

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

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

As members will recall the foundation of Jamaat Ahmadiyya was laid by Hazrat Masih Maood (as) when he spelled out the conditions that any seeker after Allah should fulfill if he wants to adhere to the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah. In fact Hazrat Masih Maood (as) published these conditions of *bai'at*, as they are known, in a pamphlet dated 12th January 1889. Many times in the past ten years we have spoken about these conditions in detail. In fact it is the duty of every Ahmadi Muslim to be aware of all these conditions because if he does not know them he is not in a position to know what is expected of him or her. These days one may find many Ahmadis who would tell you that they are proud of the fact that they belong to Jamaat Ahmadiyya especially the mainstream one. However if one examines closely what these people have been believing and practicing one can easily see that there is a big gulf between what was expected by Hazrat Masih Maood (as) and what the people are doing. And yet Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has made it very clear that unless and until what is said and what is done are not in complete conformity with one another, those who profess Ahmadiyyat will not be accepted in the sight of Allah. Since we come to Jummah to be reminded of our main teachings it is relevant that we should remind our members of the main teachings of Hazrat Masih Maood as from time to time. Today we will read some extracts from his book "The Will".

First of all let me read in Hazrat Masih Maood's words what the idea behind the creation of the Jamaat was. He said:

"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 God 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."(The Will page 9)

In other words we might say that Jamaat Ahmadiyya has been created to unite the whole world under one faith. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) came to sow the seed of this grand project if we may say and now it is the task of each succeeding generation of Ahmadi Muslim to bring it to fruition by working constantly for this grand purpose. To achieve this purpose Hazrat Ahmad (as) counselled the Ahmadis to use three means. First of all they should be very kind in spreading the message around. Secondly they should develop their morals to perfection and thirdly they should be constantly engaged in fervent prayers for the accomplishment of this purpose. Each one amongst us should be wondering how far we are progressing or at least how far we are doing what is expected from us for the accomplishment of this purpose.

When we read the following books of the Promised Messiah, namely “The Philosophy of the teachings of Islam, “Noah’s Ark” and “The will” and meditate over them we should inevitably come to the conclusion that as a member of the Jamaat we should embark on a program of self-purification. That is to say we should be keen to discard all our bad characteristics and cultivate all types of good moral qualities. Each one amongst us should almost daily ask ourselves how far we are progressing in this endeavor. If we are not progressing then we should wonder why we form part of Hazrat Masih Maood’s Jamaat. Speaking particularly about this matter Hazrat Masih Maood (as) tells us:

“And you, too, should partake of the Holy Spirit by compassion and by purifying your souls. Because without the Holy Spirit true *Taqwa* cannot be attained. And, totally shedding all base desires of the self, choose for the sake of winning the pleasure of God that path compared to which no path can be narrower and straiter. Don’t fall in love with the pleasures of the world, for they take you away from God. Choose a life of austerity for the sake of God. The pain which pleases God is better than the pleasure which makes Him angry. And the defeat which pleases God is better than the victory which invites the wrath of Allah. Renounce the love which brings you nearer to the wrath of Allah. If by purifying your hearts you come to Him, He will help you whichever path you tread and no enemy shall ever be able to harm you. You can never ever win the pleasure of Allah unless you, relinquishing your desires, abandoning your pleasures, sacrificing your honour, disowning your wealth, discarding your life, bear such hardships in His way as make you suffer the pangs of death. But once you suffer such hardship, you will sit in the lap of God like a beloved child. And you will be made heirs of the truthful who have preceded you. The door of every

blessing will be opened to you. But there are few who belong to this category.....”

The last sentence is indeed very significant. Very few are ready to tread the path that leads to Allah. Many feel comfortable in numbers and they have delegated the need to understand to their Mullahs. But Hazrat Masih Maood (as) says that we should not be such. We should be of those who tread the path of Allah because we know that there is no other path and we are convinced that it is the right thing to do. We should all beware of the love of this world. We should be determined to follow the path that is difficult but which in the end will bring us face to face with Allah. As an Ahmadi this is what is expected from us. He continues :

