

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As you might all be aware, we are in the month of Rabi Ul Awwal and in many Muslim countries around the world, Muslims celebrate the birth of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) on the twelfth of this month. Usually even here in Mauritius ceremonies are held on this occasion and many Muslims gather to listen to speeches and *naats* and they partake of food together. We Ahmadi Muslims do not celebrate anyone's birthday. It is not in our culture to do so and we do not find anything in the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) that warrants such celebrations. In one of my Friday sermons from a few years back, I spoke of the origin of this celebration in the middle ages and how since then Muslims almost everywhere have picked it up. For us, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) is dear to us not on a particular day of the year but rather every month, everyday and every second of our life. The greatest tribute that an Ahmadi Muslim can give to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) is that he or she follows the instruction of Allah, namely "*Qoul in kountoum tohibbounallaha fattabeouni yuhbibkomoullaha wa yaghfir lakoum zonoubakoum*" which means "Say if you love Allah follow me, Allah will love you and forgive you your sins." The Holy Prophet is the perfect exemplar as Allah says:

*"Laqad kaana lakoum fi rasoulillahe ouswatoune hasanatoun leman kaana yarjoullaha wal yawmil aakhere wa zakarallaha "*, meaning "there is for you in the person of the Messenger of Allah the perfect example for the one who desires Allah and the last day and who remembers Allah much". As good Muslims, we should try our best to imitate the Holy Prophet's Sunnah in everything that has been agreed by the Holy Quran. In this way, we try to

revive his Sunnah and we do not let it die away. May Allah help each one among us to realize how the Holy Prophet is significant for us in our daily lives and not just pay lip service to his teachings with great fanfare in a formal ceremony once a year.

We must acknowledge that it is from the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad that we have come to better appreciate the status of the Holy Prophet (saw). Today we will read some extracts about this status of the Holy Prophet (saw) and how through him a follower can be honored by Allah. He says:

“We should not let a doubt enter our minds how a mere follower can partake of the names, attributes, and praises of that accepted Messenger [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]. It is true that in reality even a Prophet cannot share equally in the holy excellences of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]. Indeed, even all the angels cannot claim equality in that respect, let alone that anyone else should share in his excellences. But O seeker after truth, may God guide you aright, listen carefully to this. With the object that the blessings of that accepted Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] should be displayed forever and that the perfect rays of his light should confound and refute his opponents, God Almighty has made the following arrangement by His wisdom and mercy. Some individuals out of the followers of Muhammad [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] who obey him with thorough humility and falling prostrate on the threshold of humbleness are completely lost to their ego, being found by God like a clear mirror, exhibit the blessings of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] in their humble selves. Whatever praise is bestowed upon them by God and whatever signs and blessings are manifested by them, the true source of all their praise and the perfect fountainhead of all

those blessings is the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]. In reality and in their perfection, those praises are worthy only of him and he is their perfect exemplar, but as the follower of the way of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] becomes through his perfect obedience like a reflection of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him], the divine lights which are focused on and manifested in the holy being of the Holy Prophet are also manifested and reflected in his followers. The appearance in the shadow of the whole form and manner of the reality is a matter that is not hidden from anyone. This shadow is not established in itself and no superiority is in reality present in it. All that appears in it is a picture of the real one which is manifested in the reflection. Do not, therefore, consider it a loss that the inner lights of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] reach those who are perfectly obedient to him out of his followers. Two great matters result from this reflection of lights, which, like permanent grace, manifests itself in some members of the following of Muhammad [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]. One is that the extreme perfection of the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] is thereby displayed; for a torch from which other torches can be lit and are ever lit, is better than a torch from which no other torch can be lit. Secondly, the perfection of the Muslims and their superiority over the followers of other religions is established by this permanent grace and the proof of the reality of the religion of Islam are furnished afresh and reliance is not had only upon the past. This is the manner in which the lights of the truth of the Holy Qur'an shine forth like the sun, and the proof of Islam is established conclusively as against its opponents, and the disgrace, humiliation and frustration of the enemies of Islam is made manifest. They observe in Islam those blessings and light the like of which they cannot find

in the ministers and pundits of their own religion. *Consider this well, O true seeker, May Allah help you in your search....*

How great is the station of the *Khatam-ul-Anbiya'* [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] and how excellent is the bright effectiveness of this sun of righteousness that obedience to him makes someone a perfect believer and someone else a recognizer of God and bestows upon a third one the rank of a Sign of Allah and a Proof of Allah and bestows upon him Divine praise.”

