

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Very often we have heard or read the following extract from Noah's Ark (*Kishti Nuh*), one of the most important books of Hazrat Masih Maood (as):

“How unfortunate, indeed, is the man who does not even know that he has a God with power over all things! Our Paradise, indeed, is our God: our highest enjoyment is in God, for we have seen Him and all beauty found in Him, this treasure is worth having, even if at the cost of one's life; and this is a jewel which should be purchased even if obtainable only by sacrificing one's entire being. O ye that are devoid, run to this spring, for it will slacken your thirst. It is the spring of life that shall save you. What am I to do, and how am I to impress this glad tiding upon your mind, with what drum should I go crying through the streets that this is your God, so that all should hear! And with what unguent am I to treat the people so that their ears open to hear!”

In these words there is a cry from the heart of the Promised Messiah(as) that those who follow him should also know Allah who is a treasure beyond compare. In all his writings he has tried to instill in his followers the desire to know Allah because he knew Allah and he found that He is a great treasure and he wanted the people also to share in what he had obtained. In fact the purpose of making the oath of allegiance (*bai'at*) to him was to obtain all the graces and favours that Allah had bestowed upon him. Of course a Jamaat was created for people to get the opportunity to practice Islamic virtues and live the Islamic life with a view to obtain salvation. These are not my words. Rather they are his own words that I have paraphrased. Several times I have said it that our members and Ahmadis in general should try to read the book *Kishti Nuh* regularly so that we might have ever present in front of our eyes what is expected of us as good Ahmadi Muslims. Let us read another extract. He says:

“If you really become God's, then rest assured that God is your very own. Whilst you will sleep, He will keep watch over you; while you neglect your vigil against the enemy, He will keep an eye on him and disrupt his plans. Even now you have no idea what wondrous powers your God has. If you had known, then no day could have dawned on you for you to grieve over for lack of things of this world. A man who has a treasure in his possession, does he weep and cry over the loss of a penny, as though he were about to perish? Had you been aware of this treasure that God would suffice for all your needs, what reason was there for you to be so wholly absorbed in

things of this world? God is a most precious treasure; realise its proper value. Without Him you are nothing; neither you nor your material means and plans. Do not follow in the footsteps of other nations which have come to depend wholly on material means. As a snake eats earth, they subsist on the basis of the lower and inferior material means. Like vultures and dogs eating carrion, they too have sunk their teeth in a carcass. Indeed, they have drifted very far from God, having taken to the worship of human beings, the eating of swine's flesh, and the free use of wine as if it were harmless like water. Since they depend too much on material means, and seek no help from God they are dead; and the heavenly spirit has flown out of them as a dove flies away from its nest, The leprosy of the worship of Mammon has taken a hold on the inside of their hearts and cut to pieces the organs of their inner spiritual life. Beware ye of this leprosy. I do not forbid you to think of material means within proper limits: what I forbid is that like other nations you become wholly the slaves of material means, altogether forgetting God Who controls material means as well. Only if you had the eyes to see, you would find there is only God and God alone, everything else being worthless. You can neither stretch out your arm nor fold it except with His permission. A person spiritually dead would laugh at this; but it would be better for him if he died before he indulged in this laughter.”

In this extract he teaches us to learn to rely on Allah and not to be affected by anything that we might lose in this world. We should use material means but we should not just rely upon them. We should also pray to Allah and seek His Help in everything that we might try to do. We should not just copy the West and forget Allah. We have to establish our relationship with Allah especially through prayers. One should meditate upon these words. Speaking on this further he says:

