

FRIDAY SERMON

17 October 2014

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Summary: Tribute to Farhad Ahmad Domun who passed away on Saturday last.

After reciting the *Tashahhud*, the *Ta'uz* and the first chapter *Al Fatiha* of the Holy Quran Imam Zafrullah Domun said:

As you are all aware my cousin and brother in law Bye Farhad Ahmad Domun (*nawwarallaho marqadahou*-may Allah illumine his tomb) passed away in the early hours of Saturday last, 11th October at the age of 65 years.

He was the husband of my sister Salima and the father of my nephew Kalimuddin.

Under such circumstances as usual we say as we have been taught “*Inna lillahe wa inna elayhi raje'oune*” meaning “to Allah we belong and definitely to Him do we return”.

All the members of our family, namely my mother, my brothers and sisters and our brothers and sisters in law and all our children, his wife and his son, his nephews and nieces, his brothers and sisters and many of his acquaintances have been deeply moved by his sudden death.

To all we hope and pray that Allah will grant *sabre jameel* i.e a beautiful patience.

As far as he is concerned we pray and *incha* Allah we will continue to pray that Allah forgives him all his sins and that He admits him in *Jannatoul Firdaus incha* Allah.

When I was awakened by a phone call announcing his sudden death I felt a very deep pain in my heart and so did all the members of the family.

We tried to keep our emotions under control as we are expected to do in such circumstances.

Repeatedly from that moment on I kept receiving the revelation “*Inna lillahe wa inna elayhi raje'oune*” until it was as if nailed in my heart. In such circumstances and in moment of distress we can also find consolation in the example of the Holy Prophet (saw).

Throughout his life, he encountered a succession of bitter experiences.

He was born an orphan, his mother died while he was still a small child and he lost his grandfather at the age of eight.

After marriage he had to bear the loss of several children, one after the other, and then his beloved and devoted wife Hazrat Khadijah(ra) died.

A month later he lost his uncle, Abu Talib. Some of the wives he married after Hazrat Khadijah's death died during his lifetime and towards the close of his life, he had to bear the loss of his son Ibrahim.

He bore all these losses and calamities cheerfully and accepted the Will of Allah on all occasions.

Indeed, on the loss of his son Ibrahim, he uttered those heart-rending words of grief which have become a formula for the mourning of a departed soul:

“The eyes shed tears and the heart grieves” he said, “yet we say not anything that would offend our Lord. Ibrahim, we grieve sorely thy parting. To Allah we belong and to Him shall we all return.”

I am recalling this so that it might help us all to show our loyalty and sincerity to Allah whenever we go through great distress.

Our attitude in such circumstances is a mark of our faith.

My prayer is that Allah helps each one to get an increase in faith in every moment of the day.

In times of distress I personally find great consolation in the words of the following poem of Hazrat Masih Maood (as):

Ek na ek din pesh hoga tou fana ke saamne
A day will definitely come when you will have to face death

Chal nahin sakti kissi ki kuch qaza ke saamne
No one has any power against the decree

Chorni hogi toujhe dunya e faani ek din
One day or other you will have to leave this transitory world

Har koyi majbour hay hukme khoda ke saamne
Everyone is subject to Allah's decision

Moushtakil rehna hay lazim eh bashar toujh ko sada
You are bound to be steadfast forever O man

Ranj o gham yaas o alam fikro bala ke saamne
In the face of trials, pains, anxieties and misfortunes

Baarga hay eizdi se tou na youn mayous ho

You have an audience with Allah, you should not be so desperate

Mouskilein kya chiz hay moushkil kusha ke saamneh

What are difficulties in front of the One who removes them.

And also the words he wrote when his son Mubarak Ahmad died “*Bulane wala hai sab se pyara oussi pe eh dil tou jaan fida kar*” meaning “the One who has called is the Dearest – give yourself to Him , o my heart”

These words of the Holy Prophet (saw) and Hazrat Masih Maood (as) can help each one amongst us to weather through all the misfortunes that we may encounter throughout our lifetime.

I hope members will keep them in mind because good fortune and misfortune are present in the life of any human being.

We should learn to equip ourselves to face them when they come.

My cousin Farhad has been like an elder brother to me.

Our houses were close to one another and we grew up together.

My earliest memories of him are when I was around six to seven years old and we used to go to their place to play football.

We always played on the same side.

Sometime later I remember waiting anxiously for him to come back from school so that we might be together again.

We enjoyed the company of each other a lot. I also remember how when he was a student at Fazle Omar College during the early 1960s and I accompanied my mother for Jummah prayer at Darussalam mosque, he took me around to show me the building.

Later on I recall how one day he took me around a long journey on the island on his motorbike.

I also remember how he used to go to Reunion Island to work for a few days and at times weeks.

Those were difficult moments for me until he came back.

To be brief we were very close to one another and there are plenty of such memorable and unforgettable memories that he has left.

In 1976 once I slept at his place and during the night I dreamt that I saw a piece of paper floating downwards from the sky and when I got hold of it I saw written on it “*Fa’bodoullah moukhlesal lahoud deen*” meaning “worship Allah being totally sincere in obedience to Him”.

