

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

For us Ahmadi Muslims Hazrat Masih Maood (as) is a person of great importance. It is our belief that he was blessed by Allah with deep spiritual knowledge and that his teachings help one to become a better Muslim day by day. That is why I keep reading from him as often as I can in the Friday sermon. I think that he has summarized Islam's teachings in the best possible way. We have learned a lot from him and we are still learning. I keep saying that our new generation of Ahmadis will learn a lot from his writings and his speeches and that each one amongst us should have a plan to imbibe these teachings day by day a little bit at a time. Most of his writings are available on islam.org. If we say we are Ahmadi Muslims we should try to make reading these books, speeches and *Malfuzaat* an important objective of our existence. I hope you will all take to heart this simple and humble advice *incha* Allah. Today I will *incha* Allah share with you more of what he has said in his first Volume of *Malfuzaat* which has been translated into English and which is available on islam.org. He said:

“I openly proclaim that a person who does not give precedence to God over everything and until God can look into that person's heart and confirm that it belongs to Him alone, he cannot become a true believer. Such a person is a believer or Muslim only by name, inasmuch that they are from the community of the Holy Prophet (saw), just as a person belonging to the scheduled caste is commonly referred to in society as a *musalli* or *mu'min*. A true Muslim is one who becomes an embodiment of the following: “*aslama wajhahou lillah*” meaning “*He submits himself completely to Allah.*”

The word *wajhun* refers to the face, but the word also applies to one's person and being as a whole. Hence, only such an individual who dedicates all his strength to Allah is worthy of being called a true Muslim. I am reminded of a Muslim who once invited a Jew to accept Islam and become a Muslim. The Muslim himself was engrossed in sin and vice. The Jew told the impious Muslim to worry about himself first and to not pride himself at being called a Muslim. God Almighty desires the essence of Islam, not a mere label or name. The Jew related his own account and said that he named his son Khalid (i.e. one who lives long), but the next day he had to bury his son in his grave. Now if names were the mere cause of blessing, then why would he have died? If

someone asks a Muslim whether he is Muslim, he will respond by saying, *alhamdulillah* (all praise belongs to Allah). Hence, remember that mere words and verbosity can be of no use until there is action. Mere words have no value whatsoever in the sight of Allah. As such, God Almighty has stated:

“Most hateful is it in the sight of Allah that you say what you do not do.” (HQ 61:3)

This is the first extract that we are reading today. Its message is clear. We should all aim in our life to do what we say or else we will not even be true to our own self. If at times we fail, we should regret it and ask forgiveness from Allah for not being to the standard and try our utmost to do better in future. Then little by little we will be improving our selves in the sight of Allah and we will approach the ideal of matching our deeds to our claims.

Speaking about the need to guard the Muslim territory and commenting on the verse *“Wa saaberou wa rabetou”* which means *“Excel in steadfastness and be on your guard”*, the Promised Messiah (as) said:

“Just as it is imperative to station horses at the border to fend off the enemy so that it is unable to cross its limits, similarly, you too ought to prepare yourselves, lest the enemy encroaches the border and inflicts harm upon Islam. I have stated earlier as well that if you desire to support and serve Islam, you must first adopt piety and purity yourselves, so that you may enter the resolute fortress of God’s refuge. Then will you be granted the honour and right to offer this service. You can observe how weak the external strength of the Muslims has fallen. Other nations look towards them with abhorrence and contempt. If your inner force and strength of heart also weakens and withers away, then know that the end is nigh. Purify your souls so that they are imbued with spiritual power and so that they become firm defenders like horses that are stationed at the frontier. It is the righteous and pure who are always accompanied by the grace of Allah Almighty. Let not your morals and practices become such as would blemish Islam. Evildoers and Muslims who do not act upon the teachings of Islam stain the religion. When a Muslim consumes alcohol, at times he is found vomiting somewhere with his turban wrapped around the neck; he is found falling here and there in sewers and gutters. The police disciplines such a one, and Hindus and Christians laugh at this. Now this action, which is against the Islamic *shariah*, not only brings ridicule upon the Muslim who does so, but ultimately the effects of this reach Islam itself.

It gives me immense pain to read such news or prison reports, when I find that such a large number of Muslims have been incarcerated for their criminal actions. My heart becomes restless to think that these people who possess direction to the right path do not inflict harm upon themselves alone due to their own misdeeds, rather, give others an opportunity to laugh at Islam as well....In this, I seek to point out that the Muslim people call themselves Muslims yet become implicated in unlawful and prohibited actions which not only bring them into question, but also Islam. In short, mould your character and conduct in such a manner that even disbelievers (who actually seek to criticize Islam) are unable to find fault in you.”

