

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

So once again, through His Grace Allah has allowed us to see the blessed month of Zul Hijja for this year, that is 1437AH. The new moon was born yesterday at 13h00 Mauritian time. Up until 11 o'clock this morning I had not seen any official statement from the Saudis concerning Hajj. However, they have an organization over there which has devised a calendar known as Ummul Qura Calendar. They have issued a statement saying that since the Hilal was nowhere visible on earth yesterday, hence today is the 30<sup>th</sup> day of Zul Qada, the eleventh month of the Islamic calendar and therefore tomorrow will be the first day of Zul Hijja. Consequently, the day of Arafat will be on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September and Eidul Adha will be incha Allah on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Most probably all Muslims around the world will be celebrating Eid on the same day this year. Anyhow by next week we should be fixed on this matter after the Jumma Mosque will say when Eid should be observed here. Personally I think that if the Saudis observe Eid on Monday and if we follow suit it is better than just following what the Jumma Mosque says over here.

If prior to Eidul Fitr Allah imposed fasting on the majority of Muslims with a view to develop a better consciousness of Him, for Eidul Adha there is no such obligation that fall on all Muslims. Prior to Eidul Adha those who have means should try to go for Hajj and those who remain behind should try to offer an animal in sacrifice or should participate in the sacrifice of an animal. The aim of this sacrifice is to help us to develop even more of Allah's consciousness in ourselves. Allah says:

لَنْ يَنَالَ اللَّهُ لُحُومَهَا وَلَا دِمَائُهَا  
 وَلَكِنْ يَنَالُهُ التَّقْوَىٰ مِنْكُمْ ۗ كَذَلِكَ  
 سَخَّرَهَا لَكُمْ لِتُكَبِّرُوا اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ مَا  
 هَدَاكُمْ ۗ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُحْسِنِينَ ③٨

Its translation is as follows:

“Their flesh reaches not Allah, nor does their blood, but it is your righteousness that reaches Him. Thus has He subjected them to you, that you may glorify Allah for His guiding you. And give glad tidings to those who do good.” (22:38)

Here also we see that the emphasis is on the righteousness that we develop in ourselves. In Allah’s eyes it is this that is important and so we should make it our real concern and keep wondering how far we are advancing in it or not. One may have excuses for not fasting when we should be, as in the month of Ramadan and one may not be having enough means to go for Hajj or to buy an animal to slaughter, but every Muslim can and should do his best to develop in himself or herself the quality known as righteousness. This is something that we should all bear in mind. Whatever Allah has forbidden should be avoided and whatever He has prescribed we should do our best to accomplish and that is righteousness.

Regarding the first ten days of the month of Zil Hajj we learn from the Hadith that the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) said:

"There are no days during which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these days," meaning the (first) ten days of Zil Hajj. They said: "O Messenger of Allah! Not even Jihad in the cause of Allah?" He said: "Not even Jihad in the cause of Allah, unless a man goes out with himself and his wealth and does not bring anything back."

So as a good and practicing Ahmadi Muslim we should do our best to engage in our prayers on time and do as much *nawafil* as we can, seeking Allah’s pleasure. In addition, we should be reading more of our Holy Quran with a view to better understand it, so that we might be guided by it. Besides we should do our best in asking forgiveness of Allah and singing His praise as best as we can. We should repeat as much as we can *Subhan Allah, Alhamdo Lilla, Allaho Akbar and Laa ilaha illallah*. We should develop in ourselves a taste for these Zikr and practice them daily. They will help to turn our attention from the world to Allah. The Holy Prophet(saw) is also reported to have said "The two months of Eid i.e. Ramadan and Zil Hajj, do not decrease (in superiority)." Although it is not at all forbidden to eat and drink and to be merry within bounds, we should not forget to seek blessings from Allah whenever the occasion presents itself. May Allah help each one amongst us to develop in ourselves the desire and the determination to obey Him in all circumstances of life.

By Allah’s Grace these days wherever one might be in the world one can follow the rites of Hajj as they are practiced by the Haajjis on television. This is indeed a

spectacular sight. So since it is available we should spare sometime and watch it so that we might at least immerse ourselves in the atmosphere prevalent there during these blessed days. This is a benefit that we are getting but most people before us could not even imagine. Mecca is the most blessed place in the world. In the coming days about 3 million people will converge over there to manifest their faith in Allah. It is the most important Islamic gathering taking place over the whole world. It is reported that on the occasion of the Migration, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) stood on the outskirts of the city and with a tearful eye remarked:

'By Allah! Of all of Allah's land, you are the most beloved to me. And in the eyes of Allah you are the most beloved land. And if your inhabitants never expelled me, I would never have left you.' This shows how deep was his love for this place.

