

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

We are nearing the end of the month of May and within the mainstream Ahmadiyya Jamaat the 27th May each year since 1956 is celebrated as “Khilafat day”. Speeches and other activities are organized so that each new generation of Ahmadiyya Muslims may be convinced that khilafat as understood by their leaders is a divine institution that should be preserved at all costs. The celebration of this day was started by the second caliph Mirza Bashir Uddin Mahmood Ahmad (1889-1965) when he was confronted with a problem that had at its core the refusal of the son of the first caliph Hazrat Molvi Nuruddin (ra) (1839-1914), Molvi Abdul Mannan to write a letter of excuse to him. Eventually the second caliph expelled Molvi Abdul Mannan and his family from Rabwah and they settled in Lahore. The caliph felt that Molvi Mannan was a threat to the institution of the caliphate and the threat was removed by removing him from Rabwah. This is how Jamaat Ahmadiyya deals with those who do not agree with its ways of doing things. Since 1956 a propaganda machinery has been put into place to nail into each Ahmadi’s head that Khilafat is a sacrosanct institution and all Ahmadis should be ever ready to deal mercilessly with anyone who threatens it by undergoing whatever sacrifices that might be necessary.

In Mauritius I do not know exactly when we started celebrating this day. However I presume that it should be in the 1960s. Since then propaganda work has been going on so much so that Ahmadis began believing that their caliph could not make any mistake. You will recall the famous saying of the late fourth caliph who once said that he believed that if he made a mistake Allah will set right that mistake. But we all know that that has not been the case at all. I prefer not to cite the examples. It will be too bitter to some. Now you may contrast this statement with the one that Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique (ra) made when he became caliph where he said “If I do well, help me; and if I do wrong, set me right”. Ahmadiyya caliphs think that no one can know better than them. They think and they want the people to believe that their appointment is by Allah and hence He approves whatever they do. A good reading of the Holy Quran shows us that this is not the case at all. Even if someone is appointed by Allah and he does anything just to please his self and not seeking the Pleasure of Allah he fails in his mission to that extent and he will have to answer for his actions.

With the passage of time and with the propagation of ignorance within the Jamaat no one was allowed to or dared to question anything. We were lulled into thinking that sooner or

later the whole world will believe in the message of Jamaat Ahmadiyya and the caliph will rule the world. But by the Grace of Allah and through better understanding we came to know that to have khilafat or to be bereft of it is no big deal. The main concern of any human being and any Muslim be he Ahmadi or non-Ahmadi should be whether he fulfills the mission for which Allah sent him into this world. Jamaat Ahmadiyya was created mainly for this purpose. Its aim was to make each one amongst us a better human being. In other words being a member of this Jamaat meant that you are a person who makes constant efforts to learn what the Promised Messiah (as) said and you do your best to live his teachings in your everyday life. If someone thinks that just by being a member of the Jamaat he is privileged and he has not to account for his actions such a person is deluding himself. If someone thinks that because he is a member of the Jamaat and he has to follow all sorts of instructions even those that are not Islamic he will be absolved, he is mistaken. Personal responsibility for what we think and what we do has not been taken away from us when we join the Jamaat. On the contrary when we join the Jamaat or we become adults it is our duty to try to understand what the Jamaat stands for and live its teachings in our everyday life. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) tells us “If a believer does not strive for progress he falls. So, the one who is lucky is he who makes constant efforts to understand his religion. No one greater than the Holy Prophet (saw) has ever lived, yet he was taught to pray “*Rabbi zidni ilma*” meaning “ O my Lord grant me increase in knowledge”(20:115). So who can be content with the knowledge that he has and does not feel the need for future progress? As a man gradually progresses in his knowledge and wisdom he would come to know that there are plenty of things that need to be understood.”(*Malfoozaat* Vol 2 p141-2) So each one amongst us should have this clear in our mind that it is our responsibility to learn and to do and we will be accountable to Allah for each of our actions.

Commenting on verse 56 of Chapter Al Nur where Allah speaks about Khilafat Hazrat Masih Maood (as) says:

“Allah has promised some of those among you who are righteous and are true believers that He will make them the successors of His Beloved Prophet, as He did in the case of those who were before them; and that He will surely strengthen and establish the religion He has chosen for them—that is, Islam—in the earth; and that He will surely give them, in exchange, security and peace after their fear. This means that at the time of the demise of Hadrat *Khatamul-Anbiya*’ [the Seal of the Prophets], peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, the believers shall be in fear lest their religion should perish, but God Almighty in this state of fear and anxiety, by establishing *khilafat-e-haqqah* [the true succession], will

alleviate their fear regarding the ruin of faith and free them from grief and grant them peace. They will worship Me only, and they will not associate anything with Me.

