

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

We will *incha* Allah, today as well continue reading from Hazrat Masih Maood (as)'s book *Kishti Nuh* which has been translated as "Noah's Ark". Every Ahmadi Muslim should do their best to read this book so that they might know what is expected of them as individuals to move Jamaat Ahmadiyya's objectives forward. The Promised Messiah said:

"For you another very essential teaching is this that you do not leave the Holy Quran like a book that has been forsaken, since it is therein, and nowhere else, that your life lies. Those who do honour to this Holy Book shall be honoured in heaven. Those who will hold the Holy Quran superior to every tradition and every other saying shall be given preference in heaven. For mankind now, all over the surface of the earth, there is no Book except the Holy Quran: for the sons of man there is no Messenger and no Mediator except Muhammad, may peace and the blessings of God be upon him. So, strive that you cherish the purest love for this Prophet of power and glory, giving no one else any kind of preference over him, so that you be put down in heaven as those who have been saved. And very clearly bear in mind that salvation is not something that you will experience in life after death. The real and true salvation is only that which shows its light in this very life. Who is the saved? Only he who maintains a firm faith that the living God is a reality, and that Muhammad, peace and the blessings of God be upon him, is the Mediator between Him and mankind; that under the skies there is no one equal to him in rank and elevation: nor any book to rival the Holy Quran: that for no one else did God wish that he should live forever, but for this blessed Prophet He did so wish: that to keep him alive forever He laid the foundation for continuing the benefit of his Shariah and his spiritual blessings to the day of Resurrection. And at long last, from the flow of his spiritual benefits for mankind, he sent the Promised Messiah to this world whose advent was indispensable for the completion of the structure of Islam. For it was necessary that this world should not come to an end before the Movement of Muhammad was given the colour of a spiritual Messiah, the same as was given to the Movement of Moses. This is what the following verse of the Holy Quran points to, namely: Moses received the treasure which had been lost by the earlier ages, and Muhammad received the treasure which the Movement of Moses had been unfortunate enough to lose, now the

Movement of Muhammad stands in the place of the Movement of Moses, but such that in grandeur, the like of Moses, exceeds him a thousand times, while the likes of the Messiah in the Movement of Muhammad excels Jesus by a thousand measures. And not only did the Promised Messiah of the Muhammadi Movement come, in terms of time, exactly in the fourteenth century after the Holy Prophet, as Jesus had appeared fourteen centuries after Moses, he also came at a time when the condition of the Muslims of the day was identical with the Jews of the time of Jesus, Therefore I am that Promised Messiah, and no one else, Whoever enters into sincere bai'at with me and becomes my follower from the bottom of his heart, as to be engrossed in his obedience to me as to forsake all his own personal aims and intentions, he alone is the one for whom in these days of great distress my soul shall desire to intercede."

"So all ye people, counted as members of my community! In heaven, you shall be counted members of my following only when in all truth you actually begin to advance on the paths of righteousness. Offer your five daily obligatory prayers with such concentration and awe of mind as though you were seeing God in front of you, with your physical eyes. Observe the days of fasting for the sake of God in full sincerity. All among you who are liable for Zakat should never fail to discharge this important obligation; and those on whom the pilgrimage to Mecca has become obligatory, without any obstacles standing in the way, should duly undertake that blessed journey. Do all good deeds with the proper care they deserve, forsaking evil from a real repulsion rising in the heart. Be very, very sure that no action, whatsoever, can take you to God if it is devoid of righteousness of the heart. The root of everything good is Taqwah, (fear of God) in whatever action this root is not lost, that action will never be devoid or futile. It is necessary too, that you be tried by being thrown into diverse griefs and distresses, even as those before you were tried. Be, therefore, forewarned lest you stumble when the time came. The earth, with everything in it, can inflict no injury on you, provided your contact with heaven is firm. Whenever any injury comes to you, it will come only from your own hands. If all your honour on this earth is lost to you, God will give you an honour in heaven that shall never wane. Therefore do not leave Him, whatever you may have to go through. You are bound to be persecuted in diverse ways, and many of your hopes will be denied to you, but in such cases you should not grieve, for the Lord your God shall put you through trials, to test whether or not you remain firm. If you desire that the angels in heaven should sing your praises, then take the beating many people shall give you, and rejoice; hear abuse and give

