

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As you might recall, we are reading extracts from the book of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), *Burahin Ahmadiyya* Volume 5. He is speaking about the God in which people should believe. He says:

“This is God, through whose manifestations of word and deed—which contain within themselves thousands of blessings and forcefully impact the heart—a person has the good fortune of obtaining a true and living faith and—having developed a sincere and holy bond with God—of eradicating the filth of the carnal self. All weaknesses having been removed, the piercing rays of heavenly light dispel one’s inner darkness and a wonderful transformation comes into being.

Therefore, the religion which does not present this God who is proven to possess these attributes and which confines faith merely to ancient tales and fables and such accounts as are not seen or heard is certainly not a true religion. To follow such a fictitious god is like expecting a corpse to function like the living. The existence or non-existence of such a ‘God’ who does not himself prove His own existence afresh at all times is the same, as if he is an idol that does not speak, does not hear, and does not reply to a question, nor can he manifest his almighty power in such a manner that even a resolute atheist cannot doubt it. It should be borne in mind that just as the sun rises afresh each day to give us light, and we could not attain any benefit nor any satisfaction through a story if we were sitting in complete darkness with no sign of any light anywhere, and we were told that though the sun does exist, it only used to rise in some past ages and is now hidden forever. The same is the case with the True Sun which illumines the hearts: It rises afresh every day vouchsafing to man a share of its divine manifestations of word and deed. Only that God is true and only that religion is

true which gives the good news of the existence of such a God and demonstrate the existence of such a God; it is only through such a Living God that the soul is purified. Do not carry the hope that any other design can purify the human self. As darkness can only be dispelled by light—in the same way—the only remedy for the darkness of sin are the divine manifestations of word and deed, which descend upon a fortunate heart in a miraculous manner from God with powerful rays, show him that God exists, remove the foulness of all doubts, and bring satisfaction and contentment. So, by the mighty attraction of that Supreme Power, that fortunate one is raised to heaven. Other than this, all other remedies that are put forward are fake spectacles. But for complete purification, divine cognizance alone is not enough; rather, this must be accompanied simultaneously by persistent ongoing prayers filled with anguish because God Almighty is Self-Sufficient and Independent, and to attract His grace there is an acute necessity of such prayers that are accompanied by weeping and sincerity and the painful anguish of the heart. You see that though a suckling infant fully recognizes its mother and loves her and the mother also loves it, yet its crying has a great deal to do with the release of the mother's milk. On the one side the infant cries bitterly out of hunger and on the other side the mother is so affected by its crying and weeping that milk is released from her breasts. In the same way, every seeker should prove his spiritual hunger and thirst by his weeping and crying so that the spiritual milk might be released to satiate him.

Thus, divine cognizance alone is not enough to cleanse and purify oneself. Rather, grief-stricken weeping and crying like children is also necessary. Do not lose hope and do not be discouraged by the thought: 'Our souls are so defiled with sin; of what value are our supplications and what impact would they have?' The human soul has, in fact, been created for the love of God and although the fire of sin may intensely excite him, even then he possesses such power of repentance that it can extinguish that fire. Just as you observe that however

much water is heated, when it is poured over a fire it still extinguishes the fire. Ever since God Almighty created people, their hearts have always been cleansed and purified through this means alone. In other words, man cannot be purified from sin through any means besides the Living God Himself—through His own manifestations of word and deed— revealing His existence, His power, and His Godhood, and displaying His shining awe.

Even by way of reason this very fact is clear and proven that man only values—and his heart is only awe-inspired by—such an object whose greatness and power he learns through the means of complete cognition. For instance, it is evident that man will never insert his hand into a hole wherein he is certain that a snake lies, nor will he ever eat a thing that he knows to be poison. How is it then, that he does not fear God Almighty in the same way and brazenly commits thousands of sins and transgressions, and remains fearless even after reaching old age? The reason for this is simply that he is totally unaware of the existence and entity of the True Requirer who can punish sin. It is a pity that most people have not paid attention to this principle out of their misfortune, and such absurd means of being delivered from sin have been hewn out of their imaginary whims, which only increase their audacity in committing even more sin. Take for example, the belief that asserts that having faith in the crucifixion of Hazrat ‘Isa [Jesus], may peace be upon him, and considering him to be God is obligatory for the forgiveness of all mankind’s sins. Can such a notion be expected to engender true hatred of sin? It is obvious that each and every thing can only be countered by its opposite: Heat drives away cold, and the remedy for removing darkness is light. Then what kind of remedy is it [to propose] that X is cleansed from sin through Y’s being crucified? Such doctrines are nothing but man-made fallacies that find their way into people’s hearts in times of heedlessness and material worship. The same selfish and base motives that led to the prevalence of idol worship in the world are responsible for the prevalence of the doctrines of Crucifixion and Atonement among the Christians.