He said further: “Your true expression of gratitude is by adopting righteousness and purity. To merely respond by saying *alhamdulillah* (all praise belongs to Allah) when asked if you are a Muslim does not constitute thankfulness and appreciation. If you pay true gratitude, i.e. if you tread the ways of purity and righteousness, I give you glad tidings that when you stand at the frontier, as it were, no one can gain dominance over you. I remember that a Hindu head clerk named Jagan Nath, who was a very prejudiced man, mentioned that he was serving as head clerk in Amritsar or someplace else and there was an employee—apparently a Hindu—who secretly observed the Islamic Prayer. Jagan Nath says that he along with the other Hindu employees disliked him greatly and all of them decided to have the man dismissed. Jagan Nath says that he harbored the most ill-intent at heart and lodged complaints against the Hindu many times, saying that he had committed this mistake or broken that rule, but no attention would be given to these complaints. He goes on to say: ‘However, we had determined that we would have this man dismissed and in order to succeed in our objective, we had even gathered a list of complaints and from time to time I would present these complaints to the officer in-charge as well. If ever our officer became furious and finally summoned the man, as soon as he appeared before him, his rage would subside just as water puts out a fire. The officer would lightly rebuke him in a very soft manner, as if the employee had committed no mistake at all.’

The truth is that righteousness fills others with awe as well and God Almighty does not waste those who are pious. Syed Abdul-Qadir Jilani, may Allah have mercy on him, was an illustrious saint who had a very pure soul. I read in a book that on one occasion he told his mother that his heart was greatly dismayed by the world. ‘It is my desire to search for a leader who can show me the ways of attaining tranquility and comfort’, he said. When his mother

observed that her son was not interested in worldly matters, she agreed and said: 'Alright, I relieve you.' After saying this, she went inside and returned with eighty coins that she had saved. Then she said, 'Of these coins, in accordance with the Islamic shariah, forty belong to you and forty to your elder brother. And so I give you your share of forty coins.' Then, she sewed the forty coins into the underarm of his shirt and advised him to take out the coins upon reaching a safe destination and to use them as he so required. Syed Abdul-Qadir requested his mother to give him some advice. 'Do not lie my son', she said, 'This will bring with it immense blessing.' With this advice, he embarked on his quest. It so happened that there were some robbers and pillagers who lived in the jungle that he passed through, who would loot travelers. These robbers spotted Abdul-Qadir Jilani (ra) from afar and when they came close, they found a simple ascetic. One of them mockingly inquired: 'Do you have anything in your possession?' A short time ago, he had just heard the advice to not speak falsehood, and so he immediately said: 'Yes, there are forty coins in my underarm, which my mother has sewn to my shirt as a pouch.' The first robber thought that he was only retorting sarcastically. But when the second robber inquired the same, he gave the same response. Hence, Abdul-Qadir Jilani (ra) responded to every robber in the same manner, who then took him to their leader and said that this person has been giving us all the same response. The leader said: 'Alright, why do you not search his clothes?' When they finished their search, the robbers found forty coins. They were astonished that this was some strange person, and that they had never seen such an individual before. The leader inquired: 'What is the reason behind you revealing the whereabouts of your wealth?' 'I have set out in search of God's religion,' said Abdul-Qadir Jilani (ra), 'and my mother advised me to never speak falsehood; this was my first test, so why would I lie?' Upon hearing this, the leader of the robbers began to weep and said: 'Alas! I did not obey God even once.' The leader addressed the other thieves and said: 'These words and the steadfastness of this person have transformed me. I cannot be a part of you. I repent.' At this, the other robbers repented as well. Hence, Syed Abdul-Qadir Jilani (ra) states that the first people who repented on his hand were thieves. This is why Allah the Exalted states:

"Yaa Ayyahal lazina Aamanous berou O ye who believe! Be steadfast.

Patience begins as a speck and then takes on the form of a large circle which ultimately encompasses all to the extent that it even transforms the wicked. Therefore, it is imperative for man to never let go of righteousness and tread

firmly on the paths of virtue. A righteous person surely influences others and even fills the hearts of opponents with awe.”

So, I think that we should all keep on praying and soliciting Allah to purify us and to make us better in His sight. It is not what we think of ourselves which is important. What is important is what is our worth in the sight of Allah. May Allah help each one amongst us and make us worthy in His Sight *incha* Allah. Ameen.