

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

I will continue sharing with our friends extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah (as) but I have only taken the first one from the second volume of the Malfuzaat, the rest will be mostly from *Kishti Nuh*. As you might all recall, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) expected each Ahmadi to read this book and “*Tazkiratoush Shhadatein*” often. So, we will all be reminding ourselves of these precious teachings because they are as relevant today as they have always ever been. May Allah help each one among us to profit by them incha Allah.

Speaking about true belief in “*Laa Ilaha illallah*”, the Promised Messiah (as) said:

“When Muslims are encouraged and exhorted to proclaim the Muslim creed, it is for the very reason that without it, one can develop no courage at all. When a man says *Laa Ilaha Illallah* (*There is none worthy of worship except Allah*), he deems the power and strength of all human beings and things, and of all rulers, officials, enemies and friends to be insignificant, and looks to Allah alone. Such a person deems all that is besides God to be worthless. And so, a person of this nature acts with bravery and courage, and nothing and no one is able to frighten him.”

Now we need to wonder whether we are developing or have already developed such fearlessness within ourselves that besides Allah we consider everything else to be worthless. There are several verses of the Holy Quran and several hadiths as well which help us better understand the transitoriness of earthly life and that nothing besides Allah matters much. I will cite you one verse. Allah says:

“Know that the life of this world is only a sport and a pastime, and an adornment, and *a source of boasting among yourselves, and of rivalry in multiplying riches and children. This life is like the rain the vegetation produced whereby rejoices the tillers. Then it dries up and thou seest it turns yellow; then it becomes broken pieces of straw. And in the Hereafter, there is severe punishment, and also forgiveness from Allah, and His pleasure. And the life of this world is nothing but temporary enjoyment of deceitful things.*” (57:21)

This is a very powerful image. We need to reflect about it and keep away from all sorts of deceitful enjoyments. We should learn to get our greatest pleasure from the adoration of Allah as Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has taught us. In “Noah’s ark” (*Kishti Nuh*), he tells us:

“There are innumerable wonderful things in Our God, but these are witnessed only by those who become His in all sincerity and faithfulness. He does not reveal those wonders to those who do not have faith in His powers, and who are not faithful and true. How

unfortunate, indeed, is the man who does not even know that he has a God with power over all things! Our Paradise, indeed, is our God: our highest enjoyment is in God, for we have seen Him and all beauty found in Him, This treasure is worth having, even if at the cost of one's life; and this is a jewel which should be purchased even if obtainable only by sacrificing one's entire being. O ye that are devoid, run to this spring, for it will slacken your thirst. It is the spring of life that shall save ye. What am I to do, and how am I to impress this glad tidings upon your mind, with what drum should I go crying through the streets that This is your God, so that all should hear! And with what unguent am I to treat the people so that their ears open to hear!" (p.12)

I keep repeating this extract of the Promised Messiah (as) with the hope that insha Allah all those who might hear it or read it could be inspired to give Allah such importance in his or her life as the Promised Messiah (as) expected from us.

Furthermore the Promised Messiah (as) tells us “ If you really become God's, then rest assured that God is your very own, Whilst you will sleep, He will keep watch over you; while you neglect your vigil against the enemy, He will keep an eye on him and disrupt his plans. Even now you have no idea what wondrous powers your God has. If you had known, then no day could have dawned on you for you to grieve over for lack of things of this world. A man who has a treasure in his possession, does he weep and cry over the loss of a penny, as though he were about to perish? Had you been aware of this treasure that God would suffice for all your needs, what reason was there for you to be so wholly absorbed in things of this world? God is a most precious treasure; realise its proper value. Without Him you are nothing; neither you nor your material means and plans. Do not follow in the footsteps of other nations which have come to depend wholly on material means. As a snake eats earth, they subsist on the basis of the lower and inferior material means. Like vultures and dogs eating carrion, they too have sunk their teeth in a carcass. Indeed, they have drifted very far from God, having taken to the worship of human beings, the eating of wine's flesh, and the free use of wine as if it were harmless like water. Since they depend too much on material means, and seek no help from God they are dead; and the heavenly spirit has flown out of them as a dove flies away from its nest, The leprosy of the worship of Mammon has taken a hold on the inside of their hearts and cut to pieces the organs of their inner spiritual life. Beware ye of this leprosy. I do not forbid you to think of material means within proper limits: what I forbid is that like other nations you become wholly the slaves of material means, altogether forgetting God Who controls material means as well. Only if you had the eyes to see, you would find there is only God and God alone, everything else being worthless. You can neither stretch out your arm nor fold it except with His permission. A person spiritually dead would laugh at this; but it would be better for him if he died before he indulged in this laughter.”