The essential fact is that the human self is somewhat designed to give greater preference to the path in which there is no effort and struggle. True purity, however, requires much pain and striving, and that pure life cannot be attained until man drinks the cup of death. Therefore, just as it is the propensity of mankind to avoid difficult and narrow paths and to seek ways that are easy and simple, in this very manner these people, too, have chosen the way of the Cross that requires only verbal confession and places no hardship upon the soul. This is the reason why the love of God has grown cold [in their hearts] and they do not desire to develop a loathing for sin in order to bring about a pure transformation within themselves. In reality, belief in the Cross is the kind of doctrine which pleases those who do not wish to attain true purity and are constantly searching for a formula in which a filthy life may coexist with the forgiveness of sins. Consequently, in spite of [their indulgence in] excessive impurity, they imagine that they are cleansed from sin merely through believing in the blood of Christ. Such purity is actually like a boil that is full of pus, even though it appears shining on the surface. Should there be discerning minds, the falsity of the prescription of the Cross can be made clear from the condition of the devotees of the Cross themselves—to what extent have they become absorbed in the love of God Almighty, abandoning the desires and passions of the world? Anyone who tours European countries will see for himself the extent to which the most ardent defenders of the [Christian] faith—not just the ignorant people but also the educated and refined among them—indulge in carnal pleasures, licentiousness, drunkenness, self-indulgence, and other sins. Many among the clergy, who exceed all others in stressing the blood of Messiah, are given to alcoholism which is the mother of all evils, with the result that such shameful and outrageous stories regarding them are frequently published in the newspapers that the less said about them, the better. For example, just today I

read in a newspaper that a pastor who committed fornication with girls was arrested in England and is being sent back [to India]...”

The reason why the Promised Messiah spoke about the Christians and their misbehavior was that these were the people who had come to India to convert its inhabitants to Christianity. This book of the Promised Messiah was written in 1905. But the British had come to India in the beginning of the 16th century and they started exploiting it as they were used to in those days around the world. They had a scheme for India. Even one of their Prime ministers declared in 1862 that “I think we are all agreed as to the end. It is not only our duty, but it is our interest, to promote the diffusion of Christianity, as far as possible, throughout the whole length and breadth of India.” The champion of Islam there and around the world was Hazrat Ahmad (as). He said further:

“So, remember well that this is certainly not the way to attain true purity. The time is approaching— nay rather, it is near at hand—when people will awaken themselves to the error of this path. The true path is only the one which I have already stated. Every single person who came to God Almighty entered through this very door. Yes, this door is very narrow and those who enter through it are very few in number, for death is its threshold and, having seen God, remaining steadfast in His path with all their power and all their being, is its frame. So very few indeed are those who wish to enter through this door. Alas, that in our country the notion of the blood of Christ has led the Christians astray from this door, while the Aryas have been deprived of this door on account of their belief in reincarnation and their denial of the acceptance of repentance; for, in their view there is no other way to be cleansed from sin during this life except through undergoing diverse cycles of rebirth. Repentance—meaning, to turn oneself to God with total sincerity and inflicting upon oneself a state of death, and, having inflicted this death-like state, to willingly offer one’s own

sacrifice—is, in their eyes, an absurd idea. Thus, both these groups are deprived of the true path...”

From the Promised Messiah, we have come to learn that the true path leading to Allah is the path that has been taught by Hazrat Mohammad (saw) through the Holy Quran. The Promised Messiah (as) devoted his life to make people understand this most important idea and this is one of the main purposes of Jamaat Ahmadiyya. Incha Allah we will say more about this next week.

May Allah help each one amongst us to learn the real purpose of our existence and may we all be successful in this path. Ameen.