

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

For a Muslim who understands well the purpose of his life, everyday is a new beginning. According to the Sunna of the holy prophet Muhammad (saw), upon waking up a Muslim should praise Allah with the following words “*Alhamdo lillahillazi ahyana ba’da maa amaataana wa elayhin noshoor*” which is translated as “all praise belong to Allah who has given us life after we died and to Him is the return.” Here the death that is being spoken about is only the temporary death which we experience during sleep. So, as soon as we wake up, we praise Allah because He is the One who really deserves praise. In other words, we sing His Praise for He gave us another day to live. Therefore, Muslims are expected to remind themselves of Allah’s favor upon them and that in the end they will return to Allah. Muslims are reminded that they have to be constantly aware of the time of their death. Speaking about death, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) tells us:

“One of God’s closed secrets which has not been unraveled by anyone is (the answer to the question), ‘when will the time of death arrive’? When death does arrive then all one’s wealth and possessions are left behind. What is more, sometimes it so happens that those who inherit the estate of the deceased are people to whom the deceased would have disliked giving as much as a penny during his lifetime. What a great mistake it is then not to spend one’s income and wealth in the path that would lead to eternal peace and joy. It amazes me that when I look at Europe and see that they display such energy and exuberance for turning a humble human being into a god but that in comparison we should do nothing for the manifestation of God’s Greatness and Majesty. What a misfortune this is!

“Muslims need to make the winning of God’s Pleasure their prime concern. All is attained if we please Him but it is their misfortune that they are incurring His Displeasure. Muslims were given a true religion; the religion of Islam but I am very sorry to see that they do not appreciate it. God only knows what the consequences of this negligence would be.”

Here I would like to pause on reading the extract and make a few comments on this statement of the Promised Messiah (as). This extract is taken from a speech which he made in Qadian in September 1905 in front of a gathering of his followers who had flocked to Qadian on hearing the news that a companion of the Promised Messiah was severely ill.

From 1905 to 2018, the afflictions that have befallen Muslims around the world are innumerable. In the beginning of the last century, that is the 20th century, it was Turkey that held sway on most Muslim countries around the world. But due to their internal weaknesses and the machinations of the world powers like England and France and many others, the Turkish empire was completely dismembered by western powers after the First World War and had it not been for the courage of some Turks, they might even have lost their country as well. Unfortunately, when the nationalist turks did away with the caliphate, they tried to mould their country based on western countries like England. At the same time, due to the machinations of western powers, Muslims would also lose Jerusalem and eventually Israel was created as a country from the stealing of Arab lands. Since then the problem of the Palestinians has been a constant thorn in the flesh of the Muslim Umma. Then we witnessed the wars between Iraq and Iran and eventually the two gulf wars and recently the wars in Syria. Muslims are living in a state of war and their standard of living remains below that of western nations in many aspects. There is a long list of troubles that they have invited upon themselves by abandoning the religion of Islam in practice although they say they believe in it with their mouths. It can only help our youngsters to study the history of the twentieth century. The Promised Messiah continued:

“Among Muslims generally there is no care for religion, nor any sense of honour for their religion - none whatsoever. If there is a war between their different factions, it is because of factional arrogance and conceit. It is all for show and not because they want to manifest the Glory and Majesty of God Almighty. But he who makes God the most significant aspect of his life and hence becomes totally engrossed in his efforts for the unity and honour of his religion in a way that his sole purpose in everything is the manifestation of God’s Greatness and Majesty, such a one is written down in God’s book as a “*Siddique*”, the truthful one.”

I suggest that we all think about this.

Now I will read some extracts where Hazrat Masih Maood (as) speaks about the purpose of his coming. He says:

“I have been sent to strengthen the faith and to prove the existence of God Almighty to the people, for their faith has become weak, and they take life after death no more seriously than a fable. The conduct of every person proclaims that he has not the faith and trust in God and in the hereafter as he has in the world and its ranks and its resources. Tongues profess a lot but hearts are suffused with the love of the world. It is the same condition in which the Messiah (as) had found the Jews. As a characteristic of the weakness of their

faith, the moral condition of the Jews had deteriorated greatly, and love of God had become cold in their hearts. The same is true in my time. I have been sent so that truth and faith may be revived and righteousness may inspire hearts. This is the purpose of my advent. I have been told that heaven will once more come near the earth after it had moved far away. These are the reforms that I have to bring about and these are the tasks for which I have been sent.” [Kitabul Bariyya]

