

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As you might all be aware, yesterday was the Day of Arafat and only a few privileged from around 160 countries who are residents in Saudi Arabia have been able to perform the hajj this year. Seventy percent of them are foreigners and thirty percent are Saudis. It has been reported that, exceptionally this year, the Hajj has been downsized and the number of Hajjis has been considerably reduced from its average of around 2.5 million recorded these past years.

We are living in exceptional times and we, particularly in Mauritius, should still be grateful to Allah and render thanks because up till now we have been spared the ill effects that of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many people are dying and despite the huge resources available, some of the most advanced countries in the world have not been able to successfully cope with this pandemic as could be expected. Allah knows best what is in store but we should all together keep praying sincerely to Him that He manifests His Mercy on the world and that He affords a relief. It is against this background of the havoc that the pandemic is causing around the world and the difficulty in coping with it that the Hajj has been scaled down this year. The Saudis should be congratulated for maintaining it while observing all the necessary precautions.

Today, a great majority of countries around the world are celebrating the Eidul Adha with the exception of a few like India, Mauritius and some others because they were unable to see the moon of Zill hajj because of bad weather conditions although there was no doubt the moon was there in the sky. Several times we have had to put up with this situation although there are many countries in the world who have come up with better ways to assess the days for our festivals namely Eidul Fitr and Eidul Adha. Let us hope and pray that those who are responsible for this matter in Mauritius will be led to decide wisely in this matter in the future.

Last year, in my Eidul Adha sermon, I shared with members the gist of the Revealed Sermon (*Khutba Ilhamiyya*) which Hazrat Masih Maood (as) pronounced on 11th April 1900 on the occasion of Eidul Adha in Qadian in front of many of his followers who had come from various parts of India for the purpose. On the previous day, the day of Arafat, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) had spent his time between Zohr and Maghrib in prayer. The Sermon was published in August 1901. The Promised Messiah^{as} arranged for a scribe to write it and translated it in Urdu and Persian himself. The actual Sermon concludes on page 38 of the book and forms the first chapter. The Promised Messiah^{as} wrote the remainder of the book at a later time. The entire book was named *The Revealed Sermon*.

I will now tell you about the impressions of this sermon on some people.

Hazrat Maulawi Abdullah Sahib Batalwi writes that “Syed Abdul Hai Sahib from Arabia, who had come from Arabia and stayed in Qadian for research purposes for a long period and then took Bai’at narrated his story as follows: After reading the eloquent writings of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) I was convinced that no one could write like that without Divine support. However, I could not believe that these were the writings of the Promised Messiah although Hazrat Maulawi Nur ud Din Sahib and other scholars assured me, their words did not remove my suspicions and I started acquiring proofs from various sources if these really were the writings of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) with no external help. So, I wrote some letters to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and sought their replies in Arabic. I would read his letters carefully and compared them to his writings and found them both to be same. Yet, I would find some difference or the other between them. The explanation given to me regarding this would be that the ordinary writing of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) in letters etc. did not have miraculous tenor and Divine support and because he had written his Arabic books specifically by the command of God therefore they were unique, indeed they should be unique otherwise there would be no difference between ordinary literary skill and that which has Divine support.

I stayed in Qadian in order to find out for myself an episode of such Divine support. When the time of the Revealed Sermon came, I saw with my own eyes the revelatory and miraculous Sermon being revealed and heard with my own ears how the individual spoke extremely eloquently as clear as the day without any help. Therefore, after listening to the Revealed Sermon I took *Bai’at* with complete conviction.”

Haji Abdul Karim Sahib went to Egypt for his military service, perhaps some time prior to 1940. He did Tabligh work there and a friend called Ali Hassan Sahib converted to Ahmadiyyat. Haji Sahib would accompany him and visit Egyptian friends for Tabligh. One of them was a clerk in telegraph department. They exchanged thoughts for many days and he was convinced of all matters but did not accept the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) to be a subordinate Prophet. Haji Sahib gave him ‘Khutbah Ilhamiyyah’ to read and did not visit him for many days. Later, he received a letter from the friend inviting him to a meal. When he reached there the friends asked him to write a letter of Bai’at on his behalf. He was asked if he had resolved the issue of finality of Prophethood.

The friend replied that he invited a professor of Al Azhar University over dinner and told him that a few Indians had done Tabligh to him and had told him that Hazrat Isa (on whom be peace) had died and the Isa to come is a person from the Ummah of Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) who would come as the Messiah and the Mahdi and Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani was a claimant of this. I agree with all their

arguments but they say that Mirza Sahib is a subordinate Prophet and I am not prepared to accept this. As you are a scholar of religion, please tell me if my stance is correct or not.

The scholar from Al Azhar University replied that he had read Mirza Sahib's literature and had also met some Ahmadis and had had exchanges with them. He acknowledged that even if a thousand Prophets came belonging to the kind of Prophethood that Mirza Sahib had claimed, the matter of finality of Prophethood remained intact. The friend told him that he would join the Ahmadiyya Jama'at on this point and the scholar would be responsible for it on the Day of Judgement. The Al Azhar scholar said: 'my response is only for here, if you ask me publicly, I will say a subordinate Prophet cannot come. Indeed, if you wish to join the Ahmadiyya Jama'at on my liability, do so. As far as I am concerned, there are a few impediments in my way, the biggest of which is that if I become an Ahmadi I will be dismissed from my employment, (worldliness had overcome him). The Egyptian friend says as soon as he heard the Al Azhar scholar he resolved to join the Jama'at and started reading 'Khutbah Ilhamiyya' and only went to bed once he had finished reading it. At night he saw a dream in which the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) was going somewhere with a large Jama'at. He asked him whom those people were and where was he taking them. The Promised Messiah said that they were Auliya (friends) of God who came before me in the Ummah of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and he was taking them to see the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him). 'I am seal of Auliya and there will be no *wali* (friend of God) after me but he who is from my Jama'at and there will be no Prophet after the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) but he who is a subordinate Prophet, like I am'. He said when he woke up the issue of finality of Prophethood was solved for him and he was delighted. Haji Abdul Karim says that he filled his *Bai'at* form and wrote down the whole account and sent it to Qadian."

Incha Allah, on another occasion we will talk more on this matter. So, try to be on time for Namaz Eid tomorrow here at 9:30AM. May Allah forgive each one among us help us to be submissive to Him under all circumstances. Ameen.