

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:

When one reads the Holy Quran one will easily notice that in several places Allah speaks of the believers as “those who believe and do good deeds”. Hence we understand that belief and good deeds are two fundamentals that complement each other. If there is only one without the other, something important is missing. Hence it is imperative for each one amongst us to try to deepen our beliefs and to try to do as much good deeds as we are able to. In order to succeed in both endeavors one has to seek Allah’s help. This help we seek it through our daily prayers once we perform them with their necessary conditions. We are all aware of the famous hadith where the Holy Prophet (saw) explained the word *ehsaan* as praying to Allah as if we are seeing Him or at least being conscious that He is seeing us. You might say why is it that I have to speak about this matter today while we are all well aware of it. As you know we are here as someone who reminds others. Hence we are only doing our duty.

The fact is that once the idea that Allah is the source of our welfare both in this world and the next takes hold of our mind an inner force moves us to seek Him. We seek Him by praying to Him. Throughout our life our task should be to improve the way we pray to Him. Those who are on this path will notice that for some days they might be very careful in the way they pray but then they might notice that they are not as conscious of Allah’s presence as they were before. Some may notice it others might not at all. Those who notice it do their best to strive to focus on their prayers. This is the eternal struggle. It is only after years of constant efforts that one might eventually feel that one might be coming better at it. Therefore in order to keep reminding each one of us of this important effort that we need to make throughout our lifetime that I am speaking about this matter again today. Most people lead a negligent life. They remember Allah quite little. But good Muslims and believers are those who remember Allah much both in the mornings and evenings as Allah says in the Holy Quran: “*Yaa ayyohal lazina aamanouzkoroullaha zikran kasira wa sabbehou ho boukratan wa asila. Howallazi yosalli alaykoug wa malaakatohou le youkhrejokoug minazzolaomaate elan noure wa kaana bil mo'meneena rahimaa*” meaning “O ye who believe remember Allah much and glorify Him mornings and evenings. He it is who sends down His Blessings on you and His angels pray for you, that He may bring you forth from all kinds of darkness into light. And He is Merciful to the believers.” (33:42-44). Each one amongst us should keep asking ourselves throughout our life how far we live our daily lives according to these verses or how much do we aspire to live our life according to these verses.

So it is not sufficient for us to just declare that we are Muslims. We have to show in our words and deeds that we are truly Muslims who observe the commandments of Allah.

Any Muslim who ignores Allah's commandments either through ignorance or negligence is not fulfilling his duties as a Muslim. We need to be always careful lest we fall below the standard that is expected of us. Remember also that Allah has taught us "*Yaa ayyohallazina aamanout taqoullaha haqqa toqatehi wa laa tamoutounna illah wa antoum mouslemoune*" which is translated as "O ye who believe fear Allah as He should be feared; and let not death overtake you except when you are in a state of submission" (3:103) We should learn to fear Allah as He should be feared and not think that the way we are fearing Him is just sufficient. We should do our best to increase His Fear within us and let that fear guide all our actions. Under no circumstance are we allowed to think that we can harm others by our looks or by our words and yet think that our actions meet with the approval of Allah. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has emphasized that Allah knows the innermost sanctum of our being. You might think that whilst you are committing misdeeds that He is turning the other way but the fact of the matter is that "Allah is ever watchful" and nothing that we do or say escapes His attention. Now each one amongst us should ask himself or herself how far we act in our daily life with this consciousness of Allah. To talk about such matters are quite easy but to do them is quite another matter. So we all should be very careful with what we say or do.

In some of his recent sermons I have noticed that the Ahmadiyya caliph keeps giving the members the true Islamic teachings. At least he preaches about the true teachings of Islam. Last week for example he spoke about how all Muslims should be a source of blessings for the world. Explaining about the good behavior of Ahmadis he said:

"We are the well-wishers of the Muslims also. We desire good for them. We are also the well-wishers of the non-Muslims and we desire good for them also. We are the well-wishers of the Christians also and the Jews and the Hindus and the followers of other religions. Indeed, we are the well-wishers even of the atheists. Because we have to show to all of them that path which can take them close to God Almighty. Indeed we have to desire and wish for good for all people involved in every kind of evil, thieves and robbers, and those guilty of committing every kind of excess simply because these are all the creatures of the Lord of all the Worlds and we are required to be the well wishers of all creatures of God Almighty. And we have to show them the paths that lead to goodness and that avoid misdeeds and evil.