I have read in a presentation entitled "Kaaba History" that before leaving Mecca, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) asked the key holder, Uthman ibn Talha, permission to enter the Ka'ba. When he rudely refused, the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) politely said to him: 'O Uthman! Remember a day will soon come when you will witness the key in my hand and I will give it to whom I please.'

On the occasion of the Conquest of Mecca, Uthman handed the key to the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), upon which he said: 'O Uthman! Do you remember the time when you refused me the key and I told you that it would be in my hand one day?' Uthman replied: 'O Messenger of Allah indeed you said exactly that. I bear witness that Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.' The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said him: 'Not only am I giving this key to you, but it will remain in possession of your future generations until the Day of Judgement. Whoever takes the key from you will be most unjust.' The key still remains in the possession of Uthman's descendants.

From this incident one can easily appreciate how those who have power in their hands deal with those they think weak and bereft of all power. How can an idolater understand what the Holy Prophet (saw) felt in his heart concerning the Kaaba and why it was dear to him. One who worship rocks cannot at all understand the pleasure that exist in being devoted to the Living God. They live in two different worlds. Here we see also the generosity of the Holy Prophet (saw). He did not act rudely against Uthman. In fact he rewarded him by giving to him and his future generations the right to keep the key of the Kaaba.

Since it is the objective of the Muslim to do his best to develop righteousness in himself we will read some extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah about this important subject matter. He says:

“Just as God wishes that the people should fear Him He also wishes that they should acquire the Light of knowledge and through this Knowledge they should attain to the spiritual heights. The true knowledge does not only produce the right type of fear; it produces the will to worship God. There are some unfortunate people who get themselves busy in the acquisition of knowledge and thus go far away from the understanding of the Law of destiny. There are some others who believe in Destiny in such a way that they withdraw themselves from the acquisition of knowledge. But the Holy Quran has instructed men in both the ways—and the instructions given by the Holy Quran are the most perfect, The Quran wishes the people to acquire the true knowledge because it creates the fear of God and the more a man advances in God-realization the more he begins to understand the Grandeur of God and the greater becomes his love for Him. It teaches the people to submit to the law of destiny, for, it produces trust in God and the man becomes fully aware of the significance of the resignation to the will of God which consequently gives him satisfaction and contentment; and that is the real aim and target of salvation.” (Malfoozat vol. 1, p. 215).

He says further:

“You, too, should remember that if you are to be counted as sincere in the sight of God, nobody's opposition will do you any harm. But if on the other hand you will not change for the better and you will not make a firm pledge of obedience to God, He will not care for you. Does anyone take pity on thousands of sheep and goats that are slaughtered every day? Whereas if one man is killed, a strong enquiry is made about it. If you will be no better than the beasts (animals)—useless and careless—you will also be dealt with in the same way. You should try all you can to get yourself included in the list of those who are dear to God so that no hardship and trouble can get hold of you, for nothing happens on the earth unless it has been permitted by God. You should remove every cause of conflict, dissension and enmity. This, now, is the time that you should set aside minor things and get yourself busy with great and important matters.” (Malfoozat Vol. 1, p. 258)

In the end I wished to share with you some anecdotes concerning Jamaat Ahmadiyya and Mecca. Unfortunately, I have not been able to get the references of these materials. I wanted to tell you about what prayer Hazrat Masih Maood

(as) asked one of his disciples to read at the Kaaba and also about the visit of Sir Zafrullah Khan to Mecca and Medina. Unfortunately, I was unable to translate the text. So I will tell you what Molvi Nuruddin (ra) did when he first saw Mecca. We read this from a book written by Sir Mohammad Zafrullah Khan. He says:

“From Bombay Maulawi Nur-ud-Din (ra) took ship for Jeddah. On board he found five intending pilgrims who belonged to his part of the country and who looked after him and made him comfortable in every way. The overland journey from Jeddah to Mecca was performed by camel. He had heard that a supplication made on first sighting the House of Allah was always granted; so when he beheld the Kaaba from a rise when approaching Mecca, he supplicated: "Lord I am ever in need of Thy succour. I beseech Thee, therefore, that whenever I supplicate Thee, of Thy mercy grant my supplication." He was not quite sure of any authority for the common belief in the acceptance of every supplication made on obtaining the first glimpse of the Kaaba, but his subsequent experience convinced him that his supplication made on that occasion had been granted.”

In addition, I also read somewhere that Molvi Nuruddin said that one of the distinctions that he received from Allah was that he got the opportunity to be the only person circumambulating the Kaaba once.

May Allah keep in our heart a love for the Kaaba as it was most dear to our beloved prophet Mohammad (saw). May we all, above everything be amongst those who try to implement in our life the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet (saw).