

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Unfortunately, once again we see ourselves in lockdown because of Covid-19. Most of us will have to stay at home. This has its advantages and its inconveniences. As a Muslim believer, it gives us more opportunities to pray and ask forgiveness for our sins, to supplicate Allah to deliver us of this disease and to give us patience to face these trying moments. In addition, we can catch up in our remembrance of Allah, in reading the Holy Quran and also in having conversations and not just discussions with our dear and loved ones. It is up to each one among us to use the time that is being given to us to our best advantage. Let us all hope and that pray that Allah helps each one of us to make the best use of our won time, Incha Allah.

As good Muslims, we should follow all the measures that the government has put in place to protect the population such as social distancing, wearing masks, avoiding hand contact and regularly washing our hands. When we face difficult moments, we should turn to Allah and supplicate Him because we should be convinced that all POWER is in His Hands and He does what He wills. Whenever I face difficulties in my life, the following poem of the Promised Messiah (as) always comes to mind. He wrote it for a friend of his who was facing very difficult moments in his life. It said:

اک نہ اک دن پیش ہوگا تو فنا کے سامنے چل نہیں سکتی کسی کی کچھ قضا کے سامنے

One day for sure you'll face mortality

No one holds sway against what's decreed.

چھوڑنی ہوگی تجھے دُنیاۓ فانی ایک دن ہر کوئی مجبور ہے حکمِ خدا کے سامنے

One day you'll have to leave this mortal world

Everyone is compelled in face of God's command.

مستقل رہنا ہے لازم اے بشر تجھ کو سدا رنج و غم یاس و الم فکر و بلا کے سامنے

It is a must that you always remain stoic, O man,

In the face of grief and sorrow, dejection and torment.

بارگاہِ ایزدی سے تو نہ یوں مایوس ہو مشکلیں کیا چیز ہیں مشکل کشا کے سامنے

Pray be not disappointed from the Court of God

What are hardships for the Remover-of-Hardships!

حاجتیں پوری کریں گے کیا تری عاجز بشر کر بیاں سب حاجتیں حاجت روا کے سامنے

What needs of thine would helpless men fulfil?

Thou state all thy needs to the Fulfiller-of-Needs.

چاہیے تجھ کو مٹانا قلب سے نقشِ دُوی سر جھکا بس مالکِ ارض و سما کے سامنے

You should erase from heart the sign of duality

Bow your head only before the Master of heavens and earth.

چاہیے نفرت بدی سے اور نیکی سے پیار ایک دن جانا ہے تجھ کو بھی خدا کے سامنے

There should be loathing for evil and love for virtue

One day you will also have to appear in front of God.

راستی کے سامنے کب جھوٹ پھلتا ہے بھلا
قدر کیا پتھر کی لعلِ بے بہا کے سامنے

When does falsehood ever flourish against the truth?

What worth has a stone compared to a precious gem!"

This is indeed a very beautiful poem. Whenever we are in difficulties, we can read it. It brings solace and helps us to face difficulties with great patience. Whatever the prevailing conditions, a Muslim believer must never despair of the Mercy of Allah. If he or she is determined to follow the path of virtue, Allah will help him/her to get out of any difficult situation or Allah will grant him/her the necessary patience to accept the situation. Let us hope and pray that Allah have mercy not only upon us but also on all Mauritians and all those who are suffering in the world. Ameen.

Now I will say a few words about *me'raj*. As you might be aware, usually here in Mauritius and in many Asian countries, some Muslims do celebrate this event. In their opinion, this event of the Holy Prophet (saw) going to the heaven did in fact take place

with his physical body. We Ahmadi Muslims do not believe that it did in fact take place with his physical body. We rather believe, like many other non-Ahmadi Muslims, that it was an extraordinary vision of the Holy Prophet (saw). We consider the celebration of this event to be an innovation and the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) warned us against innovations. It is reported in the Sunan of Abu Dawud and Tirmidhi that al Irbad ibn Sariyah said, "The Messenger of Allah gave us a sermon by which our hearts were filled with fear and tears came to our eyes. We said, "O Messenger of Allah, it is as though this is a farewell Sermon, so counsel us." He said: "I counsel you to fear Allah and to give absolute obedience, even if a slave becomes your leader. Verily he among you who lives (long) will see very great controversy, so you must keep to my Sunnah, and that of the rightly guided (in beliefs and actions) Caliphs after me; cling to them stubbornly. Beware of newly invented matters for every invented matter is an innovation, and every innovation is a going astray and every going astray is in the Hell Fire".

Now I will continue with reading from the booklet "The Advent of the Promised Messiah" about the main differences between us and the other Muslims. After speaking about how important it is for us to follow on the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (saw), the Promised Messiah (as) said:

"Obedience means to follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (saw). Then behold how Allah Almighty showers His blessings. The Companions of the Holy Prophet (saw) acted in this manner and witness how Allah Almighty rewarded them with immense success! They turned their backs to the world and completely renounced its allure. They extinguished their desires. Now compare your state with theirs. Do you follow in their footsteps? Alas! Today, people do not realise what God Almighty desires of them. Indeed, love of the world has spawned many a child. People go to court and do not feel the least bit of shame or regret in bearing false testimony for a mere two *annas*. Can advocates declare on oath that all the witnesses they produce in court are truthful? Today, the state of the world has become dire in every respect. False witnesses are produced, lodging false lawsuits is nothing, and false certificates are forged. Whenever people speak, they steer clear of the truth.

