

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

We are all witnessing some very difficult days in our life and the life of people around the world. According to yesterday's count, the corona virus epidemic is present in almost all the countries in the world and some territories as well. In other words, it is present in 201 different countries around the world according to a Reuters dispatch. More than 20,000 people have died and the number of cases worldwide is more than 500,000. But the good news is that about 100,000 have completely recovered.

Around the world, the disruption is almost unheard of for people who have been born after the second World War (1939-1945). Here in Mauritius, we are all witnessing how the measures taken are very severe but which the authorities think are in the best interests of the whole nation. Anyhow, this is not at all the time to question any order given by the government. Now is the time to obey and subordinate our interests to that of the whole country. We should live with the hope that these are tough times and that they might go away soon. But when? No one knows yet! For this, we need to pray. We are not of those who rely solely on secondary causes to solve our problems. We are the people who are fully convinced that Allah has control over everything and has the Power to intervene if He wishes and this is why we pray to Him first and we use means (secondary causes) as well.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) made his claim that he was from Allah and that he was the Promised Messiah in the beginning of the 1890s. Of course, people rejected him. But he repeatedly received the following revelation from Allah:

دنیا میں ایک نذیر آیا پر دنیا نے اس کو قبول نہ کیا لیکن خدا اسے قبول کرے گا اور بڑے
زور آور حملوں سے اس کی سچائی ظاہر کر دے گا۔¹

"A Warner came unto the world, but the world accepted him not; yet God shall manifest His favour and demonstrate his truth with powerful assaults."

By the end of 1896, a plague had manifested itself in Bombay and people started being afflicted. The Promised Messiah (as) issued a pamphlet in February 1897 warning the people that a very severe plague was coming and it would be hitting Punjab very hard. Very few people took to heart his admonitions. Most newspapers ridiculed him. Around that time, he saw in a dream which he related as follows:

"Angels of God are planting black trees in different places of Punjab. These plants are very ugly, black, frightening and stunted. I asked the person planting these trees, what kind of

trees are these? He replied that these were plague trees, which would spread in the country very shortly.” (*Ayyam al-Sulh*, page 121)

Eventually, the plague hit Punjab very hard and many people died. It would continue to show its effects for many years to come. It was during the following years that the jamaat received hundreds of thousands of new members according to the book *History of Ahmadiyyat*. My aim in speaking briefly about this background is to share with our friends what advice Hazrat Masih Maood (as) gave members of the Jamaat in those difficult times. He said:

“As far as I can understand, the cure to this impending universal death is only possible through the refinement of faith and enlightenment of belief. The earth cannot cure it as this plague is not a worldly thing. It is from the heavens and none can stop it. It is:

رَجْزٌ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ

[Punishment from the heavens.]

“It has appeared as a sign of torment in the times of the earlier prophets as well. Hence, the only remedy for it is to raise one’s faith to the highest level. Reunite with Allah the Almighty before it strikes. Seek forgiveness, repent and engage in prayers. There is no medicine for this [disease of the plague]. A medicine could cure it if it was a disease, however, in reality it is a divine torment and a heavenly wrath. What remedy is there except for righteousness? Be aware that if an entire household possesses a single righteous person, Allah the Almighty shall safeguard their complete family. In fact, if their righteousness has reached the highest level, then they can act as an intercessor for their neighborhood as well. Though a righteous person enters paradise whenever he passes away, but at a time when this death is a manifestation of divine wrath and has appeared as a sign upon this earth, my heart does not testify that a righteous person would pass away by this disgraceful death. A righteous one would surely be saved.

“I have repeatedly expressed to my Jamaat that they must not rely merely on [verbal claim] of *Bai‘at*. Salvation cannot be attained until they realise its reality. The one who is satisfied upon the shell deprives themselves from the kernel. The nobility of a saint does not benefit a disciple if they do not act by themselves. If a doctor gives a prescription to someone and he places it in a box, then it would never prove beneficial for him; they would have only taken benefit by using the prescription from which they deprived themselves. Study [the book] *Kishti-e-Nuh* [Noah’s Ark] over and over again, and adapt yourselves according to its [directions].”

“Ordinarily, thousands of thieves, adulterers, drunkards and crooks claim to belong to the ummah of the Holy Prophet^{sa}, but are they [truly his ummah] in reality? Certainly not. Only that person belongs to his ummah who follows his teachings thoroughly.”

“The [present] plague epidemic has not come as a disease. It has only appeared to reform people. You should not correct yourselves from [fear of] its chastisement, but instead, reform yourselves for the sake of Allah the Almighty so that you stay free of *Shirk* [attributing partners to Allah]. Certain people raise the objection that the plague only takes the lives of the poor. It is another kind of helplessness. Instead of learning a lesson, they object. Several others say that it is a mere disease therefore it has nothing to do with worship, fasting, good and bad deeds, and that one should get it treated from doctors. Hence, recklessness has gone beyond imagination. However, the plague is a mirror of God through which He shall manifest Himself. Beware that Allah the Almighty has not given the plague the name of mercy so that the one who dies from it be considered a martyr. This age is full of threats. It has occurred as a sign. It will dissipate after distinguishing between a believer and a non-believer. Its name is [punishment] and it has been called a torment in my revelation. It has been mentioned in the Holy Quran 1300 years ago from today that:

أَخْرَجْنَا لَهُمْ دَابَّةً مِّنَ الْأَرْضِ تُكَلِّمُهُمْ---

[‘We shall bring forth for them a creature out of the earth which shall injure them’ (Surah al-Naml, Ch.27: V.83)]. Meaning, that in the age of transgression and wrongdoing, people’s faith in God would become like a child’s play. At that time, we [Allah] shall bring forth a germ which will bite them. Thus, this [plague] is a sign of the wrath of Allah the Almighty....”

