

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

In 1897 Hazrat Masih Maood (as) wrote a poem entitled “*Mahmood ki ameen*” on the occasion when his eldest son Mirza Bashir Uddin Mahmood had finished reading the Holy Quran. It is this same poem that we hear very often on the occasion of *Jalsa Salanas* and it is better known as “*hamdo sana oussi ko jo zaate jaawidani.*” I will read this entire poem to you so that we may all know how a soul who knows Allah shows his thankfulness to Him. He wrote:

Praise and glory to the One Who is Eternal.

There is no one equal unto Him, nor one like Him.

Only He lasts forever, all others are mortal;

It is baseless to attach hearts with strangers.

All are strangers only He is the real Soul Mate.

This is in my heart; Holy is He Who watches over me.

Pure is His holy might, supreme is His grandeur;

His near ones are tremulous, His Angels are in dread;

His grace is universal, how to thank for this blessing;

We are all His creation, Him should you love.

His Honour does not brook that we love the strangers;

Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.

All our comforts are through His grace and offering;

The heart is loyal to Him, His grandeur's in the heart;

'Tis better to submit to Him, there is piety in submission;

Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.

He is the Support of all; He is mercy manifest;

He's the One we cherish; He is the One our Beloved;

We cannot live without Him; without Him all else is false;

Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.

O Lord, it is Thy grace I offer myself at Thy door;

Thou granted me the Faith; Thou'rt the Protector at all times;

Thy grace is every moment; Thou art Merciful and Gracious;

Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.

How can one thank Thee all that is mine is Thine;

Thou hast filled my house with every possible bounty.

When Thy light came, all darkness was dispelled;

Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.

Thou showed us this day: Mahmood finished reading,

Seeing this grace, the heart sang Thy praise;

A hundred thanks, O Lord a hundred thanks;

Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.

How can one thank Thee O my Kind Master;

Thou hast granted me these three servants of Thine;

I am entirely Thine, Thou art my Great Lord;

Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.

Today the Quran's reading is finished; the heart's desires are fulfilled;

Thou showed us this day, I offer myself at Thy Visage;

O my Gracious Lord, how can I thank Thy benevolence?

Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.

All this grace is Thine, Thou art the epitome of mercy;

How to render Thy praise, no pen holds such might.

I am forever Thine as long as my breath is firm;

Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.

O Mighty and Potent One, pray save us from calamities;

We have come to Thy door and have believed in Thee;

The heart is rid of strangers, since we came to know Thee;

Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.

My Dear, do not keep away this humble one for an instant;

'Tis better to die in Thy presence than living our life.

By God! To live in grief for Thee is better than happiness;

*Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
Thou fixest all affairs; we gained the boys from Thee, too;
It is all Thy bounty, we did not bring anything from home;
'Tis Thee, O my Belovèd, Who hast shown these joyous days;*

*Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
These three boys that are, they are a bounty from Thee;
They are family unto me but door-servants unto Thee;
Thou art One with true promise, where are the deniers?*

*Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
Pray grant them good fortune; give them Faith and wealth;
Pray protect them Thyself; may Thy mercy be upon them;
Give them virtue and guidance longevity and respect;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.*

*O my kind Master, pray make their destiny noble;
They be superior in ranks; grant them crown and authority.
Thou art our Guide there is none like unto Thee;*

*Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
Keep them away from Satan, keep them in Thy presence;
Pray keep their life enlightened, their heart full of joy.*

*I be sacrificed for Thee; pray take mercy upon them;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
All my prayers that are, pray accept them all, O Lord;*

*I dote upon Thee pray give Thy help to us;
We have come to Thy door with great expectation;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.*

*Mahmood, Thy servant, he's a piece of my heart;
Grant him longevity and wealth; drive away all darkness;
His days be full of purpose; his morns be full of light;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.*

*He has two brothers, pray keep them happy, too;
Thy Basheer Ahmad, Thy Shareef, the younger;
Pray bless them alike, anoint them with mercy;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
These three servants of Thine, pray keep them not in filth;
Remove from them, O Lord, all the snares of the world;
May they ever be healthy; pray don't make them listless;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.*

*O the Dear of my heart, O our Benefactor
Pray illuminate their names like as the stars are.
Pray bless them all to become righteous gems;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.*

*O Belovèd of my soul, O King of the two worlds
Pray be so gracious that there's none like unto them
Pray grant them a lasting destiny and Heavenly grace
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.*

*My dear God, pray listen to all my prayers
Pray keep them ever blessed; I do cherish Thy Visage;
Keep them in Thy shelter after listening to my weeping.
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.*

