

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Today we will continue sharing with our members what Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said in the second volume of his Mafuzaat. He is talking about the four ranks with which Allah graces His Servants. For the past two weeks we have been speaking about the qualities and characteristics of a *Siddiq*. The Promised Messiah (as) is reported to have said:

“Keep the example of Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra) before you at all times. Think about the time of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, when the Quraysh were bent on mischief on all fronts and the disbelievers hatched conspiracies to kill the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. This era was a most trying time. All of you who are seated before me now ought to reflect that if today, a trial of this nature were to fall upon you, how many of you would stand by me? Or for example, what if the government began to investigate one by one the people who have sworn allegiance to me?

How many of you would bravely say that they are among my followers? I am aware that some of you would lose the feeling in your hands and feet, and they would immediately begin to think about their properties and relatives, and how they would have to part with them. To stand by in times of difficulty is the sign of those who are true in faith. Hence, during the era in which the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was faced with grave trials and at a time when plans were being devised to kill him, the manner in which Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra) fulfilled his commitment of friendship is an example unparalleled in our world. Such strength and resilience is impossible without faith. Until a person practically instils faith within himself, nothing can be achieved, for until such a time, a person's excuses will have no end. When the people are actually faced with a burning fire, there are few who prove firm. The disciples of the Messiah [Isa (as)] abandoned him and fled in his last hours when he was confronted with misfortune, and some even cursed him to his face.

This is a point where one ought to take a lesson. At one point, during the life of Hazrat Imam Husain, may Allah be pleased with him, Muslim bin Aqil offered

the Prayer with a congregation of 70,000 people who had sworn allegiance to Hazrat Imam Husain (ra). However, when a certain individual came and threatened them at the behest of Yazid, all of them fled.”

He continued:

“Such incidents are frightening. Weigh your faith, for deeds are the ornaments of faith. If one’s practical condition is corrupt, then in reality he is devoid of faith as well. A believer is beautiful. If a beautiful person is adorned with even a simple and ordinary bangle, their beauty is enhanced manifold. In the same manner, deeds make a believing person appear more beautiful, but if a person performs evil deeds, then nothing remains. When one develops true faith within oneself, one begins to feel a pleasure in performing good deeds; one’s eye of divine understanding is opened; one offers the Prayer as it ought to be observed; one develops an aversion towards sin and detests vile gatherings; and one possesses a fervour and deep longing within one’s heart for the greatness and glory of Allah Almighty and His Messenger to be manifested. That very same faith will give them the strength to be put on the cross like the Messiah (as). For the sake of God, and indeed for the sake of God alone, such a one is willing to be thrown into a fire like Abraham (as). When a person aligns his own will with the will of God, then Allah the Almighty who is *الصُّدُورِ بِذَاتِ عَلَيْهِ* (*He knows full well what is in your breasts*) becomes His Protector and Guardian. That God will take such a one down from the cross alive, and even pull him out of a fire, safe and sound. Only those who have full faith in God Almighty witness these miraculous wonders.

In short, the truth and sincerity of Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra) came to light as a fire was ablaze around him, at a time when the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was surrounded by his assailants. Although some of them were of the opinion that he should merely be banished from Mecca, most of them actually sought to put an end to his life. It was at that hour that Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra) demonstrated his sincerity and loyalty, which will shine as an example until the end of time. In this trying hour, the very selection of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is a powerful argument in favour of the excellence and supreme loyalty of Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra). For example, if the Viceroy of India were to choose someone for an important task, the opinion of the Viceroy would be better and more

judicious than, say, a local watchman. It must be accepted, therefore, that the selection of the Viceroy is, in any case, better suited and more appropriate. For the government has appointed him as a deputy ruler, and has put its trust in his loyalty, farsightedness and experience. It is then that the government has handed over to him the reins of authority. It would, thus, be inappropriate to disregard the Viceroy's effective management and sound judgement, and take the choice of an ordinary watchman to be more correct.

This is also the case with the selection of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. At that time, the Holy Prophet (saw) had seventy or eighty companions, and even Hazrat Ali (ra) was with him, but from all of these companions, the Holy Prophet (saw) chose none other than Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra). What is the secret in this? The fact is that a Prophet sees through the eye of God Almighty, and his insight comes from God Almighty. Therefore, Allah the Exalted had informed the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, by means of vision and revelation that the best and most appropriate person for this task was Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra).

