

EID-UL-FITR SERMON

24 May 2020

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By Allah's Grace, we are all still here to celebrate another Eid-ul-Fitr. Unfortunately, because of the world pandemic known as Covid-19, we have been forbidden by the government, for our own safety, to gather in large numbers in mosques. So, on this day of Eid, I am glad to extend my greetings of Eid Mubarak to you all who are present here in the mosque and those who are listening in their home via Skype whether they are in Mauritius or France or Singapore. For the few who are here with me I am glad that they are here. But for the others like my mother (may Allah preserve her health and may she stay among us for a long time), my brothers and their wives and my sisters and my nephews and nieces, my friends Bye Mahmood and Bye Zahoor and their wives and children and Bye Munir Oleemohamed and his wife and sons and daughter-in-law and children without forgetting my cousin Ara, I am deeply sorry that we cannot meet on this joyous day of Eid. In addition, those who are in Singapore and France are also missed but their case is different. But as good Muslims we say "*Qaddarallaho fa maa sha'a fa'al*". That is to say "*Allah has decreed and He does what He Pleases*".

Hence, we are pleased with what pleases Allah. So, amidst the joy that Eid brings us, we also feel this separation with all our close and dear ones. My mother used to tell me "*Muqaddar mein likhi thi yeh juda'i – Khoda ne yeh mosibat bhi dekha'i*". Its translation is "It was written in our destiny to see this separation – Allah has made us witness this pain".

As I just said, this separation has been imposed upon us for our own safety. So, it is a bitter pill that we should all swallow with equanimity. We are living in a time of unprecedented upheavals at the world level. An invisible virus which cannot be seen with the naked eye has disrupted the daily life of individuals throughout the world and the developed countries have borne the brunt of this disruption. By now, we understand that more than 300,000 people have died in the past five months and the death toll is still rising. The economic toll of this epidemic is almost incalculable and many people have lost their jobs and many more will. Children have stopped going to school, universities have closed, even Cambridge University has announced that for this academic year, all its courses will be delivered online. Migrant workers have to return to their homes and this is causing great distress. As some journalists have written, the world is in "pause" mode. In many developed countries, hospitals were thoroughly unprepared to deal with the crisis. Very few people in the world could have imagined such a scenario. All houses of worship have been closed in order to avoid contagion. Everything seems to be unprecedented.

However, as good believers, we do not give up by losing all hope because we are among those who are trying their best to establish a relationship with the One who controls the world in its minutest details and we hope He will accompany us to weather through this storm by His Grace.

We have just completed one month of Fasting and we hope and pray that Allah accepts these fasts from each one amongst us and that He rewards us accordingly. Above everything, we wish that out of His Sheer Grace Allah grants us the understanding we need to consolidate our relationship with Him and that we accomplish the mission for which He created us and granted us life.

Now that Ramadan has ended, what is expected of each one amongst us?

We need to seek a level of faith known as certainty in the existence of Allah. There is no mathematical formula that can give it to you neither is there a magic wand that someone can wield to give it to you in an instant. This is something that encompasses the struggle of a lifetime because progress on the ladder of certainty is endless. Speaking of the necessity to be certain about Allah, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) tells us:

“O ye people, who are being called to goodness and righteousness, be sure that you will be drawn to God and will be cleansed of the evil stain of sin only when your hearts are filled with certainty. You might say that you already enjoy certainty, but you only deceive yourselves. You do not enjoy certainty because you do not possess its essentials. You do not refrain from sin and do not step forward as you should nor do you fear God as you ought to. Consider and reflect that a person who is certain that there is a serpent in a particular hole does not thrust his hand into that hole. He who is certain that a particular food is poisoned does not eat it. He who is certain that a thousand wild tigers abound in a forest will not carelessly wander into it. How can your hands and your feet and your ears and your eyes be daring enough to indulge in sin if you truly believe in God and His judgement? Sin cannot overcome certainty. Can you thrust yourselves into a consuming fire? The walls of certainty rise to heaven, Satan cannot climb over them. Whoever has been purified, has been purified through certainty. Certainty invests a person with the strength to bear pain, so much so that it makes a king relinquish his throne and makes him put on the garb of a mendicant. Certainty makes every pain easy to endure. Certainty makes one behold God. All ‘Atonement’ is false and all ‘Redemption’ is vain. All purity proceeds only from certainty. It is only certainty that rescues from sin, leads to God, and puts a person ahead of the angels in sincerity and steadfastness. Any religion that does not provide the means for attaining certainty is false. Any religion that cannot exhibit God through sure means is false. Any religion that has nothing to offer except ancient tales is false. God is as He ever was, His powers are as they always were, and He has the ability

to show signs as He always had; why then are you content with mere stories? The religion is dead whose miracles and whose prophecies are only tales. Ruined is the Jama'at on which God has not descended, and which the hand of God has not purified. [**Kashti-e-Nuh, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 19, pp. 67-68**]

For each one amongst us, it is imperative that we reflect about the meaning of Certainty in faith. I suggest you examine this extract and go through it sentence by sentence and wonder how far you are advancing on this road. Whatever positive signs you have in yourself, be happy and do your best to improve on those qualities. Where you find that you are lacking, do your best to improve. This is how one progresses on this path and this is how the pilgrims on the path have done in the past. May Allah help each one among us.

Allah imposed fasting upon us in order to increase our level of *taqwa* (God fearingness, God's awareness and God's love). We develop fear of God within ourselves because we know that He can punish us for our misdeeds and hence we need to be very careful. Even if it happens that we have committed some misdeeds because we are weak people who, in the face of temptation, may allow themselves to be tempted and to sin, we should develop the habit of seeking forgiveness immediately after. We develop an awareness of Allah's Presence wherever we are such that it acts as an impediment for us against sins. At the same time, we develop love for Allah and we progress in this love throughout our lifetime. This is not an easy matter. But for the person who wants to acquire the characteristics of a *Muttaqi*, Allah will help and will draw him/her towards Him and eventually Allah will purify that person and grant him plenty of His Rewards.

