

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

We continue with the reading of Hazrat Masih Maood (as)'s speech about the "Efficacy of Repentance". He was speaking about how ignorant people behave. He continued:

"There is a story about Jesus (as) (in *Mathnawi* of Maulana Rum) that once Jesus was running and someone enquired as to why he was running. He said I am running from the ignorant. Someone said why do you not blow upon them *Ism-e-Azam* [the most effective name of God]. He said even *Ism-e-Azam* does not have any effect on them.

In truth, ignorance, too, is a dangerous death. Here, however, it is beyond understanding as to what kind of ignorance this is. These people read the Qur'an, make commentaries on it, they have the Hadith as a check but when we present [the same by way of proof] they refute it. They neither believe themselves nor allow others to believe. We are living through an age in which human beings have completely forgotten the purpose for which they were created, [as stated in the following verse of the Holy Qur'an]:

And I have not created the Jinn and the men but that they may worship Me. (Ch.51:V57)

However, these days foolish man wishes to come out of the state of being a servant of God and seeks to become God Himself and truthfulness and sincerity and faithfulness that God desires [from human beings] is nonexistent in such people. Should one stand in the bazaar, one would see thousands of people coming from one end and going to the other but their purpose is nothing more than the material world. God has not stopped man from undertaking work of this world – he should not, however, do so for the world. He should do it for his faith and doing so would make the work blessed.

For instance, God commands that Muslims should be kind to their wives: And consort with them in kindness. (Ch.4: V.20) However, if a person does so on the basis of one's own selfish feelings then it is of no consequence. However, if the same treatment is done for the sake of obedience to the divine teaching then it becomes blessed. I see that people carry out their worldly chores for the sake of the world. It is the love for the world that makes them do things – they do not do it for the sake of God. For instance, if they wish for progeny, they should pray that God may grant them a child who would, under the following Quranic verse, be the cause of upholding the ways of Islam. "And make us a model for the righteous." (Ch.25:V.75).

When there is such a noble desire, God who is All Omnipotent, can grant progeny even as He granted to Zakariah (as). However, I see that people do not seem to look beyond ‘this is my garden, and these are my possessions’, in order that he should keep them in his own possession and takes care that no one else should take them away from him. Such people do not even think that when they die, for them friend and foe would be alike.

I have heard many people who ask for prayers that they may have an heir for their estate lest some other family may become their heirs. They do not care if the children they have are good or bad or very bad as long as they have progeny. This would appear to be all the knowledge of Islam that they have.

In contrast, you take a true believer, he would place his religion before all else – should he build a house, he would think of the religious aspect first. His clothing and eating, all are for the sake of his faith. He eats, not for the sake of getting fit, but for being fit for the sake of performing his duty by his faith, just as the owner of a horse that is used in earning his keep feeds the horse, keeps it well and generally takes good care of it in order that he can benefit well from it. Similar is the case of a person - his own self has rights that he needs to attend to, and the family has rights that he has to fulfil and there is also the right of God. Should he not attend to the rights of his own self or person, then he would die and that would be something for which he would be answerable. In short, remember that a true believer in fact worships God [in all his worldly concerns] - his every word and every act, his state of rest or comfort, all are in reality worship of God even though apparently these may give cause for objections. There are many matters that an ignorant person considers objectionable but in the sight of God these are considered to be worship of God. However, if there is no sincerity of intention then even Salat [an act of worship] becomes a curse.

The believers have been commanded to eat and drink, (Ch.7:V.32) and those who do not offer their Salat for the sake of God have been referred to as [the cursed ones]:

So woe to those who pray ...but are unmindful of their prayer (Ch.107: V.5)

To eat, *Kuloo*, is a command and when a believer performs this act having understood the point of this command it will be rewarded. Similarly, there is a reward upon the fulfilment of the command [to be kind to wives]: And consort with them in kindness (Ch.4: V.20) However, if ostentation forms part even of Salat which is an act of worship, then that, too, becomes accursed. In this age that which is called Islam has become different [from its true form]. All the negative capacities have come to the fore

and the capacity of sincerity which has been mentioned in [the following verse of the Holy Qur'an] has ascended to the heaven.

