

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Today, incha Allah, we will finish reading the speech that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) delivered in Qadian in February 1904 in front of some of his followers. He was speaking about “the efficacy of repentance”, about how a change in people’s selves can bring about a change in the world. In the last part that I read last week, he was speaking about how he was convinced that Islam will again predominate in the world in the future as it did in the past. Such a reformation, he was convinced, will be brought about by members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya. So, he said:

“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. At the time of the Holy Prophet (saw), did people have a positive opinion about his mission? Who was there who believed that a poor person who had neither power nor any grandeur, who had no army and possessed no wealth and who faced opposition from all sides would eventually be successful and that the promises of victory, support and glory made by God Almighty would all be fulfilled? Despite apparent hopelessness, there was hope and all the promises came to be fulfilled and the testimony [contained in the following verse of the Holy Qur’an] was gained.

This day have I perfected your religion. (Ch.5:V.4)

Furthermore, there was revealed the Chapter [containing the following verse]: **When the help of Allah comes, and the victory. (Ch.110: V.2)** Similarly, it is possible that

someone in our Community may consider it an impossibility that the power of the Cross will ever be broken but I say that God can do everything. God must have various means with which this trial will come to an end but we have no knowledge of these. Nevertheless, we need to have faith that God's promises are true and even if all material means point to the negation of His promises, even then His Promise is true. If it were the case that there was not a single person with me, even then His promise would be true. The promise is weak of a person whose power and control is weak but there is no weakness in our God. He is Omnipotent and that which He has set in motion, continues. Our Community should hold fast to this belief. At times the Community is faced with trial and tribulation and there occurs some splits. The Companions of the Holy Prophet (saw) migrated from Mecca to Medina and to Ethiopia but God brought them together again in one place. It is the practice of God that He tries and such trials can take on such a severe form that it seems as if a powerful earthquake has erupted when one is forced to call out:

When will come the help of Allah? (Ch.2: V.215)

At such times, some people's thoughts turn to the idea that perhaps God's promise is wrong but eventually God's word proves truthful.

This system has been established in the heaven at its appropriate time and if all other proofs are overlooked then the timing itself is a great proof. It is now twenty years since the beginning of the [Islamic] century and God's promise is contained in the Holy Qur'an and in the Ahadith that the Promised Messiah (as) would be born at the time of the trial posed by the Cross. The extreme nature of the force of this trial can easily be observed. Numerous reports reveal that nearly thirty hundred thousand Muslims have abandoned their faith. Previously, even if one person became apostate from among the people of Islam, it was considered a grave act and caused much concern. Should God not take care even at a time such as this? Consider also the poor state of the practice [of the Muslims]. They are Muslims in name - some are even addicted to and remain under the influence of such drugs as marijuana and cannabis. Is there not need even now [for a Reformer]?

Christians too are expectant [of a Messiah] and they indicate the present time [for the Second Coming of the Messiah]. Holy people who experience visions have also pointed to the same period. Circumstantial evidence and other indications also point to this time. If God had not taken care now, the world would have either gone completely astray or there would be Christianity. He who believes in God and the Holy Qur'an has to accept [the message of the time] but those who like the Jews are oblivious to the significance of the time, suffer deprivation. People also present the argument of *Sawad-e-Azam*, that

[the claim to be the Promised Messiah] goes against the principle of collective agreement. These are foolish people who do not even know that a Reformer only comes when people have gone astray. What kind of significance can there be in the unity of such people and their witness? The Holy Prophet (saw) of God states that he has seen the Messiah (as) among those who have passed away in the *Mi'raj* and then the death of the Messiah (as) is proven from the Holy Qur'an. Thus, the Holy Prophet's word and deed have both proved the death of the Messiah (as). John (as) died and it was with him that the Holy Prophet (saw) saw Jesus (as). How can someone be alive who is with the dead for so long? Apart from this, God states that we should not accept anything that is without a precedent. For the Prophethood of the Holy Prophet (saw) of Islam, God provided precedence. Hence, there ought to be a precedent for the fact that Jesus (as) is still alive. This age is the time of spring for Islam. Even if we had remained silent, God would not desist. In reality, we are doing nothing, it is God who is doing everything. We write and speak only for the sake of earning God's reward. The door of His blessing has now been opened and whatever God has intended, He will most certainly bring it into being. You can see that we have neither speakers nor lecturers, nor do we have any society working on our behalf but our Community is progressing. There are thousands who have taken the oath of allegiance merely on the basis of dreams. There was no one to explain matters to them or to make them understand. It was God who guided them. Did we have it in our power to do all this? It is His hand that is working. Truth is such a thing that once it enters the heart, it is difficult for it to be removed.

Those who accept our teaching after investigation, consider it to be dearer than their lives. One example of this is Maulvi Abdul Latiff (may Allah be pleased with him) who himself had thousands of disciples. He owned a large estate and possessed much wealth. He was a religious scholar at the royal court (in Afghanistan) yet he left everything and accepted death. Can falsehood possess such power and blessing? Except for truth, does anything else possess such power? Here in the Punjab there are many that are put to great hardship merely because of their belief. Their nation, their brotherhood and the villagers all create hardship and painful circumstances for them merely because they have accepted the truth. In short, if God had not placed this in their hearts why would they undergo such tribulations of such a harsh nature that their own fathers and brothers separate from them. There are some that earn just two anna daily after much hard work and from that they pay their contribution to us. They offer the Tahajjud prayers and they are steadfast upon Salat. They bow before God with extreme humility and deep feeling. The point to ponder is that except for the fact that God should grant them the light of faith and pour truth into their hearts, how else could all this be achieved? For seeing and

understanding, the book Buraheen Ahmadiyya is a sufficient sign in itself. As is stated [in a Persian verse]:

‘One word is enough to discover if there is someone inside the house.’

For an intelligent person just one thing is sufficient. God promised long life - is anyone able to say that he would live for so many years? Most of the promises made in the book Buraheen Ahmadiyya have already been fulfilled and some are still outstanding. If this was the work of a human being how could there have been so much support and if the promises were not from God how could they have been fulfilled? In short, consider the time, the age, the deviation, the inner and outer state [of the Muslims] and you will realise yourself [that it is time for the appearance of a Reformer]. We are not angry with our opponents because truth is always challenged to the bitter end. If one looks at the life of the Holy Prophet (saw) of Islam, one will note how many challenges he had to face but did Musailma [the false claimant] face any challenge at all?” (Review of Religions August 2003).

May Allah help each one amongst us to deepen our knowledge of the teachings of Islam as presented by Hazrat Masih Maood (as) in his books and speeches. Even in this speech, there is much for us to ponder. We need to question ourselves often and wonder whether we are doing what is expected of us or not. This self-examination is a must if we want to progress on the path to Allah. May Allah grant us greater conviction in our beliefs so that we stay firm and never lose faith in the Promise of Allah. We should never let ourselves be discouraged. On the contrary, we should always continue to move forward and strive to be an embodiment of the true teachings of Islam as we have understood them incha Allah. Ameen.