thanks to the Lord; experience disappointments but do not break away from Him. You are the last people of God. Practice the good to an extent where it reaches its highest perfection. Everyone among you who relaxes and becomes lazy, shall be thrown out of the community, as a dirty thing is discarded and thrown out. He shall die with regret in his heart, and he will not be able to injure God in any way, Lo and behold! With great joy I convey to you the glad tidings that your God does indeed really exist. Although all are His creatures, but He selects only those who select Him. He Himself comes to whosoever goes to Him. He bestows honour upon those who honour Him. After you have straightened your hearts, and purified your tongues and eyes and ears, you come to Him, and He shall accept you. In point of belief, all that God desires from you is just this that you hold God is One, and that Muhammad, may peace and the blessings of God be upon him, is His Prophet, Khatam-al- Anbiya the greatest of them all. After him, there is to be no other Prophet except one who should be given the mantle of Muhammadiyyat as a burooz, since the servant is not separate from his master, nor a branch different from its root. Be perfectly sure that Jesus, son of Mary, is dead, his grave being in Kashmir, Srinagar, mohallah Khanyar. God has spoken of his death in the Holy Quran. It should also be borne in mind that I, in no way, seek to deny the eminence of Jesus, peace be upon him. Though God has conveyed to me that the Muhammadi Messiah stands higher in rank than the Mosaic Messiah, I hold the Messiah, son of Mary, in great respect, since from the spiritual point of view I am the Khatamal Khulafa in Islam as Messiah, the son of Mary was Khatamal Khulafa in the Israelite chain. In the Mosaic dispensation, the son of Mary was the Promised Messiah, while I am the Promised Messiah of the dispensation of Muhammad. I therefore hold him in great esteem whose name I bear: and whoever says that I do not respect him is a great liar and a mischief-maker. Having explained all these things, I repeat once more that you must not rest satisfied merely because in outward form you have taken bai'at at my hand. The outward form means nothing: God sees what lies inside your hearts, and He would deal with you on the basis of what He sees there. Lo and behold! I herein discharge my duty unto you, by making it plain that sin is a poison. Do not take it, Disobedience to God is a dirty death which you should avoid. Turn to prayer that you should get the strength. At the time of prayer, if a man does not firmly believe that Allah has power over everything, except what may be contained in a previous promise, such a one is not of my community. He who is caught in a tangle of worldly greed, and never even raises his eyes to things which pertain to the next life, is not of my community. Whosoever does not wholly and

completely keep away from every sin and every evil action, like wine, gambling, looking lustfully at women, dishonesty, bribes, and from every kind of illegal gratification, he is not of my community, whosoever is not constantly turning to prayer, and does not remember Him in absolute humility of spirit, he is not of my community. Whosoever does not give up association with a bad companion, who exercises an unhealthy influence over him, he is not of my community. Whosoever does not respect his parents, whosoever does not render obedience to them in things which do not run counter to the Holy Quran, and whosoever is neglectful in rendering to them the service to which, they are undoubtedly entitled, he is not of my community. Whosoever does not live with his wife and her relations with gentleness, goodness, and magnanimity, he is not of my community. Whosoever deprives his neighbour of the very least good in his power, he is not of my community. Whosoever has no wish to forgive the faults of those who may have transgressed against him, and desires to nurse malice, he is not of my community. Every man or woman who is dishonest towards his or her spouse is not of my community. Whosoever, in any way, violates the pledge he took at my hand at the time of bai'at he is not of my community. Whosoever does not really hold me to be the Promised Messiah, he is not of my community. Whosoever is not prepared to obey me in all things known to be good and accepted, he is not of my community. And whosoever, as a habit, sits among those who are hostile towards me, falling into tacit and silent agreement with them, he is not of my community. Every adulterer, debauch, drunkard, murderer, thief, gambler, dishonest person, bribetaker, usurper, oppressor, tyrant, liar, forger, and the associate of these; and whosoever brings false accusations and scandal against his brothers and sisters, he is not of my community, unless he fully repents of his misdeeds and totally breaks away from bad associates, turning a new leaf.”

May Allah help each one amongst us so that these words may inspire us to strive to do good in our entire lifetime. We should take to heart what the Promised Messiah has said and pray to Allah that He might make us better persons who incline towards Him all the time. Ameen.