...“I wish to state that God Almighty – having found this age full of darkness, and sunk deep in heedlessness, denial and paganism, and having observed the waning of faith, truthfulness, sincerity and righteousness – has sent me so that He may once again reestablish it. The task for which God has appointed me is that I should remove the malaise that afflicts the relationship between God and His creatures and restore the relationship of love and sincerity between them. He has sent me so that He might once again establish in the world the intellectual, physical, moral and spiritual verities, and to safeguard Islam against the onslaughts of those who design to harm this divine garden in the guise of philosophy, naturalism, innovation, polytheism and atheism. [A’ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam, Ruhani Khaza’in, vol. 5, p. 251]

“Through the proclamation of truth and by putting an end to religious conflicts, I should bring about peace and manifest the divine verities that have become hidden from the eyes of the world. I am called upon to demonstrate spirituality which lies buried under egoistic darkness. It is for me to demonstrate by practice, and not by words alone, the divine powers which penetrate into a human being and are manifested through prayer or attention. Above all, it is my task to reestablish in people’s hearts the eternal plant of the pure and shining Unity of God which is free from every impurity of polytheism, and which has now completely disappeared. All this will be accomplished, not through my power, but through the power of the Almighty God, Who is the God of heaven and earth. [Lecture Lahore, Ruhani Khaza’in, vol. 20, p.180]

“God has sent me into the world so that through gentleness, love, and kindness, I should draw towards God and His holy guidance people who have gone astray, and should enable them to tread the right path with the Divine light that has been bestowed upon me. Man stands in need of such reasoning as would convince him that God does indeed exist, inasmuch as a great part of the world is being driven to ruin through lack of faith in the existence of God Almighty and in His revealed guidance. There is no clearer and easier way to believe in the existence of God than through the understanding that He reveals to His close servants matters of the unseen and prophecies regarding future events. He discloses to those who are close to Him the deep hidden secrets, because there is no way for man to be enlightened about such secrets of the future as are beyond the reach of human

faculties. It is indeed true that knowledge of unseen events and hidden matters, especially those which are related to the exercise of Divine power and will, are matters that man can never attain through his own efforts. Therefore, God has bestowed His beneficence upon me and has chosen me out of the whole world so that, through the manifestation of His signs, He may bring back to the right path those who have gone astray. But God has observed from heaven that the helpers and followers of the Christian faith, i.e. the Christian clergy, have wandered far from the truth, and have become a people who have not only lost the straight path themselves but they traverse thousands of miles of land and ocean and endeavour to convert others to their own doctrines. They do not know the true God, but their god is their own invention. Therefore, God's mercy for mankind demanded that He should rescue His creatures from their deception. He has, for this reason, sent this Messiah so that through the right reasoning and argument he should break the cross that had broken and wounded the body of Jesus(as). [Tiryag-ul-Qulub, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 15, pp. 143-144]

All these extracts should motivate each one amongst us to examine ourselves and wonder how far we are making the necessary efforts to accomplish these noble desires of the Promised Messiah. If we are unable to convey his message to others, at least we should do our best to try to practice his teachings in our daily life. May Allah help each one amongst to do our best in what is demanded of us *incha* Allah.

These days a few times when I woke up in the morning I received these words “*Wattaqou yawman tourja'ouna fihi ellallah*” meaning “Fear the day when you will be returned to Allah”. There are many verses of the Holy Quran which draw our attention to this warning. For example in chapter 2 verse 255, Allah says: “*Yaa ayyohallazina aamanou anfeqou mimma razaqnaakoum min qable an yateya yawmoune laa bay'oune fihe wa la ghoulahoune wa la shafaa'a walkafirouna homouzwaalimoune*”. The translation is as follows: “O ye who believe spend of what we have provided for you before that day comes when there will be no transaction, no friendship and no intercession in it . The disbelievers are the wrongdoers.” In addition we may also quote the following verse “*rijaloune laa toulhihoum tijaratoune wa laa bay'oune an zikrullah wa iqamous salaata wa itaiz zakaat yakhafouna yawman tatakallabo fihil qoloubo wal absaar*” which we translate as “By men, whom neither merchandise nor traffic diverts from the remembrance of Allah and the observance of Prayer, and the giving of the Zakat. They fear a day in which hearts and eyes will be agitated” [24:38]

May Allah help each one amongst us to lead a life in which we make enough preparation for the meeting with Our Lord and be welcomed, *incha* Allah.