

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

We will continue with extracts from the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as). As I have said before, we have profited enormously from what Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said and wrote and we read these extracts to our members so that they might also profit by them. Such is the quality of these words that when read or heard, they affect you and incline your heart towards Allah. That is why I have often said that our members should read the writings of the Promised Messiah regularly. It will transform them especially if they read to deepen their knowledge of their religion and desire to advance in the path that will lead them to Allah.

Speaking about how Allah deals with those who reject someone that He has appointed, he says:

“Those who stay in the company of individuals appointed by Allah reap many benefits. To some extent they acquire the knowledge about the relationship between Allah the Exalted and the one appointed by the perfect Allah. However, knowledge that the appointee is granted, cannot be given to anyone else and as for the Knowledge of Allah the Exalted — it is unique indeed. When the appointee is accused of falsehood and refuted beyond reason then just as the farmer sharpens his sickle at harvest time, Allah the Exalted also prepares for those who make accusations of falsehood. I see that that time has now come. Allah the Exalted has a complete and reasoned plan. Therefore, our community should now quietly watch the heavenly instruments and implements. We see in the law of this world that when a ruler finds out that such and such person is oppressed he helps him out. So then why would not Allah the Exalted, whose knowledge is the most

extensive and beyond doubt and Who has sight of all situations, help this oppressed and sincere person who is troubled merely because having received a revelation from Allah the Exalted, he announces that he has been sent by God for the reformation of the people? Allah the Exalted never dissipates His righteous servants. He helps them albeit it is the way of Allah that He is Patient, and to say that Allah the Exalted is not aware of this accusation of falsehood and refutation is kufr (unbelief). Indeed, He is aware from the very beginning of what is done.

At this time, by the Grace of God the Exalted, there are two parties. Just as our community considers itself to be true with full conviction, similarly the opponents, in their transgressions, consider all manner of brazenness and fabrication permissible. Satan has implanted in their hearts that as far as we are concerned, all kinds of calumny and slander is admissible and not just admissible, rather it is a virtuous act. Therefore, it is imperative that we should completely abandon our endeavours to compete with them and to keep our sight on the verdict of Allah the Exalted. It is better for us to pray and seek Allah's forgiveness than to waste time listening to their abuse and vulgarities.

Likewise, the same God Who granted favours and rewards to the Holy Prophet (saw) exists. Likewise, the rewards of His grace and blessings are still being bestowed. Remember, therefore, that opponents who counter this truth and call it *knavish* can show as much opposition as they wish and can announce counter revelations, they will eventually find out that only the person who has been sent by God with His Light and Grace triumphs. Allah the Exalted will, according to His Eternal way and practice, shower His Grace on people who choose Him. This community will increase all over

the world and will be the true inheritors of the Holy Qur'an, Islam and the Holy Prophet (saw).

There are always three categories of people in this world: those excelling in virtue, the moderates and the wicked. Those excelling in virtue do not need any Signs or miracles. They discern from the existing conditions and circumstances. The moderates are given some share of open mindedness and some narrow mindedness. Therefore they are dependent on reasoning and miracles. However, the third category is that of the wicked; since they are extremely weak of mind and stupid, they do not accept until defeat stares them in the face. This is a kind of outrage that is found in all true religions because the wicked do not understand without it. For [the followers of] Jesus (as) there happened to be the Roman Empire and the people of Moses (as) were exasperated by the hard labour under the Pharaoh's oppression and considered accepting Moses (as) as a means of their salvation. Even so, Allah the Exalted from time to time sent torment on them for their reformation, at times plague, at times earthquakes. They were made compliant by different ways and that is the way it has been. In short it is a Way of Allah that He admonishes the wicked in this mode. Why? This category is in abundance and is weak of mind. At present this category is in the majority as well. They even object to the Signs that Allah manifests. They have announced the hadith of solar and lunar eclipse as damaged; objected to the prophecy about Lekh Ram. They object to every Sign that appears. However, God is everyone's Guide, He has prepared the third and last proof and that is the plague.” (Review of Religion May 2001)

Then speaking about how believers confront the calamity of plague, he gives some advices that are of use in every time and place. He says:

“The cure for the plague is repentance and seeking of forgiveness indeed. This is not an ordinary calamity but has descended by the Will of God [he is speaking about the plague that was prevalent in the Punjab at that time]. We cannot say that it will not afflict any one of us. Even some of the Companions of the Holy Prophet (saw) were infected with it. However, we say that whoever presents himself to Allah the Exalted with humility and cries out to Him and holds His prohibitions and directives in high esteem and reforms himself in awe of His Majesty, he will have his share of God's Grace. That is why our community should make the *Tahajjud* prayer obligatory on themselves. He who cannot do much should say two *rakaats* because he will have an opportunity to pray in any case. Prayers made at that time have a special effect because they come forth with a true yearning and fervour. Unless the heart has a unique yearning and passion, how can a person wake up from sweet dream! Therefore, the awakening of that time generates a pain in the heart that creates a condition of anxiety and tenderness in the prayer. It is this angst and agitation that become the cause of the acceptance of prayer. However, if one is lethargic and remiss in waking up then naturally the heart does not have the same yearning and fervour because sleep takes away anguish, however when he awakes from sleep he then realises that there is a pain and sadness greater than sleep that is causing him to wake-up. There is another matter that our community should adopt and that is to keep one's speech untainted from excessive talk. Speech is as if the foyer of one's existence and by keeping it wholesome it is as if Allah the Exalted enters the foyer of our existence. When God has entered the foyer then little wonder if He comes inside!

However, remember that the real cleanliness is the one commanded in: *qad aflaha man zakkaha* (Ch.91 10), meaning He indeed truly prospers who purifies it. (This verse refers to the soul).

Each person should consider it their obligation to bring about a change in their condition. You will remember that I have had a revelation:

'Days of Allah 's wrath! I am greatly wroth!

This is about the plague and only that person can be an aspirant for Allah's Grace who does not break the link of prayer, repentance and seeking of forgiveness and does not commit a sin intentionally. Sin is a poison that kills a human being and kindles the wrath of God. Sin removes the fear and love of Allah the Exalted. The plague is also our preservation from sins. The Sufis say that fortunate are those who do not let go of any opportunity. It has been heard about some that they have prayed for a dreadful scenario so that the hearts may develop tenderness and yearning. Now what could be more dreadful than thousands of orphaned children and houses full of widows! Thousands of families are blotted out and nothing is left of them. It is the way of Allah the Exalted that He always saves the Prophets (peace be on them all) in situations when calamities descend in the form of Divine punishment. Hence, currently the wrath of God is raised and in actual fact these are the days of the wrath of God because God's limitations and directives are humiliated and His affairs are ridiculed and derided. Therefore, the only cure to save oneself from this is not to break the mode of prayer and to seek forgiveness and pardon. Only that prayer is advantageous whence the heart melts in the presence of God and none besides Him appears as a refuge. One who races towards God and seeks peace by way of angst is ultimately saved. **(Review of Religion May 2001)**

The Promised Messiah has much to tell us about repentance. Incha Allah we will speak more about it next time. However here is how he introduces the subject. He says:

“In Islam, there have been designated certain days by God as being days of great happiness and endowed with great blessing from God. Among such days is the day of Friday. This day is a very blessed day and it is written that God created Adam on a Friday and it was on a Friday that Adam's repentance was accepted. There is much goodness and blessing in this day. Similarly, there are in Islam two days of Eid celebrations. Both these days are considered to be days of great happiness and joy and both the days are endowed with great blessings. Doubtless all such days are blessed days of much happiness, but remember that there is one day that is even more blessed and of even greater happiness.

Regretfully, that day is not awaited by people with any anticipation, nor is it sought after. If people were aware of the blessings and the goodness of that day or if they cared for such a day, then in reality that day would be a day of great blessing and good fortune and people would consider it to be a great prize. What day can be better and more blessed than the day of Friday and the days of Eid celebrations? I will tell you [of such a day] — that day is the day of one's repentance which is better than all other days and is better than every Eid. Why is it so? It is so because on such a day, the repentant person's 'book of bad deeds' that was pushing him closer to hell and was gradually bringing him towards the wrath of God, is wiped clean and his past sins are forgiven. What greater day of happiness and celebration could there be for a human being than that which in reality saves him from eternal hell and God's eternal wrath? The sinner who was previously distanced from God Whose wrath was upon him, after repentance becomes closer to God's blessing and is distanced from hell and from God's punishment as is stated by God in the Holy Qur'an:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يُحِبُّ التَّوَّابِينَ
وَيُحِبُّ الْمُتَطَهِّرِينَ

Allah loves those who turn to him and loves those who keep themselves clean. (Ch.2: v.223)

(Review of Religion August 2001)

I say it again: if you want to improve yourself, you need to reflect on these extracts. By listening to them only once, you will never be able to derive the full benefits that they contain. You need to understand and put the advices into practice and only then will you indeed understand what we are talking about. May Allah help each one amongst us on this path.