

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

When prior to the start of the Hajj there was the crane accident in Mecca, I felt sorrow for all those people who were, so to say, crushed to their death in the most sacred of places, that is, the Masjid Al Haram. When accidents happen in construction sites usually it is said that the necessary precautions were not taken. But unfortunately around the world accidents still continue to happen at construction sites despite the fact that construction works are usually monitored and planned by highly qualified people. So I prayed to Allah to spare the coming Hajjis from any further accidents. Nonetheless we see that there has been a severe accident and more than 1000 Hajjis have lost their lives and many have been injured. The images that I have seen on the net are really sad and heartrending. You can see piles of people lifeless on top of one another. It is really quite sad the way they have died. We sincerely deplore this accident and sympathize with all those who have lost their dear ones in this tragedy. Let us hope and pray that the Saudis will review the arrangements and bring whatever corrective actions are needed in order to avoid such accidents in future.

You know these days there are plenty of problems in Saudi Arabia. A copy of a letter in Arabic has been published in an important newspaper in London by a nephew of the king calling for his removal. It is rumored that the newly appointed king is not up to the task and that his policies are not in the interest of Saudi Arabia. So this nephew of the king is calling for their family Shura to step in and save Saudi Arabia by replacing the king. So one can only imagine what is the situation over there especially after these two Hajj accidents and the war with Yemen and the battle of words with Iran and the fight against Isis and the crisis at the top in the government and the dwindling of oil revenues. The king of Saudi Arabia has a sort of title. He is known as the guardian of the two Holy Places that is Mecca and Medina. But it seems that the guardianship is not being properly done. They have been pouring money in the development of these places with a view to give additional facilities to the Hajjis. Unfortunately these accidents show that the situation is still not under control. Methods for direct crowd control and the restriction of the number of Hajjis have to be studied and implemented. If the finger of blame is being directly pointed at the Saudis, one should not forget that the people also have to be blamed because they have not followed the instructions they were given. Anyhow this is another hajj tragedy added to the long list of similar tragedies that have been dogging the Hajj in modern times. Since 1975 or even earlier the Saudis have a research council to monitor and find ways of improving the organization of Hajj. There have been many improvements but there are still much to be done. Let us hope and pray that they will come up with the necessary solutions.

Members should know that the Holy prophet Mohammad (saw) performed the Hajj only once in his lifetime. It was in the last year of his life in the month of March and the day of Arafat was on Friday 6th March. During that Hajj he established the rites of Hajj for all time to come. He advised the Muslims by saying “learn your rites from me”. It is reported in Bukhari that on the day of Sacrifice (Nahr) he pronounced the sermon that we know of as the farewell sermon. That then should have been on Saturday 7th March 632CE. There are different versions of this sermon in different books. From Bukhari we read as follows as narrated by Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique (ra):

“The Prophet (ﷺ) delivered to us a sermon on the Day of Nahr. He said, "Do you know what is the day today?" We said, "Allah and His Apostle know better." He remained silent till we thought that he might give that day another name. He said, "Isn't it the Day of Nahr?" We said, "It is." He further asked, "Which month is this?" We said, "Allah and His Apostle know better." He remained silent till we thought that he might give it another name. He then said, "Isn't it the month of Dhul-Hijja?" We replied: "Yes! It is." He further asked, "What town is this?" We replied, "Allah and His Apostle know it better." He remained silent till we thought that he might give it another name. He then said, "Isn't it the forbidden (Sacred) town (of Mecca)?" We said, "Yes. It is." He said, "No doubt, your blood and your properties are sacred to one another like the sanctity of this day of yours, in this month of yours, in this town of yours, till the day you meet your Lord. No doubt! Haven't I conveyed Allah's message to you? They said, "Yes." He said, "O Allah! Be witness. So it is incumbent upon those who are present to convey it (this information) to those who are absent because the informed one might comprehend it (what I have said) better than the present audience, who will convey it to him. Beware! Do not renege (as) disbelievers after me by striking the necks (cutting the throats) of one another."(Bukhari 1741)

We will say a few words about the message that has been given to all Muslims till the end of times. We also understand from other reports that this speech was made near one of the Jamraats that is the Pillar where Satan is stoned. In this speech he spoke to the people about the essence of Islam. All Muslims should consider the life and property of all Muslim brothers as sacred and they should not be violated. This means that Muslims have to live in peace. It is forbidden for them to attack other Muslims or to take their properties. How unfortunate is it that the leaders of the Muslims these days have forgotten this important lesson of our noble Prophet and they are inflicting untold pains on other Muslims in Syria, in Yemen, in Libya, in Egypt in Pakistan, in Iraq and many other places around the world. In this message is also a lesson for those who think that they can allow themselves to punish other Muslims who do not agree with them with any sort of punishment. Allah has not allowed any group of Muslims to punish any other group

because of beliefs. Everyone is free to believe what he likes and he is accountable to Allah alone. Allah has not allowed any Ulema or Molvi to declare any Muslim as disbeliever or as a one who has renounced Islam (*Murtadd*) or even a hypocrite. Those who do so need to learn more about Islam instead of parading themselves as the true representative of the faith.

