

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

In the month of May, in many places around the world, people celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day. As usual, these festivals originate from some mythical ideas in ancient civilizations like the Egyptians, the Greeks and the Romans and then it started again in the 1600s in England and in the early 1900s in the USA and from there it spread around the world and nowadays it is almost everywhere. If you want to learn more about the background of this festival, you may read about it on Wikipedia and Britannica as well. These days, there are many people who regret the commercial dimension that these festivals have taken around the world because they had as their origin a religious background. Unfortunately, nowadays, in some Ahmadi Muslim houses, these days are celebrated. Some people think that they have to buy gifts for their mothers and people partake in meals and they even prepare a special cake to celebrate the occasion.

As Ahmadi Muslims, we should not allow such practices to become current among ourselves. Our sixth condition of bait says that as an Ahmadi Muslim we will

“refrain from following unislamic customs and lustful inclinations, and we shall completely submit ourselves to the authority of the Holy Quran; and we shall make the Word of God and the Sayings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) the guiding principle in every walk of our life.”(*The ten conditions of Bai'at*)

From time to time, it is important and beneficial to all of us to remind ourselves why we are a member of the Jamaat created by Hazrat Masih Maood (as), the Promised Messiah and Mahdi. Here is what he said:

“I pray earnestly that all members of my jamaat should fear God Almighty and be constant in Prayer; they get up at night and fall down before God and supplicate, and discharge their obligations to Him, and are not avaricious, or miserly, or heedless, or worms of the earth. I hope that God Almighty will accept my prayers and will show me that I am leaving such people behind. But those whose eyes commit adultery and whose hearts are filthier than excrement and who do not remember death, I and my God are disgusted with such people. I would be greatly pleased if such people were to leave me, for God desires to make this jamaat a model for people to remind them of God. They should be established at the highest level of righteousness and purity and should, in practice and truth, give preference to their faith above the world. But those wicked ones who, having placed their hand under my hand, and having professed that they will give their faith precedence over the world, return to their homes and so

occupy themselves with worldly matters that the world becomes their heart and soul, and their glances remain impure as do their hearts, and no good comes from their hands, nor do they move their feet for the achieving of any good; they are like rats who are nurtured in darkness and dwell in darkness and die in darkness. In heaven, they have been cut off from our jamaat. Vain is their assertion that they are members of this jamaat, for in heaven they are not accounted as such. He who does not comply with my admonition, and does not hold his faith above the world, and does not bring about a pure change in his life, and does not become truly pure hearted and pure-intentioned, and does not cast aside the garment of impurity and unchastity, and does not sympathize with mankind, and does not become truly obedient to God, and does not follow me abandoning his own impulses, is like a dog who cannot keep away from the place where dead bodies are thrown and carrion is to be found. Do I need people merely to profess with their tongues that they are with me, so that I should have a large jamaat for show? I tell you truly that if all people were to abandon me, and not one of them was to remain with me, my God would create another people for me who will be better than them in their sincerity and loyalty. It is a heavenly attraction that is drawing good-hearted people towards me, and no one can obstruct this heavenly attraction. Some people rely more upon their own cunning and deceit than upon God. Perhaps, in their hearts, they secretly entertain the notion that all Prophethood and Messengership is pretence and it is only by chance that such people acquire fame and acceptance. There cannot be a concept more corrupt. He who entertains it has no faith in God, without Whose determination not a leaf falls. Accursed are such hearts and accursed are such dispositions. God will destroy them in humiliation, for they are the enemies of God's designs. Such people are in fact atheists and possess impure hearts. They live a cursed life and after death they can look forward to nothing but the fire of hell." (*Majmu'ah Ishtiharat*, vol. 3, pp. 503-50)

"The most honoured of all the worlds and the most marvelous of the whole of creation are the group of Prophets and Apostles and the righteous, the true servants of Allah, for they excel all the rest, in propagating righteousness, removing injustices, reforming conduct, wishing their own and all others well, inculcating peace and truthfulness, uprooting vice and evil, exhorting to virtue, forbidding unlawfulness, subduing passions, turning to the Lord of the obedient, disenchantment with new and old gains and gods, persisting in obedience to Allah with full strength and complete preparation, mounting assault on the progeny of Satan with mustered troops and organized bodies, withdrawing from the world for the sake of the Beloved Creator, exiling themselves from its verdant spots and abandoning its springs and meadows like emigrants and bending their heads in His Presence. They surely are a people

whose eyes are overtaken by sleep while they are still absorbed in their love for Allah and in prayer for their people.

