

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Whenever there was a group of people present, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) used the opportunity to advise them about the objectives of his mission and also about how they should lead a life of piety. On one such occasion he said:

“No one is able to present Islam in the way that I am able to present it but the difficulty is that the majority in my Community consists of poor people. Despite this fact, however, I see that they possess truthfulness and true sympathy. Understanding the needs of the religion of Islam, they do not hesitate to spend out of whatever they have for this cause. It is only if there is God's blessing that whatever needs to be done can be done and we are hopeful of His blessings.”

Here I would like to say that Jamaat Ahmadiyya's history is testimony to this claim of the Promised Messiah (as). The way he has presented Islam is so good that even those who do not believe in him have copied what he said and used it in their writings. Our brothers from the Lahori Jamaat made a list of these instances and published them as well. The Promised Messiah continues:

“It is only when a great storm approaches that people begin to worry that it will destroy them and there are storms engulfing the religion of Islam. Opponents are always actively working to destroy Islam. I am certain, however, that God Almighty will save Islam from all such attacks and even in this great storm He will save the ship of Islam and will safely bring it to shore.

What we learn from the events of the lives of various prophets is that whenever they faced difficulties, they had no alternative but to stay awake at night and continue praying to God. The nation they addressed was deaf and dumb - it did not listen to them. Instead they were mocked and many obstacles were placed in their path. At that time, it was their prayer at night that worked. It is the same now. However, it is very unfortunate that Islam is in a weak position and there is need for much effort in an attempt to bring it back to strength. The situation is such that my efforts (for the cause of Islam) are met with strong opposition (from other Muslims). This is not my opposition, it is fighting a war with God. I am certain that their enmity is of

such intensity that were I to publish a book on Islam in Japan, these people will reach there to oppose me. But it is what God wills that actually happens.

The person whose heart is pure and who is desirous of making manifest God's Majesty and who gives precedence to God over everything else, such a person is much blessed and is very fortunate indeed. The matter of those who oppose me and my cause is before God. He knows fully what is in my heart and what the inner state is of those who are against me. He has full knowledge of who is acting conceitedly for show and display and who has true depth of feeling for God.

Remember this well that spirituality never descends upon a heart until the heart is made pure. When there develops piety and purity in the heart, there develops a power and a strength to progress further. For such a person there are made available all manner of provisions (for this development) and he does make progress. Look at the Holy Prophet of Islam (saw) when in the beginning he was all alone and in a state of (apparent) helplessness when he made his claim:

“O Mankind, verily I am Allah's Messenger to you all”

(Holy Qur'an, Ch.7, v.159).

Who could imagine at that time that this claim made by a helpless person would come to anything. What is more, with his claim came immense difficulties and tribulations. I have not had to face a thousandth part of the suffering he had to bear. That time was such that (the atrocities committed against the Muslims) then were even worse than the period of Sikh rule (in Punjab when Muslims there suffered severe persecution). We now have here (in India) a period of peace and freedom due to the Government (under British Rule). At the time of the Holy Prophet (saw), any mischievous and cunning person could scheme up whatever he wished to hurt him. However, even in the most barbaric society like Arabia at the time, the Holy Prophet (saw) made such progress the like of which cannot be presented in history.

Just consider what could have been a more controversial claim than to preach to the Arab society against its own religious beliefs and to state that the gods they had created for themselves were profane and were the fuel of hell. What could have been a more provocative pronouncement for the stubborn Arabs of the time (than this)! But it was among those very Arabs that the Holy Prophet (sa) made great progress. It was from among them

that (the most devout companions such as) Abu Bakr (ra) emerged. From this we take hope that from our opponents too will emerge people who would become pure of heart and would fulfil the Will of God. After all, it is from among them that the present Community (of my followers) has emerged. Mir Nasir Nawab Sahib (ra) has often mentioned that we should place no hope with Delhi. But in my heart, I have always known that this is not right. In Delhi, too, there must necessarily be souls that are at present hidden from us but will eventually come in this direction. The fact that God Almighty has established our (personal) ties with Delhi is not without significance. We can never give up hope of (mercy from) God Almighty. Mir Sahib is himself from Delhi. (Here Hadhrat Maulvi Nurudin Sahib added that Munshi Abdul Aziz Sahib and Babu Mohammad Ismaeel are also from Delhi).

So, this is not something which should lead anyone to a state of hopelessness. The noble and complete example of the Holy Prophet (saw) is before us as to how they were, first, a state of hopelessness. The noble and complete example of the Holy Prophet (saw) is before us as to how they were, first, was severely opposed by the Meccans but then it was from among them that there emerged people (who became Muslims of such greatness) that they came to be known as the reformers of the world. Is it not the case that Abu Bakr (ra) was from them - the Abu Bakr about whom the Holy Prophet (saw) stated that his high esteem in God's sight is due to what is in his heart? Again, Hadhrat Umar (ra) was also from the Meccans. In fact, initially, he was one of the major opposing figures so much that he was involved in one of the plots to murder the Holy Prophet (saw) and was chosen to carry out this task. However, in the end he was granted by Allah such intensity of feeling for the manifestation of Islam that even foreign nations praised him and his name is held in high esteem.

