

FRIDAY SERMON

06 February 2015

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

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

Main Points:

*Comments on ISIS cruelties. Comments on caliph's sermon of last week.
Extracts from Noah's Ark.*

I will start this sermon by saying that the group of so-called Muslims known as ISIS in Iraq and Syria are committing such heinous crimes in the name of Islam that were unheard of. They had captured a young Jordanian pilot and they offered to swap him for a woman terrorist who was in jail in Jordan. The Government in Jordan was interested in this swap. But Allah knows what happened and on last Wednesday they released a document saying that they have burnt alive the young man. We do not know this young man but we cannot not feel sympathy for him and members of his family who came to know of his fate the previous day. A few days before ISIS murderers have butchered two Japanese citizens and the world stood watching and could not do anything to prevent such a heinous act being committed. When we hear of such incidents and those that are being perpetrated by the Taliban against Shias and other minorities in Pakistan and what is being done in Nigeria by Boko Haram one wonders how come people can vitiate the teachings of Islam to achieve their political ends. One wonders how could Muslims butcher Muslims and yet think that they are accomplishing good deeds whereas it is very clearly stated in the Holy Quran that he who kills a Muslim intentionally will go to hell. And in addition we understand from a hadith that if two Muslims cross swords both will be bound for hell. It appears that there is no end in sight for the strife that is rocking the Islamic world. We Ahmadi Muslims, even if we think that we might have solutions for these problems yet we are powerless and we cannot do anything at all to help people to listen to reason. Most Muslims do not even consider us to be Muslims. Anyhow it appears that the Muslim world particularly in the Middle East and North Africa will continue through these turmoil for a long time to come. But we Ahmadi Muslims believe in the power of prayer and we should pray for the Muslim umma. We may pray in the following words: “*Allahoummar ham ala oummate Mohammasin Rahmatan aaamma*” meaning

“ O Allah show mercy on the followers of Mohammad, a mercy which manifests itself in a general way ”. We may also pray in the following words as well “*Allahoumman sour ummata Mohammadin nasran aziza*” meaning “Oh Allah help the followers of Mohammad with a Mighty help”. If we love the Holy Prophet (saw) as we are expected to, we should help His cause and His followers by whatever means available to us. Since we do not have material means we should seek help through prayers. This is what we have been taught and this is what we are expected to do. We might not immediately see the results of our prayers but if we are sincere and pray with a sorrowful heart Allah will manifest His Mercy in ways beyond our wildest dreams.

Next I will comment on something which the caliph spoke about in his sermon of last week. The caliph was commenting on the Qoranic verse “Allah has not burdened anyone beyond his capacity”. Among other things he said:

“Many among us do not even offer daily Prayer appropriately. It is obligatory on men to offer it in congregation. Indeed, we cannot deceive God. Just as we try our level best to meet our worldly needs we should also try our level best for matters religious and we should try to increase our capacities.”

Then he said that it was the duty of the Missionaries and other “*mo'allims*” to see to it that members of the Jamaat are properly brought up. Speaking about the missionaries the caliph said:

“Missionaries and *Waqfe Zindagi* who have knowledge of faith should make special effort to support people and raise them from the basic level. Not only will this enhance the faith and belief of all those progressing, it will also be a source of progress for the *Jama'at*. God has said to missionaries that due to their knowledge their capacities have been enhanced therefore they should help enhance the capacities of their brothers. God states: ‘And let there be among you a body of men who should invite to goodness...’ (3:105). We have *Jamias* all around the world which are producing missionaries. These missionaries should look into *Tarbiyyat* of the *Jama'at* apart from doing *Tabligh* and debating with others. They should be continuously involved in this task and morally train our own. ”

Continuing his speech about the missionaries the caliph said:

“Some pay more attention to their family life more than their work while others spend too much time on themselves, even if it is the odd one who

does this! They spend their time around shops three days a week. This is not only about those who have newly joined. Majority of the missionaries have a realization of how their time is spent. Those who are experienced should pay attention to make correct use of their enhanced capacities and the commitments they have been given. They should employ their capacities like good teachers.”