Hazrat Abu Bakr, may Allah be pleased with him, accompanied the Holy Prophet (saw) in this difficult hour. This was a time of perilous trial. When a similar time dawned upon the Messiah (as), his disciples abandoned him and fled, and one of them even stood before him and cursed him. But each and every one of the noble companions of the Holy Prophet (saw) demonstrated complete loyalty. Therefore, Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra) stood by the Holy Prophet (saw) and gave him full support, and when they reached a cave known as the Cave of Thaur, they both took refuge in the cave. The evil disbelievers who had conspired to harm the Holy Prophet (saw) were led to this cave in their search. Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra) submitted to the Holy Prophet (saw): 'Now, these people are upon us, and if any one of them looks down even slightly, they will be able to see us, and we shall be apprehended.' At that time, the Holy Prophet ^{saw} said:

لَا تَخْزَنُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا

Meaning, do not fear in the least, for Allah the Exalted is with us. Reflect on these words. The Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, joins Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra) with himself and states:

لَا تَخْزَنُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا

Verily, Allah is with us.

The Arabic words *ma'ana* refer to both of them, i.e. 'with you and I.' Allah the Exalted placed the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, on one side and Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra) on the other. At that time, both of them were in a state of trial. For it was at this point in time when the foundation of Islam was either going to be secured or brought to an end.

The enemy stood at the mouth of the cave and various opinions were being voiced. Some said that the cave ought to be searched because the footprints ended at the cave, while others pointed out that it was impossible for a person to pass through here and enter the cave as a spider had woven a web at the mouth of the cave and a dove had laid its eggs. These discussions could be heard from within the cave and the Holy Prophet (saw) could also hear them clearly. In this state of affairs, the enemy had come to kill them both and had set out with immense vigour to complete their task, but just observe the remarkable courage of the Holy

Prophet (saw), who says to his true friend:

لَا تَحْزَنْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَنَا

Grieve not, for Allah is with us.

These words evidently demonstrate that the Holy Prophet (saw) said the aforementioned phrase with his tongue, because such words could only be expressed with a voice and not through sign language. The enemy stood outside consulting amongst themselves, and inside the cave, both servant and master are also engaged in discourse. The Holy Prophet (saw) had no concern that the enemy would hear his voice and this is proof of his remarkable faith and his insight into Allah the Exalted. It demonstrates that he had full trust in the promises of God Almighty.

This one example alone is enough to show the bravery of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. In addition to the account just mentioned, there is another incident that bears testimony to the bravery of Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra) as well.

When the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, passed away, Hazrat Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, came forth, sword in hand, and said: 'I shall kill anyone who says that the Holy Prophet, peace and

blessings of Allah be upon him, has died’. In these circumstances, Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiq (ra) spoke with remarkable bravery and courage; he stood up and delivered an address. He recited the following verse of the Holy Quran:

مَا مُحَمَّدٌ إِلَّا رَسُولٌ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ

Meaning, ‘Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is only a Messenger of Allah Almighty, and all the Prophets that have gone by before him, have all passed away’. It was on this that emotion subsided. After this, the Arab nomads turned apostate. Hazrat Ayesah, may Allah be pleased with her, describes these delicate times and says: ‘When the Messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, passed away, there were a number of false claimants to prophethood who came forth. Some abandoned the Prayer and the circumstances changed completely. In this state of affairs and in this calamity, my father became the Caliph who succeeded the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. My father was faced with such griefs that if they had descended upon the mountains, they would have crumbled.’

Now reflect, it is not the work of any ordinary man to stand firm with courage and resolve when overwhelmed with mountains of grief. This steadfastness requires a love for truth and sincerity (*sidq*) and it was this Truthful One (*Siddiq*) known as Abu Bakr (ra) who demonstrated this quality. It was impossible for any other person to confront these perils. All the companions were present at the time, but no one said that he was more deserving of the office of Caliphate. For they could see that a fire was ablaze around them. Who could have been willing to cast themselves into this fire? In these circumstances, Hazrat Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, extended his hand and swore his allegiance to Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), after which everyone, one after the other, swore their allegiance as well. It was the sincerity (*sidq*) of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) that suppressed the uprising and put an end to the rebels. Musaylamah had an army of 100,000 and he taught a religious ideology that promoted freedom from divine law. When people would see his teachings of non-conformity, they would enter his religion in large numbers. However, God Almighty clearly demonstrated that He was with Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) and eased all of his travails.” (Malfuzaat to Page 93)

May Allah help each one among us to be inspired by this noble companion of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) and follow his example as well incha Allah. Ameen.