

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Yesterday was the tenth of Muharram and most Shi'ites commemorate the death of Imam Hussein (ra) in two parts. The first is on the 10th of Muharram known as Ashura in a place called Al kazimayn near Baghdad in memory of the battle between Imam Hussein and the armies of Yazid. The second is 40 days after the tenth of Muharram in Karbala known as "the return of the head". In fact, they mourn for about 40 days which they call *arba'een*. During these days many Shi'ites from around the world go to Iraq to visit the Shrine of Imam Hussein. I have read that the number of people who go over there outnumbers those who go for Hajj. So, one can just imagine how many people we are talking about when we know that the average number of people going for Hajj these days are around 2.5 million. Although in our opinion there is no need for such an outpouring of grief, we may say that these people take all these troubles because of their love for the *Ahle bait*, meaning people from the household of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) and they see to it that these events are never forgotten. If the grandson of the Holy prophet Muhammad (saw) was treated with such ferocity and such hardheartedness, should we have any grief that members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya in Mauritius together with their friends in London should have dealt harshly with us. These are the people in whose opinion we have disobeyed their caliph and any sort of persecution is good for us.

I have come across a pamphlet of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) which he wrote on 8th October 1905 concerning Imam Hussein (ra). Since I have seen only part of this pamphlet translated into English in Jamaat Ahmadiyya literature, I have tried to translate it and at times paraphrase what he said in order to share it with you all. Listen carefully and reread it and appreciate his insight and his wisdom. The title of the pamphlet was "*Tabligh Haq*" meaning "Propagation of the truth". The reason why the Promised Messiah (as) felt obliged to write the pamphlet was that it was reported to him that some simple minded Ahmadi Muslims said that since Imam Hussein (ra) had not pledged allegiance to the caliph of the time, namely Yazid, he was a rebel and Yazid was right. While writing this, the Promised Messiah (as) said "*naouzo billah*" meaning "we seek protection from Allah from such a thought" and immediately said "*lanatullahé alal kaazebeen*" meaning "Allah's curse upon the liars". He also

said that he could not expect that a pious person or knowledgeable person of his Jamaat could say such words. Then he goes on to explain how maybe in some circumstances some members might have said these words. We will not go into these explanations now. Anyhow, the Promised Messiah (as) said that he wanted to explain through this pamphlet that “Yazid was a dirty worm of the earth and an unjust person. He was not a believer as usually such a word means. It is not easy to become a believer (*mo'min*). Concerning such people Allah says “*qalatil aaraabo aamanna qoul lam tou'menou wa laakin qoulou aslamna*”. The Promised Messiah (as) did not give its translation but explained the verse. He continues: “believers are those people whose actions are witness to their beliefs, on whose heart ‘*imaan*’ faith is written. They give priority to their Lord and His pleasure over everything else. For Allah’s sake they tread the narrow and difficult path of God fearingness (*taqwa*). They become intoxicated with His Love. They stay far away from everything that acts like an idol keeping them away from Allah whether it is a moral state or bad actions or negligence or laziness. But unfortunate Yazid did not have these accomplishments. (He was deficient in the qualities that characterizes a believer). Love for this world blinded him. But Hussein (may Allah be pleased with him) was pure and one who could purify others. There is no doubt that he was among the chosen ones whom Allah purified with His Own Hands and embalmed with His Love. He was one of the two chiefs of the youth of Paradise. (Here is the reference to the words of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) where he said that Hasan and Hussein will be among the chiefs of the Youth of Paradise). To bear an atom of ill will against him would be the cause of the loss of faith. That Imam’s fear of Allah(*taqwa*), love of Allah, patience and forbearance, his piety and worship are examples for all of us. And we are the followers of the guidance which this innocent person received. Lost is that heart which is his enemy. Successful is that heart which through actions manifest love for him and reflects all traces of his faith, his moral qualities, his courage his godfearingness, his perseverance and his love for Allah just like a clean mirror reflects the image of a beautiful person. Such people are hidden from the eyes of the world. Only they know them who are one of them. The eyes of the world cannot recognize them because they are far away from the world. This is why Hussein (ra) was martyred; he was not recognized. Has the world ever loved a pure and chosen one while he lived that it should have loved Hussein? In brief it is pure villainy and lack of faith that anyone should look down on Hussein (may Allah be pleased with him). And if anyone

despises or speaks lightly of Imam Hussein (ra) or any of the pure Imams, he loses his faith because Allah Jalla *Shanahu* becomes the enemy of those who bear enmity towards His Chosen and Dear ones.....”