In the eyes of its votaries the world is beautiful and attractive, but in the eyes of these people (the Prophets and Apostles and the righteous and the true) it is more offensive than offal and more evil-smelling than carrion. They turn to Allah with all their minds and bend down before Him with full sincerity of heart. As the foundations of a structure have priority over windows and cupboards to be constructed, so have these exalted one's priority over all other classes of the virtuous in this world. I have been shown in a vision that the most perfect, the most honored, the most God-conscious and the most knowledgeable of them all, is our elect Prophet, salutations and peace be on him both in this world and in the high heavens, and that the most unfortunate of the people are those whose tongues lashed out at him attacking him, finding fault with him and caviling at him without being privy to Divine secrets. Many there are who are reviled in the earth but are commended by Allah in the heavens; and many there are who are accounted great in this abode who will be humiliated on the Day of Requit.

(Ijazul Masih p. 128-135).

“Who is my friend? It is he who has accepted me before seeing any sign and has offered his life, property and honour in such a manner as if he had witnessed thousands of signs. This is my Jamaat. These are my friends who found me alone and helped me, and found me sorrowful and consoled me, and being unacquainted honoured me like a friend. May God Almighty have mercy on them. If anyone accepts the truth only after witnessing signs, what is that to me and what reward will he obtain and what honour would he find in the presence of the Lord of Honour? Those alone have accepted me in reality who observed me with a discerning eye and weighed my words with intelligence and considered my circumstances, and listened to me, and reflected and, on that basis, God opened their hearts to me and they joined me. He alone is with me who gives up his own pleasure for my pleasure, and makes me an Arbiter in whatever he does, and walks along my path, and is wholly devoted to me, and has discarded his own self. I am compelled to affirm with a sigh that those who seek clear signs will not be honoured by my Lord God with praiseworthy titles and honourable ranks which will be bestowed upon the righteous ones who recognized the hidden secrets and who smelled the fragrance of the servant [of God] who was hidden under His mantle. For example, what merit can be claimed by the one who offers his

salutation to a prince whom he observes in his pomp and glory, surrounded by his men? Deserving of merit is the one who encounters him in the guise of a beggar and recognizes him. It is not within my power to bestow such insight upon anyone for it is only the One Who bestows it. Those whom He holds dear, He invests with the discernment of faith. These are the things through which those who are inclined towards guidance are guided and the same things become the cause of more crookedness for those whose hearts are crooked”. [A’ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam, Ruhani Khaza’in, vol. 5, pp. 349-350]

These are just a few of the extracts where Hazrat Masih Maood (as) tells us what kind of followers we should become. In brief, we should be the people who do our best to be righteous and strive to spread it around. Hence, we cannot imitate others in their worldly pursuits. The Holy Quran and the hadiths are full of commandments of how we should revere our parents. We do not need any particular day like others to celebrate what our parents have done for us. In Islam, the best attitude that we can show to our parents is that we attend to their needs as best as we can and we do nothing to hurt them. For example, let us read what Allah says from the Holy Quran. He says:

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا ۚ إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا
أَوْ كِلَاهُمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا أَفٍّ وَلَا تَنْهَرْهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا كَرِيمًا
وَاخْفِضْ لَهُمَا جَنَاحَ الذُّلِّ مِنَ الرَّحْمَةِ وَقُلْ رَبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيَانِي صَغِيرًا
رَبُّكُمْ أَعْلَمُ بِمَا فِي نُفُوسِكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ تَكُونُوا صَالِحِينَ فَإِنَّهُ كَانَ لِلْأَوَّابِينَ غُفُورًا

Translation:

“Thy Lord has commanded, ‘Worship none but Him’, ^[c]and show kindness to parents. If one of them attain old age with thee or both of them, never say unto them any word expressive of disgust nor reproach them, but *always* address them with excellent speech.

And lower to them the wing of humility out of tenderness. And say, ^[a]‘My Lord, have mercy on them even as they nourished me in *my* childhood’.

Your Lord knows best what is in your minds: if you are righteous, then surely He is Most Forgiving to those who turn *to Him* again and again”. (HQ 17:24-26)

The teachings of Islam help us become a better person fulfilling the purpose for which Allah created us. He knows us better than anyone else because he is our Creator. As His servants, it is our duty to seek to please Him through our obedience to Him as have done the pious before us. We should not indulge in anything that might displease Him. May Allah accept everything good that we do. Ameen.