“God addressed me and said that *Taqwa* is a tree that should be planted in the heart. The very water which nourishes *Taqwa* irrigates the whole garden. *Taqwa* is a root without which everything is meaningless; and if it remains intact then nothing is lost. What benefit is there for a man in indulging himself in the useless activity of claiming with his tongue that he seeks God while he has no sure footing with his Lord. Look, I say to you truly and sincerely that ruined is he whose faith is tainted by even a hint of worldliness. Hell is very close to that soul all of whose intentions are not for God—rather some of them are for God and others are for the world. Thus if you have an iota of worldly adulteration in your intentions, all your worship is in vain. In such a case you do not follow God. Rather you follow Satan. Never ever expect that when you are in such a condition God will help you. Rather in this condition you are a worm of the earth and soon you will perish just as worms of the earth do. And God shall not be in you. Rather He will be happy to destroy you. But if you, in reality, die by killing your baser selves, then you shall appear in God and God shall be with you. And the house in which you live will be blessed and God's mercy will descend on the walls which are the walls of your house. And that city shall be blessed where such a person lives...”

I still remember that when I read these sentences for the first time in my youth it had a very deep effect on me and since then I am trying to tread the path which the Promised Messiah recommended. He continues:

“If your life and your death, your every action and movement, and your kindness, and your anger are for God only and if, in any trouble or difficulty you do not put God to the test nor sever your relationship with Him—rather,

under these trials, you step forward towards God— then I truly say to you that you will become a chosen people of God. You, too, are human as I am human and that very God Who is mine is yours. So don't lay waste your noble capacities. Look! If you fully incline towards God, then be reminded—and I say it in accordance with the will and pleasure of God—that, you shall become His chosen people. Let the Greatness of God take root in your hearts; and acknowledge His Unity not just with your tongues but also with your actions, so that God, too, practically shows His Mercy and Kindness to you. Refrain from malice and treat human beings with true compassion. Adopt each and every path of righteousness for who knows from which of these paths you will be accepted?”

This last sentence is indeed quite important. We should not neglect any good deed that we have the opportunity of doing because we can never know which one will be accepted. Man has to act. Allah chooses to accept or not. The greatness of Allah should overwhelm our heart to such an extent that we still fear Him when no one is seeing us and we refrain from committing a bad deed because we are convinced that He is seeing us. To arrive at such a stage needs a lot of efforts and a lot of tears-dripping prayers that are offered over the course of many years. So being a member of Jamaat Ahmadiyya is no easy matter. Being a member means that you are ready to do what is needed to purify yourself of all its impurities and make yourself ready for the meeting with the Lord. Hence the need of the Jamaat because it helps to bring together all those who have this purpose in common. Our members should value this grand objective of Jamaat Ahmadiyya and do their best to fulfill it in their own persons and encourage their children to do the same.

When we cast a glance on the pages of history especially the history of the Jamaat in Mauritius we come to know that it was not at all easy for those early Ahmadis to give up their beliefs and join the Jamaat then. It is true that at that time there were not many Muslims who understood their religion well. But it appears that there were enough open minded people who knew how to think and assess what they were being told and reach the right decision concerning the arrival of the Mahdi and the Messiah. The first Ahmadis in Mauritius as elsewhere were indeed very courageous men and women. They were not afraid of men and they cared most about the true belief. Since my research is not complete I am unable to speak thoroughly about each of these persons. There were some who were foremost in accepting Ahmadiyyat but eventually they went away and we did not hear of them at all. By the grace of Allah I was able to consult that document of which I spoke about last week about Mr Noormamode Noorooya. I will consult some

more documents in the coming weeks and *incha* Allah I will write a brief but more detailed biographical note about him. May Allah help. A historical note that I had never read before in any of our literature is that when Sufi sahib came he stayed for some time with Mr Noorooya. But immediately after Mr Noorooya rented a room for him. But I do not know where it was in Rose Hill. It was in that room that the Ahmadis of Mauritius prayed their first Eid which was celebrated on 13th August 1915 and it was a Friday. In his report Sufi sahib said that there were between 35 to 40 persons who crammed themselves into that small room. People were eager to hear him talk and most probably not all of them were Ahmadis at that time. Anyhow from the report that Mr Noorooya sent to Qadian, there were about 35 families who had joined Jamaat Ahmadiyya by the end of the year 1915 and by the end of March 1916 an additional 18 including the Atchias joined. By this one can understand what was going on in those days. These were the people who laid the ground for what is these days. May Allah increase their rank in Jannat and forgive them all their sins. More *incha* Allah next week.