

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

While preparing, and rereading what Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has bequeathed us as spiritual teachings in his book Noah's Ark, I felt a renewed awareness of how we should be, how we should behave in our short sojourn in this life. I am sure that it was for this purpose that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said that even if an Ahmadi could not read all his writings, he should at least make it his duty to read and reread this book and *Tazkeratoush Shahadatein* in his life. These are not books that we should casually read as if we are reading a novel or the newspapers. These are books that we should read with a view to better understand life's purpose and how to achieve it. May Allah open the heart of each one amongst us to achieve this grand purpose. And so, we continue reading from the book Noah's Ark. We resume with what the Promised Messiah said after mentioning several bad vices which we mentioned in the last sermon:

“Indeed, all these things are poisons: you cannot partake of them and live, for light and darkness cannot exist together. Whosoever has a crooked nature and is not open and above board with God, he cannot partake of the blessing which comes to those pure of heart. Indeed, very fortunate are they who cleanse their hearts, washing away all impurities, and who make a pledge of loyalty with their God, for they shall never come to naught. It is not possible that God should disgrace them, they being of God, and God of them. They shall be saved from all tribulations. Extremely foolish, indeed, is he who should try to harm them, for verily they are in the lap of God, Who is ever ready to support them. Who has yielded belief to God? Verily only those who are such as described above. Similarly, he also is foolish who is not anxious about a bold sinner, evil and full of mischief inside his heart, for he would himself be destroyed. From the day God created this heaven and earth, it has never happened that He destroyed those who were good. On the contrary for the sake of such as these He has always shown great marvels, and will show even now.”

In this paragraph the Promised Messiah is speaking about the necessity to have a pure heart. No one knows if someone else's heart is pure or not. Each person can only assess how much evil is in their own heart. The criterion for this is the Holy Quran and the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw). Anyhow, pure people of the past always prayed to Allah to purify them. There are many prayers of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) to this effect. I will give you just one. It might help you should you constantly read it in your *namaz*. It is as follows: “*Rabbi tahhirni minaz zonoube wal khataaya kamaa yonaqqeyas sawboul abyazo minad danase*”. Its translation is “O my Lord clean me from sins and mistakes like a white piece of cloth is cleaned of dirt”. Similarly, it was revealed

to the Promised Messiah to pray “ *Rabbi azhib annir rijsa wa tahhirni tathira*” which means “O my Lord clean me of all sorts of impurities and purify me thoroughly.” The Promised Messiah continues:

“Our God is a very loyal God, and for those who remain loyal to Him He shows wonderful works. The world wishes to tear them to pieces and to eat them up; and every enemy grinds his teeth on them; but He Who is their friend saves them from every danger, and brings them out triumphant on every field. How fortunate, then, is he who does not let go his hold of such a God? To Him we render our faith and Him we have recognized. Of all the world He alone is the God Who has sent down His revelation on me; Who, for me, has shown powerful signs; Who has sent me down as the Promised Messiah for this age. There is no God whatsoever except He, in heaven, nor on earth. Whosoever does not yield faith to Him, he remains deprived of the good, deprived of blessings, and deprived of succour. From our God we have received Revelation that shines like the sun. We have seen that He alone is the God of the whole world, and there is no other God. How powerful indeed is the God we have found, and how sustaining! And how great, how wonderful are the qualities of the God we have seen! The truth is that for Him there is nothing impossible, except what runs counter to His own Book and His own promise. Therefore, when you pray to Him, you should not be like those ignorant naturalists who have formed a natural law of their own which does not bear the stamp of God, for they are the rejected ones whose prayers will never be accepted. They are blind, not gifted with vision; they are dead, not alive. They put before God a law shaped by themselves, and they put limitations of their own on His powers, holding Him weak and helpless beyond those limitations, Naturally, they would be dealt with in the light of their own condition. But when thou stand up for prayer, it is incumbent on thee to hold that thy God has power over all things. Only then shall thy prayer be accepted, and thou shalt witness those marvels of the power of thy God which we have witnessed. And remember, our witness is not based on hearsay; it is based on things we have seen ourselves. How can the prayers of one be accepted who does not hold that God has power over all things? And how can such a person in himself have the courage to pray to God over matters where the desired remedy or change would involve an infringement of the laws of nature as he understands them. But O thou good person, thy God is He, Who, without any pillars underneath, has hung up the countless stars in space; and Who created the earth and the heavens absolutely from naught. Dost, thou hold that regarding thy need He will prove to be helpless? The fact is that thy own misconception will keep thee deprived of blessing. There are innumerable

wonderful things in Our God, but these are witnessed only by those who become His in all sincerity and faithfulness. He does not reveal those wonders to those who do not have faith in His powers, and who are not faithful and true.

