

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As you are all aware today is the 13<sup>th</sup> January and it is a Friday. In many countries around the world it is viewed as an unlucky day. Plane crashes, plunging of major stocks indexes, catastrophes have been associated with it and many people in the western world especially have a fear of such a day. These days, because of the internet, news, especially false news travel very fast even some Muslims might start believing in such superstitions. So, I want to make it very clear that, as Muslims we believe Friday of any date to be a blessed day because this is what we are taught by the traditions of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). We do not believe in any kind of superstition because the Prophet has instructed us not to do so.

A Muslim should believe that his fate is in the hands of Allah. The Muslim prays to Allah for good in this world and in the next as we have been taught in the following prayer: *Rabbana atena fiddunya hasatanw wa fil akherate hasanatanw waqena azaban naar* meaning “O our Lord grant us what is good in this life and in the next and protect us from the punishment of fire”. The Muslim takes Allah to be the Master of the universe, He can do whatever He likes, there is nothing impossible for Him. The Muslim is called upon to develop a relationship with Allah so that He may take care of all his affairs. Allah has taught us in the Holy Quran “*wastainou bis sabre was salaat*” meaning “seek help with patience and prayer” but Allah adds “*Innaha lakabiratoune illa alal khashe’een*” meaning “but that is difficult except for those who humble in spirit” and who are they? “*Allazina yazounouna annahoum molaqou rabbehim wa annahoum elayhi raje’oune*” meaning “who know for certain that they will meet their Lord and that to Him will they return”. The Muslim has to develop in himself the certainty that after his or her death he will meet His Lord. If the Muslim did his best in this world to follow the instructions of His Lord, he should have no fear of death at all. So as *khasheoune*, that is those who “who know for certain that they will meet their Lord and that to Him will they return,” we should turn to Allah under all circumstances and pray to Him and keep on seeking His Help. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has most aptly explained the philosophy of supplicating to Allah in the following words:

“O’ ye people who were taught to practice forbearance and righteousness, how could you be so mistrustful and impetuous? There is no sign which God has not shown to you, and there is no argument which He has not produced, and still you do not believe! You have defied Divine commands with great temerity. To whom should I compare the deceitful people of this age? They are like the sly fellow who keeps his eyes shut in broad daylight and cries, ‘Where is the sun’? O’ you who deceive yourself, open your eyes first, only then you will behold the sun. It is very easy to dub a Messenger of God as kafir, but it is a lot more difficult to follow him in the subtle paths of faith. To declare a Messenger of God as Dajjal is quite easy, but to enter the narrow gate of his teachings is an arduous task indeed. Those who say that they do not care for the Promised Messiah, in fact, do not care for their own faith, salvation, and purity. If they had any sense of justice and were to analyze their own inner condition, they would realize that, without the renewed certainty of faith which descends from heaven through the Messengers and Prophets of God, their prayers are but a ritual and their fasting mere starvation. The fact is that no one can attain true deliverance from sin, nor can one truly love God or fear Him, as He deserves to be feared, until one attains true knowledge and strength through God’s own Grace and Mercy. It is evident that true knowledge is the basis of all fear and love and it is only after one has gained knowledge and recognition of a thing that love, desire, fear or aversion for that particular thing takes root in one’s heart. It is of course true that one cannot attain true knowledge until God grants it, and it cannot benefit anyone except through God’s Grace. This knowledge then opens the door of seeking and recognizing the truth. It is only through repeated acts of Divine Grace that this door remains open and is not shut thereafter. Spiritual knowledge, in short, can only be attained through Divine grace, and through it alone can it survive. Divine grace purifies and illuminates knowledge, removes the intervening veils and cleanses the *Nafs-e-Ammarah* of all its impurities. It bestows strength and life upon the soul and releases the baser self from the prison of sin and purges it of its evil passions. Also, this grace salvages one from the flood of carnal passions and a kind of transformation takes place in man and he develops a natural aversion for sin. Thereafter, the very first urge felt by the soul, through God’s grace, is called *du‘a* [supplication]. Do not think that we already pray every day, and that the Salat we offer is also prayer; for the prayer which follows true knowledge and is born of Divine grace is of an altogether different colour and complexion.

Such prayer is a thing that consumes, it is a fire that melts, it is a magnetic force that draws Divine mercy, it is a death but ultimately gives life, it is a raging flood but finally turns into a boat. through it every wrong is redressed and every poison finally becomes an antidote.