“Beware! Having seen other nations, how they have attained a considerable measure of success in their worldly plans, you should not begin to wish to follow in their footsteps. Listen carefully and take heed that they are aliens to and unmindful of that God Who calls you all to Himself, What is their god but a frail human being, this being the reason why they have been left in such a complacent error. I do not wish to stop you from striving for worldly good, but you should not follow the ways of those who think this present world is all in all. In everything you do, whether it pertains to things of this world or of the next, you should seek help and succour from God alone, and this should remain the guiding principle of your life forever and ever. But this seeking of help should not be from your lips alone: it should be your conviction deep down to the bottom of your being that every blessing comes only from heaven. You shall be really righteous only when,

at the time of every difficulty, before sitting down to make your plans, you close your door upon yourself, and fall down before the throne of God Almighty, crying for His grace and help and succour. Then the Holy Spirit will come to your help, and through unseen means a way shall be opened for you. Have mercy on your own souls and be not like those who have cut themselves wholly away from God and have fallen on material means to such an extent that to seek Divine help they do not even formally utter with their lips the words "If God be willing." May God open your eyes, so that you should begin to perceive that your God is the beam on which all plans rest. When the central beam of the roof falls down, can the minor supports maintain their position? Most certainly not. They would all come down in an instant, in all likelihood, with much loss of life. In the same way your plans cannot remain in position without help from God, If you will not cry for His help, if you will not make that soliciting the most fundamental principle of your life, you will have no success, and shall die at last with great regret."

An Ahmadi Muslim is expected to show such a devotion to Allah in his entire life. If the majority of the members of the Jamaat do not understand these instructions of the Promised Messiah(as) and they fail to live by them, then the arrival of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has not been beneficial at all to such members. Allah knows best how many Ahmadi Muslims have understood this message of the Promised Messiah and they have tried their best to live by them. Further he says:

"In heaven you shall be counted members of my following only when in all truth you actually begin to advance on the paths of righteousness. Offer your five daily obligatory prayers with such concentration and awe of mind as though you were seeing God in front of you, with your physical eyes. Observe the days of fasting for the sake of God in full sincerity. All among you who are liable for Zakat should never fail to discharge this important obligation; and those on whom the pilgrimage to Mecca has become obligatory, without any obstacles standing in the way, should duly undertake that blessed journey. Do all good deeds with the proper care they deserve, forsaking evil from a real repulsion rising in the heart. Be very, very sure that no action, whatsoever, can take you to God if it is devoid of righteousness of the heart. The root of everything good is *Taqwah*, (fear of God) in whatever action this root is not lost, that action will never be devoid or futile. It is necessary too, that you be tried by being thrown into diverse griefs and distresses, even as those before you were tried. Be, therefore, forewarned lest you stumble when the time comes. The earth, with everything in it, can inflict no injury on you, provided your contact

with heaven is firm. Whenever any injury comes to you, it will come only from your own hands, If all your honour on this earth is lost to you, God will give you an honour in heaven that shall never wane. Therefore do not leave Him, whatever you may have to go through. You are bound to be persecuted in diverse ways, and many of your hopes will be denied to you, but in such cases you should not grieve, for the Lord your God shall put you through trials, to test whether or not you remain firm. If you desire that the angels in heaven should sing your praises, then take the beating many people shall give you, and rejoice; hear abuse and give thanks to the Lord; experience disappointments but do not break away from Him. You are the last people of God. Practice the good to an extent where it reaches its highest perfection. Everyone among you who relaxes and becomes lazy, shall be thrown out of the community, as a dirty thing is discarded and thrown out. -He shall die with regret in his heart, and he will not be able to injure God in any way. Lo and behold! With great joy I convey to you the glad tidings that your God does indeed really exist, although all are His creatures, but He selects only those who select Him. He Himself comes to whosoever goes to Him. He bestows honour upon those who honour Him. After you have straightened your hearts, and purified your tongues and eyes and ears, you come to Him, and He shall accept you.”

This is the spiritual heritage that we have received from the Promised Messiah. As good Ahmadis, as Ahmadis who believe in the Promised Messiah we should see to it that we become true ambassadors of these teachings. Under no circumstance should we say that we believe something yet we act contrary to those beliefs. These teachings of the Promised Messiah should be transmitted from generation to generation. For this purpose we should resort to prayer and seek Allah’s help so that each succeeding generation becomes a better embodiment of these teachings than the previous ones. We may be weak but our Allah is Almighty. Allah has shown His Favour upon us and He desires that we should seek Him so that He might guide us to Him. May Allah help each Ahmadi Muslim to realize the aim of his existence. Incha Allah.