

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

In a famous Hadith in Sahih Muslim we read that Abu Musa reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: “A believer is like a brick for another believer, the one supporting the other. (Book 032, Number 6258)

Another companion Nu'man b. Bashir reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: “The similitude of believers regarding mutual love, affection, fellow-feeling is that of one body; when any limb of it aches, the whole-body aches, because of sleeplessness and fever.” (BK 032 Number 6259)

Hence a Muslim is expected to develop heart that loves all Muslims and if they are in pain he should share their pain. Muslims live in groups and not separate from one another. So, if any Muslim suffers the whole Muslim world should share in that grief.

Since some time now we are all aware that European countries and most recently the USA have inflicted untold amount of suffering on the Muslim World. It is true that, unfortunately, because of the lack of unity amongst the Muslims, western countries, in order to assert their hegemony, continue to harm Muslim countries and even prevent them from developing their economies as they (the western countries) have done. Overall the Muslims around the world are better off now than they were a century before but they are more divided and they are unable to act together.

As from today a new president will be sworn in in the USA. This president has publicly stated that he is against Muslim emigrating to the USA. Since his election in November 2016 there have been many incidents where Muslims have been harassed throughout the country. Already since 9/11 Muslims were under close surveillance in the USA. And now with the arrival of this new president it is expected that things will take a turn for the worst against them. It is true that Muslims in other parts of the world will not be able to do much physically for the Muslims in America. But Muslims around the world are animated by the belief that they pray to a God who is the Master of the Universe, the Creator of the Universe and He has control over all things and

He is very Powerful. It is our strong belief that Prayers that are made to Him in all sincerity and with a full belief that He is the Answerer of prayers will be answered by Him. No one should ever think that it is impossible to influence events in America by offering prayers. On the contrary it is my firm belief that it is the only way. Allah has ways of doing things that cannot be predicted because He can do whatever He likes. And Allah has promised believers that He would always be at their side to help them provided they sincerely believe in Him. He says in the Holy Quran “This Quran is a clear demonstration to men and a guidance and an admonition to the God Fearing. Slacken not, nor grieve and you shall surely have the upper hand if you are believers.” (3:139-40). He also says: “If Allah helps you none can overcome you; but if He forsakes you, then who is there that help you besides Him? In Allah let the believers put their trust.” (3:161). So, it is important for all Muslims to seek Help from Allah because they are convinced that by placing their trust in Him they can get a way out of all their predicaments. At least this should be the way a Muslim thinks.

Some people might think that America’s might and influence in the world is so enormous that no one can do anything against it. Most countries are no match for it. But they cannot do anything at all if Allah is against them. If Muslims are true to Allah, Allah will be on their side always and no one will be able to harm them at all. But if they are not sincere in adhering to the pact that they have made with Allah, then they can be easily destroyed. So, if the Muslim wherever he lives desires Allah’s Help he or she should show in his daily life that he is loyal to Allah. Without this loyalty and the seeking of Allah’s Help the Muslim has nothing. Muslims need to elevate their level of devotion and seek help from Allah for all their problems.

Besides, sometimes a small incident can have unexpected consequences. I read that there was a newly elected American president in the 19<sup>th</sup> century who delivered his two-hour inaugural speech without wearing a hat, in the cold. Soon he caught influenza and it developed in pneumonia and one month after he was elected he died and his Vice president became president. No one knows what may happen but Allah. So, Muslims should always trust in Him and expect help to come from Him whenever they are in difficulty.

Muslims are well attached to their religion. In the words of the founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised

Messiah and Mahdi, I will share with you some extracts of his writings about religion, especially Islam. One can easily discern in these extracts how he dilates upon the inner beauties of Islamic teachings. These extracts help us to understand why Islamic teachings are so beautiful and it has nothing to do with violence. He said:

“The religion that claims to be from God must show signs of being from God and should bear God’s seal, which should attest the fact that it is from Him. Islam is such a religion. That God Who is hidden is known through this religion and manifests Himself to the true followers of this religion. A true religion is supported by the hand of God and through such religion God manifests Himself that He exists. The religions that depend entirely upon stories are only a form of idol worship. Such religions do not possess the spirit of truth. If God is alive as He was, and speaks and hears as He did, there is no reason why He should continue to be silent as if He does not exist. If He does not speak in this age, then equally and certainly He does not hear either. In other words, He is now nothing. That religion alone is true which demonstrates that God hears and speaks in this age also. In a true religion, God attests His existence through His speaking.

