

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Last week, I said that about 46,000 people had died due to Covid 19 around the world. And today (as at around 9.30 am), that number has reached about 95,759 including seven from Mauritius with an underestimated figure of cases of 1.6 million around the world. So, as we can see, the number of deaths has more than doubled in one week but the good news is that 357,000 have completely recovered.

According to the experts dealing with these matters, the worst is still to come. In other words, lockdowns and confinement will continue for some more time and the accompanying stress and tragedies will also continue. As we have seen on television, most highly developed countries like the USA, China, UK, France, Italy, Spain are having lots of difficulties dealing with this situation because it has taken them, so to say, unawares and it has overwhelmed their health systems. In our lifetime, we have not witnessed such disturbance in the world and to repair the damage caused will take years, according to the experts in these matters.

So, we should all arm ourselves to see the world turned upside down. This reminds me of the words of Hazrat Masih Maood (as), the Imam Mahdi, when he said “*Ek jhapak mein ho jaega yeh zameen zair o zabar*” meaning “in an instant this world will be turned upside down” to warn the world that a sign would manifest itself soon. He wrote this in 1907 where he warned of quakes. At the same time, he added a footnote which is as follows:

“The word “earthquake” occurs repeatedly in God’s revelation. And He states that it would be a quake that would be a likeness of Doomsday. In fact, it should be called the Doomsday Quake to which the *Surah al-Zilzal* points. But, until now, I cannot apply this word of quake to its apparent meaning with certainty. It is possible that it is not a usual quake but another severe calamity that displays a Doomsday scenario whose likeness has not been seen during these times, and it brings a severe destruction upon the living.

However, if such an unusual Sign does not appear and the people do not clearly mend their ways, then under these conditions I will stand false. However, I have written it time and again that this severe calamity that God has likened to an earthquake has nothing to do with religious differences nor can this calamity visit someone because he is a Hindu or a Christian. Nor by the fact that someone has not given his allegiance unto me. All these people are safe from this anxiety. However,

one who may otherwise belong to any Faith, if he practices the committing of crimes and is steeped in sin and error and is an adulterer, murderer, thief, oppressor, unnecessarily evil-wisher, foul of tongue, and follows evil ways, he should fear it. And if he repents, then even he has no fear. And this calamity can pass away by the people being righteous and following the way of piety. It is not certain.” (*Durre Sameen* English Footnote 164)

There is another footnote in which the Promised Messiah (as) repeats what he said but also adds additional, very useful comments and they are as follows: “It should be remembered that the calamity to which this prophecy points, it has been repeatedly referred to by God in the words of earthquake. Although apparently it is an earthquake and the apparent words do indicate it to be an earthquake but because the metaphors are always present in God’s Tradition, therefore it can be said that probably it is an earthquake or else it is some other life-threatening and unusual punishment that carries a hue of earthquake in it. The need for repeatedly publicizing it comes from the fact that the earlier news of the earthquake that was not publicized well, led to the loss of many lives. Therefore, I deemed it fit that the second prophecy concerning the earthquake should be conveyed to the people to the best of my ability so that the hearts tend to reform through repeated publicizing. “For this calamity to pass by, it is not necessary for a person to be a Christian or a Hindu or a Muslim or one who gives his allegiance to us. However, it is necessary that people adopt piety and give up criminal activity.”

As you might be aware, the population of the whole world is at present around 7.7 billion. This Covid 19 disaster has sent shockwaves around the world. The last time that I read about it, there were about 4 billion people in confinement. Although there are some places where the disease has not yet spread, there are many poor countries especially in South America, Africa and Asia where they cannot go into confinement because they would die since they do not have any food. Anyhow, the effects and disturbance of Covid 19 around the world are quite severe. At least there is one person who warned that such world events might take place because people have forgotten God and they just follow their lowly desires. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) warned the world that he came from God to teach man to come back to God and to behave properly in the world. But the world rejected him although the world has witnessed many of the things which he prophesied. He was both a giver of good news and a warner. He gave us the good news that we should obey our Creator and he warned us that disobedience might have dire consequences. Throughout the twentieth century, the whole world has seen the result of this disobedience. We have witnessed two world wars: World War I where 10 million people died and many were wounded and World War II, in

which the estimated number of those who died ranges between 50 to 80 million. In addition to all that there was the Spanish flu (1918-9) which wiped out about 50 million people including about 12,000 in Mauritius.

Now, there are many people who would say that these interpretations are simplistic. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) says on this matter in a booklet which he wrote in 1902 which is entitled “*Defence Against the Plague and a Criterion for the Elect of God*”. What he said then is as relevant even today:

“People hold diverse opinions about the dreadful disease, which continues to spread throughout the country. Medical doctors, whose opinions are limited merely to physical remedies, stress that it is due merely to natural causes in the land that such bacteria have been born. Such is the view of the learned doctors and physicians.... So, since the plague is rapidly devouring the country, human compassion calls for the consideration of an alternative remedy that can guard against this destruction.”

Then he goes on to explain that the alternative remedy is that the people heed the message that he has brought from Allah which briefly means to be sincere in the practice of the teachings of Islam. Those who are interested in the book may read or download it on www.alislam.org .

