

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

## **Main Points:**

*Birthday of the Promised Messiah 180 years ago. The value of his teachings for us. We should have no fear for the curses of the world. We should rid ourselves of common moral lapses. Some comments.*

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

Today is Friday and the date is 13<sup>th</sup> February. In the western world whenever the 13<sup>th</sup> day of any month falls on a Friday, it is superstitiously taken to be a sign of bad omen and they are prepared for dire things to happen. But An Ahmadi Muslim is not supposed to be a superstitious person. On the contrary he is expected to fight all sorts of superstitious beliefs. So for us this is not at all an ominous day. Rather it is an auspicious day and in the hadith Friday is a day of festival (Eid). Furthermore historically speaking one hundred and eighty years ago Hazrat Masih Maood (as) was born in the early hours of Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 1835. He was born after a twin sister who died a few days later because according to reports the mother's milk did not suffice for the twins. The name given to the sister was Jannat. So I just want to remind you all that the person we revere as the founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat came into this world 180 years ago and eventually he brought a message to rejuvenate Islam. It is true that the majority of Muslims have not accepted his message yet but the teachings that he has given us are such that they help to keep Islam alive in the world. Now, it is our duty to see to it that his true teachings are taught to others and that we imbibe these teachings in our own existence and teach them to our children. It is true and experience has taught us that it is quite difficult to make others see the validity of the teachings of the Promised Messiah. But even if such is the case, the least that we can do is to see to it that we are keenly interested in living our lives according to what the Promised Messiah has taught us. It is within our power to make the necessary efforts to lead a life according to the teachings of Islam as taught by the Promised Messiah provided we are ready to make the necessary sacrifices to do so. Many do not care about what the Promised Messiah has said. But we should not be like that. We should take to heart all his teachings and do

our best to lead our life by them. Let us remind ourselves about them one more time so that they remain ever fresh in our memory. He says: “Do not fear the curses the world might heap on you for they melt in the air like smoke, they cannot turn day into night. What you should be afraid of is the curse that comes from God, which totally uproots from both the worlds, those on whom it falls.” (Noah’s Ark )

These are but two small sentences. But they have very deep meanings. The Holy Prophet (saw) has not allowed any Muslim whatever his God-given status to curse any other Muslim. But unfortunately what we see in the world is very far from the noble teachings of the Holy prophet (saw). Shias and Sunnis have been cursing one another for centuries. Since the arrival of Hazrat Ahmad (as) a majority of Sunnis Muslims have been cursing him and his Jamaat. Within Islam the different sects believe that they have a monopoly on Paradise and they would be its sole inheritors. In our case due to some ill thought words that came from the mouth of the late fourth caliph words of curse have been used against us. Similarly it is a well-known but false piece of news within Jamaat Ahmadiyya Mauritius that the second caliph cursed some members of the Jamaat in the early nineteen fifties. All these are just blowing of air and nothing else. And Hazrat Masih Maood (as) tells us that we should not be afraid of such curses at all irrespective of the mouth from which such words may come. As a true knower of the teachings of the Holy Quran he tells us to beware lest Allah curses us because if we are true to the teachings we will have Allah as support. But we fail in practicing the teachings the world will not avail us against Allah at all. So it is Allah that we should be afraid of and not people. There are many verses in the Holy Quran that supports what has just been said. I will quote one or two. Allah says: “ *In yansourkomoullaho falaa ghaleba lakoum wa in yakhcoulkoum faman zallazi yansorokoum mim ba’dehi wa alallahe fal yatawakkalil mo’menoune*” meaning “ If Allah helps you , none can overcome you; but if He forsakes you, then who is there who can help you besides Him ? In Allah then should the believers put their trust” This is a message of hope for anyone who wants to walk the extra mile to Allah. He has created us and He expects us to seek His Help and He has promised us that He would grant us His help. Anyone who wants to know whether what I am saying is true or not should try to make the experience.

Hazrat Masih Maood further says:

“You cannot save yourselves with hypocrisy and pretense, because thy God Who is your Lord can see to the inner-most depths of your being. How, then, can you hope to deceive Him? Therefore strengthen yourself and cleanse yourself to become pure and

precious without a particle of dross anywhere in your being, for if there be any such, it will take away your light. And if in any corner of your heart there be pride, empty pretense, hypocrisy, vanity, love of self, or laziness of disposition, you do not amount to anything acceptable in the sight of the Lord.”