Search for God is a difficult matter. It is not an affair of worldly philosophers and wise men. Observation of the heavens and earth only leads to the conclusion that although orderliness indicates that the universe should have a Creator yet it is not proof that such a Creator in fact exists. There is a great deal of difference between ought to be and is. The Holy Qur’an is the only book that sets forth His existence as a fact and not only urges the seeking of God but makes Him manifest. There is no other book which makes manifest the Hidden Being.” [Chashma-e-Masihi, Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 20, pp. 351-352]

“Religion does not mean disputes, abuse and harsh words that are indulged in, in the name of religion. In this context, no one pays attention to the suppression of inner vices or the establishment of true relationship with the Beloved. One party attacks another party like dogs and every kind of ill conduct is exhibited in support of religion. Such people do not realize why they came into this world and what is the main purpose of their lives. They continue to be blind and ill-natured and give their bigoted sentiments the name of religion. They exhibit their bad manners and employ their loose tongues in

support of a fictitious god of whose existence they have no proof. Of what use is a religion, which does not teach the worship of the Living God? The god that they present is no better than a corpse. He walks with the support of others; when that support is withdrawn, he falls to the ground. The only thing they gain from such a religion is bigotry. They lack altogether true fear of God and true sympathy with mankind, which is the best of characteristics. [Brahin-e-Ahmadiyya Part V, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 21 p. 28].

Muslims who think that they should establish Islam by force throughout the world will benefit by reflecting upon these words. So also, should those who think that they "possess the truth" and are not open to new ideas or new ways of thinking and they think that they should impose their way of thinking upon others. And yet they brag that they are striving for love and peace whilst they are the cause of strife among family members. Allah has made it clear in the Holy Quran that "*Laa ikraha fiddeen* meaning "there is no compulsion in religion." Once someone believes in the core principles of Islam he is a Muslim and he is a member of the *umma* and he enjoys all its privileges as such. Unfortunately, some narrowminded leaders of some sects like to exclude other Muslims from their midst and they make grandiloquent statements that they are very tolerant human beings. Allah knows well how much their statements are far from what they practice in their daily lives and Allah hates such discrepancies between words and deeds.

The Promised Messiah said further:

"A study of the religions of the world reveals that every religion, except Islam, contains some mistake or the other. This is not because they were all false in their origin, but because after the advent of Islam, God gave up the support of other religions. They became like neglected gardens, which had no gardener to look after them, and for the irrigation and upkeep of which no arrangement had been made, so that gradually they began to decay. Their fruit-bearing trees became dry and barren, and thorns and weeds spread all over. Those religions lost all spirituality, which is at the root of all religions, and nothing was left but bare words. God did not allow this to happen in the case of Islam, as He desired that this garden should flourish throughout. He made provision in each century for its irrigation and thus rescued it from decay. Although at the beginning of each century, when a man of God was appointed for its reform, the ignorant people opposed him and were averse to the reform of anything

which had become part of their habits and customs, yet God Almighty adhered throughout to His way. In these latter days, also, which is the time of the last battle between guidance and error, finding the Muslims heedless and neglectful in the beginning of the fourteenth century, God recalled His promise and made provision for the revival of Islam. But other faiths were never revived after the advent of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] and they all died. There was no spiritual life in them and errors took root in them, as dirt accumulates in a garment which is much in use but which is never washed. People who had no concern with spirituality and who were not free from the stains of earthly existence corrupted these faiths to a degree that they no longer resemble the originals.....”

There are plenty of other extracts where the Promised Messiah has spoken about the innate beauty of Islam. Even today around the world there are many highly educated people from the west, both men and women who are being attracted to Islam and they are converting. As far as we are concerned it would help if we would also add in our prayers the following “ *Allahoumma ahyi man fi hayatehi salahan lil islaame wal Mouslemeen wa ahlik man fi halakehi salahan lil islaame wal Mouslemeen*”. Its translation is “O our Lord lengthen the life of that person in whose life there is good for Islam and the Muslims and destroy that person in whose destruction there is good for Islam and the Muslims.”

May Allah accept our prayers and admit us into that group of people in whose life collectively there is good for Islam and the Muslims and may Allah protect Muslims wherever they are. Ameen.