Then the Promised Messiah spoke about his own situation; how people have spoken ill of him because he said he came from Allah. He said all the titles that he received came from Allah. Advising the members of the jamaat he said that they should bear all these evil talks with patience and they should make real repentance and turn to Allah with sincerity and learn to pray sincerely. Then he wrote:

“Be polite and keep praying and make true repentance your intercessor. Walk slowly on the earth and Allah is not the relative of any particular people. (Meaning All are His People who He has created). If you declare that you belong to His Jamaat and yet you have not adopted righteous and purity as a way of life and there is no fear in your heart then be sure that Allah will destroy you first before He destroys the opponents because your eyes were opened but you kept sleeping. Do not think that Allah needs you. If you do not observe His commandments and you do not care for the limits that He has fixed, Allah will destroy you and, in your stead, He will bring another people who will observe His commandments.

The aim of my coming is not just to show that Hazrat Isa (as) is dead. This has been just to remove an impediment in the path of Muslims and to tell them the true story. But the aim of my coming is that Muslims adopt true *Tauhid* and that they have a relationship with Allah and that they pray and observe all other devotions because they delight in observing them, because they see Allah in them and that they become clean of all impurities.(Here the Promised Messiah is alluding to the hadith where we are asked to pray as if we see Allah and if we cannot maintain this level of consciousness at least we should be aware that Allah is seeing us.)

Then he concludes the pamphlet by explaining the difference in perception that exists between other Muslims and Jamaat Ahmadiyya and I have left that part out. Anyhow from what I have translated and paraphrased one can easily understand the reverence in which the Promised Messiah (as) held Imam Hussein (ra). Now if you are an Ahmadi Muslim and you read such an extract will you continue in your evil ways or will you care for the words of the Promised Messiah (as) and amend your ways and care to become a *mo'min* rather than just being a Muslim. May Allah help each one amongst us and

every Ahmadi Muslim to transform ourselves into real believers (*mo'meneen*) incha Allah. The aim of reminding ourselves about the life of Imam Hussein is to be inspired by his example and develop in ourselves the capacity to tread a difficult path with reliance on Allah and without any fear of what others might say and being utterly convinced that we do what we do because we are convinced that we are upholding truth and not falsehood and that we stand for justice and not injustice and that we love people and not hate them.

I will now revert to another incident preceding the events at Karbala. In an article from the review of Religion I have read as follows:

“Hussain^(ra) found out about Muslim bin Aqeel^(ra)'s murder. (Aqeel was the ambassador that Imam Hussein had sent to Kufa to find out about the real intentions of the Kufians.) Aqeel^(ra)'s brother went to Kufa to exact revenge. During this time Hussain^(ra) saw the Holy Prophet^(saw) in a vision, who provided him with some instructions. He interpreted this dream to mean that whatever may happen to him now, there was no turning back.

He gave everyone in his group the choice to return. The general public dispersed and only the *Ahle Ba'ait* (family of the Holy Prophet^(saw)) and a few Companions remained – there were in total approximately 72 people in Hussain^(ra)'s camp. In the meantime, Yazid brought an army of 1000, and wanted to detain Hussain^(ra)'s group and take them to Kufa.

Hussain^(ra) stated plainly, “I was going to Kufa on the beckoning of the people of Kufa; if they have changed their minds then I shall return”.

He showed Hurbain Qais the letter from Kufa. Hurbain replied; “We have not written this letter, and we have instructions from the *Amir* to send you to Kufa”.

Hussain^(ra) responded, “Death would be better than this”.

The option of returning was no longer possible. The Divine Will had been determined. Imam Hussain^(ra) suddenly woke from his sleep. He said “*InnaLillah*” (surely to Allah we belong, and to Him we shall return) and then “*Alhumdulillah*” (all praise belongs to Allah), and said “in my dream a traveler stated that the nation is moving towards its death”.

His son Zain ul Abideen^(ra) said, “what does it matter if death comes on the path to the truth?”

In obedience to their amir, the Kufians were ready to detain the grandson of the Holy Prophet (saw) because they knew what threat to their authority and to that of their caliph he represented. Similarly, in obedience to their amir how many unislamic deeds have many Ahmadis Muslims in Mauritius done. They will all one day have to answer for what they have done. But we wish that Allah have mercy upon them because many of them are among our own relatives in Mauritius.

May Allah guide each one amongst us to tread the path that He has chosen for us, namely the path of the blessed, on whom He sends His favours and may we all do our best to be among the best of those who submit to His Will, incha Allah.