

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As good Ahmadi Muslims we are expected not just to pay lip service to the teachings of the Promised Messiah (as). We are expected to translate those teachings in our daily lives as long as we live. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) was guided by Allah to teach the world Islam as it was taught by the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). As his followers it is incumbent upon us to know and understand his teachings in the best possible way so that we might follow them in the best possible way and also so that we might be able to teach it to others in the best possible way. If we are true to our pledges of obedience to the Promised Messiah we need to be well aware of the ten conditions of *bai'at* and we should do our best to follow them. On 4<sup>th</sup> March 1889 Hazrat Masih Maood (as) issued a pamphlet in which he spoke about the objectives of his Jamaat. Although we have spoken about this before, I will repeat them here so that each one who forms part of his Jamaat might know in the Promised Messiah's own words what is expected of him or her. He says:

“If anyone should deliberately contravene the conditions set out in the announcement of 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1889, and should persist in his rebellious attitude, he will be expelled from this Movement. ( Here he is alluding to the pamphlet which he wrote on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1889 in which he specified the 10 commitments that anyone who wished to join the Jamaat should be ready to take prior to joining the Jamaat. And once he or she joins the Jamaat he should do his best to improve his adherence to these conditions of *bai'at* as they are commonly known.) The system of *bai'at* has been instituted solely with the purpose of bringing together a large group of the righteous, so that they should cast a positive influence in the world, and their unity should be a source of blessing and greatness and good harvest for Islam. Since they will be united for the same cause, they will be readily available for the pure and holy service of Islam. They should not be lazy, miserly and purposeless Muslims, nor should they be like the worthless ones who have done great harm to Islam through their dissention and inequity and have stained its beautiful face by their acts of transgression, nor should they be like the heedless dervishes and those who have withdrawn from the world, who are totally unaware of the needs of Islam and unconcerned with the welfare of their brethren, and who feel no eagerness for promoting the welfare of mankind.( Here we may say that even today there are many who are doing a great disservice to Islam by their attitude. I am not just thinking of individuals but countries and heads of states as well. These days no one is unaware of what is going on in the Muslim world because they make headline news every day for darkening the face of Islam. No one is proposing a way for the Muslim world to come out of this crisis and yet they all say that they are for peace and they are followers of the Holy prophet Mohammad (saw).)He continues “On the contrary, they should have such sympathy for the people that they should become the refuge of the poor and

fathers to the orphans and, like passionate lovers, be always ready to sacrifice themselves for discharging Islamic duties. They should make every effort that their blessings should spread in the world and the pure fountain of love for the Divine and of sympathy for His servants should spring out of every heart, and their unity should be seen as flowing like a river.....” (Unfortunately we should say it reluctantly that the present day Jamaat has not lived up to these expectations of the Promised Messiah. On the contrary whenever they find some vulnerable people on whom they could vent their anger they have shown themselves to be as ferocious as wolves by clinging to a vitiated understanding of what Jamaat Ahmadiyya stands for. They are misguided and they misguide others by following their base instincts.) He continues:

“God Almighty, by His special grace and favour, has designed to make the prayers and the attention of this humble one the means of the manifestation of their pure capacities.

That Holy and Glorious One has inspired me with the eagerness to occupy myself with the inner training of these seekers, and to strive day and night to rid them of their impurities, and to beseech God to grant them the light whereby a person is delivered from the bondage of his ego and of Satan and develops a natural love for the ways of God Almighty. I would also solicit for them the Holy Spirit, which is generated by the strong relationship between perfect Providence and undulated service to God. I would also endeavor to secure their deliverance from the vicious spirit which is generated by the intense relationship between Satan and *Nafs-e-Ammarah* [the Self that incites to evil. Thus, with the help of Allah, I will not be lax and lazy and will not be heedless in seeking the reform of my friends who have joined this Movement in full sincerity. Indeed, I shall be ready even to face death so that they might live. I shall solicit for them from God Almighty the spiritual power which, like an electric current should activate their entire beings. I am sure that all this will come about for those who, having joined the Movement, shall wait steadfastly, for God Almighty has determined to create this group and to promote it for the manifestation of His Glory and His Power, so as to spread in the world love for Himself and sincere repentance and piety and real goodness and peace and prosperity and sympathy for mankind. Therefore, these will be His own people and He will strengthen them with His own spirit.....”

When we read and reflect on this text we cannot but help asking ourselves if we are doing what is expected of us as Ahmadi Muslims when we see with how great a determination Hazrat Masih Maood (as) wanted to care for all those who would join him for a spiritual cure. He continues:

“.....He will purify them from a life of impurity and will bring about a pure change in their lives, as He has promised in His holy prophecies, and will cause them to grow rapidly and will bring thousands of the righteous into it. He Himself will water them and cause them to flourish, so much so that their numbers and their blessings will be looked upon with amazement. Like a lamp that is placed at a height, they will spread their light in every corner of the world and will be seen as the symbols of Islamic blessings. God will cause the perfect followers of this Movement to excel the followers of all other faiths in respect of every blessing, and

to the Day of Judgement there will appear among them those who will be blessed with acceptance and help. The Lord of Glory has determined this and He has the power to do all that He wills. All power and all strength belong to Him.....”  
(Essence of Islam Vol 4 Page 243)

So once we say we are a member of the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah we should ask ourselves whether we are doing all that is expected from us to try to walk the path that will incha Allah lead us to Allah. We should see to it that in our daily life we should not follow the suggestions of Satan and we should learn to be inclined thoroughly towards Allah. This is the task that we have assigned ourselves and it will last incha Allah throughout our lifetime. As long as we can we should continue to strive in this path while relying upon Allah’s Grace and whilst seeking His Help through prayers fervently offered. I say it again, our members should reread this extract that I have just read as it helps one to understand what being a member of the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah entails for each one amongst us.

May Allah help each one amongst us to realize clearly why we are here and may He helps each one amongst us to fulfill our mission to His Satisfaction incha Allah.