“Beware! Having seen other nations, how they have attained a considerable measure of success in their worldly plans, you should not begin to wish to follow in their footsteps. Listen carefully and take heed that they are aliens to and unmindful of that God Who calls you all to Himself. What is their god but a frail human being, this being the reason why

they have been left in such a complacent error. I do not wish to stop you from striving for worldly good, but you should not follow the ways of those who think this present world is all in all. In everything you do, whether it pertains to things •of this world or of the next, you should seek help and succour from God alone, and this should remain the guiding principle of your life forever and ever. But this seeking of help should not be from your lips alone:

it should be your conviction deep down to the bottom of your being that every blessing comes only from heaven. You shall be really righteous only when, at the time of every difficulty, before sitting down to make your plans, you close your door upon yourself, and fall down before the throne of God Almighty, crying for His grace and help and succour. Then the holy spirit will come to your help, and through unseen means a way shall be opened for you. Have mercy on your own souls and be not like those who have cut themselves wholly away from God and have fallen on material means to such an extent that to seek Divine help they do not even formally utter with their lips the words "If God be willing." May God open your eyes, so that you should begin to preceive that your God is the beam on which all plans rest. When the central beam of the roof falls down, can the minor supports maintain their position? Most certainly not, They would all come down in an instant, in all likelihood, with much loss of life. In the same way your plans cannot remain in position without help from God, If you will not cry for His help, if you will not make that soliciting the most fundamental principle of your life, you will have no success, and shall die at last with great regret.

Do not fall to wondering why other peoples are meeting with success although they have not the slightest idea of your Most Perfect and All-Powerful God, the answer is this, and this alone, that having forsaken God, they have been put to trial in the matter of material means. Oftentimes a trial from God takes the form that whoever forsakes Him, giving himself up to carnal pleasure, setting his mind wholly on material wealth, the doors of worldly advancement are opened upon him; though from the religious and spiritual point of view he is altogether destitute and naked. He dies at last engrossed in this world, to be thrown into an eternal hell, * And sometimes this trial takes the form that such a person remains unsuccessful even in the task of amassing wealth. But the latter trial is not so dangerous as the former, since the former breeds an inordinate measure of pride and a superiority complex. In any case, both these groups are of those on whom falls the wrath of God. The true fountainhead for all kinds of prosperity is God. Therefore, when these people are unaware of this Living and Sustaining Being, in fact careless in regard to Him, and turn their backs upon Him, how can real prosperity fall to their lot? Blessed are they who understand this secret, and in dire straits is he who fails to grasp it."

Speaking about who are true Ahmadis, the Promised Messiah (as) said: "Having explained all these things, I repeat once more that you must not rest satisfied merely because in outward form you have taken bai'at at my hand. The outward form means nothing: God sees inside your hearts, and He would deal with you on the basis of what He sees there. Lo and behold! I herein discharge my duty unto you, by making it plain that sin is a poison. Do not take it, Disobedience to God is a dirty death which you should avoid. Turn to prayer that you should get the strength. At the time of prayer, if a man does

not firmly believe that Allah has power over everything, except what may be contained in a previous promise, such a one is not of my community. He who is caught in a tangle of worldly greed, and never even raises his eyes to things which pertain to the next life, is not of my community. Whosoever does not wholly and completely keep away from every sin and every evil action, like wine, gambling, looking lustfully at women, dishonesty, bribes, and from every kind of illegal gratification, he is not of my community. Whosoever is not constantly turning to prayer, and does not remember Him in absolute humility of spirit, he is not of my community. Whosoever does not give up association with a bad companion, who exercises an unhealthy influence over him, he is not of my community. Whosoever does not respect his parents, whosoever does not render obedience to them in things which do not run counter to the Holy Quran, and whosoever is neglectful in rendering to them the service to which, they are undoubtedly entitled, he is not of my community.”

This list goes on. We will pick it up from there next week incha Allah. Now we all need to check how far we are doing what is expected from us. May Allah help each one among us to understand the real purpose of our life and may He help us to fulfill it despite all our shortcomings incha Allah. Ameen.