

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

These days, as our members have seen, the pandemic of Covid-19 is continuing creating havoc in many places in the world. But fortunately, these days vaccines are available and many governments around the world are doing their best to inoculate their people against the disease. The result has been that in many places, especially in developed countries, the number of deaths related to the pandemic has started to diminish. Here in Mauritius, the campaign to get people vaccinated is on. The objective of the government is to get about 12 to 13 thousand people vaccinated every day. Unfortunately, the number of cases of infection is increasing. We should all continue observing all precautionary measures and avoid being in public as best as we can and as long as we can. Besides, we should continue to pray to Allah that He protects us and that He protects the country as well because we will lose our protection if everyone around us is infected. So, let us all continue to pray with full conviction and expect Allah to help and protect us especially those who go out to work in these difficult days.

When plague struck India during the lifetime of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) he wrote the following in the booklet *Kishti Nuh* (Noah's ark):

“God be thanked that the British government, showing kindness to its subjects, has once again advised inoculation against the plague, and has undertaken the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of rupees for their welfare. It is the duty of wise subjects to welcome this action with gratitude. Anyone who views the inoculation with mistrust is not only naive but is his own enemy, for it has been observed time and again that this cautious government is averse to administering any hazardous treatment, and prescribes only remedies that have been thoroughly tested and proven to be effective. It is against the norms of honesty and civility to attribute ulterior motives to the government which is continuing to spend millions of rupees out of genuine sympathy for its subjects.

Unfortunate are the people who reach such a degree of suspicion and mistrust. There can be no doubt that inoculation is by far the best physical remedy that the government has found, and there is no denying that this remedy has proven to be effective. It is the duty of the people to make use of all available means so that the government can be relieved of the pain it feels for them.

But we must say to this kind government, with all due respect, that had there not been a Heavenly prohibition for us, we would have been the first to get inoculated. The Heavenly prohibition is that God in this age desires to show a sign of His mercy to mankind. Addressing me, He said, **‘You and those who dwell inside your house, and those who become identified with you through perfect obedience and complete**

righteousness, shall be safeguarded against the plague. This will be a Divine sign in the latter days so that He might demonstrate a distinction between people. But those who do not follow you completely are not of you. Be not anxious on their account.'

This is a Divine guarantee, on account of which I myself and all those who dwell within my house have no need to be inoculated. As I have mentioned, God—Who is the Lord of heaven and earth, and nothing lies outside Whose knowledge and power—revealed to me long ago that He would save from the plague everyone who lives inside this house, provided he gives up all antagonism and enters into the allegiance of *Bai'at* in all sincerity, humility and submission. He must not be arrogant, willful, proud, vain or heedless towards God's commands and His Appointed One, and his conduct must be in conformity with the teachings. He has also told me that Qadian will be saved from such ravages of the plague that cause people to die like dogs and become mad with grief, and that the members of this Jamaat, however large in number, will be safe against the plague as compared to those who are opposed to me.

But such of my followers may fall prey to the plague who do not fully abide by their *Bai'at*, or concerning whom there is some hidden reason in the knowledge of God. But in the end people will marvel and acknowledge that, by comparison, Divine support is with these people, and that He has saved them through His special mercy in a way that has no precedence.

Some people will be startled to hear this, others will laugh, some others will denounce me as mad, and still others will wonder if such a God really exists Who can send down His mercy without resorting to the physical means. **The answer is, yes, such a God does indeed exist, and if He did not, those who are close to Him would have died a living death.** He is wonderfully Omnipotent and marvelous are His Holy Powers. While, on the one hand, He allows the ignorant opponents to attack His friends like dogs, on the other hand He commands His angels to serve them. In the same way, when His wrath comes upon the world and His anger surges against the wrongdoers, His Eye protects His chosen ones. Otherwise, the whole mission of godly people would end in disarray and no one would recognize them. His powers are limitless, but they are revealed to people in proportion to their belief. Those who are blessed with faith and love and are totally lost in Him, and break free from selfish habits, it is for their sake that miracles are shown. God does what He wills, but He chooses to demonstrate His miraculous powers only to those who break from their habits for His sake. In this day and age there are very few people who know Him and believe in His amazing powers. But there are many who have no belief whatsoever in the All-Powerful God, Whose voice is heard by everything and for Whom nothing is impossible.

Let it be remembered that to get treatment for the plague or other diseases is not a sin. In fact, it is recorded in a Hadith that there is no disease for which God has not created a remedy. But I consider it a sin to make this sign dubious by getting inoculated, for it is a

sign which God, for our sake, wishes to demonstrate clearly in the world. I dare not demean His true sign and His true word by resorting to inoculation. If I did, I would be accountable for the sin of not believing in the promise that God had given to me. If I resort to inoculation, then I should be grateful to the doctor who invented the injection, and not to God Who promised me that He would protect everyone dwelling in this house.