So, we have an idea of what the Promised Messiah (as) said about the plague. We have been told many times by mainstream Jamaat that the Promised Messiah (as) is the Imam for the next thousand years (*Imam Alfe akhir*). So when an extraordinary event manifests itself, disrupting the life of almost all people around the globe and killing thousands in a short period of time, should we hesitate to say that it might be manifested because Allah is angry with a majority of people because of the wrongs that they have been doing? Should we not notice this as a real Sign from Allah? Unfortunately, the mainstream Ahmadiyya caliph does not think that this is a sign from Allah. (See his statement of 21st March 2020 published by Al Hakam).

Look at how the most influential country leaders of the world behave. They are concerned with their own interests and that of their countries alone. With their money and might, they want other countries to bow to their will. Even Muslim leaders are not immune from this folly. They just want to extend their influence and bring others under their domination. All of a sudden almost all counties are busy putting in place measures to ensure their own survival where previously they thought that they were so strong that they might go on forever.

My personal reading of these events in the light of the Holy Quran and the Ahadith of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) and the writings of the Promised Messiah lead me to the conclusion that Allah has sent a shockwave throughout the world to awaken the whole

world's conscience about how life is being lived here. Immorality and indecency is almost everywhere and it's in almost all countries. People do not care and all sorts of sexual deviation are becoming acceptable. In the name of freedom, all sorts of nonsense are being committed. Muslim countries are no exception but to a lesser degree. The Holy prophet (saw) warned us about these matters.

It was narrated that ‘Abdullah bin ‘Umar said:

“The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) turned to us and said: ‘O Muhajirun, there are five things with which you will be tested, and I seek refuge with Allah lest you live to see them: Immorality never appears among a people to such an extent that they commit it openly, but plagues and diseases that were never known among the predecessors will spread among them. They do not cheat in weights and measures but they will be stricken with famine, severe calamity and the oppression of their rulers. They do not withhold the Zakah of their wealth, but rain will be withheld from the sky, and were it not for the animals, no rain would fall on them. They do not break their covenant with Allah and His Messenger, but Allah will enable their enemies to overpower them and take some of what is in their hands. Unless their leaders rule according to the Book of Allah and seek all good from that which Allah has revealed, Allah will cause them to fight one another.’ (Sunan Ibn Majah 4019)

So, think about this hadith and examine what we see in the world and one might appreciate the foresight of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw). What is happening in the world these days should invite all of us to think and examine our relationship with Allah and with others. If we are doing what is expected of us, we should be safe. But Allah is self-sufficient and He is not in need of anyone, but we are all in need of Him. He also says in the Holy Quran:

وَاتَّقُوا فِتْنَةً لَا تُصِيبَنَّ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْكُمْ خَاصَّةً ۖ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

And beware of an affliction which will not smite exclusively those among you who have done wrong. And know that Allah is severe in requiting. (8:25)

Just before saying this, Allah says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا يُحْيِيكُمْ ۚ
وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ يَحُولُ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَقَلْبِهِ ۚ وَأَنَّهُ إِلَٰهٌ مُّخْتَصِرٌ

O ye who believe! respond to Allah, and the Messenger when he calls you that he may give you life, and know that Allah comes in between a man and his heart, and that He it is unto Whom you shall be gathered. (8:24)

So, we should be sincere in our intention and effort to try and be a good Muslim. We will truly accomplish the mission of our life when we respond to the Holy Prophet (saw) and we mold our life according to his example. May Allah help each one among us and help humankind around the world to go through this catastrophe that has fallen upon the whole

world. Let us not forget to read chapters 112-114 of the Holy Quran every morning and evening three times. According to one hadith, this will grant us protection. The hadith is as follows:

The Prophet (Sallallahu Alaihi wa Sallam) said: "Recite Surah al-Ikhlās and two last Surahs of the Qur'an, in the morning and evening three times, and it will suffice you for everything." [Abu Dawood and al-Tirmizi]

'Uthman bin 'Affan (May Allah be pleased with him) reported:

The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "He who recites three times every morning and evening: *'Bismillahil-ladhi la yadurru ma'as-mihi shai'un fil-ardi wa la fis-sama'i, wa Huwas-Sami'ul-'Alim'* (In the Name of Allah with Whose Name there is protection against every kind of harm in the earth or in the heaven, and He is the All-Hearing and All-Knowing), nothing will harm him."

[Abu Dawud and At-Tirmidhi].

May Allah keep all of us and the world at large safe and may He open people's heart to the true purpose for which He has created us. Ameen. We should also pray for all those who are risking their own life to save that of others. Let us all have a special thought for them our prayers. May Allah help them and be with them wherever they are. Ameen.