

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

We have now reached the end of the Blessed Month of Ramadan. In some countries around the world, Eidul Fitr is being celebrated today. As usual in some other countries including Pakistan and Mauritius, it will be celebrated tomorrow incha Allah. Although most Muslims would have wished for the Eid to be today, unfortunately due to weather conditions we were unable to sight the moon here in Mauritius. It does not matter. We have been given another day to fast and to pray more than we usually do. Under all circumstances, whether good or bad, believers have been taught to be satisfied with the decision of Allah. Incha Allah tomorrow we will read Eid Namaz here in Baitul Rahma mosque at 09h00 sharp. I request you all to arrive on time.

Since I had not prepared a Friday sermon for today, I will not speak as long as I usually do. I will just remind us all about some verses of the Holy Quran and some hadiths and some extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah where he spoke about *Taqwa* because the objective of our fasting is that we become *muttaqis* i.e people who develop in themselves the fear and love of Allah under all circumstances. We will start with a verse from the Holy Quran. Allah says:

“And be quick in the race for forgiveness from Your Lord and for Paradise as wide as the heavens and the earth, prepared for the mutaqeen, Those who spend [for Allah’s cause] in prosperity and in adversity, who repress anger, and who pardon men. Verily, Allah loves the doers of good. And for those who, when they have committed some evil or wronged themselves, remember Allah and ask forgiveness for their sins – and who can forgive sins except Allah – and who do not persist in what they have done, while they know. For such, the reward is forgiveness from their Lord, and Gardens with rivers flowing amidst them, wherein they shall abide forever. How excellent is this reward for the doers [of taqwa].” (al-Imran:133-136)

Abu Zarr relates that the Holy Prophet (saw) said: **“Fear Allah wherever you are. And follow up a bad deed with a good deed and it will wipe it out. And behave towards the people with a good behaviour.”** (Recorded in al-Tirmidhi)

From this hadith, we understand that we should develop *taqwa* in our heart wherever we are especially when no one might know about a misdeed but Allah is aware of it. It is under such circumstances that we have to be very careful. The Holy Prophet (saw) used to supplicate Allah in the following words *“Allahoumma Aate nafsi taqwaha wa anta khayra man ataha taqwaha”* which we can translate as “A my Lord grant to my soul its

taqwa because You are the best who can grant it its *taqwa*.” In another hadith concerning good behaviour the Holy Prophet (saw) said: “*I am a guarantor of a house in the highest part of Paradise for the one who makes his behaviour good.*” (Abu Dawood). He also said “*I have been sent for the purpose of perfecting good morals.*” (al-Haakim)

So, we can see that Ramadan, which has provided us with intense spiritual training might be gone for this year, but our task to try to perfect ourselves as human beings never stops. It is a lifetime commitment for an eternal award.

Now we will read an extract from the Promised Messiah’s writings. He said:

“In actuality, repentance is extremely effective and helpful for the acquisition of morals.” If one wishes to acquire high morals then it is important to repent. However, repentance does not simply mean to seek repentance for sins but it also very important in order to adopt high morals... It should be borne in mind that that there are three conditions for repentance, without fulfilling which one cannot achieve true repentance. Out of these three conditions, the first condition which in Arabic is known as *Iqlaa’* that is to get rid of wicked fancies which arouse evil propensities.’ ‘Thus, the prime condition for repentance is that evil thoughts and fancies should be discarded. The second condition is remorse. ... A sinner should express remorse over his sin and evil action and should reflect that the pleasure to be derived from them is temporary and short-lived...’. The third condition is a firm resolve that he will not revert to those vices. If he adheres to this resolve, God will bestow upon him the strength for true repentance and he will be rid altogether of his vices which will be replaced by good morals and praiseworthy actions. This is a moral victory.”

In another extract he said: “[Good] Morals does not only mean to speak with a soft tone or using polite language. Instead, attributes such as bravery, generosity and chastity are all moral strengths and using them at the correct time makes them part of one’s morals..... “Whosoever demonstrates to their neighbor a change, within their moral conduct, for the better, it will be as if they have performed a miracle. They will leave a lasting impression upon the neighbor.”

Incha Allah, in coming sermons I will be talking more about these matters. May Allah accept our fasts, our prayers, our good actions and may we all always be counted as *Muttaqi* in His eyes, by His Grace, incha Allah.