

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As I have been doing in my past three sermons, I will read to you extracts from the book of the Promised Messiah entitled “Noah’s ark”. This is the book that condenses the teachings of the Promised Messiah (as) for all his followers, be they men or women. If we take these teachings to heart, *incha* Allah we will accomplish the duties that are expected from us as an Ahmadi Muslim. That is why I continue to repeat that we should all care for what we are reading or hearing and we should not just pay lip service to these teachings. We should hold them dear and do our best to live by them. So, the Promised Messiah said:

“Do not fall to wondering why other peoples are meeting with success although they have not the slightest idea of your Most Perfect and All-Powerful God. The answer is this, and this alone, that having forsaken God, they have been put to trial in the matter of material means. Oftentimes a trial from God takes the form that whoever forsakes Him, giving himself up to carnal pleasure, setting his mind wholly on material wealth, the doors of worldly advancement are opened upon him; though from the religious and spiritual point of view he is altogether destitute and naked. He dies at last engrossed in this world, to be thrown into an eternal hell. And sometimes this trial takes the form that such a person remains unsuccessful even in the task of amassing wealth. But the latter trial is not so dangerous as the former, since the former breeds an inordinate measure of pride and a superiority complex. In any case, both these groups are of those on whom falls the wrath of God. The true fountainhead for all kinds of prosperity is God. Therefore, when these people are unaware of this Living and Sustaining Being, in fact careless in regard to Him, and turn their backs upon Him, how can real prosperity fall to their lot? Blessed are they who understand this secret, and in dire straits is he who fails to grasp it. Similarly, it is incumbent on you that you do not begin to follow the philosophers of this world; nor should you suffer yourself to be mentally overawed by them. All these constitute varying manifestations of a gross ignorance. The real and true philosophy is the only one which God has given to you in His Holy Book. In imminent danger of destruction are the people who have become enamored of these material philosophies; and successful are they, who, for real knowledge and philosophy, go to the Holy Book. Why do you take to the paths of ignorance? Do you run after those who are blind, in the hope that they would show you the way? O you ignorant people! How can a person show you the way who is himself blind? The truth is that the true philosophy can be obtained only through the holy spirit. Through this spirit you will reach those sciences which

are not accessible to others. If you ask for it with sincerity, you will get it at last, and then you will find that this is the only knowledge that imparts freshness and life to the heart, and places it on a firm tower of perfect certainty. How can a man bring forth for you clean and wholesome food who is himself subsisting on carrion? How can one show you the way who is himself blind? All pure and healthy wisdom comes from the heavens alone. What is this you seek from those who are of this earth? They alone inherit wisdom whose souls soar to the heavens. Those who are not satisfied in their own minds, how can they give you satisfaction? The foremost thing is purity of heart: sincerity and purity must come first; after that you shall get everything.

Speaking about revelation he said:

“Do not think that Revelation from God is not possible in the future; that it was possible only in the past: do not think that the holy spirit cannot come down now. I tell you truly that every door can be closed but the door for the coming down of the holy spirit. Open all the doors of your heart to receive it. With your own hands you remove yourself to a distance from that sun when yourself you close the window through which light can enter, Therefore get up at once and throw this window open, so that the light of the sun should, of its own accord, enter your heart with the simplicity and inevitability of a natural process. When God has not closed the doors of His blessings upon the world, when in fact He has multiplied them even more than before, do you venture to presume that he has closed upon you the doors of His spiritual blessings, even at a time when they were needed most? No, no; not at all. Rather has that door been opened beyond any possible shadow of doubt, Now, in accordance with His teaching as given in the Surah *Fatihah*, when the door of all earlier blessings has been opened for you, why do you decline to receive them? Create a thirst for this spring, and then, of itself, the water will begin to gush out. For this milk cry like a child, so that it should well up in the breast. Begin to deserve mercy, so that you should be shown mercy. Show anxiety and deep concern, so that your minds should be set at rest. Cry out with pain, again and again, so that a hand should stretch itself and take hold of you. Indeed, how terribly difficult is the way which is the way of the Lord! But, verily, it is made easy for those who jump into the abyss, resolutely determined to face destruction and death. Blessed are they who for the sake of the Lord wage a war against their own selves; while truly ill-starred are they who for the sake of their baser-selves wage a war against the Lord, and refuse to mould themselves in obedience to His will. Whosoever, for the sake of his own self, evades a commandment of God, he will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Strive therefore to the utmost that not a jot or syllable of the Holy Quran should bear witness against you, and cause you to be

apprehended on that account. For, indeed, even a single grain of evil is punishable. The time is very short, the mission of your life not yet fulfilled. Walk with speed, for the evening draws nigh. Whatever you must put before the Lord, examine it well, and as often as you can, lest some defect remain to cause irreparable loss: or lest you take something with you which in fact should amount to no more than filthy and spurious goods, not worthy to be presented at a royal court.