*O Thou One and Unique, O Creator of time
Pray listen to my prayers; to my servant-like beseeching;
The three are in Thy charge, make them the moons of Faith;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
The heart is sad with worries; the life is close to pain;
The strength of patience I had, it is not there anymore;
Keep them away from grief; Thou art Lord of the worlds;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
Pray increase their rank; send blessings upon them now;*

*Save them from all grief; rid them of pain and hurt;
Pray do my tasks Thyself; Lord, put me not through trials;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
These three servants of Thine; may they be the world's guides;
May they be the world's leaders; and be they full of light.
They be the kings' shelter; they be a blazing sun;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
May they possess deportment; be the pride of the land;
May they cherish truth; be they beloved of the Lord;
May they be productive; a thousand growing from one;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
Thou art the Nourisher and takest care every moment;
Thou riddest one of grief; removest the pains;
Thou purify the heart and place the truth in it;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
Thou taught the Quran; which is the core of the Faith;
By which we obtain gnosis and the Satan is driven away;
It is all Thy grace; my life be sacrificed for Thee;

Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
Thy Prophet that came; he showed us God;
He brought sound Faith and wiped out the innovations;
He called unto the truth; finding God, he showed Him to us;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
They all cherish Thee, all those that are dear to me;
Thy graces are immense; we are tired counting them;
The heart's dejected through grief, pray put our vessel ashore;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
Thy home is in this heart; our eyes are set upon Thee;*

*I obtain my light through Thee; Thou art my only moon;
My trust is placed in Thee; this head's now at Thy door;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
When we loved Thee, we went through infinite grief;
We abased our self to dust; we endured torment on our soul;
But thanks, O God; we found Thee after losing our life;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
When we saw Thy Visage, a bright star shone upon us;
We found all our purpose, the cup is now brimful;
With grace of Thine, O Lord, my purpose is achieved;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
All the friends came; Thou showed us these days;
Thy grace, O Dear, brought all these gracious people;
A blessed day has dawned in which we found our goal;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
Out of affection, the guests came bearing great love;
The heart is delighted; the soul is at ease;
But the heart was grieved to think of the time of parting;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
The world is like an inn: those who meet, will part;
Even if one lives a hundred years, at the end there is parting;
It's not meant to be a complaint this home is not forever;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
O dear friends! Do not forget your afterlife
Take some provisions for the way; put in some work as well;
The world is a place to perish, remove it from the heart;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
Attach not your heart with it; estrange your heart from it;
Remove your affection for it; in fact move far away from it;*

*O friends! It is a serpent pray save your life from it;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
The Quran, the Book of the Gracious, shows the way to gnosis;
Those who read it, upon them is the grace of God; (85)
May God's blessings be on those who put their faith in it;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
This is a spring of guidance, whoever is blessed with it;
These talks are about God, they lead to sainthood;
It illumines the heart and permeates it fully;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me.
Pray heed the Quran and maintain pure beliefs;
Pray think of the afterlife, keep provisions with you;
This is the remedy dear, stay true and righteous;
Pray bless this day; Holy is He Who watches over me."*

As you are all aware Allah in His Infinite Mercy has gratified our brother Mahmood Ahmad Sooltangos and his wife Waheeda with an additional joy over all the joys that He has been granting them throughout their lifetime. Their last child Souhayl Ahmad has been granted the State Scholarship for this year on the Science Side. This is a great gift from Allah and however or how long we thank or his parents and he himself thank Him for it will never be enough. On such an occasion our feelings are summed up in these Sufi verses

*Without Thee O Beloved I cannot rest
Thy Goodness towards me I cannot reckon
Though every hair on my body becomes a tongue
A thousandth part of the thanks due to Thee I cannot tell*

To the best of my knowledge, only 5 other Mauritian Ahmadis have won this scholarship in its 200 hundred years' history. This year Allah has distinguished a member of our Jamaat for this purpose and our heart will be ever grateful to Him that He has distinguished us with this blessing as well. So on behalf of all members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen and on my personal behalf, I extend our heartiest congratulations to Souhayl, his parents Mahmood Ahmad and Waheeda for this great favour from Allah. We pray that it will be a stepping stone to even greater success, both

material and spiritual in the future *incha Allah*. So *incha Allah* at around 5:30 PM on Friday next, 16th February, which is a public holiday, we will hold a reception in honour of Souhayl in our masjid here to celebrate this gift from Allah. You are all invited to come. Dinner will be served *incha Allah*.

By Allah's grace, my two nieces Haadiya and Tasnim Nusrat-e-Illahi, the daughters of my brothers Siddique and Mobasshir as well have passed their HSC exams. We congratulate them and we pray that Allah make their success a source of blessing for them, for their family and for the Jamaat as well *incha Allah*. Ameen.