

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Last time I said that there were only three pages left to be read from the translation of that marvelous speech known as The Revealed Sermon “*Khutba Ilhamiah*” which Hazrat Masih Maood (as) delivered on Thursday 11th April in Qadian in 1901. We will finish reading it and I will incha Allah make a few comments afterwards.

“The plague has broken out, the Hajj forbidden, deaths have increased and nations are fighting and quarrelling among themselves over gold mines. The Cross has gained the ascendancy and Islam has relinquished its position and has disappeared as if it were a traveler, and sin and transgression are overtly prevalent and people are turning to alcohol, gambling, dancing and singing. Instances of adultery and mutual violence are increasing, but the number of righteous people is dwindling. The time of the manifestation of our God is due and the words of the prophets have been fulfilled, so in what other announcement will you believe?

O people! stand up for Allah collectively or individually, then fear Him and ponder deeply like one who is free from niggardliness or hostility. Is this not the time for Allah to show compassion to His servants? And is this not the time for the repelling of evil and for the compensating of hearts that are languishing for showers of rain? Has not the flood of evil risen to its limits and has not the skirt of ignorance raised its hem to the fullest? The country has become corrupt and Satan has shown gratitude to the ignorant. So, give thanks to the God Who has renumbered you, and your religion, too, and saved it from destruction and has protected your tilth and your crops from disaster. And He has sent down the rain to bestow His Perfect Mercy on your inner wealth of soul and spirituality, and He has sent down His Messiah to remove anguish from your hearts, and He has sent the Mahdi with the gifts of goodness for you to derive spiritual benefits from them. And He has inaugurated the era of your Imam after the period of dominance by the opponents.

Dear brothers, this age of ours bears a perfect resemblance to this month of ours for this is the Last Age and this month is the last month of the Muslim calendar and both are nearing their end. And in this month the sacrifices are observed and in this age such sacrifices are very much needed for the cause of

truth. The only difference between this sacrifice and the sacrifice that is needed for the cause of truth is that between the substance and the reflection that falls on a mirror. Our age is a replica of the Holy Prophet's time which has already passed away. The true sacrifice is that of the soul, O men of insight. So, understand the secret of this truth.

After the Companions of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), you are worthier and more deserving of it. By the grace and mercy of Allah, you are the last group to be included among them. The succession of ages ordained by the Al Mighty God is coming to end with our age, just as the month of Islam have come to a close with the month of sacrifices. For people of intelligence, there is a hidden sign in this.

I am the one to terminate the chain of sainthood just as our Holy Prophet was the one to bring the chain of prophethood to an end and he was the last of the prophets and I am the last of the saints. After me there will be no saint except one 'who will be from and under my covenant'. My foot is on that exalted minaret which is the zenith of all loftiness. So, fear God, O you young men, and acknowledge me and obey me and do not die in disobedience. The age has drawn close and the time is approaching fast when every soul will be questioned concerning its deeds and will be requited accordingly. Calamities abound and only your faith will save you and sin is rampant. It will not soften their hearts at all. But make your selves humble before Allah.

O my Friends fear the punishment of Allah. And whoever fears Allah, Paradise is prepared for him. So, do not keep the company of the heedless and those who are unmindful of their death. Ride on speedy chargers and eschew such horses that are lame, so that you may reach your Lord. Take to the path of self-extinction in Allah, so that you may be favoured with closeness to Allah and union with Him. Abandon reliance on worldly means so that Allah in His own mercy may create means for you. Cause death to your physical urges so that you may receive a new life.

Today all possible evidence and arguments have been put to the opponents and all the excuses of the excuse-makers have been completely refuted. That band of misleaders and whisperers of evil has despaired of harming you. They wasted their lives in seeking the world and found no pleasure in religious truths. Indeed, they are like the blind. Today Allah has broken their backs and they have turned back in despair.

Today, truth has been manifested for those who have eyes to see and the way of the guilty has become clear. The only one to turn away from the truth is he whom eternal deprivation has impeded, and the denier is he whose natural propensity for oppression has prevented him from accepting the truth.

