

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Incha Allah we will continue to talk about the Islamic concept of Jihad as explained by the founder of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), the Promised Messiah and Mahdi. We will read further extracts from his forty- one page booklet “*The British Government and Jihad*” written in 1900. At that time you will recall the British were ruling India and many Muslims said that Jihad was justified against them. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) argued that since these rulers were practicing justice for all, armed Jihad was not at all justified against them. Many Muslim Molvis criticized him for his point of view on Jihad but he was adamant that it was not justified then against the English. After quoting the verse: “Allah has heard the cry of those oppressed people who are killed and unjustly turned out of their land and has permitted them to retaliate. Allah is All-Powerful, and able to help the oppressed. (22:41-2)” he said:

“This commandment was specific to the period and time. It was not forever. It applied during the time when those entering the fold of Islam were being slaughtered like sheep and lambs. After the time of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his Successors, people unfortunately made very grave mistakes in understanding the philosophy of *jihad*, which is rooted in the preceding verse. The unjust slaughter of God’s creatures was deemed to be a mark of religious virtue.

It is a remarkable coincidence that Christians erred with respect to the rights of God, while Muslims erred with respect to the rights of human beings. That is, the Christian faith raised a humble man to Godhood, thereby compromising the obligations due to the All-Powerful, All-Sustaining Being Who has no equal in heaven or earth. But Muslims violated human rights by unjustly raising the sword and calling it *jihad*. In short, Christians adopted one path of violating rights, and Muslims adopted the other. Unfortunately for this era, both of these groups consider their own transgressions to be desirable. Each therefore emphasizes its own doctrine, certain that this alone is the straight path and best way to Paradise. Although violation of God’s rights is the greatest of sins, it is not my intention here to discuss this dangerous offense of which the Christian people are guilty but rather to make Muslims aware of the transgressions that they are committing against their fellow human beings.”

Further elaborating on why Jihad was not justified against the English then, he said:

Why do their *maulvis* not stop them from these awful actions which bring Islam into disrepute? One cannot enumerate the comforts which the Muslims have under this British Government. Many who lived under Sikh rule are still with us today. They should come forward and tell others about the circumstances of Islam and the Muslims at that time. The *adhan* [Call for Prayer], which is a mandatory tenet of Islam, was considered a crime. No one who called the *adhan* could survive the

hatchets and spears of the Sikhs. Did God err in freeing the Muslims from the Sikhs' transgressions and in delivering them to the sanctuary of British rule? As soon as this government took power, the Muslims of Punjab were, for all practical purposes, granted their faith anew."

Speaking about how the Ulemas are misleading the uneducated masses of Muslims he said:

"It should be remembered that today's Islamic scholars (who are called *molvis*) completely misunderstand *jihad* and misrepresent it to the general public. The public's violent instincts are inflamed as a result and they are stripped of all noble human virtues. This is in fact what has happened. I know for certain that *molvis* who persist in propagating these blood-spattered doctrines are in fact responsible for murders committed by ignorant, egotistical people who know nothing of why Islam was forced to fight battles in its early history. When these *molvis* meet present day rulers, they bow down as if ready to prostrate; but among their own kind they insist repeatedly that this country is "*dar-ul-harb*" [the zone of war]. They consider *jihad* to be obligatory in their hearts, and few of them think otherwise. They adhere so strongly to their doctrine of *jihad*—which is completely misguided and entirely contradicts the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and *hadith*—that they label as "*dajjal*" [Antichrist] and advocate the murder of anyone who objects. A *fatwa* [edict] of this kind was pronounced against me some time ago. Some of this country's *molvis* labelled me a *dajjal* and a *kafir* [infidel] and—without fear of the British Government's laws—published a *fatwa* stating that I should be killed, and that it would be a blessed deed to loot my belongings or abduct the women of my house. What was the reasoning for this? Only that I incurred their displeasure because I am the Promised Messiah and preach against their concept of *jihad*, rejecting notions of the bloodthirsty Messiah and Mahdi whose advent would, they had hoped, allow them to engage in loot and plunder."

Due to a wrong reading of several hadiths some ulemas think that Allah will send them a bloodthirsty Mahdi who will wage war and will distribute spoils to all Muslims. These days if you read what the jihadists of the so called Islamic state are saying, their expectations are similar for their caliphate. The Promised Messiah continues:

"They should remember that their understanding of *jihad* is not at all correct, and that human sympathy is its first casualty. Their belief, that *jihad* should be lawful today because it was permitted in early Islam, is totally incorrect and we offer two rejoinders. The first is that their reasoning is baseless. Under no circumstance did our Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) raise the sword against anyone unless they had first raised the sword, mercilessly killing innocent, pious men, women and children with such brutality that reading about these events even today brings tears to our eyes. Second, even if we assume that *jihad* as conceived of by these *molvis* was obligatory in early Islam, the commandment is no longer applicable because it is written that violent *jihad* and religious fighting will come to an end with the appearance of the Promised Messiah, who will not raise the sword or any other earthly weapon. Prayer shall be his only instrument, and firm determination his only weapon. He will establish peace and gather together the goat

and the lion. His age will be one of peace, gentleness and human sympathy. Alas! Why do these people not reflect that thirteen hundred years have passed since the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, “*yada-‘ulharb*” in honour of the Promised Messiah. These words mean that the Promised Messiah will end warfare when he comes.”

