

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

By Allah's Grace, Hajj 2020 went on smoothly and was quite a success according to newspaper reports. Those who were able to participate are quite happy with the opportunity that they were given. Alhamdulillah that there were no major incident or accident. The Saudis have done their best under the difficult circumstances. Unfortunately, this week we have heard about the catastrophic explosion in Beirut which caused many deaths and injuries and damaged lots of properties. We should pray that Allah have mercy upon these people.

We will now continue to share with our members some new extracts from the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as).

The next day after he pronounced the revealed sermon, he addressed the people and said:

“Today is the day of Eid-ul-Adha and this Eid arrives in a month which brings the Islamic months to a close. That is to say, after this month, the new year begins with Muharram. There is an underlying secret in the fact that this Eid comes in a month when an Islamic month or a specific period in time comes to an end. This indicates that our Noble Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and the awaited Messiah (as) held a very close resemblance with this occasion. What is that resemblance?

Firstly, our Noble Prophet, Muhammad, the Chosen One, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was a Prophet of the final age, and his blessed personage and era, represented the time of Eid-ul-Adha, as it were. As such, even Muslim children are well aware of the fact that the Holy Prophet (saw) was the Prophet of the latter days, and this month of Eid is also the last of months. Therefore, this month bears a resemblance with the life of the Holy Prophet (saw) and his era.

The second likeness to note is that as this month is the month of sacrifices, the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, also came to demonstrate a perfect example of true and sincere sacrifices in his own person. On this occasion, all of you slaughter goats, camels, cows and rams. Similarly, 1300 years ago there was a time when human beings were slaughtered in the cause of God Almighty. In the true sense, that earlier time was the real Eid-ul-Adha, and it was that time that was filled with the light of *duha* (the forenoon).

These physical sacrifices are not the essence, they are merely the shell; they are not the spirit, they are merely the body. In this era of ease and comfort, Eid is celebrated happily with joy. People believe that the ultimate purpose of this celebration is nothing but enjoyment and diverse forms of indulgence. It is on this day that women fully adorn themselves with jewelry and wear their most beautiful clothes. Men wear elegant attire and arrange for the finest foods. This day is considered to be such a happy and joyous occasion that even the greatest of misers will eat meat on this day. The Kashmiris especially devour goats without measure— though other people do no less. In short, for some, Eid is but a name for all sorts of amusement, enjoyment, mirth and merriment. It is regrettable, however, that the people do not realise this deeper essence at all.

The seed of sacrifice that was sown by Abraham (as) in a hidden manner was exhibited by the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, in the form of flourishing crops—and this, in reality, is the great secret in this day. Abraham, peace be upon him, was even ready to slaughter his son to fulfil the commandment of God Almighty. This was a hidden indication of the fact that man ought to become wholly devoted to God; and one's own life, and the blood of one's children, and one's kith and kin, ought to appear insignificant in the face of God's command. Just observe the many great sacrifices that were offered in the era of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, who perfectly exemplified each and every pure teaching. The wilderness was filled with blood.

It was as though streams of blood began to flow forth. Fathers spilt the blood of their children and sons killed their fathers, and both were happy—in fact even elated—in laying down their lives and being hacked to pieces in the cause of Islam and God. But now reflect, except for fun and enjoyment, entertainment and amusement, what has remained of spirituality? This Eid-ul-Adha is greater than the Eid that precedes it, and people generally refer to this as the 'Greater Eid' as well, but reflect and do tell me, how many people, as a result of this Eid, are actually moved to purify their soul, cleanse their heart, partake of spirituality, and endeavor to absorb the radiance and light that is present in this *duha* (time of brightness)?

The Eid of Ramadan represents a struggle—a personal struggle—and the effort of the soul. But this Eid, also referred to as the 'Greater Eid', possesses a grand and magnificent spirit within itself. Alas! Due attention has not been given to this deeper reality. One immense favour of God Almighty—Whose mercy is manifested in many ways—upon the community of Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is that this blessed

community exhibited in itself the deeper essence of everything which existed in previous religious communities in the form of a shell or a husk.