Therefore, we turn away from those people in peace and on them complete proof has been fulfilled and their deserving of punishment has been established. So, if they do not turn back, patience is beautiful and soon the One Who is Aware of their condition will give them warning.” Ameen

So, in my Eidul Adha Sermon, in last Friday’s sermon and in today’s sermon I have read to you all the unique speech of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) which is known as *Khutba Ilhamiah*. The meaning of the sacrifice practiced by Muslims around the world has been explained quite thoroughly in the words expressed. We should all try to better understand the contents and strive to become a true embodiment of the spirit of sacrifice as has been explained in it. When we understand and do sacrifice in the spirit that has been explained, we will start walking on that path which will make us spread peace around us which will eventually lead us to Allah. Millions of Muslims around the world have sacrificed animals around the world on the occasion of Eidul Adha. But how many have really sacrificed their *nafse amaara*, which is nothing but the impulse to commit sins, is open to question. Only Allah knows. As a Muslim we are not only expected to declare our intention to be good but we should show by example how truly and sincerely we are doing our best to be good. If we think that sacrificing animals has to do with the sensation of preparing animals for transport and eventually for slaughter, we are mistaken. Because it is of utmost importance that we prepare ourselves to slaughter all our evil propensities in obedience to Allah and His Prophet Muhammad (saw). We should engage ourselves in this path and strive to be on it until we die.

In this speech the Promised Messiah (as) tells us that if we really understand the spirit of sacrifice as it should be understood and if we put it into practice then we will reach the destination that is destined for all those who have embarked on this path. That is why he said that through this sacrifice properly done the mystic’s path comes to an end. The institution of initiation (*bai’at*) in Jamaat Ahmadiyya is for this purpose, namely that through the guidance given by Hazrat Masih Maood (as) someone may tread the path to Allah. It is something very personal. Today, unfortunately within the Ahmadiyya mainstream Jamaat it is being given another coloring. It is not repetition of the words of initiation that makes someone a better Ahmadi. Rather it is the

determination to carry through with the initial promise that one has made by abiding with the ten conditions of initiation as explained by the Promised Messiah (as). Anyhow when the Promised Messiah (as) explains in the revealed sermon that properly done sacrifices culminate the initiate's journey, what he means is: **that person reaches a stage where Allah is pleased with him/her and he or she is pleased with Him (*raziatam maziya*)**. Members can read further on this matter in the book of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) *The Philosophy of the teachings of the Islam* where he explains about the different stages of the soul. If we say we are Ahmadi Muslims, this should be a must on our reading list.

Another very interesting point that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) makes in this sermon concerns his status. Our young friends should re-read these extracts so that they might be aware of the great status that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) received from Allah. He is not just a *wali*; he is the seal of saints (*khatmoul awliya*) as the Holy Prophet (saw) was the seal of prophets (*khatamoune nabiyyeene*). As such the Promised Messiah (as) said that **"I am the one to terminate the chain of sainthood just as our Holy Prophet was the one to bring the chain of prophethood to an end and he was the last of the prophets and I am the last of the saints. After me there will be no saint except one "who will be from and under my covenant."**

From this sentence anyone can understand that the door of being a *waliullah* within Jamaat Ahmadiyya remains open because Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has clearly stated that it is open. No one can shut this door because it has been kept open by Allah. No one can oppose His Will. He does what He likes. If someone is sincere in following the teachings of Hazrat Ahmad, the Promised Messiah (as), Allah can elevate that person to whatever rank that He wishes and He does not need any recommendation from anyone else because no one has been mandated to distribute Allah's Favours. If Allah graces some of His servants with His Revelations or His Nearness that is His Privilege although others may find fault with His choice and they usually do. He knows better what is in the heart of His servants. Allah says in the Holy Quran:

And in like manner have We tried some of them by others, that they may say, 'Is it these whom Allah has favoured from among us?' Does not Allah know best those who are grateful? (6:54)

Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has told us that the door to achieve Allah's nearness(*qurbat*) is wide open. Whosoever strives for it will get it. Allah says in the Holy Quran **"And as for those who strive in Our path — We will surely**

guide them in Our ways. And verily Allah is with those who do good.” (29:70). To be well guided does not depend on any one person or one institution. It depends on Allah’s Grace and He grants it to whosoever He likes.

Another point that should be noted is that the people addressed in this sermon have been named as “***Ouloul Albab***” which is translated as “those who possess understanding. It is a concept that has a wider meaning and we find it at several places in the Holy Quran. So, when you read the Holy Quran note where it is used and ponder over the people that it describes as such. Because of lack of time I cannot speak more of it right now. Anyhow we pray and hope that Allah will help us to do the deeds and be like those who are qualified by Him as people of understanding (**ouloul albab**) incha Allah.