*[Brahin-e-Ahmadiyya, Ruhani Khaza'in Vol. 1, pp. 268-271, sub-footnote 1]*

He says further:

“It is my personal experience that to obey the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] with a sincere heart and to love him, ultimately makes a person beloved of God. God creates in his heart a burning for His Own love and such a one, withdrawing his heart from everything else, leans towards God and his affection and desire remain only for God Almighty. Thereupon a special manifestation of Divine love falls upon him and, bestowing upon him the full color of love and devotion, pulls him towards itself with great force. He then overcomes his passions and from every direction extraordinary works of God Almighty appear as signs in his support and to help him.” *[Haqiqat-ul-Wahi, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 22, pp. 67-68]*

“The claim of our Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] shines forth like the sun and it is a great proof of his eternal life that his grace flows eternally. Even in this age a person who obeys the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] is raised from the dead and is bestowed a spiritual life not merely in imagination, but through the display of his righteous effectiveness and of heavenly help and blessings and extraordinary support of the Holy Spirit. He becomes a unique person from among all

mankind, so much so that God Almighty talks to him, discloses His special mysteries to him, communicates His verities to him, manifests the signs of His love and favor in him, causes His help to descend upon him, places His blessings in him, and makes him the mirror of His *Rububiyyat*. Wisdom flows from his tongue, and the fountains of fine points burst out of his heart. Hidden secrets are made manifest in him. God Almighty bestows a grand manifestation upon him and comes close to him. In the acceptance of his prayers, in the opening of the doors of understanding, in the disclosure of hidden mysteries and in the descent of blessings upon him, he ranks high and is supreme over all others.

Having been commissioned by God Almighty, this humble one dispatched several thousand registered letters to well-known opponents of Islam in Asia, Europe and America about these matters, so that these matters might be conclusively established. I invited them that if anyone claimed that spiritual life could be achieved by any other means, without following the *Khatam-ul-Anbiya*' [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] he should come forth in opposition to me, and that failing this he should come to me as a seeker after truth, in order to witness the blessings and signs that are bestowed on me; but no one offered to come with sincerity and good faith and by keeping aloof they proved that they are all floundering in darkness. [*A'ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 5, pp. 221-222*]

“We know for certain that the greatest Prophet of God and His best beloved is Muhammad, **the chosen one** [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]. The followers of other Prophets are in darkness having nothing with them except old stories and tales. But the Muslims always receive fresh signs from God Almighty. Therefore, among Muslims there are found many persons of understanding, who believe in God with such certainty as if they beheld Him;

but other people have not this certainty concerning God Almighty. Therefore, our soul bears witness that the true and right religion is **Islam** alone....

The miracles of our Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] are not mere stories. By obeying the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] we experience those signs ourselves and, through the blessings of observation and experience, we arrive at complete certainty. How high is the status of that perfect and Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him] whose Prophethood always furnishes fresh proof to seekers, and by the blessings of witnessing continuous signs, we arrive at the stage where we see God Almighty with our own eyes, as it were. Thus, true religion is that and the true Prophet is he, the fresh spring of whose truth should always be witnessed. To rely upon mere stories which are subject to all kinds of exceptions does not commend itself to the wise. Hundreds of people have been deified in the world and they are believed in on the basis of hundreds of old tales, but the truth is that the true miracle worker is he the river of whose miracles never dries up. That person is our lord and master the Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]. In every age, God Almighty has raised someone to display the signs of that perfect and holy one. In this age, He has sent **me** with the title of **Promised Messiah**. Signs are being shown from heaven and all sorts of extraordinary events are coming to pass. Every seeker after truth can come and stay with me and witness these signs, whether he is a Christian, a Jew or an Arya. All these are the blessings of our Holy Prophet [peace and blessings of Allah be on him].” *[Kitab-ul-Bariyyah, Ruhani Khaza'in, Vol. 13, pp. 155-157, footnote]*

Incha Allah in the coming weeks we will be speaking more on the grandeur of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (saw). May Allah fill our heart with His Love and that of His Beloved Prop het (saw).