

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Since the moon has not been visible yesterday we will *incha* Allah celebrate Eid in Mauritius tomorrow. Namaz Eid will be performed at 9.30AM and I request all members to come on time. As you are all well aware Friday is an Eid Day for the Muslim. It is a moment of rejoicing that Allah has given to His Servants every week. So let us not be sad that we are not celebrating Eid ul Fitr today. Instead of one day in which there would have been two Eids we are getting two days of Eid and let us make the most of them. In our prayers and entreaties to Allah let us ask Him to accept our fasts, our prayers, our Sadqaat, and everything that we have done in trying to please Him however insignificant they might have been and however inadequate they might have been.

Even if the month of Ramadan has come to an end for this year let not anyone amongst us abandon the good deeds that we have been practicing during the month. Allah has imposed upon us a month of dieting, of intense prayers, of reading the Holy Quran and of cultivating sympathy with the poor and being kind with one another. Let us not forget these good practices and return back to old habits. Let us try to build up on what we have gained during this blessed month in order to draw ourselves nearer to Allah rather than reverting to old habits that will take us far away from Him. Each Ahmadi Muslim should understand that the aim of his or her life is to get nearer to Allah who is closer to us than our jugular vein. Therefore we should strive to know Him, serve Him and worship Him alone and we should never associate anyone in His Worship. It is my prayer and hope that each one amongst us will *incha* Allah be among that special group of people who are known as the Friends of Allah.

I do not want to make a long sermon today. Whatever needs to be said will *incha* Allah be said tomorrow. Remember that the stress and strains of the month of Ramadan is gone but the efforts to improve one's character, the efforts to come closer to Allah by being regular in our prayers, the efforts to read and understand the Holy Quran and to remember Allah, the efforts to better understand why we are here, why we have been born and where are we going should never be forgotten. It is a constant effort that should be maintained every day in our life if we want to be among the friends of Allah. So do not think that the moment for relaxing has come and that we will read the Holy Quran again next Ramadan or that we will switch to our three times of prayers daily routine or that we will not care about how we behave with one another. Strive to maintain all your goods deeds and add more to them and Allah will reward you plentifully for them *incha* Allah.

Before ending I would like to tell you about something that I read recently. It is an incident that reportedly took place in the time of Hazrat Omar (ra). It brings home to a reader how good-mannered were the people of that time. It is as follows:

“One day, during the caliphate of Hazrat 'Umar, while he was sitting with his companions, three noble and beautiful young men entered his Presence. Two of them said, "We two are brothers. While our father was working in his field, he was killed by this young man, whom we have brought to you for justice. Punish him according to God's Book." The caliph turned to the third young man and asked him to speak'

"Although there were no witnesses' Allah, the Ever Present, knows they are telling the truth," said the accused.

"I regret very much that their father found death at my hand. I am a villager. I arrived in Medina this morning to visit the tomb of our Prophet, may Allah commend and salute him. At the outskirts of the city I got off my horse to take ablution. My horse started eating from the branch of a date tree that was hanging over a wall. As soon as I noticed this, I pulled my horse away from the branch. At that moment an angry old man approached with a big stone in his hand. He threw the stone at my horse's head, killing it instantly. Since I loved my horse very much, I lost control of myself. I picked up the stone and threw it back at the man. He fell dead. If I had wanted to escape, I could have done so, but to where? If I do not meet my punishment here, I shall meet an eternal punishment in the hereafter. I had not intended to kill this man, but he died by my hand. Now the judgment is yours."

The caliph said, "You have committed murder. According to Islamic law, you must receive treatment equal to that which you have dispensed."

Although this was a pronouncement of death, the young man kept his composure and calmly said, "So be it. However, a fortune has been left in my care to be given to an orphan when he comes of age. I buried this fortune for safekeeping. Nobody knows where it is but me. I must dig it up and leave it in somebody else's care otherwise the orphan will be denied his right, Give me three days to go to my village and attend to this duty."

'Umar replied, "Your request cannot be accorded unless somebody takes your place and vouches for your life."

"O Ruler of the Faithful," said the young man. I could have escaped before if I had wished. My heart is filled with the fear of God; be certain I will be back,"

The caliph refused on the basis of the Law. The young man looked at the noble companions of the Prophet (s.a.w) who were gathered around the caliph. Choosing at

random, he pointed to Abu Dharr al-Ghifari and said, "This man will be the one to vouch for me." Abu Dharr was one of the most beloved and respected companions of the Prophet (s.a.w).

Without hesitation he agreed to replace the young man.

The accused was released. On the third day, the two young accusers came back to the caliph's court. Abu Dharr was there, but not the accused. The accusers said, "O Abu Dharr, you vouched for someone you did not know, Even if he does not return, we will not leave without receiving the price of our father's blood."

The caliph said, "Indeed, if the young man does not return, we will have to apply his punishment to Abu Dharr."

Hearing this, everyone present began to weep, for Abu Dharr, a man of perfect virtue and splendid character, was the light and inspiration for all of Medina.

When the third day had come to an end, the excitement, sorrow, and amazement of the people reached their peak. Suddenly the young man appeared. He had been running and was tired, dusty, and hot. "I am sorry to have worried you," he said breathlessly. "Pardon me for arriving at the last minute. There was much work to be done, the desert is hot and the trip was long. I am now ready; execute my punishment."

Then he turned to the crowd and said. "The man of faith is loyal to his word. The one who fails to keep his word is a hypocrite. Who can escape death, which comes sooner or later anyway? Did you think I was going to disappear and make people say, 'The Muslims do not keep their word anymore'?"

The crowd then turned to Abu Dharr and asked whether he had known of the young man's fine character. He answered, "Not at all, but I did not feel that I could refuse him when he singled me out, as it would not have been in keeping with the laws of generosity. Should I be the one to make people say that there is no more kindness left in Islam?"

The hearts of the accusers trembled and they dropped their claim, saying, "Should we be the ones to make people say that there is no more compassion left in Islam?"(the Book of Futuwwa)

Just reflect about this incident. Some other time we might comment upon it.

We will meet incha Allah tomorrow.