of the time available in this day and in the coming last days of Ramadan to increase our worship of Allah. Consequently this day might have a special significance for us. Let us use the last days of Ramadan to get all our sins forgiven and may Allah give to each one amongst us a clean slate after Ramadan.

Ramadan comes and Ramadan goes away. *Jummatul Widah* comes and it goes away but the struggle of the *Mardé Momin* , the believing man never goes away. As long as he breathes he has to struggle. His whole life is a struggle and his mission in life is to

win the struggle of life and one of his greatest struggles is against his own self. This battle against the self goes on throughout life in Ramadan and out of Ramadan. So now that Ramadan for this year is nearing its end we should not in an instant think that the struggle that we are supposed to do in the path of Allah also is coming to its end. Our intention should be that we will *incha* Allah try to perpetuate the devotions of Ramadan to the other months of the year. Once we have come to understand that we should live a life free from sins we should never relax our efforts in the struggle against our own self (*nafs*) and against the machinations of Satan. There are still at least three more days and nights in Ramadan and we should not just sit and wait for Eid. We should spend the remaining time available to show to Allah that we are really in need of and we are trying to do our best for this purpose. So the remaining days should be filled with more recitation from the Holy Quran and more *Nawafil* prayers and more remembrance of Allah and also more reading for the books of the Promised Messiah to increase our knowledge of Islam.

We live in an age where we know more of the world than most probably our parents knew. This spread of knowledge has brought in its wake plenty of benefits for many people. But it also spreads the poison of faithlessness and false beliefs as well. There are many who are not fully convinced of the truthfulness of the Holy Quran or the mission of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). Under divine instruction Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has created a Jamaat to counterattack the onslaught of the Christians on Islam and he has proved the hollowness of their false doctrines. Similarly he has shown quite convincing arguments against the false beliefs of many other religions and that of some Muslim sects as well. Above everything else he has taught us Ahmadi Muslims that there are a set of guidelines which should characterize how we lead our life. He has given us quite an insight into how we should go about improving our own self by cultivating our soul. He left no stone unturned in teaching us how to accomplish our duties as good Muslims. All his available writings are testimony to this fact. Recently I read an interesting piece from his *Malfuzaat* where he has explained the power of faith. In view of the importance of what he said I have translated this extract in English so that our friends also might enjoy and be enlightened by what he has said. The extract is as follows:

“When Allah’s Greatness and His Love smites the heart of one His servants and Allah encompasses it as He does for the truthfuls (*Siddiqon*) and He takes this servant in His Protection and showers upon him His Special Favours and He detaches him like the *Abraar* (those who practice virtue) from being in need of others, such a servant will never be

impressed by the greatness or honour or personal beauties of any other person. Why? Because it has been made clear to him that all Greatness and Honour and innate Beauty is in Allah. So he is never impressed or influenced by the personal greatness or honour or beauty of anyone else. Such a person can only pity others, be they kings or Emperors. Why? Because he does not desire what they possess. How can the one who has been honoured in the court of the true Emperor in whose hand is the dominion of the heavens and earth allow himself to be influenced by perishable and false kingship (compared to Allah worldly kings are false). I who have recognized this king who exercises all Power and who possesses Grandeur, how can my soul leave Him and where would it go? At all moments this soul is aflame with the following proclamation: “O thou Emperor who Possesses Grandeur, O thou who is the Lord of Eternal Sovereignty, all kings and their possessions are submissive to You; they are your servants, nay they are nothing” (*Malfuzaat* Vol 2 p 149-50)

From this extract we understand that if we have a relationship with Allah like the one that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) had established, Allah’s grandeur in our heart will deliver us from the fear of any other besides Him. Each one amongst us should reflect upon this extract and be inspired by it because in it there is a message of personal freedom from all of us. Once you know Allah as He should be known you will become free of this world which is the cause of all problems that we face in our brief sojourn on earth. So let us use the remaining days of Ramadan to be inspired by Allah. Think about Him and understand that He sees each one of your actions and He hears each of the words that you say. From the Holy Quran we read:

“Seest thou not that Allah knows all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth? There is no secret counsel of three, but He is their fourth, nor of five but He is their sixth, nor of less than that, nor of more, but He is with them wheresoever they may be. Then on the Day of Resurrection He will inform them of what they did. Surely, Allah has full knowledge of all things.” (58:8)

And assuredly, We have created man and We know what his mind whispers *to him*, and We are nearer to him than *even his jugular vein*. When the two Recording *angels* record *everything*, sitting on *his* right and on his left He utters not a word but there is by him a guardian angel ready to record it, (50:17-19)

There is a need to reflect on these verses because they increase our fear of Allah and they motivate us to be careful of what we say and what we do. The believing man understands that Allah is aware of all that He does and says. To him this is a certainty, a conviction. He feels it in his heart and he is more careful of his words and his actions. It is to have such faith that Allah sends us Ramadan each year so that we might go on increasing our faith and our conviction and consequently better prepare ourselves for the journey back to Allah. Let us pray in the remaining days of Ramadan that Allah grant us such faith and let us keep praying afterward also that such faith may beautify us for the rest of our days.

As I said before, there are many attacks on our religion these days. You might think that this is new. It is not. Since its beginning Jews and Christians have been doing their utmost to malign the Holy Prophet, malign Muslims and malign our faith. But Allah has not allowed these people to prosper against the Muslims. Muslims need to be proud of their faith. It is true that there are many who try to so to say prove that what we believe is quite illogical. But as far as we are concerned we should stick to what our religion tells us is true. Attempts are being made by many atheists to try to prove that Allah does not exist. Even today there are some Muslims who are abandoning Islam and becoming Christians. Recently there was a prominent case from Egypt. But there are many from Christianity or Christian Nations who are converting to Islam. According to some statistics there are about five thousands Britons who are embracing Islam each year in Great Britain alone and most of them are women. Recently the newspaper The Guardian published a report on them which is quite interesting. These women are explaining how Islam has brought peace and serenity to their lives. These people have discovered Islam and they are proud to say today that they are Muslims. Just imagine how we should be even prouder that we have received a great Muslim heritage and tell the world about. Some of these women have started wearing the *Hijab* because they felt that something was missing in their practice as long as they did not do so. So during these last days of Ramadan we should deepen our commitment to practicing Islam in such a way that Allah will be pleased with us. We should not be afraid. We should just try to give Allah a greater importance in our life and then you will see how He will treat you.

To help all of us to understand that the path to Allah is one which is full of selfless sacrifices, I presume, Allah revealed to me when I went to sleep on Sunday last the following verses from Hazrat Masih Maood (as):

Khoda seh wohi log karteh hein pyar

Jo sab kuch hi karteh hein ousse par nisaar

With this revelation my eyes opened and the following verses were on my lips:

*Issi fikr mein rehteh hein roz o shab
Keh razi wo dildaar hota hai kab
Ousseh deh chukeh hein maal o jaan bar bar
Abhi khawf dil mein hai ke hai na bikaar*

These verses are from a poem entitled “*Alamatoul Moqaarabeen*” which may be translated as “Characteristics of the near ones” on page 15 of *Durre Sameen Urdu*. Their translation is as follows:

**They are the only ones who love Allah who sacrifices everything to Him.
Night and day they are concerned when will their Beloved be pleased.
They have given Him their wealth and life several times.
Even then they fear that it is insufficient.**

I had already written my sermon for today on Sunday last. These verses summarize the theme of the whole sermon. If Ramadan is going away let it go because we cannot retain it. But let us do deeds in future that show that its spirit has remained with us and it did not come in vain. May Allah help each one amongst us to understand the essence of Islam, the essence of Ramadan and the essence of life and may we be characterized by the qualities of the close ones *incha Allah*.