Speaking about Eid, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) tells us:

“All the people should remember that Allah the Almighty has fixed such days in Islam which are considered days of happiness and He has put great blessings in those days. Among them is the day of Friday which is a very blessed day. Then there are the two Eids in Islam which are considered days of great happiness and Allah has put amazing blessings in them. But one should remember that although these days are days of happiness and blessing in their own right but there is another day which is a day of much more happiness and greater blessings. But unfortunately, it is seen that people do not look forward to that day nor do they search for that day. In reality if people were aware of the blessings and goodness of that day then they would have considered the day a great reward. Which day is that which is better and more blessed than the day of Jumma and the Eidain [two Eids]? I tell you that it is the day of a man's repentance which is greater than all days and all Eids. Because that day his bad record of sins which was bringing him closer to the hellfire and bringing him under the wrath of God is wiped clean and all his sins are forgiven. Which day can be greater and happier for a person than the day which

saves him from eternal hellfire and the wrath of God? The sinner who repents was previously far away from God's grace and close to his wrath but now he is brought close to God's grace and mercy and removed from the punishment of fire." (*Malfuzat*, Vol. 4, pp. 114-115.)

There is no doubt that there are many things in the world that can please us. But Hazrat Masih Maood (as), as someone raised for the guidance of mankind, encouraged us to look for something immaterial which can bring us blessings in this world and in the next. We should do our best to follow his advice which is based on Quranic teachings and the sunnah of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw).

Now bear in mind what I just quoted from the first extract from Hazrat Masih Maood (as) "*Ruined is the Jama'at on which God has not descended, and which the hand of God has not purified*". By Allah's Grace, I think and feel that Allah's Protection is on our head. He sends His revelations to us to strengthen our heart. Now I will tell you about some of these revelations that I received during this month of Ramadan. Since 2007, no Ramadan has not gone by without Allah telling us something to increase our faith and strengthen our heart. We hope and pray that this Favour goes on forever by His Grace. Ameen.

In my Friday sermons during Ramadan, I have been telling you about some of the revelations that I received. I am not going to repeat them here. I will tell you only about those that I received during the last ten days. I felt really sad because many of our brothers and sisters would not be able to join us for the Eid prayer and lunch. I prayed for a solution and I was very much inclined to link them via Skype for the prayer as well as the sermon. But a consensus for such means was not to be found. Furthermore, the openness of the heart (*inchirah sadr*) which accompanies such decisions did not come and then one morning I received "*Inna rahmatallahe qariboum minal mouhseneen*" meaning "Allah's Mercy is close for the doers of good". I understood there was no need to worry and that Allah will bring something about and they will be able to make their Eid *salaat* one way or other. I am happy that everywhere in each house they could make arrangements for the *Salaat*. *Alhamdolillah*.

In the morning of the 23rd Night, I received

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتْمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

which we translate as "This day have I perfected your religion for you and completed My favour upon you and have chosen for you Islam as religion". This is a part of verse 5:4 of the Holy Quran. This is reported to have been the last revelation of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw). He died 82 days after receiving this revelation on the day of Arafat.

Hazrat Masih Maood (as) also received this revelation. This is Allah's Favour. He gives to whom He pleases.

During the night of Thursday to Friday last, while I was praying, the following words flowed on my lips “*Allahoumma Anzil ala koulle fardin min Jamaatul Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen rahmataka wa fazlaka wa barakaataka wa salaamaka Innaka zoul fazlil azim*”. The translation is “O my Lord send on each member of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen Your Mercy, Your Favours, Your Blessings and Your Peace – Definitely You are the Possessor of great Favours”.

Then while I was reciting zikr after Fajr prayer last Friday in a semi sleep I received:

تَحِيَّتُهُمْ يَوْمَ يَلْقَوْنَهُ سَلَامٌ ۖ وَ أَعَدَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا عَظِيمًا

We translate it as “Their greeting on the day when they meet Him will be, ‘Peace.’ And He has prepared for them an honourable reward”.

Verse 45 of chapter 33 of the Holy Quran is similar except for the last word. Here I received *azeema* (great) whereas in the Holy Quran it is *kareema* (honourable). I understood this to be in response to my prayer for us all. *Alhamdulillah*.

I have some more revelations to talk about but the sermon will be too long. *Incha Allah* I will pick it up again in our next Friday sermon. I just want to say this that while I was writing this sermon on Saturday morning I received “*Wa bash sheril mo'meneena anna lahoum qadama sidqin indallah*”, meaning “Give glad tidings to the believers that with Allah they have a rank of honour because of their sincerity”. These words are slightly different from what we find in the Holy Quran where it is said:

“Is it a *matter of* wonder for men that We have inspired a man from among them, *saying*, ‘Warn mankind and give glad tidings to those who believe that they have a true rank of *honour* with their Lord?’ The disbelievers say, ‘Surely, this is a manifest enchanter’”. (10:2)

Look at the context and see how it applies to our situation.

We have reached the end of the sermon. I will just say this. Keep on the path you have taken and trust in Allah and make personal efforts. When you are in difficulty, turn to Allah and ask others and myself to pray for you. May Allah be with you all and help you all wherever you are. May He always be pleased with you and us. May these days of separation end and may Allah help us all to meet as we used to before incha Allah.

Ameen.

I wish you all *Eid Mubarak* once again.