

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

These days in our sermons we have been reading several extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad(as)(1835-1908). I personally feel that these extracts will help each one among us to better understand what is expected of us as human beings and as a follower of the Promised Messiah. However, no one should delude himself that by just hearing these extracts once he will be able to derive their full benefits. On the contrary, these extracts are to be repeatedly read and pondered upon if we want to profit from the wisdom that they contain. May Allah guide each one amongst us to the essence and not just to the words. We will start with an extract about the attacks of science on religion. He says:

“Just observing the attacks of science over religion in this age when there is a state of war between the two, one should not become disheartened and wonder what to do. There can be no doubt that in this war, Islam does not need to appease itself as the beaten and humiliated. Rather, it is the time of Islam’s spiritual sword just as it had shown its physical might once. Remember this prophecy that soon the enemy in this war will lose with disgrace and Islam will be victorious.

No matter how furious the attack by science and whichever new instruments of war it resorts to, the result is its defeat. I say with gratitude that I have been bestowed the knowledge of Islam’s superior powers. Through this knowledge I can say that Islam will not only defend itself from the attacks from modern philosophy but will prove the confronting knowledge to be no more than mere ignorance and backwardness. The kingdom of Islam has no fear for these attacks from science and philosophy. The days of Islam’s good fortune are nigh and I perceive the signs of its victory visible in the heavens. This prosperity is spiritual and the victory is also spiritual so that the powers of false knowledge are so weakened by the Supreme that they eventually vanish. (A’yeena Kamalaat Islam, footnotes, pp.254-255)

My countrymen, a religion which does not inculcate universal compassion is no religion at all. Similarly, a human being without the faculty of compassion is no human at all. Our God has never discriminated between one people and another. This is illustrated by the fact that all the potentials and capabilities which have been granted to the Aryans have also been granted to the races inhabiting Arabia, Persia, Syria, China, Japan, Europe and America. The earth created by God

provides a common floor for all people alike, and His sun and moon and many stars are a source of radiance and provide many other benefits to all alike. Likewise, all peoples benefit from the elements created by Him, such as air, water, fire and earth, and similarly from other products created by Him like grain, fruit, and healing agents, etc. These attributes of God teach us the lesson that we, too, should behave magnanimously and kindly towards our fellow human beings and should not be petty of heart and illiberal.

Friends! Take it as certain that if either of our two nations will not treat God's attributes with respect and will not shape its conduct in accordance with the conduct of God, then, that nation will soon be wiped out from the face of the earth. Not only will it destroy itself but it will also jeopardise the future of its generations to come. The righteous of all ages have testified that following God's ways works like an elixir for the people. Moreover the survival of human beings, both physical and spiritual, depends on the same eternal truth that man should follow the virtuous attributes of God Who is the Fountainhead of all that is essential for survival. God commences the Holy Qur'an with the following verse which is contained in Surah Al-Fatihah: "*All praise belongs to Allah, Lord of all the Worlds.*"¹ That is, all perfect and holy attributes belong exclusively to Allah, Who is the Lord of all the worlds. The word '*alam* [worlds] comprises all different peoples, all different ages and all the different countries. The commencement of the Holy Qur'an with this verse was designed to counter the views of such people who attempted to monopolise God's unlimited providence for their own nation and imagined that the other nations did not belong to God or that having created these other people, God discarded them as being of no consequence, or else perhaps they were shelved to oblivion by Him, or (God forbid) they were not even created by Him...²

God also made it clear in several places in the Holy Qur'an that His messengers have been appearing in different lands all over the world. In fact He did not neglect any people or any country. The Holy Qur'an explains through various examples that just as God has been looking after the physical development of the people of every country, in accordance with their requirements, so has He blessed every country and every people with spiritual upbringing. Allah says in the Holy Qur'an: [*and there is no people to whom a warner has not been sent*"], meaning that there is no people to whom a Warner has not been sent.³ Therefore, there is no question that the True and Perfect God, to believe in Whom is essential for every person, is the Lord of all the worlds. Furthermore, His providence is not confined to any particular people, age or country. In fact, He is the Lord of all peoples, the Lord of time and space, and He is the Sovereign of all the countries. He alone is the Fountainhead of all beneficence and the Source of

every physical and spiritual strength. All that exists is sustained by Him. He is the Support for every creature. It is the universal beneficence of God which encompasses all peoples, all countries and all ages. It so happened lest anyone should have cause to complain that 'God has bestowed His favour upon such and such people, but not upon us.' Or that 'So and so received the Book in order to be guided while we did not.' Or that 'In such and such an age, He revealed Himself through His revelations, communications and miracles but in our time He remained hidden.' Thus, by demonstrating His universal beneficence, He left no justification for such possible accusations. He displayed His virtues boundlessly so that no people remain bereft of physical and spiritual bounties from Him. He also did not treat any age as doomed.

