

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

## Main Points:

Reform Agenda of Jamaat Ahmadiyya and Our Responsibilities. Affinity between The Promised Messiah and The Holy Prophet (saw). Comments on massacre in France.

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

Hazrat Masih Maood (as) came with a reform agenda for all Muslims. The time itself was crying for such reforms. There were plenty of Muslims in the world but their beliefs and actions did not conform to the true teachings of Islam. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) came into the world in order to teach fellow Muslim brothers what the real teachings of Islam are and how they should be practiced. There is no doubt at all that in those days, more than one hundred years ago, especially in India there were many practicing Muslims and there were many Ulemas but Hazrat Masih taught us that some ideas that have been held by Muslims since a long time were not valid in the light of the Holy Quran. Two main such ideas were the bodily ascension of Jesus to heavens and his bodily descent in the latter days. In addition he said that the idea prevailing amongst Muslims that a Mahdi would appear who would wage war against all infidels and kill them and distribute their wealth amongst Muslims was totally against the teachings of the Holy Quran. Furthermore as a true *hakam* of the affairs of the Muslims he also taught us how we should get rid of all sorts of stupid practices and customs that are not Islamic in nature or have nothing to do with Islam or with us as Muslims.

Members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya should never forget that we are a reform movement within Islam. That is why we do not differ with other Muslims on the fundamentals except where they have added interpretations to the important beliefs. As you are well aware one such addition is the idea of the majority of Muslims that the credo of Islam is "*Laa ilaha illallaho mohammadour rasoulloullah*" which they interpret as Muhammad is the last prophet and there cannot be any prophet after him although they are awaiting Hazrat Isa to come back as a prophet from heaven. So there is a big contradiction in such a belief. So in order to justify their claim that we do not believe in their understanding of the first article of faith they declare us non Muslims. As such they say we should be killed. Such ideas have been prevalent almost throughout Islamic history, it was prevalent during the time of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) and it is still prevalent these days. Recently in Pakistan after the massacre of the children in Peshawar one mullah was on TV saying that the real enemy of Pakistan were not those Pakistani Taliban who perpetrated such crimes but the Ahmadis. The usual mullah and his stupid logic! Their limited understanding of Islam allows

them to make such statements on TV and people who are in the studio clap their hands. Fortunately these days many in the Islamic world are doing their best to try to put a stop to the doctrine of *Takfir* namely declaring other Muslims as non Muslims. Allah has not allowed anyone the right to pronounce himself or herself on the faith of another person. Allah says that He is the knower of hearts and He is aware of our innermost thoughts. There is the Amman declaration of which I spoke some years back and there are some recent initiatives such as the 21 points of the Saudi Council as well asking Muslims not to pronounce the stupid fatwa of Takfir on other Muslims. Now they have been made aware through the arrival of IS what monster their teachings have created. We all say and declare that Islam is a religion of peace. Yet these days we see that there is plenty of strife in many Muslim countries and Muslims are fighting among themselves. How come that a religion that promotes peace has its adherents fighting among themselves? Definitely there is a deficiency in belief which results in these foul actions. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) came with his agenda of reform to teach Muslims how they should settle their differences and live peaceable together in conformity with the true teachings of Islam. How unfortunate it is that even within Jamaat Ahmadiyya differences have cropped up which have not been solved at all. Religious leaders think too much of their versions of truth that they fail to grasp that they might not know the whole truth about a particular matter and that they could still be in learning mode. And when you are in a learning mode you should have the humility to listen to the other side of an argument if you are truly a truth seeker. Any how we will speak about this again in another sermon.

Last week *Yaum un Nabi* was celebrated around the world. I will now tell you about the relationship that existed between Hazrat Masih Maood (as) and the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). In his prose writings, his poems and his revelations and visions the Holy prophet (saw) is ever present. We will start with a dream and which is the first one related in the Book containing his revelations and dreams and visions known as *Tazkira*. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said:

In my early youth I saw in a dream that I was in a magnificent building which was very clean and neat where people were talking about the Holy Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be on him). I enquired from the people where the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.) was and they pointed to a room where I entered together with other persons. When I presented myself to him he was very pleased and returned my greeting with a better greeting. I can still recall and can never forget his charm and beauty and the affectionate look that he directed towards me. He won my heart with his love and the beauty and glory of his countenance. He asked me : “Ahmad what are you holding in your right hand?” I looked and found that I had a book in my right hand and I felt that I had written it myself. So I answered him : “ This is something I have written”. He enquired “what is the name of your book?”. I was surprised and looked at the book a second time and felt that it resembled a book in my library which was called Qutbi. So I answered him “ Messenger of Allah the book is called Qutbi.” He said “ Show me this book Qutbi”. When he took it in his hand it immediately became a delicious and attractive fruit. He cut it as fruit is cut and pure honey began to flow out of it like water and I perceived the wetness of honey on the Holy Prophet’s right hand and arm from his finger to his elbow which were dripping with honey. I also felt that the Holy

