

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Because of the unprecedented disturbance that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought into the world, one may be tempted to lose hope and to feel helpless. However, as believers in an All-powerful God, we are not at all allowed to entertain such thoughts. Should we be assailed by desperate thoughts, we should immediately seek refuge in Allah through prayers and other virtuous acts like charity and fasting if possible. Whatever the circumstances, the Muslim never loses hope because he/she always focuses his attention on Allah and nothing is impossible for Allah. Compared to many other countries, our situation in Mauritius is, we should say, rather good by Allah's Grace. But we should pray that Allah makes it better.

Prior to all these disturbances, or in its early days in January 2020, I dreamt that I was with some relatives and we were taking stock of what has happened. It appeared that we had lost something very precious. Exactly what, I cannot say. But while we were sitting and talking it was there and then revealed to me:

رَبِّ إِنِّي لَمَّا أَنْزَلْتَ إِلَيَّ مِنْ خَيْرٍ فَقِيرٌ

Rabbe inni lema anzalta ilayya min khayrin faqir

As you might recall this is the prayer of Hazrat Moosa (as) as reported in the Holy Quran. The translation of these words is as follows: "O my Lord I am in need of anything good that Thou may send to me" (HQ 28:24). This is a very powerful prayer. We do not know what is good for us. However, we acquiesce that we rely on Allah to decide and send that which is good for us. In these words, is the confession of our powerlessness to know and our reliance on Allah to decide for us. So, in these days when there is much uncertainties around, I encourage all members of our Jamaat to say this prayer with full knowledge of its meaning. If we are doing our best to be good Muslims, then Allah will not abandon us come what may.

So, we should all do our best to develop and consolidate our relationship with Allah and to this effect we will read some more extracts from the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) so that we might always bear in mind what is essential and leave out what is futile and superficial. He says:

"I speak the truth and nothing but the truth. If souls are endowed with a sincere desire to search, and hearts become thirsty after knowledge, then mankind will yearn to discover that Path and that Way. But how can one have access to that Path and how can the veil be

lifted? I assure all those who seek that it is Islam alone which gives the glad tidings of the Way. **The other faiths have long since put an end to the institution of revelation from God.** So, rest assured that it is not God Who has brought revelation to a close. But it is man, who, to justify his deprivation, seeks shelter in this false excuse. Fully realize that as it is not possible to see without eyes or to hear without ears or to speak without tongues, so also **it is not possible to set eyes on our Beloved God without the aid of the Holy Quran.** I was young once. Now I am old. But I found none who, without having access to this pure fountainhead, the Quran, drank out of the cup of such manifest and clear guidance. (*Islami Usul ki Philosophy: Roohani Khaza'in* Vol. 10, pp.442-443)

Amongst us are those who read the Holy Quran almost everyday and who try to be imbibed with its teachings. But among us are also those who do not make an effort to at least read a few verses everyday with translation with a view to know more of what is expected of us. Without understanding and putting into practice the teachings of the Holy Quran, we will not go far. So, take my sincere and humble advice into consideration and start reading as much as you can of the Holy Quran with a view to understand it. Incha Allah, when we will become as old as Hazrat Masih Maood (as) when he wrote this extract, we might say as he said "I was young once. Now I am old. But I found none who, without having access to this pure fountainhead, the Quran, drank out of the cup of such manifest and clear guidance." May Allah make this a goal that each one among us will achieve in our own lifetime incha Allah.

The Promised Messiah (as) further said:

"That God (presented by the Quran) is an extremely faithful God, Who works wonders for those who remain faithful to Him. The world is intent on destroying them (those faithful to Him), but He Who befriends them delivers them from every danger and bestows victory upon them in every field. How singularly fortunate is he who never breaks ties with Him. (*Kashti Nuh: Roohani Khaza'in*, Vol. 19, p. 20)

Speaking about Tauheed, the unity of Allah, he said:

"The Unity of God is a light which illumines the heart only after the negation of all deities, whether they belong to the inner world or the outer world. It permeates every particle of man's being. How can this be acquired without the aid of God and His Messenger? The duty of man is only to bring death upon his ego and turn his back to devilish pride. He should not boast of his having been reared in the cradle of knowledge but should consider himself as if he were merely an ignorant person, and occupy himself in supplications. Then the light of Unity will descend upon him from God and He will bestow new life upon him. (*Haqiqatul Wahi: Roohani Khaza'in*, Vol. 22, p. 148)

Once again, note the emphasis laid on supplications with a view to attract the Mercy of Allah in order to be truly purified.

