

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As good Muslims, we should always try to improve our moral qualities. The basic definition of a Muslim that the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) has given us is that a Muslim is someone who keeps other Muslims safe from his hand and his tongue. In other words, a Muslim is someone who tries his best not to offend anyone, particularly a Muslim, with either his words or his hand. This is a basic teaching of Islam, that anyone can understand whatever his level of intelligence. Unfortunately, very often during conversations we see people start exchanging insults instead of arguments. Most people fail to distinguish between a man and his ideas. Too often people mix the two together and they end up insulting one another.

From the Holy Quran, the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) and the writings of the Promised Messiah, we learn that we should be concerned with our moral improvement day in and day out. That is why we have been taught to follow the example of the Holy Prophet (saw) whose sins Allah had already forgiven but he continuously sought forgiveness for any shortcoming at least 70 times a day. A follower should often wonder whether being as sinful as he is, should not be making *Istighfaar* even more than that. In one hadith, which I am quoting from memory the Holy Prophet (saw) is reported to have said “*Inni boisstu le makarimul akhlaq*” meaning “I have been raised to perfect good morals”. As his followers, we need to show the best of behaviour under all circumstances and not let our egos control us but rather submit ourselves to the noble teachings that we have inherited. This should be the aim of any Ahmadi Muslim wherever he might be. Although it is difficult, yet through genuine efforts and constant prayers this is a goal which is within

our reach. We should keep on struggling until Allah purifies us in such a way that He removes any inclination to do evil deeds or to speak evil. Each one among us should reflect upon this and take it as an objective to display our best behaviour or attitude under all circumstances.

Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said that he was not interested in the number of his followers. What was of greatest concern for him was that those who swore allegiance to him should be good Muslims. Speaking about the fact that he was from Allah and that Allah would establish his truthfulness he said:

“So when Allah has taken upon Himself to establish my truthfulness with powerful attacks why should someone from our jamaat take upon himself Allah’s work and directs uncalled for attacks on our opponents. Be polite and engage yourself in supplications and make real repentance your intercessor and walk softly on earth. Allah is not related to any people. If you say you are his jamaat and yet you have not adopted Godfearingness and purity (taqwa & taharat) and fear has not gripped your heart, then know it for sure that Allah will destroy you before He destroys the opponents because your eyes were opened but you slept again.....”

Here we should make a pause to reflect upon these powerful and fearful words. If Ahmadi Muslims make grand declarations about their being the true Jamaat of Allah and yet they ignore Allah’s teachings by displaying their worst behaviour towards their own brothers and sisters, in the eyes of Allah they are not worth much whatever they might think they are. Being an Ahmadi Muslim is to carry the burden of following the teachings that we have received with unflinching obedience and without offending anyone. Think about this image of sleeping after our eyes have opened. I am sure many amongst us have experienced this. How many times we have opened our eyes after hearing the Azan for *namaz* Fajr and how many times we thought we

would wake up in few minutes and we missed the prayers and had to pray after sunrise. With experience, we learned that once our eyes are opened we should not allow it to close and wake up for prayer. This is what Hazrat Masih Maood (as) wants us to practice because we have received the teachings and now we cannot ignore them.

He continues:

“And do not think that Allah needs you. If you will not follow his commandments, if you are not going to honour the limits that He has set He will destroy you and in your stead He will bring another people who would observe His Commandments. And the aim of my coming is not just to demonstrate that Hazrat Isa (as) is dead. This is just to remove a burden of the Muslims’ heart and help them to know the true facts. But the aim of my coming is that Muslims establish themselves on pure tawhid and that they establish a relationship with Allah and that they perform their namaz and their worship because they have a taste for it and out of beneficence and they purify their inside from all sorts of impurity.

.....(*Majmu’a Ishtihaar* Vol 3 page 550-51).

[What I understand from the last sentence is that Muslims pray and worship Allah out of love for Allah and they derive great pleasure in salaah like the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) who said “*Qurrato ayni fissaalaah*” which means the solace of his eyes was in prayers which in other words means he had great pleasure in worshipping His Lord.]

