

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

The blessed month of Ramadan came and is now gone. But the active Muslim is not a man or a woman who seeks relaxation after the month of Ramadan. The Muslim who understands the purpose of his life never relaxes in accomplishing all his duties towards Allah and towards his fellow human beings. To him or her, his duties are not burdens at all. On the contrary it is in the accomplishment of these duties that he or she finds real pleasure. If we are young we should adopt the ways and means that will help us to derive pleasure from such sources and not just from eating, playing or exchanging foolish chats or watching stupid films. If we are old we should have by now understood that the "... the life of this world is nothing but an illusory enjoyment" as Allah says in the Holy Quran "*wa mal hayatad dunya illa mataa'oul ghorour*" (3:186). All amongst us whether young or old should by now have well understood the transitoryness of existence. Nothing here is permanent. The Holy Quran tells us "*Kouullo man alyaha faanin wa yabqa wajho rabbeka Zoul Jalale wal ikraam*" which we translate as "All that is on earth will pass away. And there will abide forever the Person of thy Lord, Master of Glory and Honour" (55:27-28). As far as we are concerned Allah has created us so that we may worship and serve Him and our whole life is a trial. Allah says in Sura Al Mulk (67) "Blessed is He in whose hand is the Kingdom, and He has Power over all things; who has created death and life that He might try you – which of you is best in deeds ; He is Mighty and the Most Forgiving". The more we live the more we understand that life is full of trials and that to face them we should be armed with patience. Allah says "And we will try you with something of fear and hunger and the loss of wealth and lives and fruits but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere"(2:156). Anyone who has lived enough would have experienced some of these trials if not all of them. But when misfortune befalls us we should remember our true nature that is we do not belong to ourselves and that we belong to Allah. Allah says that those who persevere patiently are they "who when misfortune befalls them say "*Inna lillahe wa inna elyahe rajeoune*" "Surely to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return". People who respond to misfortune in this manner are promised blessings and mercy from Allah. He says "It is these on whom descend blessings from their Lord and mercy and it is these who are rightly guided." (2:158)

So we are not here to do as we wish. Allah says "*Afa hasebal insaana annama khalaqnakoum abasan wa annakoum elayna laa tourjaoune*" which we translate as "What! Did you think that we had created you without any purpose and that you will not be brought back to us?" (23:116). Allah has created us and He has given us some freedom

of action and thought but we belong to Him. If we ignore His teachings and try to devise our own teachings we would be ruined and we will lose the next phase of our life that is after death. The words "*Inna lillahe wa inna elayhi rajeoune*" meaning "To Allah we belong and to Him is the return" is a reminder of the real nature of existence and that we should not be overly concerned with whatever we lose in this world.

So now that the holy month of Ramadan is gone we need to take stock of what we have left and do our best to know, understand and do our duties vis a vis Allah and our fellow human beings in the best possible way. We will relax the intensity of the efforts that we deployed in Ramadan but in no way will we relax our efforts in doing good daily so that we might reach the objectives of our life that we need to fulfill. Anyhow this is how I view the situation after every month of Ramadan. One week is almost gone by. Now is the time for everyone to take stock of what he or she has been doing during that one week. Have we been keeping up our daily recital and study of the Holy Quran? Are we trying to increase our knowledge of our religion on a daily basis or what? Are we taking time to pray or are we just going through the motions without even thinking of Allah? Similarly you can find other questions about other areas of improvement on which you should focus in your life and do something about it.

Now we will say a few words about a man who is a symbol of courage, a personification of a man of faith, an embodiment of a real lover of and a believer in Hazrat Masih Maood (as). He is one of the rare persons whose testimony of faith has been commented upon by Hazrat Masih Maood (as). That person is an inspiration for all of us and will remain so most probably until the end of times. I think that by now you would have guessed that I am speaking of Hazrat Sayyad Abdul Latiff (may Allah be pleased with him). Why I wish to say a few words about him is because he was murdered by foolish Mullahs who still populate Afghanistan and some other regions of the world. Incha Allah on some other occasions we will go into details in the life of this champion of truth. But today I will just say a few words about him because 14th July should be a day of remembrance for this great man of Allah who proved his worth by giving his life for his beliefs in the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah (as). As you might well know that 14th of July is well known for commemoration of the French revolution of 1789 when peasants attacked the prison Bastille and freed prisoners and eventually overthrew the monarchy and nobility and proclaimed freedom, brotherhood and equality as their new motto. It is debatable how far these ideals have truly been implemented in French society and elsewhere. But on 14th July 1903 in Afghanistan a man of around 53 years was martyred because of his freedom of belief. He gave more importance to his faith than to his life. He was a learned and pious person who had many followers. But when he heard about the claims of the Promised Messiah he visited Qadian in order to learn more about those

claims. Eventually after many discussions and after witnessing many signs he was completely convinced of the truthfulness of these claims.