The Promised Messiah (as) said further:

“Indeed, All Powerful and All Mighty is the God Whose devotees will not go to waste: those who come to Him with love and loyalty. The enemy boasts that he will annihilate them with his evil and ill-intentioned vows to stamp them out. Fools, says God, will you dare fight me and annihilate the one who is dear to Me? Indeed, nothing can happen on this earth unless it is so decreed in heaven, and no earthly hand can be stretched beyond the tether determined for it in heavens. Hence the plotters of evil and cruel designs are most foolish who, during their abhorrent and shameless conspiracies, do not remember that Supreme Being without Whose express decree not a leaf is permitted to fall. Therefore, they remain unsuccessful and frustrated in their objectives: and the rightly guided are not harmed by their evil. Instead, the signs of God are widely manifested and people's understanding of God's ways is enhanced. That All Powerful and Mighty God Who remains unseen by the eyes manifests Himself indeed through His wondrous ways. (*Kitabul Bariyya, Muqaddama: Roohani Khaza'in*, Vol. 13, pp. 19-20)

“The sublime light which was bestowed on man, i.e., the most perfect among them, was not shared by angels nor by stars; nor was it in the moon, nor in the sun, or in the oceans and the rivers. It was not to be found in rubies or emeralds, nor in sapphires, nor in pearls: It was not in any earthly or heavenly object. It was possessed only by the perfect man, manifested in the most consummate way in the person of our lord and master, Muhammad, the chosen one, the chief of all the prophets, leader of those who live (in the sight of Allah). So, that light was bestowed on that man and likewise, to a degree, on all who in their several ways were similar to him... Sublime grace was possessed in its most perfect and consummate manifestation by our lord and master, the unlettered Prophet, the truthful one, the one whose truth is testified to, Muhammad, the chosen one, peace be on him. (*Ayena Kamalat e Islam: Roohani Khaza'in*, Vol. 5, pp. 160-162)

“For all the children of Adam there is now no Messenger and intercessor other than the Holy Prophet Muhammad, the chosen one, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. So, you should endeavor to cultivate true love for this magnificent and majestic prophet and not place anyone else above him in any manner so that you may be counted in Heaven among those who have attained salvation. Remember, salvation is not something which is attainable only after death. Indeed, true salvation is the one which manifests its light in this very world. Who is the one who is delivered? He indeed who believes that God is truth and that the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is the intercessor between God and mankind. So also, he believes that under the firmament of Heaven there

is no prophet equal to him and that there is no book of the status of the Quran. And for none else God ordained that he should live forever with his message and his law, but this noble Prophet lives forever. (Kashti Nuh: Roohani Khaza'in Vol. 19, p.13-14)

Each one among us should bear it well in mind that we should cultivate love for the Holy Prophet (saw) in our heart. In fact, in one hadith the Holy Prophet (saw) is reported to have said:

“There are three qualities which are certain to give anyone the sweetness of faith: to love God and His Messenger more than anyone else, to love a person for no purpose other than for God’s sake, and to hate to relapse into disbelief after God has saved him from it as much as to hate to be cast in the fire.” (Related by Al-Bukhari, Muslim and Al-Nassaie).

We should note that Love of the Holy Prophet (saw) is cultivated by putting his teachings into practice and also by reciting Darood.

In another hadith reported by Abdullah ibn Hisham, a companion of the Prophet, it is said: “We were with the Prophet (peace be upon him) and he held Umar ibn Al-Khattab’s hand. Umar said to him: ‘Messenger of God! I love you more than anyone and anything else, apart from myself.’ The Prophet said to him: ‘By Him who holds my soul in His hand, this will not do, unless you love me more than you love yourself.’ Umar said: ‘Well, now you are indeed dearer to me than my own self.’ The Prophet said: ‘Now, Umar, you have got it right.’” (Related by Al-Bukhari).

The Promised Messiah (as) said further:

“From a study of the life of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, it will become manifest to every reader that the Holy Prophet of Islam had no duality in his character and possessed a pure and noble spirit. He was ever ready to lay down his life for God. He pinned no hopes on men and he entertained no fear of them. He reposed his entire trust in Allah. Having enslaved himself entirely to the will and pleasure of Allah, he cared not what hazards he would face and what suffering he would be subjected to at the hands of the idolaters as a result of declaring to the world the message of the Unity of God.” (*Braheen Ahmadiyya: Roohani Khaza'in*, Vol. 1, p. 111)

When we study the biography of the Holy Prophet (saw), we definitely marvel at the grandeur of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw). His life and deeds are such that even those who do not believe in him have had to confess that he was a unique personality indeed. One has gone even further by saying that he was the most influential person in the history of mankind. May Allah make us all true lovers and true devotees of His beloved Prophet (saw) and may Allah help us all to journey safely amidst difficult circumstances by His Grace. Ameen.