Blessed are the prisoners who never tire of supplication, for they shall one day be freed. Blessed are the blind who are not listless in their prayers, for they shall one day see. Blessed are those lying in graves who supplicate to God for help and succour, for one day they shall be taken out of their graves. Blessed are you who never tire of supplication, your soul melts in prayer, your eyes shed tears, and a fire kindles in your breast which takes you to dark closets and wildernesses so that you may taste solitude and drives you to restlessness and near madness, for you shall finally receive Divine bounties. The God to Whom I invite is very Gracious, Merciful, Modest, True, and Faithful. He bestows His mercy on the humble ones. You too should be faithful and pray with all sincerity and faith so that He may bestow His mercy on you. Dissociate yourselves from the commotion of the world and do not give religious complexion to your egoistic disputes. Accept defeat for the sake of God so that you may become heirs to great victories. God will show miracles to those who supplicate and those who ask will be blessed with extraordinary grace. Prayer comes from God and to Him it returns. Through prayer God becomes as close to you as your very life.

The first blessing of prayer is that it brings about a holy change in a person, as a consequence of which God also brings about a transformation in His attributes. His attributes are indeed immutable, but for such a transformed person He shows a different manifestation of which the world knows nothing. It would seem as if He had become another God, whereas, in fact, there is no other God. The truth is that it is a new manifestation of His which portrays Him in an altogether different light. It is then that God, in honour of this special manifestation, does for the transformed one what He does not do for others. These are what are known as miracles.” (Lecture Sialkot)

This extract is self-explanatory. He who reads it and implements the advices given will be blessed indeed by Allah. Man, is here to face trials. These trials are of several kinds. But in Islam man is not taught to be hopeless or helpless. Under all circumstances we should be thoroughly convinced that if we are true

to Allah, He would grant us a way out. We should learn to cultivate patience and pray for Allah's help as we have been taught.

From the life of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) I learned early in life about a prayer which has been of great help to me and those who are close to me. I will relate to you how he has written about this experience and this prayer so that you also might know and might use this prayer whenever you are in difficulty. He says:

“Last night I was in such a state that if I had not received Divine revelation, I would have been proved right in thinking that my last moment had arrived. While I was in this condition, I was overtaken by sleep and saw in my dream that I was in a cul-de-sac and three buffaloes were coming towards me. When one of them approached, me I beat it away and the same happened with the second one. Then the third advanced towards me. I felt that it was so strong that there was no way of deliverance from it. While this was passing through my mind, Allah the Almighty so ordained that it turned away. Taking advantage of this I slipped through brushing against it and began to run. I was thinking that it would be running after me but I did not look back. Then the following Prayer was inspired by Allah the Almighty in a dream upon my heart: “*Rabbi koullo shay'in khademoka rabbi fahfazni wansourni warhamni*” meaning “O my Lord everything serves You. So O my Lord, protect me and help me and have mercy on me.”

It was conveyed to me that this is the great name of God and that whoever supplicates in these terms would be delivered from every affliction. (al-Badr, vol. 1, no. 7, December 12, 1902, p. 54)

Someone might just say that these are empty words. But if one is a Muslim and believes in what Allah has said in the Holy Quran and he tries to enter that group of people who are *khassheene*, who regularly humbles themselves in front of the Lord, admitting their mistakes and seek His Help one will soon find that these are not empty words. They are the words of a most efficacious prayer. One will be convinced of its efficacy and usefulness only if one uses it. I am sure there are many Ahmadi Muslims who can testify to the truthfulness of my statement and who are living witnesses to the efficacy of this prayer. If you want to join this group, you need to use this prayer and be sincere in offering it and be constant and you will soon see its effectiveness. From

memory, I recall that once someone complained to the Promised Messiah about his memory lapses and Hazrat Masih told him to do this prayer. I hope and pray that each member of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen and other close friends will make it his or her duty to regularly supplicate Allah with the words contained in this prayer. May Allah grant health and long life to each one amongst us. May we all live to be useful to others. May we all be a group of people who have learned to forgive others for all the harm that they have done us. May we be among the good servants of Allah and the true followers of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). In brief, may Allah help each one amongst us to understand the need for supplicating to Him and may we be supplicants everyday incha Allah. Ameen.