By saying '*ukh-ray-jat lin-naas*' [for the whole of mankind] Allah has made our field of actions very vast. So for the good of humanity and for their benefit and improvement we have to show them the right paths that lead to God Almighty. We have to urge them to follow and act upon the commandments of God Almighty.

We have to tell them that this life will come to an end one day and then everyone will receive the reward or punishment of his or her actions on the Day of Judgment. So establish your connection with God Almighty so that you may have a better end. But we cannot make anyone understand these things till we ourselves do not become such as keep a watch on our end, our final outcome. This is a very great duty that we have to fulfill and carry out with great care, thought and regular assessments."

By hearing such statements one would be inclined to praise the caliph for spelling out such noble teachings of Islam. But when we also know that this same caliph has given such instructions to his followers in Mauritius to establish social boycott with their fellow brothers and sisters and to avoid greeting them with the Salaam and to wish them ill, one can only wonder what credibility can such a person have for this double speak. On the one hand he speaks about being the well wisher of everyone but at the same time the members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen are an exception in that list. Such an attitude has nothing to do with Islam. The caliph speaks as if he is totally unaware of what is going on in Mauritius. But the truth of the matter is that he is fully aware because I have read in many of his Questions and Answers sessions when he is on tour where he has said that he is aware of all the letters that are sent to him. Allah knows best. If he were true to the teachings at least he would have asked his amir and missionary in charge to stop those unislamic practices that they have institutionalized in Mauritius. But that is not the case at all. Hatred of their fellow coreligionists has made Ahmadis bolder in their disregard for Allah's teachings. The caliph speaks about progress of Jamaat Ahmadiyya. What progress can one boast about when in the main mission of making people good human beings one has failed? Jamaat Ahmadiyya was never created to increase its numbers or its wealth. It was created to increase the number of people who would be eager to follow the path of righteousness as explained by Hazrat Masih Maood (as) thus:

“God Almighty desires to draw all those who live in various habitations of the world, be it Europe or Asia, and who have virtuous nature, to the Unity of God²⁰ and unite His servants under one Faith. This indeed is the purpose of God for which I have been sent to the world. You, too, therefore should pursue this end, but with kindness, moral probity and fervent prayers. And till that time when someone inspired by God with the Holy Spirit is raised by Him, all of you should work in harmony with one another.”

Here is clearly spelled out the purpose of Jamaat Ahmadiyya. The caliph says that it is the task of the Jamaat to help others to understand about Allah. Why is this courtesy not extended to us. Come and help us to understand what we misunderstand and correct our mistakes. We will welcome you with an open mind. But for the past fourteen years has the Jamaat shown any of the qualities that the caliph says are present among Ahmadis? Or have we seen but the ugliness of their true nature manifesting itself ever and anon? During the past fourteen years Ahmadis in Mauritius have stooped to such low levels of morality that could never have been expected before. Allah sends someone to raise them so that they might practice an Islam that will help them to fulfill the mission of their life. Instead they chose to oppose that person so that the ugliness hidden in their character might surface. And they tell you that they have a mission to Islamize the whole world. If they are speaking about their version of Islam who will be interested in it? But if they speak about the Islam taught by the holy Prophet Mohammad and the Promised Messiah and practice it many will be interested. Allah knows best.

So Jamaat Ahmadiyya may boast about having the best teachings as spelled out by Hazrat Masih Maood (as). But that in itself has not been translated into the Ahmadis are “the best people raised for mankind”. To be the best you should be beyond reproach. You should have a system to federate and not exclude any one and all your dealings should be characterized by justice and tolerance. But we have seen that members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya can be an intolerant lot indeed. They are more eager to follow the dictats of men rather than the commandments of Allah. They want people to obey them and to submit to them rather than to submit to Allah. Yet they were taught that Allah is the Greatest but they have chosen to ignore that. Despite all the declarations and speeches of the caliph the Jamaat wants to control the conscience of the people. But unfortunately for the people they will be judged by Allah for what they personally did and not what they were told to do. In Islam individual responsibility is all important. You have to take responsibility for your own actions. If you act in wrong way you will have to bear the consequences and pay for it. You might think that caliph or amirs or missionary in charge will come to your rescue. But they will all be involved with their own problems and they will ignore you completely. No religion honors freedom of conscience as Islam does. It is however unfortunate that those who represent it these days especially the leadership within Jamaat Ahmadiyya wants to dictate to the people what they should believe. If someone has concrete proofs that Allah approves his actions he should not at all be afraid of any man. May Allah continue to help us to understand His way more deeply and may we all die when we are in a state of submission to Him and to no other authority.