How unfortunate, indeed, is the man who does not even know that he has a God with power over all things! Our Paradise, indeed, is our God: our highest enjoyment is in God, for we have seen Him and all beauty found in Him. This treasure is worth having, even if at the cost of one's life; and this is a jewel which should be purchased even if obtainable only by sacrificing one's entire being. O ye that are devoid, run to this spring, for it will slacken your thirst. It is the spring of life that shall save ye. What am I to do, and how am I to impress this glad tiding upon your mind, with what drum should. I go crying through the streets that This is your God, so that all should hear! And with what unguent am I to treat the people so that their ears open to hear! "

"If you really become God's, then rest assured that God is your very own, Whilst you will sleep, He will keep watch over you; while you neglect your vigil against the enemy, He will keep an eye on him and disrupt his plans. Even now you have no idea what wondrous powers your God has. If you had known, then no day could have dawned on you for you to grieve over for lack of things of this world. A man who has a treasure in his possession, does he weep and cry over the loss of a penny, as though he were about to perish? Had you been aware of this treasure that God would suffice for all your needs, what reason was there for you to be so wholly absorbed in things of this world? God is a most precious treasure; realize its proper value. Without Him you are nothing; neither you nor your material means and plans. Do not follow in the footsteps of other nations which have come to depend wholly on material means. As a snake eats earth, they subsist based on the lower and inferior material means. Like vultures and dogs eating carrion, they too have sunk their teeth in a carcass. Indeed, they have drifted very far from God, having taken to the worship of human beings, the eating of swine's flesh, and the free use of wine as if it were harmless like water. Since they depend too much on material means, and seek no help from God they are dead; and the heavenly spirit has flown out of them as a dove flies away from its nest. The leprosy of the worship of Mammon has taken a hold on the inside of their hearts and cut to pieces the organs of their inner spiritual life. Beware ye of this leprosy. I do not forbid you to think of material means within proper limits: what I forbid is that like other nations you become wholly the slaves of material means, altogether forgetting God Who controls material means as well. Only if you had the eyes to see, you would find there is only God and

God alone, everything else being worthless. You can neither stretch out your arm nor fold it except with His permission. A person spiritually dead would laugh at this; but it would be better for him if he died before he indulged in this laughter.”

“Beware! Having seen other nations, how they have attained a considerable measure of success in their worldly plans, you should not begin to wish to follow in their footsteps. Listen carefully and take heed that they are aliens to and unmindful of that God Who calls you all to Himself. What is their god but a frail human being, this being the reason why they have been left in such a complacent error. I do not wish to stop you from striving for worldly good, but you should not follow the ways of those who think this present world is all in all. In everything you do, whether it pertains to things of this world or of the next, you should seek help and succour from God alone, and this should remain the guiding principle of your life forever and ever. But this seeking of help should not be from your lips alone: it should be your conviction deep down to the bottom of your being that every blessing comes only from heaven. You shall be righteous only when, at the time of every difficulty, before sitting down to make your plans, you close your door upon yourself, and fall before the throne of God Almighty, crying for His grace and help and succour. Then the holy spirit will come to your help, and through unseen means away shall be opened for you. Have mercy on your own souls and be not like those who have cut themselves wholly away from God and have fallen on material means to such an extent that to seek Divine help they do not even formally utter with their lips the words "If God be willing." May God open your eyes, so that you should begin to perceive that your God is the beam on which all plans rest. When the central beam of the roof falls, can the minor supports maintain their position? Most certainly not, They would all come down in an instant, in all likelihood, with much loss of life. In the same way, your plans cannot remain in position without help from God. If you will not cry for His help, if you will not partake of that soliciting, the most fundamental principle of your life, you will have no success, and shall die at last with great regret.”

(Our Teaching P10-14)

May Allah help each one amongst us and may we all individually understand the importance of these words and put them into practice in our everyday life. *Ameen.*