Since then this is what I have been trying to do.

In those days I had just started working and whenever we needed a means of transport to go somewhere he was ever ready to oblige by taking my uncle’s car and he accompanied me. He never complained that we should hurry and he never uttered any displeasing word.

In those days together with my brothers and one or two of his brothers very often we walked one kilometer to go to the mosque to attend Maghreb prayer in Darussalam mosque at Rose Hill.

In 1988 when I was chosen as the Amir of the Jamaat he showed me great respect and he was very devoted to me.

And when in the year 2000 I explained about the divine manifestation he showed me even greater respect.

He did not join my Jamaat and never prayed with me when we established our Jamaat.

But he respected me to such an extent that whenever I went to my mother’s place on Fridays he would stand up to respond to my salaam.

He was among the rare individuals who showed me such respect.

I am not saying that people should stand up to say salaam to me.

I am just pointing out the merit of an individual who despite being in disagreement with me regarding some beliefs, yet he had a high regard for me.

I am not saying also that he did this only for me.

If he did it for others as well it only redounds to his glory.

I am only speaking about how I saw him acting and how his innate kindness manifested itself.

Bye Farhad was not a member of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen.

But unfortunately he almost bore all the brunt of being a member of JAAM because of his association with us.

His wife and children were with us and he never harassed them nor did he try to extricate them from us.

He understood that faith is a matter that concerns the individual and Allah.

Organizations cannot and have not been mandated to impose their beliefs on individuals.

I know of some instances where the members of his own Jamaat have not acted as good Muslims vis a vis him just because of his association with us despite being with them.

Concerning his namaz Janaza I have this to say. Personally I felt that I owed him this duty of reading his namaz Janaza.

You will recall that for his son Ata ul Quddous we prayed the namaz Janaza and then the mainstream Jamaat performed the same.

This time I was thinking that maybe we could pray together with the mainstream Jamaat albeit reluctantly.

But since the authorities of the mainstream Jamaat tried to impose their decision on us I decided in consultation with members of the family that we would perform the Janaza prayer on our own.

So around 10h30 we performed his namaz Janaza.

You will recall that I have said many times that many members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Mainstream have lost their moral bearings.

They do not have amongst them people who can teach them what moral qualities really are and how they should be practiced.

Yet Hazrat Masih Maood (as) told us many times that he came to teach men how to behave with men and what to think of Allah.

Even the caliph has again spoken about moral qualities in his speech of last week.

Thinking of Allah is particular to the individual. But behavior can easily be seen.

The Holy Prophet (saw) has told Muslims that they should send salaam to all individuals that they meet whether they know them or they do not know them.

So how can an individual say he is an Ahmadi and a follower of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) and enter the house of a deceased and not greet his dependants with salaam and kind words of sympathy?

Many Ahmadis, (not all fortunately) men and women have been guilty of this misbehavior on the occasion of Bye Farhad's death.

Such behavior is in total contradiction with what the caliph is telling you to do.

I think that it is time for mainstream Ahmadis to wake up and see how the hatred that the leadership has cultivated in their heart is manifesting the worst part of their character to the world.

And yet they speak of love and peace!!

If Hazrat Masih Maood (as) were aware of your obnoxious behaviors he would surely have thrown you out of his Jamaat and would have wondered how you came to be associated with him!

So learn the basics of Islam and do not allow people to speak ill of your leaders who have been unable up till now to instill in you a true wish to tread the path of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw).

Bye Farhad was a real family person. He not only maintained good relations with his wife and children but also with his brothers and sisters and all their children and with all his in-laws and their children.

He had a very close relationship with his eldest sister who lives alone near his house.

Personally I have seen at close quarters how devoted he has been with his immediate family namely his children and wife.

Throughout his married life he carried his duties as a devoted husband and father to his children especially to his son Ata ul Quddous(*nawwarallaho marqadahou*).

He did his best to provide him with all the necessary means to make his life easy.

However when he died in 2012 he was quite devastated with his loss.

He mourned him almost every day and this grief took its lot on him and he has left us so soon.

Their family was quite close-knit and they did many things together.

Very often they ate together and they went out together.

On Eid ul Adha his wife and son did not participate in the collective lunch with our Jamaat members so that they might be with him to share his lunch.

To us this is a manifestation of love and no one can say anything but appreciate such a show of affection.

Today Bye Farhad is gone but his memory will live on with all those who were dear and near to him.

I am sure each one will cherish how in one way or other he touched their life.

Man has no power at all over death. Sometimes we may delay the arrival of death but sooner or later it will come and everyone who is living today will be gone.

However, as far as we are concerned we are confident that one day we will meet again.

Being Muslims we understand that Allah has put us here for some time and that one day He will cause us to die and one day we will be resurrected.

Our task is to live in such a way that we do good to others trying not to harm anyone with either our tongue or our hands. I think that Bye Farhad was such a person.

A man with a noble heart, a generous man, a family man and a man who suffered his fate silently is gone. May we all cherish his memory and continue to pray for him and all his close ones.