In matters of this world one can deceive others but not for long. A husband may cheat on his wife or vice versa but eventually the matter is known and it disrupts the peace that should have prevailed in family life. Similarly a child might for some time think that he might be able to deceive his parents but sooner or later his parents come to know what exactly he has been doing. Most politicians who are masters in the art of deceit try to deceive the population about their intentions and deeds but sooner or later as a consequence of a natural law they are discovered and made to pay for their crimes. If you study history you will come across many such instances. But no one can deceive Allah because Allah knows well everything that is going on in the Universe because He is the All Knowing. Nothing escapes His Knowledge. There are many verses in the Holy Quran that depicts His presence almost everywhere. One such verse is as follows:

“Dost thou not see that Allah knows all that is in the heavens and all that is in the earth? There is no secret counsel of three, but He is their fourth, nor of five, but He is their sixth, nor of less than that, nor of more, but He is with them where so ever they may be. Then on the Day of Resurrection He will inform them of what they did. Surely, Allah knows all things full well.”(58:8)

It is very important for us to be conscious that Allah is everywhere. He is very powerful and He knows everything. He is with us wherever we are and He knows the secret of our hearts and hence it is impossible to deceive Him. That is what Hazrat Masih Maood (as) is telling us. So we should be aware of our weaknesses and be constantly engaged in asking forgiveness from Allah so that He might eliminate them and they do not manifest their evil. Engaging ourselves in self-purification should be an everyday objective of every member of the Jamaat. I cannot stop repeating that we should make it a practice to ask for forgiveness for our lapses every day. We should make utmost efforts to purify our heart and we may use the following prayer of the Holy prophet (saw): “*Allahoumma tahhir qalbi minan nifaaq wa amali minal riyaa wa lisaani minal kazibe wa ayni minal khai nati fainnaka ta'lamon khainatoul a'youne wa maa toukhfis sodour*” . It may be translated as follows: “ O My Lord purify my heart from hypocrisy and my actions from showoff and my tongue from lies and my eyes from deception for indeed you are aware of the deception of the eyes and what is concealed in the heart.” If we pray sincerely *incha Allah* after sometime Allah will grace us with acceptance and such moral weaknesses will not

manifest themselves through us. Just remember how Hazrat Masih (as) has told us that if these moral weaknesses and a few others manifest themselves in us we are not worth anything at all. I think we all should care about such warnings. He then tells us not to be content with what we have done. He says:

“Take care that on the basis of a thing or two, which you think you have accomplished, you do not fall into the delusion that you have done all that needed to be done; for God desires that your entire life, your whole being, should undergo a deep and thorough revolution. Indeed He demands from you that you accept a death, after which He would give you another life.”

Under no circumstance should we be satisfied with whatever good deeds we might have accomplished. We should always find opportunities to do more seeking Allah’s Pleasure. We have been created to worship Allah. We should continue serving Him and His creatures as long as we live. Under no circumstance should we become self-satisfied. However much one might have accomplished there are still other steps on the ladder of righteous deeds to be climbed. We should always think of ourselves as insignificant beings who are here to do the bidding of the Lord of the worlds.

Then he continues speaking about how members of the Jamaat should behave towards one another. He says:

“Immediately compose all your differences and make peace among yourselves: forgive the transgressions of your brothers for indeed he is evil who is not willing to make peace with his brother. He would be cut off for he tries to create disruption. Leave off vanity and emphasis on self and all mutual resentments, all unpleasantness. Though truthful and justified in your stand, be humble in your demeanor as though you were in the wrong, so that you yourself should be treated with forgiveness. Leave off everything which fattens your vanity, for the door you have been invited to enter is not one that would admit a fat person.”

When we are members of a Jamaat or a group we should not let our differences disrupt the functioning of the group. We should learn to make peace with one another with a view to ironing out differences as quickly as possible. Each member of the Jamaat should reflect about these teachings and know what is expected of him or her as a member of the said Jamaat. One or two persons did tell me on the occasion when we were thrown out of the Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream that in the light of these teachings I should have shown willingness to forgive and forget and remain within the Jamaat despite the treatment that I received. In my opinion the treatment meted out to us did not call for the response that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) is speaking about

here. Within Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream an idea resembling the catholic infallibility of the pope has been cultivated and it has erroneously been believed that the caliph cannot be wrong. But in our case he was wrong however he tried to hide behind the Amir saying that he acted on his letter. The caliph thought he could act as he liked and with impunity and we were convinced of having the support of Allah and so we were not afraid and we did not see any point in compromising and presenting our apology just to stay in the Jamaat. We have been excluded from the mainstream Jamaat and we do not regret it at all because we knew and we maintain that the whole Jamaat is wrong on some of the teachings of the Promised Messiah. We are grateful to Allah that He has helped us to see and understand what no caliph has taught. We regret nothing. All has been for the best and we trust Allah will help us concerning other problems that we may face.

May Allah always guide us and help us to guide those who are eager to follow His Guidance. Ameen!