Then the Promised Messiah tells us that since he has come all jihad by arms should stop. He says:

“Now that the Promised Messiah has come, it is the duty of every Muslim to refrain from such *jihad*. There could have been some justification for misunderstanding this issue if I had not come. But I have arrived and you have witnessed the day that was promised. Therefore, those who now raise the sword on religion’s behalf have no excuse before God Almighty. Those who possess sight, read the *hadith* and ponder over the Holy Qur’an should understand well that the kind of *jihad* practiced by many of today’s barbaric people is not Islamic *jihad*. Rather, these misguided activities that have spread amongst the Muslims are instigated by *nafs-e-‘ammarah* [self that incites to evil] or by a crude desire for Paradise.”

The Muslim Umma these days is in a very difficult situation. I am sure the majority would wish to lead a peaceful life of coexistence with other Muslims and non Muslims. But there is a minority which wants to impose its own views even on Muslims and non Muslims. They are the cause for all the turmoil that we see these days especially in the Muslim countries. Many Muslims are being mercilessly killed. Only in the month of August, 1400 have been killed in Iraq alone. Muslim leaders are unable to impose order. The 50 days Gaza war killed more than 2000 including more than 700 children. The Israelis act with utmost impunity because of the backing of the USA. In Syria the number killed since the civil war started in 2011 is nearing the 200,000. In Pakistan more than 400 Shias were killed last year. In Egypt since the arrival of the new leader many have been killed. All this shows that the Muslim Umma is in turmoil. Personally I feel quite ill at ease in this situation and I am sure many other Muslims who care for the Umma do feel ill at ease with this situation. But what can we do besides praying. On Wednesday, before waking up I saw in a semi sleep, written on a piece of paper some words from the Holy Prophet (saw). They were “*Sabroun Jameel ala ummati*” meaning “people of my Umma should resort to a beautiful patience”. I understood it to mean that the circumstances are very difficult and members of the Umma should seek help from Allah by being very patient and refrain from taking actions that can bring even more harm. Allah knows best. But very few will even listen to us. It is quite unfortunate that Muslims have difficulty in reconciling views. They see everything in black and white. They have not learnt to live and let live. May be it will come. Allah knows best. Muslims fail to see how different beliefs on minor matters have antagonized them one from each other. Hazrat Masih Maood as further says:

“To summarize, Islam excels all other faiths in the demonstration it provides of patience, rejecting evil and noble conduct. It would be foolish, unfortunate and wrong for Muslims to abandon this example. May God bring these ignorant *molvis* back to the right path. They have misled the populace into believing that the keys to Paradise lie in beliefs that are oppressive, cruel and completely immoral. Can it be a good deed to shoot a complete stranger, intending to kill him

while he is absorbed in thought? Is this religiousness? If these are acts of any virtue then animals are more virtuous than human beings....”

Wanton killing is thoroughly forbidden in Islam. We read the following in the Holy Quran:

“It does not become a believer to kill a believer unless it be by mistake. And he who kills a believer by mistake shall free a believing slave, and *pay* blood money to be handed over to his heirs, unless they remit it as charity. But if *the person slain* be of a people hostile to you, and be a believer, then *the offender* shall free a believing slave; and if he be of a people between whom and you is a pact, then *the offender shall pay* blood money to be handed over to his heirs, and free a believing slave. But whoso finds not *one*, then he shall fast for two consecutive months — a mercy from Allah. And Allah is All-Knowing, Wise.

And whoso kills a believer intentionally; his reward shall be Hell wherein he shall abide. And Allah will be angry with him and will curse him and will prepare for him a great punishment”(4:92-93)

This verse makes it quite clear that Allah has forbidden that a Muslim should take it upon himself to kill another one. Here of course the verse is speaking about killing between Muslims. It is a very grievous matter because such a person will be cursed by Allah unless he killed by mistake. This is what the Book of Allah is telling us. Even then we see stupid Molvi calling upon their people to kill other Muslims whether they are Shias or Ahmadis. Killing of non Muslims who are not combating Muslims also is forbidden. The Promised Messiah further says:

“Unfortunately, the Muslims—and the *molvis* in particular—ignore all these events and think of the whole world as their prey. Many *molvis* are just like a hunter who moves stealthily towards a deer he is stalking in the forest, shooting his gun at precisely the right moment. They know nothing about compassion for humanity. According to them, it is an act of Islamic virtue to fire a pistol or gun at an innocent person. Where are those who will act like the Companions of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and remain patient while suffering torture? Has God commanded us to capture complete strangers and cut them to pieces or to shoot them without reason or proof of an offence? Can a religion be from God if it teaches that you can enter Paradise by killing His blameless and innocent creatures—to whom you have not even delivered the message?”

We will speak more about this next week *incha* Allah.