Being sincere to Him in obedience (Ch.98: V.6)

True loyalty to God and sincerity and love and trust in God are attributes that have become almost extinct. God Almighty has now decided to revive these capacities anew. God has always revived the dead earth back to life, [as is stated in the Holy Qur'an]:

[He] is now quickening the earth after its death (Ch.57: V.18)

God has decided [to bring back to life the good capacities] and for that He has chosen and adopted various means. On the one hand He has sent an appointed one who is to invite people with gentle words and guide them. On the other hand, there is the progress of knowledge and science and gradually there is a trend towards greater understanding. There is not now the rough condition that existed at the time of the Sikh rule and people are generally beginning to gain a greater understanding.

Yet another means [adopted by God Almighty] is the manifestation of signs which is by way of *Itmame-Hujjat*, that is, providing a full and complete argument. Hence, when the book 'Nuzul-ul-Masih', [meaning 'The Sending Down of the Messiah'] is published, people will know [more about the signs] as it contains nearly one hundred and fifty signs for which there exist hundreds of thousands of witnesses. Among the system of signs, there is also the system of signs that create fear and awe in people among which the plague is one and it is spreading with such force that in previous generations the like of it had never been known. There are many people, however, who are taking note of these signs and benefiting from them. Not a day goes by without there being received, by letter or in person, initiation of people who wish to join this community. Even though the world has advanced much in sinfulness and impiety, in mischief and in self-seeking immorality, those who come to join our Community also come from the same society and this shows that there are many good people mixed with others. God will bring out these people and will grant them understanding but some others will become the victims of the plague. This is how [matters in] the world will be finalized and a complete and conclusive proof would have been provided.

(Here Janab Muhammad Ibrahim Khan Sahib mentioned Karachi and the region of Sindh and stated that people there were totally oblivious and did not have knowledge of such matters. At this, the Promised Messiah (as) stated):

“A person becomes perplexed in the face of a completely ignorant person. However, there must be some educated people there. The system of English education is in place.

There may be many harmful effects of the English education, but it has the benefit that it expands intellect and increases the capacity to understand. It is such people that we need and they will gradually appear. What kind of conversation could one hold with savage people who have no concern other than to eat and drink? Even though there is a 'veil' of materialism over the educated group of people, good people do understand and as a result are coming towards us. A section of our Community is now made up of such people. It is not the case that we are calling them to us from here, they are coming themselves after having understood. In short, there is great expectation from a person who is intelligent and has understanding. What can one say to an ignorant person who lacks understanding?

People have been led astray partly by Mullahs, the religious clerics, and partly by the ignorant F a k i r s and some follow the scantily clad hermits. Whatever the situation may be, God's work does not stop. When a person wishes to make a garden, he first ensures that the chosen ground is capable of producing a garden. If he finds the ground to be a wasteland, he first prepares it by clearing it and by breaking up clusters of earth and such like. It is only after much preparation that he would make his garden there. In short, He who is the King of Kings is about to prepare this 'garden' and He would have seen that some people of a good nature exist. It is due to the blessing of education that many people have gained guidance from our books whereas at the beginning they were very much opposed. An intelligent person doubtless becomes perplexed at the challenge posed by the Cross and its activities that have progressed to a very high degree. Their books are spread far and wide and, collectively, their extreme efforts seem so powerful that one could easily be led to despair as to how that power could ever be broken and how the Unity of God would spread on the surface of the earth! All the means of weakening Islam are present and the Cross is in force. However, it is always the case that God Almighty does what He wills and whatever He decides comes into being.

“Dost thou not know that Allah has the power to do all that He wills?” (Ch.2: V.107)

[The message contained in this verse] is the only thing that reassures even in the face of immense difficulties such that one's intelligence may give the verdict that Islam cannot be reestablished. I do not, however, accept such a verdict. Opinions of this type are heard from time to time but they are proving to be wrong. When God intends to do something, it happens.” Review of Religion August 2003 P15-21)

We will stop here for today. We will incha Allah continue next time. May Allah help each one amongst us to understand the wisdom of these words and to act accordingly to win His Pleasure incha Allah. Ameen.