These days one might see on YouTube several Muslims speaking about the end of times, the coming out of Gog and Magog and the arrival of Isa Bin Maryam (as). They continue with their same old arguments. To them, Hazrat Isa (as) has been raised to the heavens. To them, the Mahdi will make his appearance in Mecca. To them, these two are different personalities whereas it is clearly said in Ibn Majah hadith number 4039 “*La mahdiy illa isa*” “There is no Mahdi except Isa”. Non-Ahmadi Muslims cite many scholars throughout the history of Islam who have rejected this hadith and who held that this hadith was weak and so not to be taken into consideration. But I will tell you what Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has said about this hadith, in a booklet called “*Haqiqatul Mahdi*” (The Reality of the Mahdi):

“And through indications, but rather, in so many words, too, it has been mentioned in them (hadiths) that he [the Mahdi] will not have a worldly kingdom and *Khilafat*. And that he will not wage wars, nor will he shed blood or lead an army. Only through his spirituality and his spiritual attention, he will once again establish the Faith in the hearts. For instance, there is the Hadith: *Lal Mahdiyy illa isa* (There is no Mahdi except Isa)

This Hadith means that except the person, who will come with the disposition, and in the spirit, of Jesus, no other Mahdi will come. That is, he will at once be both

the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, who will come with the disposition, and in the spirit of Jesus; and whose teachings will be similar to those of Jesus, peace be on him. That is to say that he will not respond to evil with evil and will not fight; rather, he will spread guidance through his holy example and heavenly signs.

This Hadith is found in *Ibn-e-Majah*, a renowned book [of Hadith]. It, as narrated by Anas bin Malik, is also found in *Mustadrak* by Hakim to whom it was related by Muhammad bin Khalid Jundi; Jundi relates it, having heard it from Aban bin Salih; Aban bin Salih from Hasan Basri; Hasan Basri from Anas bin Malik; Anas bin Malik from the Holy Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be on him.”

I have spoken about this because I presume that many young Ahmadi Muslims might allow themselves to be influenced by what is being said on the net. Here they can easily know what is our point of view on the matter. In that same book, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) writes:

“O servants of Allah, verily the Almighty looked to the earth and saw disorder widespread, religiosity diminished, hearts hardened, and chests straitened. Not a day passes, nor a month lapses, except that disorder increases and afflictions intensify, and the earth is filled with various self-invented beliefs. The Sunnah and the Quran have been abandoned. Corruption is apparent in intentions, and the love of carnal desires has conquered the hearts. The light of good deeds has disappeared from the faces of people; instead, due to the corruption of their hearts, faces now reflect blackness and lifelessness, feebleness and wilt, cowardice and reluctance, and evil insinuations and illusions.

They [i.e. the Muslims] behaved ignorantly towards all that which came from the Chosen Prophet, forgot the commandments of the Quran and that which was said by the Best of Mankind. A mere shell remained in their hands, and they lost the essence of faith. They turned to the world and its base desires, and preferred the ways of Satan. You shall not find most of them but that they are disobedient and audacious, without fear. You see that most of the scholars preach but do not act; the ascetics put on an act but are not sincere, nor do they devote themselves to Allah or fear Him. You see the common people swaggering towards the present world and not paying attention to the Hereafter. They pretend to be blind, and truly they cannot see; they sleep contentedly and do not wake. Then, the people of other faiths expend their wealth and go to great pains to spread misguidance; likewise, the earth has been corrupted by evil beliefs, and has brought forth its burdens of various machinations and false stories.

Thus, Divine Providence called for the advent of one of His servants to enlighten darkened hearts, and reform with his hands the materials used for present evils. So, He chose me by His grace and mercy for this grand scheme, and granted me a great share of spiritual knowledge, the secrets of the Prophetic sciences, and the intricacies of the Holy Quran. He named me the Promised Messiah to resurrect lifeless hearts with His perfect power, and revive belief in God's Oneness, and rebuild the foundations of the Muslim nation. Verily I am the Sign of Allah which He has manifested at its appointed time as a mercy for all creation. So, will you accept me, or reject the one who has come to you from God? I have indeed conveyed that which I was commanded, so be among the witnesses."

The teachings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) are a lifesaver. In days of distress such as these, he advised us to turn to Allah, to pray and ask forgiveness for our sins. So, we should all make good use of the prayers that I have been speaking about in my previous sermons (available on our website at jaam-international.org) and use them for our own benefits and that of the members of our families and also for the world at large. May Allah help us all to turn towards Him and to heed His commandments. May we all, wherever we may be, go through this calamity in the best possible way being completely resigned to the will of Allah. Incha Allah. Ameen.

Before we end, I will share with you two messages that I received during the course of the week:

1. *Kataballaho la aghlebanna ana wa rosoli* – Allah has decreed; I, and My Messenger will be victorious
2. The following are verses from a poem of Hazrat Masih Maood (as):

*Meri do'aein saari karyo qabool bari
Mein ja'oun tere wari kar tou madad hamari
Ham dere dar pe aa'e lekar oumid bhari*

Which we render into English as follows:

O my Lord accept all my supplications

I will go with you, please help us

We have come at your door with great hope

May Allah help us all to be devoted to Him. Ameen.