In short, we have not had to face difficulties of the severity that the Holy Prophet (saw) of Islam had to face. However, (despite the might of the opposition) the Holy Prophet (saw) did not leave this world until he was fully successful, until he had witnessed the scene (that had been prophesied in the verse of the Holy Qur'an),

“Now that Allah's help has become manifest and victory has been achieved and thou hast seen people join the religion of Allah in large numbers...”  
(Ch.110, v.2/3).

Today our enemies are also trying to destroy us in every way but we are very grateful to God that they have not succeeded in their purpose and have

seen that our success has been matched by their failure and defeat in their efforts against us. The outcome has been that God Almighty has made our Movement larger. The opponents think and they make known their thoughts that when this person dies, his movement will disperse and that his Community is just like any other community such as that of Brahmus, etc. that have no true attraction and therefore it will come to an end with him. They don't know, however, that God

Almighty has Himself decided to establish this Movement and to enable its progress. Were there not movements of followers of the Holy Prophet (saw), of Moses (as), and of Jesus (as)? Their opponents too must have thought that when they died, their movements will come to an end. It is apparent to all, however, that God Almighty nurtured and developed their movements which then spread far and wide. These people should ponder over the fact that while there are communities which come to a halt after a short period of progress, are there not also examples of communities and movements that become worldwide? That is why one should consider God's intention before passing any judgement. As for the people who get left behind and whose progress stops, we would say that they were not acceptable in the sight of God. They wished to worship themselves rather than worship God. On the other hand, I put before you the example of people who extinguish their own selves and desire only the manifestation of God's glory and majesty and in His path accept all kinds of difficulties, even death. Can anyone say that after all this they should be destroyed? Who can destroy his own house! Their movement is the Movement of God and that is why God Himself enables it to progress and He Himself nurtures it and becomes the source of its development.

There have been one hundred and twenty four thousand prophets in this world. Can anyone say which one from among them was destroyed - not one! Then look at the life of the Holy Prophet (saw) as a whole because he was the embodiment of all excellences. The whole nation became his enemy and plotted to kill him but God helped and supported him in a manner the like of which is not to be found anywhere in the world. Once, at the beginning of his mission, he invited all the people to come and hear what he had to say. They all came thinking it was a gathering for some worldly consultation but when the Holy Prophet (saw) told them to fear God's wrath and punishment that was to come, they became his sworn enemies. Despite the fact that the Holy Prophet (saw) had the reputation among them of being 'the Truthful one' and 'the Honest one' as he was referred to as

*Sadique* and *Amin*. After this event, they confronted him with a vicious animosity erupting into a storm of opposition. However, it was the Holy Prophet (saw) who, in the end, was successful and it was the opposition that was completely annihilated.

People desire progress, but they don't know how progress is achieved. Worldly people think it is by copying Europe that progress is achieved but I say that progress is always achieved through truthfulness. God has put in place a model of this. Look at the example of the Holy Prophet (saw) and his companions. There will be progress now in exactly the same way as there was before and it is a perfectly true statement to say that the progress achieved earlier was achieved through truthfulness. They put themselves under the yoke of winning God's pleasure and brought themselves under the code of obedience to God Almighty. Any progress achieved now will follow exactly the same pattern.

The fact of the matter is exactly that which has been taught by the Holy Qur'an. Until such time as the Muslims fully practice the teachings of the Holy Qur'an they cannot achieve any kind of progress. They move away from the Holy Qur'an, so by the same token, they are removed from the paths of progress. It is practice of the (teachings of) the Holy Qur'an that is the source of progress and guidance. God has not forbidden trade, farming and other legitimate pursuits of livelihood. Such things should not, however, be turned into an ultimate aim. They should, on the contrary, be considered as something which is of service to one's faith. The purpose of Zakaat is also this that a portion of wealth should be used in the service of religion.

Remember this well that the real means of achieving progress is to be aware that until a nation takes some steps for the sake of God, until it purifies the hearts, its progress is not possible. It is a misguided idea that it is only by learning to read English, by cladding oneself in English dress and by taking alcohol and by indulging in other immoral acts of behavior that any advance can be made. On the contrary, this is the road to destruction. Did the people of Noah's time not have a standard of living which allowed much comfort and indulgence? Similarly, at the time of Lot, people had comfortable means of livelihood. Similarly, in our own time there exist many means of livelihood among which is the use of language. However, the language that is the language of God has been made the key to all knowledge and profound understanding. When a person leaves aside all prejudice and carefully considers the word of the Holy Qur'an and engages in prayer rather than

indulging in shallow objections, there will then be progress.”(Review of religion July 1997).

We will stop here for today. May Allah help each one amongst us to make the best of these words, *incha Allah*.