Now, one must ask these people, who see no need in establishing this community, is this the religion which the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, brought? Allah the Exalted equates falsehood to filth and states that one ought to abstain from it:

فَاجْتَنِبُوا الرِّجْسَ مِنَ الْأَوْثَانِ وَاجْتَنِبُوا قَوْلَ الزُّوْرِ

◌Shun therefore the abomination of idols, and shun false speech. (22:3)

Here falsehood is mentioned with idolatry. Just as a foolish person abandons Allah Almighty and bows before stone, so does one shun truth and piety to achieve his own

ends, and take falsehood as an idol. This is the very reason that Allah the Exalted has mentioned falsehood alongside idol-worship and drawn a parallel between the two. Just as an idol-worshipper seeks salvation from an idol, a liar also carves an idol and surmises that they shall be delivered through this idol. How rampant has evil become? It is a pity that when people are asked the reason for their being idolaters and are advised to shun this abomination, they say that they cannot, and that they have no other option. What can be more unfortunate than the fact that such people consider their lives to be wholly reliant on falsehood? I assure you, however, that ultimately truth prevails, and goodness and success belong to it alone.

I remember that once I sent an article to Amritsar along with a letter, which was related to the Wakil-i-Hind newspaper owned by Ralia Ram. This letter was deemed to be in contravention of the postal laws and so a lawsuit was filed against me. Even my lawyers advised that there was no hope of acquittal unless the letter was denied, that is to say, there was no way of escape except through untruth. However, I did not approve of this in the least and said that if I am punished for speaking the truth then so be it, I shall not lie. The lawsuit was finally heard in court and the superintendent of post offices appeared as the plaintiff. When I was questioned about this, I honestly replied that the letter was mine but that I had placed it along with the article, considering it to be a part thereof. Allah Almighty granted insight to the magistrate and so he understood this point. The superintendent of post offices exerted his best efforts but the magistrate paid no heed and acquitted me. How can I say that one cannot do without lying? Such notions are sheer absurdity. The reality is that one cannot do without truth. Even today when I recall this incident, it gives me pleasure. I followed the command of God Almighty and He favoured me in such a manner as to become a sign.

And he who puts his trust in Allah – He is sufficient for him. (at- Talaq, 65:4)

Remember well that nothing is more unblessed than falsehood. Generally, worldly people say that those who speak the truth are arrested, but how can I agree? Seven lawsuits have been filed against me and by the grace of God Almighty I have not had to give a single false statement in any one of them. Can anyone point out a single case in which God Almighty caused me to suffer defeat? Allah Almighty Himself defends and supports the truth. Is it possible that He should punish a righteous person? Were it so, no one on earth would dare speak the truth, belief in God Almighty would die out and the virtuous would die a living death”. (p. 27-32)

This incident has been reported in detail in Al Badr as follows:

“Approximately 27 or 28 years ago or perhaps even earlier, I dispatched an article in support of Islam against the Aryas for printing in a press owned by a Christian named Ralia Ram, a lawyer residing in Amritsar. He was also the proprietor of a newspaper. The

article was sent in a postal packet open on both sides and I also placed a letter in the packet. This letter contained statements in support of Islam and the falsity of other faiths, as well as an emphatic request for the article to be printed. For this reason, the Christian [editor] became inflamed on account of his religious opposition. It so happened that on this occasion, he found an opportunity to make a hostile attack against me, as the postal law stipulated that it was an offence punishable by a fine of up to 500 rupees or with up to six-month imprisonment, to place such a letter in a postal packet.

However, I was utterly unaware of this. He acted as an informant to the postal authorities and had a case filed against me. Before I received intimation of this case, Allah the Exalted revealed to me in a dream that the lawyer Ralia Ram had sent a serpent my way to bite me but I fried the serpent like fish and sent it back to him. I am certain that this was an indication that the decision given in court on this case might become a precedent for lawyers. In short, I was summoned to Gurdaspur (the headquarters of the district) to defend this charge. All the lawyers that were consulted regarding this case, advised that the only way of escape was to lie, and suggested for me to plead that I had not put the letter in the packet, and that Ralia Ram himself must have placed it therein. The lawyers assured me that in such case a verdict would be issued on the basis of testimony.

Moreover, they said that acquittal could be secured with two or three false witnesses, otherwise the case was a difficult one, with no hope of escape. I told them all categorically that I would not swerve an inch from the truth, come what may. On the very same day or maybe a day after, I appeared in the court of an English magistrate and a superintendent of the post offices appeared as the plaintiff on behalf of the government. The magistrate proceeded to record my statement. The very first question he asked me was, 'Did you put this letter in the packet and were the letter and packet dispatched by you?' I answered without any hesitation whatsoever, 'This is my letter and this is my packet. I myself placed the letter in the packet when I sent it, but I did not do this with any ill-intent to cause loss of revenue to the government. I did not consider the letter distinct and separate from the article enclosed in the packet, nor did the letter contain any personal matter.' On hearing this, God Almighty inclined the heart of the magistrate towards me. The superintendent of post offices created an uproar against me, and made long speeches in English, which I could not follow, except that each time he made a point, the magistrate would reject it saying, 'No, no.' When the superintendent concluded his submission and finished venting his anger, the magistrate turned to write his verdict. After writing a line or two, he said, 'Alright, you may leave.' Hearing this, I came out of the court room thanking my truly benevolent God, Who had upheld me in opposition to an English officer. I know full well that on this occasion, God Almighty delivered me from this misfortune due to the blessings of truthfulness. Before this case, I had seen in a dream that a man stretched forth his hand to take off my cap, whereupon I said, 'What are

you doing?' At this, he left the cap on my head and said, 'It is fine, it is fine.' (Badr, Volume 2, No. 5, dated 2 February 1906, p. 3)

May Allah help each one among us to be very careful not to show any kind of negligence in fulfilling our duties and may he be pleased with us all. Ameen.