

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

We will continue reading from the book “The advent of the Promised Messiah” which speaks about the main differences that exist between us and other Muslims. In the previous two sermons, we read that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) explained that it is not correct to say that there is only one difference between us and other Muslims, namely that we believe that Hazrat Isa (as) is dead. He continues:

“Therefore, the issue of the Messiah’s death has become a matter that is no longer shrouded in any obscurity; rather, it has become clear in every respect. The Holy Quran establishes the death of the Messiah and the Hadith also lend support to this. Moreover, the incident of the *Mi’raj* of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, also testifies to the Messiah’s death. The Holy Prophet (saw) gives eye-witness testimony as it were, because he saw Jesus (as) and John (as) together on the night of the *Mi’raj*. Likewise, there is the following verse:

قُلْ سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ هَلْ كُنْتُ إِلَّا بَشَرًا رَسُولًا

Say, ‘Holy is my Lord! I am not but a man sent as a Messenger (17:94)

This also bars the Messiah from ascending to heaven alive. For, when the disbelievers demanded the Holy Prophet to show a miracle by ascending to heaven, Allah the Exalted gave him the answer:

قُلْ سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ هَلْ كُنْتُ إِلَّا بَشَرًا رَسُولًا

That is to say, my Lord is above and beyond going back on His promise. For He has already decreed that human beings are born in this very world and it is here that they shall die. God states:

تَحْيَوْنَ وَفِيهَا تَمُوتُونَ

Therein shall you live, and therein shall you die. (7:26)

I am not but a man sent as a messenger, i.e. I possess limitations of human nature, which keep me from ascending to heaven. In fact, the disbelievers had posed this question deliberately, for they had already heard that a human lives and dies on this earth. Therefore, they took their opportunity and posed this question. However, the answer given to them frustrated their design. Therefore, it is already a settled matter that the Messiah

(as) has passed away. It is indeed a miraculous sign that the people were kept in ignorance of this fact and the wise were kept oblivious.

Do bear in mind that those who passed on before the present age are excused, for this matter was not proved to them categorically (except some rare ones). They shall receive their reward and recompense from Allah Almighty for what they interpreted in their time according to their own earnest judgement. However, now that age is over. In this age, Allah Almighty has lifted the veil and has revealed this hidden secret together with the evil and dangerous implications of the issue at hand. You see that Islam is in a state of decline and the Christians continue to attack Islam with this very weapon of the life of the Messiah. Muslim progeny is falling prey to the Christians. I truthfully say that it is arguments such as these, which they put forth to the people so as to convert them. They are turning people away from Islam by quoting in schools and colleges the distinct qualities which the Muslims ascribe to Jesus in their ignorance. Therefore, God Almighty has desired that now the Muslims be warned.

Since God has desired to make the Muslims vigilant, it is very important for the progress of Islam to emphasize the issue relating to the death of the Messiah and for the Muslims not to believe that the Messiah has ascended to heaven alive. Regrettably, I must say that my opponents, owing to their own misfortune, fail to understand this secret and raise a pointless clamour. If only these fools would realise that if we all laid stress on the death of Jesus (as), the Christian faith would be no more. I proclaim with certainty that the life of Islam lies in this death. Ask the Christians themselves: if it is proved that the Messiah lives no more and has died, what would remain of their religion? They themselves are convinced that it is this very issue which uproots their religion. Yet the Muslims give them strength by believing in the life of the Messiah, and thus cause harm to Islam. Their example may be described as such:

یکے بر سر شاخ و بن مے برید

“A person who saws off the same branch on which he sits.”

These Muslims have taken hold of the very same weapon that the Christians use against Islam, and wielded it foolishly without understanding, thus inflicting severe injury on Islam. However, it is a matter of jubilation that Allah the Exalted has informed them of this at precisely the correct time and has armed them with a matchless weapon to break the cross; in order to reinforce it and make use of it, He has established this Community. As such, by the grace and succour of Allah Almighty, this weapon, namely the death of the Messiah, has left the religion of the cross so weak and powerless that now this is not hidden to anyone. The Christians and their supporters are well aware that if there is any

sect or community that can uproot their religion it is this Community (that is Jamaat Ahmadiyya). This is why the Christians are eager to compete with the people of every other religion, but dare not face this Community. When a certain Bishop was invited to compete, he did not come forward to contest, even though various English newspapers urged him to accept the challenge. The reason for this is that we possess such weapons to uproot Christianity, which have not been given to others, the first of which is the weapon of the Messiah's death. To prove him dead is not the real objective. This was merely a weapon of the Christians that inflicted harm upon Islam. Allah the Exalted desired to rectify this error, and so was it done in the most emphatic of ways.