Speaking about the elevated position of the Holy Quran he said:

“I have been given to understand that some among you there are who altogether reject the Hadith. If this is so, then these people are in manifest error. I have never taught that they should hold such views. Quite to the contrary, I hold very firmly that for your guidance God has provided three things. The foremost among these is the Holy Quran, which sets forth the unity of God, His grandeur and greatness, and decides all points in dispute between the Jews and the Christians. Further, the Quran forbids that you worship anything other than God - neither man, nor beast, the sun nor the moon, nor any other heavenly body, nor material means, nor your own selves, Therefore beware. Do not take a single step in contravention of anything contained in the Holy Book. Verily, I tell you truly that whosoever evades even the least of the seven hundred commandments embodied in the Holy Quran, he slams the door of salvation upon himself. The real and perfect paths of salvation have been opened only by the Holy Quran; all others were only its shadows. Therefore, you should study this holy scripture with the utmost attention and deepest thought; and you should love it as you have never loved anything else, For, indeed, as God has conveyed to me: "*Al khayro Koullohou fihil Quran*" i.e., all the good lies in the Quran. All kinds of good are to be found in it and this is the truth.” **(Our Teachings)**

We will stop here for today as far as the teachings are concerned. May Allah help each one amongst us to hold dear all these teachings and to live by them till our last breath, *incha* Allah.

As all members are aware, last week our *mami* and mother-in-law Mrs Masuda Ramjaun (*nawwarallaha marqadaha* - may Allah illumine her tomb), left us for her eternal abode at the age of 83years. *Inna lillahé wa inna elayhe rajeoune* (To Allah we belong and to Him is our return). As a good Muslim, we say “Our eyes are wet with tears and our heart is full of sorrow but we are resigned with what Allah does.” She joined our Jamaat some 10 years ago and she never showed any sign of regretting such a move. She bore with equanimity whatever trials or tribulations or boycott that she had to face because she had joined our Jamaat.

Unfortunately for her, life has been marked by the loss of many dear ones since early childhood. Whilst she was still a child she lost her mother. In 1956, she lost a two-year-old daughter and in 1963, she lost her son Parweiz Ahmad who was hit by a car. In 1983, she lost her father and in 1991, her brother Nasrullah and in 1997, her husband Abdul Wahed and in 2005, her only sister Razia Jhangeerkhan. She had a bitter experience of suffering personal losses but she bore it very patiently by Allah's Grace. May Allah illumine all their tombs.

Mami Masuda was a very generous person. Whenever someone visited her, she would go to long lengths to try to entertain that person or persons with tea, cakes or freshly cooked vermicelli or even lunch and dinner depending on the time of the day. Until recently, all the family assembled at her place on Sundays and she used to prepare tea and cakes and dinner for all of us. As far as I know, this has been going on for almost 34 years after my marriage in 1982. It is only due to her illness that this practice was stopped but her daughters made an alternative arrangement so that the whole family met on Sundays at her place. I think that it is fair to say that all the members of the family would miss all the special dishes that she used to cook for us.

By Allah's Grace she has been staying here with us for the past six months. Whilst she was with us, her daughters and grandchildren did their best to look after her in the best possible way whilst her son Riad was always ready to help whenever he was called upon to help. Whilst she was here she was a focal point and every night almost the children and grandchildren gathered around her until they put her to sleep. At some point during her illness I saw her sitting and doing nothing. I brought her some *Misbah* and *Alfazl* and she went through them casually because she used to read them whenever they fell into her hands.

Mami Masuda was a kind, generous, courteous, easygoing and warm and tolerant but frank person. I am told that some ladies who were present at the funeral also spoke in tears about the good advices that she had given them years before. She is no more but we hope and pray that her good qualities will continue to shine among her children and grandchildren *incha* Allah. To the best of my knowledge, a good person has left us. May Allah grant her a place of choice in Paradise. May all those who have looked after, I mean her children and grandchildren be rewarded for all their attempts to assuage her pain and for helping her. May Allah forgive her shortcomings and grant her a large part of His Mercy and an elevated place in Paradise, *incha* Allah.