Four attributes of God Almighty have been mentioned in Surah *al-Fatihah*: *rabbul-alam* (Lord of all the worlds), *rahman* (the Gracious), *rahim* (the Merciful) and *maliki yawm-id-din* (Master of the Day of Judgement). Although these attributes are manifested on earth in the general sense, in reality, they possess within themselves prophecies, to which people rarely direct their attention. The Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, displayed a manifestation of these four attributes in his person. For no deeper reality can be understood without an illustration of some sort. So how was the attribute of *rabb-ul-alam* (Lord of all the worlds) manifested in the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him? The Holy Prophet (saw) grew up in disadvantaged circumstances. There was no madrasa or school available from where the Holy Prophet (saw) could develop and train his spiritual and religious faculties. He never had the opportunity to meet with an educated people; he had not even access to a basic education, nor was he able to study the deep and intricate sciences of philosophy. Now observe how despite not having had these opportunities, he was granted a blessing as great as the Holy Quran—no other knowledge even remotely compares to the sublime and true knowledge contained in this book. Any individual who reads the Holy Quran with even the slightest understanding and reflection will realise that every form of philosophy and all the sciences are worthless in comparison. It has left every sage and philosopher far behind. Prior to the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, there have been two magnificent prophets. Firstly, Moses, peace be upon him, and secondly, Jesus, peace be upon him. Both of them, however, were able to obtain an education; no claim has ever been made that they were unlettered Prophets. This challenge and claim has only been made in respect of our Noble Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. As such, God Almighty states:

وَكَذَلِكَ أَوْحَيْنَا إِلَيْكَ رُوحًا مِّنْ أَمْرِنَا ۚ مَا كُنتَ تَدْرِي مَا الْكِتَابُ وَلَا الْإِيمَانُ وَلَكِن جَعَلْنَاهُ
نُورًا نَهْدِي بِهِ مَن نَّشَاءُ مِّنْ عِبَادِنَا ۚ وَإِنَّكَ لَتَهْدِي إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ

And thus have We revealed to thee the Word by Our command. Thou didst not know what the Book was, nor what the faith. But We have made it (the revelation) a light, whereby We guide such of Our servants as We please.

Moses, peace be upon him, received a princely education, as it were, and was given a royal upbringing under the guardianship of the Pharaoh. Tutors were appointed for him because even in that era, such a custom was prevalent. If Moses, peace be upon him, had not taken up an ascetic life, he was next in line after the Pharaoh. If it were not for God's grace, Moses as would have become a Pharaoh as well, God forbid.

Bear in mind that the word 'Pharaoh' is not evil in itself. In actuality, this was the title given to the Kings of Egypt, just as 'Caesar' and 'Chosroes' were the titles given to the rulers of Rome and Iran respectively, and how in this age, the Tsar of Russia and Ottoman Sultan have their own titles. My only purpose in mentioning this is to explain that if God Almighty had not prepared him for another office, it was certain that he would have ascended the throne. It is true that although the mother of Moses (as) felt pain and grief in casting an innocent soul into the river, what would have been the state of her extreme happiness and joy when God Almighty Himself promised to return the child to her? In short, Moses (as) was educated in the manner of royalty.

Jesus, peace be upon him, was also educated formally. I have a book by a Jewish writer, in which he has stated this point clearly and categorically. In fact, he has even mentioned the teacher of the Messiah (as) by name and then goes on to raise an objection. The author states that it was from his early days that Jesus (as) developed a liking for the subjects comprised in the Torah and the scriptures of the Prophets, and he also states that nothing in the Gospel is more than what has already been mentioned in the past scriptures of the Prophets. The author has also written that Jesus (as) was taught by the Jews for a long period in time. However, if you ask a Jew, Christian or anyone from India whether the Holy Prophet (saw) was educated anywhere, they will clearly reject such a notion. What a grand manifestation of divine providence!

When a child advances from infancy, before reaching an age of maturity, they are sent to school—this is the first step. However, the first step in the life of the Holy Prophet (saw) was something of a miracle! Since the Holy Prophet (saw) was the Seal of the Prophets, his person and every aspect of his life was miraculous in nature. His way of life was such that he did not receive even an elementary education, yet he brought a matchless bounty as great as the Quran and gave the Muslim community a magnificent miracle.

The Prophets of previous times appeared and after remaining on earth for some time, went on, after which their religion disappeared. In truth, God had destined for these religions to fade away but had determined to maintain the signs and imprints of this Faith.

For no religion can remain without miracles. People can only believe in hearsay for a few days, then they begin to say:

It is this world that is delightful, who has ever seen the next world?

This is why God has willed for a living miracle to accompany Islam.” (Malfuzaaaat Vol 2 P205-209)

In this extract Masih Maood (as) advises us to understand the essence of Eidul Adha and not to be content with its apparent aspects. We should all be concerned about how we choose to lead our life. We need to examine ourselves constantly and consider whether our actions are leading us to Allah or away from Allah. If we are going towards Allah, we should continue our journey with greater eagerness and determination. If not, we should repent and choose the right path and do the best to stick to it. May Allah help me and you as well to understand and to do better day by day incha Allah. Ameen.