Prophet was showing me all this to make me wonder. Then it occurred to me that there was the dead body of a person lying outside the door who had been destined by Allah, The Exalted to be brought to life by that fruit and that the Holy prophet(saw)was to bestow life upon him. When this thought passed through my mind I saw that the dead person had suddenly come to life and had come up to me running and was standing behind my back but that he was in a weak condition as if he was hungry. Then the Holy Prophet (saw) looked at me smiling and cut the fruit in several pieces and ate one of them himself and gave the rest to me while they were still dripping with honey and said to me “Ahmad give one of the pieces to this person so that he might draw strength from it.” I gave him one piece and like a greedy person he devoured it immediately.

I then saw that the chair on which the Holy prophet was sitting began to rise till it reached up to the ceiling and I noticed that his face began to shine as if reflecting the rays of the sun and the moon. I was watching his blessed countenance and my eyes were running because of my strong emotion. Then I woke up and I was still weeping.

Allah, the Exalted, put it into my mind that the dead person in my dream was Islam and that Allah, the Exalted, would revive it at my hands through the spiritual power of the Holy Prophet (saw). You cannot know that this time may well be near, so wait eagerly for it. In this dream the Holy Prophet (saw) nurtured me with his blessed hands through his holy words and his light and the gift of fruit from his blessed garden (Ayena Kamaalaat Islam PP548-9)

When we see how the Promised Messiah has interpreted this dream we can understand how Islam was to be revived under his guidance. This revival was to take place not by just putting an administrative apparatus in place and wait. This revival asks from each member who has joined the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah and who shares what he stood for to make an effort so that Islam might be revived and lived in our daily life. Unless and until each Ahmadi Muslim understands that he or she has to bring his share to build that new society which truly believes and practices real Islamic values, Hazrat Masih Maood’s dream will not become a reality. So think about it and ask yourself if you really want to live Islam as taught by Hazrat Masih Maood (as) or as you think fit. If you want to do as you think fit you will just go through the motions. But if you want to live as Hazrat Masih Maood (as) expected, you have a long way to go. Because you need to learn and then be determined to put into practice what you learn. As an Ahmadi Muslim you have responsibilities. You are not like others who say that they are good Muslims but they go about doing many things that Islam forbids or look down upon. So each one amongst us should understand our status and be concerned that we should live what we preach lest we are taxed as liars or mere hypocrites. All of us, young and old, men and women, boys and girls should do our utmost to behave in such a way as to reflect the behavior of Mohammad saw. We all should be characterized by what we have learned from him.

Hazrat Masih Maood (as) saw this dream not when he had declared himself to be Promised Messiah. It occurred well before when he was about 33 years old. So it was a long time before he was called by Allah which happened in the 1880s. Through such a beautiful dream one can

appreciate the affinity that existed between him and the Holy Prophet (saw). This love and devotion to the Holy prophet would grow even more throughout his life and he would say later on “ *Baad aza khoda be ishq Mohammad mokhammaram gar kufr een ast ba khoda sakht kafiram*”. These are two verses in Persian and they are translated as follows: “After Allah I am smitten with the Love of Mohammad. If this is infidelity, then by God I am an infidel indeed.”

In the end I will say a few words about the massacre of ten journalists and two policemen at the offices of a newspaper known as Charlie Hebdo in France. As you are all aware and you might have seen on television these people have been cold-bloodedly murdered by two Muslim Frenchmen. They have killed the journalists because these people insulted the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) in their caricatures and their writings. There is nothing in the Holy Quran which tells us that those who insult the Holy Prophet should be put to death. Whoever says so only betrays their ignorance of Islam. Some callous Muslims may jubilate that such an atrocious event has taken place and they might even see in it signs of an intervention from Allah. Those who entertain such thoughts also betray an ignorance of basic Islamic teachings. Allah has not allowed any Muslim to take it upon himself to disrupt the peace in the land and to start killing those who insult the Prophet. If we have an understanding of how the world works we will appreciate the role that journalists play to keep us all informed about what goes on around us. Many of them put their life at risks to do their work. These people at Charlie Hebdo wielded the pen as a sword and they have been very effective in their work. They did wrong in ridiculing the Holy Prophet (saw). Muslims response should be as Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has taught us to use the pen to respond to them and to show them how wrong they were. Under no circumstance can we say that they should be killed. May Allah give consolation to the bereaved families. We will speak more about this in future *incha* Allah.