Jamaat Ahmadiyya did not come into being to defend an organizational setup. It came into being to be that group of people who distinguished themselves from other Muslims particularly in their behaviour and speech. This is what

we understand even with a cursory reading of the writings of the Promised Messiah. He says:

*“God Almighty desires to draw all those who live in various habitations of the world, be it Europe or Asia, and who have virtuous nature, to the Unity of God **and** unite His servants under one Faith. This indeed is the purpose of God for which I have been sent to the world. You, too, therefore should pursue this end, but with kindness, moral probity and fervent prayers. And till that time when someone inspired by God with the Holy Spirit is raised by Him, all of you should work in harmony with one another. And you, too, should partake of the Holy Spirit by compassion and by purifying your souls. Because without the Holy Spirit true Taqwa cannot be attained. And, totally shedding all base desires of the self, choose for the sake of winning the pleasure of God that path compared to which no path can be narrower and straighter. Don’t fall in love with the pleasures of the world, for they take you away from God. Choose a life of austerity for the sake of God. The pain which pleases God is better than the pleasure which makes Him angry. And the defeat which pleases God is better than the victory which invites the wrath of Allah. Renounce the love which brings you nearer to the wrath of Allah. If by purifying your hearts you come to Him, He will help you whichever path you tread and no enemy shall ever be able to harm you. You can never ever win the pleasure of Allah unless you, relinquishing your desires, abandoning your pleasures, sacrificing your honour, disowning your wealth, discarding your life, bear such hardships in His way as make you suffer the pangs of death. But once you suffer such hardship, you will sit in the lap of God like a beloved child. And you will be made heirs of the truthful who have preceded you. The door of every blessing will be opened to you. But there are few who belong to this category.” (The Will)*

This is an extract from the booklet “The Will”. But we do not hear of such extracts often. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) knew that there would always be a few who would like to take upon themselves this narrow path. This path calls for self-sacrifice, self-denial and fulfilling the rights of others before our own. Very few people are ready for such sacrifices even though this is the essence of Islam.

In many quarters within mainstream Jamaat Ahmadiyya, you might hear people saying that I am an arrogant man and that my friends are very stubborn. By Allah’s Grace I am well aware that as a Muslim we should beware of arrogance because it displeases Allah. And we do our best to cultivate as much humility as we can vis à vis others. Hence I think that this accusation is quite baseless and that those who make it are quite ignorant of the teachings of the Promised Messiah concerning arrogance. I will read an extract from his writings which will help everyone to better know what is arrogance so that we might all avoid it. He says:

“I admonish my Community to shun arrogance as arrogance is hateful in the eyes of God, the Lord of Glory. You may not perhaps fully realize what is arrogance. Then listen to me as I speak under the direction of God. Everyone who looks down upon a brother because he esteems himself more learned, or wiser, or more proficient than him is arrogant, inasmuch as he does not esteem God as the Fountainhead of all intelligence and knowledge and deems himself as something. Has God not the power to afflict him with lunacy and to bestow upon his brother, whom he accounts small, better intelligence and knowledge and higher proficiency than him? So also he who, out of a mistaken conception of his wealth, or status, or dignity, looks down upon his brother, is arrogant because he forgets that his wealth, status and dignity were bestowed upon him by God. He is blind and does not realize that God

has power to so afflict him that in a moment he might be reduced to the condition of the lowest of the low, and to bestow upon his brother whom he esteems low, greater wealth than him. In the same way, he who takes pride in his physical health, or is conceited of his beauty, good looks, strength, or might and bestows a scornful designation on his brother making fun of him and proclaims his physical defects is arrogant, for he is unaware of God Who has power to afflict him with such physical defects as to render him worse than his brother and to bless the latter so that his faculties should not suffer decline or be stultified over a long period, for He has power to do all that He wills. Similarly, he who is neglectful of Prayer on account of his dependence upon his faculties is arrogant for he has not recognized the Fountainhead of all power and strength and relies upon himself. Therefore, dear ones! keep all these admonitions in mind lest you should be accounted arrogant in the estimation of God Almighty unknowingly. He who out of pride corrects the pronunciation of a word by his brother partakes of arrogance. He who does not listen courteously to his brother and turns away from him partakes of arrogance. He who resents a brother sitting next to him partakes of arrogance. He who mocks and laughs at one who is occupied in Prayer partakes of arrogance. He who does not seek to render full obedience to a Commissioned one and Messenger of God partakes of arrogance. He who does not pay full attention to the directions of such a one and does not study his writings with care also partakes of arrogance. Try, therefore, that you should not partake of arrogance in any respect so that you may escape ruin and you and yours may attain salvation. Lean towards God and love Him to the utmost degree possible and fear Him as much as anyone can be feared in this life. Be pure hearted and pure intentioned and meek and humble and free of all mischief so that you may receive mercy. [Nuzul-ulMasih, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 18, pp. 402-403]

May Allah help each one amongst us and all true followers of the Promised Messiah (as) wherever they might be not to let any type of arrogance manifest itself in us. May we all try to follow the teachings that we have received to the best of our abilities. *Ameen.*