In fact he came to visit the Promised Messiah while he left Afghanistan for Hajj. On his way he changed his mind and went instead to Qadian. In his book "*Tazkiratoush Shhadatain*" the Promised Messiah gives us ample details of his conversations with him whilst he was in Qadian. When he went back he was imprisoned due to the spite of the mullahs and he was tortured. According to the Promised Messiah he was chained with a load of around 130pounds of iron and fetters of around 17 pounds were put in his feet. But every time he was asked to recant his beliefs he gave the same reply i.e "God forbid that I should deny the truth. This life is worth little and none of my kith and kin shall avail me in the least. It is not possible that I should renounce my faith for their sake. I shall die for my faith." Eventually they stoned him to death.

The Promised Messiah writes:

"With his martyrdom the deceased has, with his own blood, set an enviable precedent for all my followers. This is the precedent that they all needed. It is because there are some among them even now who, after rendering a little service, begin to think that they have rendered a very remarkable service and think in their minds that they have put me under a personal obligation. And they do not realise that it is they who are indebted to God Almighty who gave them the opportunity of doing that little service. There are some who have not joined us with genuine earnestness and whole-heartedness and do not furnish the proof of the sincerity which they claim to have, nor show true steadfastness. They ignore the faith for the love of small material gains, and are unable to stand up to the least trial. Although they profess to have joined the godly fold, they still cling to worldly gains. But we are a thousand times grateful to our God for those followers who have joined us for the most sincere motives and have accepted the faith with true sincerity and are fully prepared to face every trial for the faith. Yet the degree of loyalty demonstrated by this stout-hearted man is yet to be shown by our men. We pray that God may grant them all the same firmness and steadfastness which he has manifested. The mundane affairs of this life are always exposed to the devastating influence of Satan which crosses the way of those who desire to become spiritually perfect and righteous. There will be many who will join this Movement but, alas, there will be only a few who will set such an example."

Furthermore the Promised Messiah said :

O Abdul Latif may thousands of blessings be showered on thee, for thou hast, in my own lifetime, manifested unparalleled fidelity for me and I do not know how my followers will behave when I am no more among them.

That courageous man, the beloved of God the Creator, did at last prove his mettle.

He surrendered his life for the sake of the True Beloved (God) as he was completely disinterested in this ephemeral world.

The wilderness of life is full of diverse dangers, as millions of deadly serpents wait in every nook and cranny.....

Notice the cleverness and amazing performance of this Sheikh from 'Ajam: he traversed all this spiritual distance in one leap.

It is incumbent that the servant be completely engrossed in the service of the Master in a manner that he is always prepared to sacrifice his being in His service.

He surrendered his life as a sacrifice for the sake of the beloved and he swallowed even poison to acquire Him.

So long as one does not drink the deadly cup for the sake of the beloved, how could he, a mere chaff, acquire immunity from death?

Under such death there lie a hundred lives. If you wish the life eternal, then quaff the goblet full of death.

O ye, who is engrossed in greed and avarice, true longing for the beloved could not abide in thy mean heart.

O ye, whose heart is completely engrossed in the acquisition of mundane possessions and who has sacrificed his honour for sinful desires.

Million armies of devils are chasing thee so that thou mayest burn like straw in the fire of hell.

For the sake of some false hope or fear thy faith begins to quiver.

Do you trample the true faith of God under thy feet for the sake of this faithless abode?

This is what is known as the path of truth and purity; this is the ultimate aim of every man of true faith.

They live only for His sake and have no personal aims; they throw away their own lives in the path of the Lord.

They sever themselves from all worldly fame, honour and status; they surrender theirs and allow their crowns to be taken away from their heads for His sake.

Having relinquished their ego they approach Him through His remembrance and for the sake of the Beloved's Countenance they sacrifice their personal honours.

Even the mention of their names furnishes us with the opportunity of the remembrance of God, causing one's faith regarding the truth of God to be enhanced and causing joy for our hearts.

If thou be in the search of true faith, let this be your model, so shall it make the task of the seekers after truth very easy.

But you are fettered to the world; and if you die not for His sake, how could you reach the Beloved Friend?

O ye, the world-seeking dog, how can ye hope to reach the Beloved Friend?

Annihilate thyself in His path so that thou mayest inherit spiritual blessing; and surrender thy life so that a new life be given to you.

Thou art wasting thy life in pride and rancour having shut thine eyes from the path of truth and faith.

The pure-hearted have a strange affinity with the pure-hearted but the evil-minded ones always abhor the true pearl.

The secret of faith is sowing the seed of self-destruction; added to this one has to discard the material life.

When thou truly engageth thyself in bewailing before God Almighty, consequently someone is raised to lead people to the right path.

The heart aware of spiritual secrets bewails at the deplorable condition of the ignorant ones; and those gifted with the light of true knowledge feel pity, in their hearts for the blind ones.

The law of nature has been so ordained that the strong comes to the aid of the weak.”(Tazkiratoush Shhadatain)

We will stop here today. May Allah give to each one amongst us a faith that helps us to see the world as it is and not to be fooled by it.