So, when such are the attributes of our Lord, it is but befitting for us to acquire them ourselves. So, O compatriots! This short epistle entitled 'A Message of Peace' is being presented to you with all due respect and with a sincere heartfelt prayer that Almighty God may Himself inspire you and fill your hearts with trust in my sincerity, lest you misread this friendly gesture and consider it to be an attempt to gain some ulterior motive. Dear Countrymen! The matter of the Hereafter is very often obscured to ordinary people. Its secrets are known only to a few of the enlightened, who embrace a kind of death [for the sake of their Lord] before they die. The goodness of this world, on the other hand, is easily recognized by any man with vision and wisdom. (Message of Peace)

"The task for which God has appointed me is that I should remove the malaise that afflicts the relationship between God and His creatures and restore the relationship of love and sincerity between them.

Through the proclamation of truth and by putting an end to religious conflicts, I should bring about peace and manifest the Divine verities that have become hidden from the eyes of the world. I am called upon to demonstrate spirituality which lies buried under egoistic darkness. It is for me to demonstrate by practice, and not by words alone, the Divine powers which penetrate into a human being and are manifested through prayer or attention. Above all, it is my task to re-establish in people's hearts the eternal plant of the pure and shining Unity of God which is free from every impurity of polytheism, and which has now completely disappeared. All this will be accomplished, not through my power, but through the power of the Almighty God, who is the God of heaven and earth. (Lecture Lahore)

REVELATION

Do not think that revelation from God is not possible in the future: that it was possible only in the past: do not think that the holy spirit cannot come down now. I tell you truly that every door can be closed but the door for the coming down of the holy spirit. Open all the doors of your heart to receive it. With your own hands you remove yourself to a distance from that sun when you close the window through which light can enter. Therefore, get up at once and throw this window open, so that the light of the sun should, of its own accord, enter your heart with the simplicity and inevitability of a natural process. When God has not closed the doors of His blessings upon the world, when in fact He has multiplied them even more than before, do you venture to presume that He has closed upon you the doors of His spiritual blessings, even at a time when they were needed most! No, no; not at all. Rather has that door been opened beyond any possible shadow of doubt. (Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad)

As long as one does not give up one's earlier life, and does not feel that the desire of the self that incites to evil has been extinguished and that God's greatness has not yet settled in one's heart, one cannot be considered a believer... Unless the believers are granted a special distinction, how can the promises related to them be fulfilled? Allah's promise is that He will found such a community that will gain supremacy in every field. God Almighty will bestow all kinds of favours. But what is required is that each person should purify himself. Yes, Allah forgives weaknesses. Whosoever is weak and raises his hand for somebody to grasp and lift him up, will be lifted up. But a believer should not sit idle in this condition, as God is not happy at this. All efforts should be made to please God".

"Our Jama'at should be such that it does not depend on mere words, but should fulfil the true purpose of the pledge. They should bring about a change within themselves. Mere propositions cannot make Allah the Almighty happy. If there is no change within you, then you are no different from others."

In the end I would like to say a few words about the arrival of the indentured laborer's in Mauritius in 1834. It is in their memory that the 2nd November is celebrated in Mauritius as a public holiday. Today most Mauritians live a rather comfortable life although we have about 13,000 families who have an income of less than 9,500 rupees per month and who need help to make ends meet. However, we should remember that our great grand fathers and mothers who came to Mauritius between 1850 and 1910 did not come in a land of honey and milk. They endured a long voyage by sea and a rough life on land. Whatever we are enjoying today is due to the sacrifices that they did. As I have said before it is very important for our young ones to grow up being aware of the history of Mauritius.

This will help them to better understand many things and especially how much all Mauritians share together and we should beware of allowing politicians to divide us. Those who are interested may get on the net several resources to enlighten themselves. Anyhow you may also read my sermon of 1st November 2014 where I spoke in details about them. May Allah help each one among us to be grateful for all His Favours upon us and may we all return to Him in a state of submission.