Aside from this, another of our chief objectives is to remove the errors and self-invented beliefs that have crept into Islam. It would be unwise to suggest that there was no difference whatsoever between this Community and other Muslims. If the Muslims of today have remained unchanged in their beliefs and both are one and the same, then did God the Exalted establish this Community in vain? To entertain such a notion is a great dishonour to this Community, as well as an act of temerity and insolence in the face of Allah the Exalted. For He has repeatedly expressed that darkness has engulfed the world both in respect of practice and doctrine. Countless Prophets and Messengers appeared in the world, and tirelessly toiled and strove to establish the Oneness of Allah, but today a dark veil has been drawn over it.

Further, the people have fallen victim to various forms of polytheism. The Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, enjoined that one ought not to love the world, but today, the love of the world dominates every heart and everyone seems immersed in this very love. When asked, some are averse to undertaking even an iota of work for the sake of religion, reluctance holds them back and they begin to invent thousands of excuses. Every form of misconduct and immorality is considered permissible and every possible transgression is brazenly committed. Religion has become fatally weak and stands helpless like an orphan. In this state, if Islam had not been helped and supported, when else was it to confront such circumstances as would lend reason for its support? Islam remains only in name. If even now it were not afforded protection, it would undoubtedly perish.

I truthfully say that only a lack of understanding prompts the question as to whether there is any difference between our community and other Muslims. If only one such matter existed, what need was there for such effort and why establish an entire community? I am aware that Allah Almighty has repeatedly disclosed that darkness has fallen and nothing can be seen. The Oneness of God which was once our crown and the pride of Islam has now been reduced to mere lip service. Otherwise, there are perhaps very few who really profess the Oneness of God in terms of practice and belief. The Holy Prophet (saw)

advised that one ought not to love the world, but now every heart is engrossed therein. Religion has become helpless as though it were an orphan. The Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, clearly said:

حُبُّ الدُّنْيَا رَأْسُ كُلِّ خَطِيئَةٍ

Love of the world is the root cause of all vice

How pure and true is this phrase. But observe now and you will find everyone is victim to this error. Our Arya and Christian opponents have very well come to know the reality of their religions, and yet they cling to them. The Christians are well aware that the principles and doctrines of their religion are improper and that it is inappropriate to deify a human being. In this age, knowledge of philosophy, physics and science has advanced greatly and people have come to realise clearly that the Messiah was but a weak and frail mortal who did not possess any supernatural power whatsoever.

After having studied these sciences, in light of one's personal experiences, and in view of the weaknesses and frailties of the Messiah, it is impossible to believe that he was God. Never in the least. Associating partners with God began and was founded at the hand of a woman; that is, Eve, who followed the command of Satan instead of God Almighty. And now too it is women who support this great form of polytheism—Christianity. In all truth, the Christian religion is one which human nature repels from afar and can never accept. Were it not for worldly motives, a large majority of Christians today would have become Muslim. In fact, some among the Christians have been Muslims in secret. They concealed their belief, but at the time of death proclaimed that they were Muslims when leaving behind their wills. There were very high-ranking officials among these people as well. They did not reveal that they were Muslims during their life out of their love for the world, but ultimately, they conceded this fact. I see that Islam has found way into their hearts and now it continues to flourish. The love of this world has blinded the people.

In short, it is this very love of the world that has caused internal dissent among Muslims as well. For if the pleasure of Allah Almighty had taken precedence it could easily be ascertained as to which sect possessed sounder principles, and by accepting them, everyone could have reunited. Now, in view of this shortcoming, caused by the love of this world, how can these people be called Muslims? For they do not follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. As such, Allah Almighty has said:

قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ وَيَغْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ ۗ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ

Meaning, Say, 'If you love Allah Almighty then obey me, and God will in turn befriend you.' But now it is the love of this world that is given precedence over love for Allah and following the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. Is this obedience to the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him? Was the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, a worldly man? Would he accept interest? Was he negligent in carrying out his obligations and in fulfilling divine commandments? Was he (God-forbid) a hypocrite? Would he compromise on matters of principle? Did he give precedence to the world over religion? One ought to reflect." (p. 17-26)

This is what the Promised Messiah (as) said 116 years ago. But it is still relevant today. Each one among us needs to reflect about how much love of the world we have in our heart and how much love of Allah do we have. May Allah help each one amongst us to increase our love for Him day in and day out and may the love of the world vanish from our hearts by His Grace. Ameen.