Now let us speak about Mauritius. There are several missionaries working here and their leader is the missionary in charge. One may ask in which category of missionaries they deem themselves to be. Are they amongst those who are devoted to advance the cause of the Jamaat or are they here just passing their time and visiting shops thrice a week. Where are those missionaries who really understand what need to be done for the young men and girls of the Jamaat? Where are those missionaries who according to the second caliph whom they revere should be able to devote themselves to Jamaat work for about eighteen hours a day? As I have said before, the curriculum of missionaries should be changed and adapted to today’s needs and it is important for them to know more about the world than merely reading the Holy Quran without properly understanding it and imposing their cultural interpretations on the world. In the past I have known several missionaries and few amongst them have really contributed to advancing the cause of the Jamaat in Mauritius. Had they been trained to understand people’s psychology and some sociology as well they would have been most well placed to influence people to tread the path of Allah as is expected of every Ahmadi Muslim. But such has not been the case and nor is it now. There is a need for revisiting the role of missionaries and the way they go about doing their job around the world. At most places missionaries do not even understand their own roles within the Jamaat. They are supposed to work on two main areas in *Tabligh* and *Tarbiyyat*. On both counts their record is much to be desired. There are plenty of areas where they could have made a good contribution but they are not doing so at all neither here in Mauritius nor elsewhere.

Establishing a relationship with Allah should be the aim of each Muslim especially each Ahmadi Muslim. If we have lived and died without that relationship we have lived in vain. To help us in this path I will now present some extracts from Hazrat Masih Maood ‘s book “Noah’s Ark” which will remind us about how we should live. He says:

“To show signs of grace is the eternal way of God. But you can partake of this blessing only when there remains no difference and no distance between Him and you; only when all your wishes, hopes and desires merge into His will; only when at all times, in success or failure, in hope or disappointment, you remain in humble prostration at His door so that

He should do with you what He wills. If you act like this, in you would appear that God who, for a long time has kept His face concealed from the world. Is there any among you who would act upon this teaching, seeking only His Pleasure, without the slightest sense of dissatisfaction against the way His Will works? ”

For a moment we might pause and reflect about these words. They are very powerful and they motivate us to take the path that might lead us to Allah and help us to achieve the objective of our existence. A prayer to be resigned to the will of Allah is as follows and it may be read regularly: “O Allah keep me ever in your will and bless me with the Glory of Thy name”. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) continues:

“Even in distress you should put your best foot forward for this is the secret of your success. And you should strive with the utmost of your power to spread the idea of His Singleness and Unity all over the earth. Be kind and merciful to humanity for all are His creatures; do not oppress them with your tongue or your hands or in any other way. Always work for the good of mankind.”

These are the teachings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as). One may ask how far mainstream Jamaat has followed these teachings. To say the truth they prefer to ignore that these are their teachings. He continues:

“Never unduly assert yourselves with pride over others, even those who are placed under you. Never use abusive language for anyone even though he abuses you. Be humble in spirit kind and gentle and forgiving and sympathetic towards all and wishing them well, so that you should be accepted. There are many who pretend to be kind, gentle and forgiving, but inside they are wolves; there are many who on the outside look pure, but in their hearts they are serpents. You cannot be accepted in the presence of the Lord unless you are pure, both on the outside and the inside. If you have status have mercy on those who do not have it- not contempt; if you are wise and well versed in learning serve the ignorant with words of wisdom: never desire to bring disgrace on their ignorance by trying to show off your learning. If you are rich serve the poor instead of treating them with self-centered disdainful pride. Beware of the paths of destruction. Fear the Lord, be righteous, and do not fall in worship before the creation of Allah. Turn wholly and solely to Him, so that you lose interest in this world. Become entirely His, living wholly for His Will and pleasure, for His sweet sake, hating everything impure and sinful; for indeed he is Holy. Every morning should be a witness for you that you

spent the night with the fear of Allah and every evening should be a witness for you that you went through the day with the fear of God in your heart.”

These are the words of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) that prompt us to examine the way we are leading our life. How many Ahmadi Muslims can really say that they are spending their days and nights with real fear of Allah in their heart? To give Allah the importance that is His in our life is not easy at all. But Allah has said that “*Wallazina Jaahadou fina lanahdeyannahoum sobolana*” meaning “those who strive in our path we guide them to our ways.” If we are sincere and make some efforts to lead a life which is in accordance with Allah’s teachings we will notice that Allah will help us so that we do not follow evil ways. Most people read their daily prayers as a duty. In fact those who really understand what prayers are consider prayers to be appointments with Allah even if they do not see Him. Each one amongst us should strive to make our prayers moments of meetings with Allah and we pour our heart to Him although He knows quite well what is in them. The Holy Prophet (saw) said that he found his greatest consolation in prayer. As a follower it is incumbent upon each one amongst us to try to find what can really be in prayer in that the Holy Prophet made such a wonderful statement about it. May Allah help each one amongst us and grant us such Grace from Him that we really come to know Him before we meet Him incha Allah.