The fact that the Holy prophet (saw) asked the people present in the Farewell Hajj to convey what he had said to others because “the informed one might comprehend it (what I have said) better than the present audience” shows that people who came afterwards could comprehend what the Holy Prophet said in a better way than what his direct audience understood. This is a sentence that should be meditated upon. Lastly despite the fact that the Prophet said that Muslims should not revert to *kufr* after him by killing each other we see that even today Muslims are busy killing other Muslims. Yet these same Muslims or so-called ones would tell you that they understand the Holy Quran well and they have better knowledge of the sayings of the Holy Prophet (saw) and they are the promoters of peace in the world. Unfortunately peace is still far away.

Hazrat Masih Mood (as) came as this messenger of peace. All his followers should strive to put an end to their differences and work together for the attainment of the objectives which he set himself. He says:

The reason for calling the Reformer of this age by the name of the Promised Messiah appears to be that his great task would be to put an end to the supremacy of Christianity and to repel the attacks of the Christians and to demolish their philosophy—which is opposed to the Holy Qur’an—with strong arguments and to convey to them fully the truth of Islam. The greatest calamity for Islam in this age consists of the philosophical attacks and religious criticism by the Christians, which cannot be repelled without Divine support. It was necessary that someone should come from God Almighty to combat them. **[A’ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam, Ruhani Khaza’in, vol. 5, p. 341]**

In another place he says:

God Almighty looked at the world and found it in darkness and singularized His humble servant for the reform of His creatures. Do you then wonder that according to the Divine promise a Reformer has been sent at the turn of the century? God created him in the image of whichever Prophet He chose. Was it not necessary that the prophecy of the Holy Prophet (saw) should be fulfilled?

He further said:

Brethren, I am a Reformer, not an innovator and, God forbid, I have not come to spread any innovation. I have come to proclaim the truth. I consider everything that finds no place in the Qur'an or Hadith, and is opposed to them, as heresy and negation of faith. But there are few who can reach the true meaning of the Divine Word and can comprehend its subtle mysteries. I have not added anything to, nor subtracted anything from the faith. Brethren, my faith is the same as yours. I follow the same Noble Messenger (saw) whom you follow. The same Holy Qur'an is my guide, my beloved and my scripture, believing in which is incumbent upon you also. It is quite true that I believe that Jesus son of Mary (as) died and joined the company of the dead. I also believe with complete certainty that the prophecy of the coming of the Messiah has been fulfilled in me. O brethren, this belief of mine is not the product of my own imagination. Rather God Almighty has informed me, through His revelation, that I am the one who was to come in the name of Jesus son of Mary (as).

God has disclosed to me all the conclusive arguments which are contained in the Holy Qur'an and the true Ahadith, which establish the death of Jesus son of Mary (as), Messenger of God, as a certainty. The Almighty God has told me repeatedly through His revelations that I have been sent in the spirit and perfection of Jesus son of Mary(as), to repel the *Yahudiyyat* of the latter days. I am thus metaphorically the promised son of Mary, whose advent was promised at the time of *Yahudiyyat* and the supremacy of Christianity. I have appeared in humility with spiritual power and spiritual weapons. **[Majmu'ah Ishtiharat, vol. 1, pp. 231-232]**

Speaking about the Holy prophet (saw) he said:

In this age, the Holy Prophet (saw) and Islam have been reviled in abusive writings to a degree which has no parallel among any other Prophet in any age....In this age, Satan, along with all his followers, is trying his utmost to destroy Islam. Without a doubt, this is the final battle between truth and falsehood. Thus, this age deserves the advent of a divinely commissioned one for its reformation. And he is the Promised Messiah, who is present among you. This age required that, at this delicate moment in time, God should provide a conclusive argument with heavenly signs. These heavenly signs are now being exhibited. Heaven is eager to exhibit so many signs as would blow the trumpet of the victory of Islam in every country and every part of the world. O Mighty Lord, hasten Thou the day which Thou hast willed to be

made manifest. Let Thy glory shine forth in the world and let the victory of Thy faith and Thy Messenger be proclaimed. Amin. [**Chashma-e-Ma‘rifat, Ruhani Khaza’in, vol. 23, pp. 94-95**]

Allah advised the Promised Messiah in clear revelations to solve the problems of the Arabs but they are not yet ready to listen unfortunately and their problems know no end. May Allah help each one amongst us to understand the purpose of the coming of the Promised Messiah and may we all contribute to its achievement *incha Allah*.