I proclaim by way of insight that the promises of the Omnipotent God are indeed true. And I see the coming days as if they have already come”. [Kashti Nuh, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 19, pp. 1-3]

This booklet was written around 1902.

Now, I will tell you about two incidents of two persons who were very close to the Promised Messiah (as) and who got ill during those days.

The Promised Messiah^{as} writes in *Haqiqatul Wahi* :

“During the days of rampant plague, when Qadian was affected to a degree, Molvi Muhammad ‘Ali M.A. had a severe attack of fever. He was almost sure it was plague and like one who approaches death, he made a will and apprised Mufti Muhammad Sadiq of everything. He was staying in a part of my house about which God had revealed “*Inni ohafezo koulla man fid daare*” (I shall save all those who dwell in your home). I visited him to inquire about his health. Finding him upset and disturbed, I said to him, ‘If you are suffering from plague, it means I am a liar and my claim to be the recipient of divine revelation is false.’ Having said this, I felt his pulse and witnessed a strange sign of providence. As soon as I touched his wrist, I found it normal and there was no sign of fever.”

“Again, at a time when Qadian was afflicted with the plague, my son Sharif Ahmad was suffering from high fever which seemed to be typhoid. He had lost consciousness and was beating about his arms in that condition. I thought to myself that no one was immortal, but if this boy died while the plague was in Qadian, all my enemies would say that this fever had in fact been the plague, and would claim that the divine revelation vouchsafed to me: “*Inni ohafezo koullou man fid daare*” that is, I shall safeguard all who dwell in your house from the plague, had been false. This distress[ed] me greatly. At about midnight the boy’s condition deteriorated and I became apprehensive that it may be something quite serious and not just ordinary fever. I cannot describe my feeling, because if the boy was to die, God forbid, it would provide prejudiced people with convenient means to suppress the truth. In that state I performed the ablution and stood up for prayer. Immediately, I found myself in a state which was a clear sign of the acceptance of prayer. I call God to witness, in Whose hand is my life, that I had just completed about three rak’as [One sequence of the mandatory Muslim prayers, from a standing to a prostrating position] when I saw in a vision that the boy had recovered completely. When I finished my prayer, I saw him sitting fully conscious asking for water. He was

immediately given water and when I put my hand on his body, I found no trace of temperature whatsoever. His state of delirium, restlessness, and unconsciousness completely disappeared, and he regained full health.”

My aim in saying these words today is that each one among us should be bold and we should not allow ourselves to be despondent in anyway. Yes, times are difficult but incha Allah we will all get through it by Allah’s Grace. We should do our best to show our loyalty and sincerity and pray with great fervour so that Allah may deliver us and the whole country of this calamity that has touched us. As I have said previously, we should try our best to remain away from any type of sin and do our best to supplicate Allah to deliver us. We should all be convinced that Allah has power over everything and that He has the power to turn a situation upside down in an instant. Let us all pray with pain in our heart and you will see how He will manifest Himself and He will deliver us from the situation in which we find ourselves these days here and elsewhere. We should all engage ourselves in reciting *Astaghfaar* and *Darood* as best as we can.

When I reached this stage in the preparation of my sermon yesterday, it dawned upon me that I should relate the incident from the book “*Hayat Qudsi*” of Molvi Rajeki Saheb, may Allah illumine his tomb (*nawwarallaho marqadahu*) about the effect of Darood Shareef on the germs of plagues. So, I started researching and I reached the page where there was the subtitle “remedy for the plague”. I will not translate what he said but I will paraphrase it. He said that in the days of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) when the plague was running havoc with people’s lives he was staying in Gujrat. He says everyday nine to ten people were dying of the plague. At night, he saw in a dream that there was an accumulation of the germs of the plague on the wall of the room where he was staying. Of course, he was very frightened. The germs, seeing his fright spoke to him saying we don’t have anything to say with people who recite *astaghfaar*. Immediately Molvi Rajeki saheb started reciting *astaghfaar* and the germs spoke back to him saying “you see we have nothing to say to those who recite *astaghfaar*”. He writes that when he woke up, he told the Ahmadi in the Jamaat over there to recite *astaaghfaar* and by Allah’s Grace every Ahmadi in that place was spared the attack by the plague.

I have two more similar incidents to relate but because of time I will leave it for next week. Trust in Allah and read *astaghfaar* and Darood and *la hawl* for your own protection and that of your close ones. Incha Allah, Allah will keep us all under His care.