This is the apparent good news, but as is divine practice in relation to Quranic verses, there is also a hidden meaning to it. And the above verses in their deeper meanings point to the *khilafat-e-ruhani* [spiritual succession]. This means that in every state of fear, whereby the love of Allah has disappeared from people's hearts, false creeds have spread all around, and people are infatuated with the world and it is feared that the faith will be lost; at such times God will always continue to raise spiritual *khulafa* [successors] at whose hands the Faith shall be granted spiritual support and triumph, and truth shall then be honoured and falsehood shall be brought to disgrace. Thus, faith may always return to its original bloom and the believers may be granted security from the fear of the spreading of misguidedness and the loss of faith.”(Buraheen Ahmadiyya Part 3 English P167-8)

This is an early text of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) about khilafat. It is from the third volume of Buraheen Ahmadiyya which was published in the early 1880s. The re-greening of faith is done through caliphs who are appointed directly by Allah. They are the ones who represent Allah. Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream want people to believe that their caliphs are appointed by Allah and they do nothing to dispel misconception. You will recall that I sent a letter to the actual caliph in 2008 asking him to give the reference where Allah told the Promised Messiah that he would establish khilafat after him. Up till now no explanation at all has been received nor has been given to justify what he said in his Khilafat centenary message. At that moment the caliph said words which Hazrat Masih Maood (as) never attributed to Allah. In addition many people started saying that the caliph was the fulfilment of a revelation of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) where Allah said to him “*Inni ma’aka Ya masroor*” meaning “I am with you o victorious one”. Since the actual caliph’s election this revelation has been applied to him by others but up till now I have not read or heard any statement of his where he said that Allah had told him that it applies to him. Yet *nazams* are sung in his presence and are published but he does not say anything to those who praise him thus. These days a website has been created for him where he is qualified as “God’s man on earth.” Such cheekiness can only come from Ahmadis who exaggerate when they talk and who pretend to be what they are not. Everywhere in the world they want to project the image that they are very peaceful Muslims and they have now even invented a new slogan “Muslims for peace”. They are trying to project themselves as those who are very peaceful and that they are unlike the

radical Muslims who are following ISIS. But unfortunately some of their behaviors belie that they are truly peaceful and meek. In fact they appear more and more to be sectarian, inward looking , promoters of hate in society and very radical in their outlook. Their problem is that most among them do not even know what the true teachings of the Promised Messiah are. It is true that the caliph speaks about these teachings in his sermons. But it is a well-known fact that people switch off after twenty minutes. They might be physically present in the mosques but they stop hearing and many start dozing off. These sermons go on for almost one hour for almost nothing. Very few people will make the necessary effort to read these sermons again. So despite being members of the Jamaat most people are still unaware of the true teachings of the Promised Messiah. Unless and until an individual cares to educate himself about the teachings of the Promised Messiah the members will not cultivate broadmindedness and tolerance and we will be still far from Islamic ideals.

So when Hazrat Masih Maood (as) speaks about Allah raising spiritual caliphs he means that such people come at a time of need and they show the people what the true teachings are and how they should be applied. It is Allah's privilege to raise these people for the guidance of others. However it is also the people's privilege to accept or to reject such a person. If they accept and listen and obey the guidance that is imparted they will be blessed. If they do not do so they are acting against their own selves. In almost everything most people do things that are to their own advantage except in matter of their religion. They will always be the first to reject the claim of someone who says he come from Allah. That is why Allah says in the Holy Quran "*Yaa hasratan alal ibaad maa yatihim mir rasoulin illa kaanou behi yastahzeoune*" meaning "Alas for my servants! There comes not a Messenger to them but they mock at him" (36:31). People do not like what is uncommon. Yet Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has advised us:

"The truth is that as long as man does not think about something open-mindedly and does not concentrate on all aspects and does not listen with attention he cannot free himself from his old ways of thinking. This is why as soon as a man hears something new he should not start opposing it. It is his duty to think about all its aspects with due reflection; then with justice and honesty and above all with Allah's fear in his heart he should think about this matter in solitude". ."[*Malfoozaat* Vol. 4 P 1-2]

This is the attitude that true Ahmadis, sincere followers of Hazrat Ahmad (as) should adopt. The leadership of the Jamaat refuses to dialogue with us because they know for sure that argument wise they will be defeated. So they prefer the easiest solution which is to boycott us and ignore us with the expectation that others will do the same. Had those

who these days are leaders within the Jamaat been convinced of their knowledge and convinced that what we say are falsehood they would have come to confront us with arguments. But they know they can't because they know that we know the true teachings of the Promised Messiah and we will easily debunk all their arguments. So we understand khilafat as Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has explained it and not as the Jamaat wants us to understand it these days. May Allah always help each one amongst us to follow His teachings to His Satisfaction. Ameen!