

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Incha Allah, today as well, on this blessed day of Jummah we will be reminding ourselves of the blessed words of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) who Allah sent to us so that we may be aware of the teachings of the Holy prophet Muhammad (saw) in its pristine purity. May Allah help each one amongst us to value these words and may we all mould our lives taking them as guide posts.

Last week, I presented an extract about what is the meaning of success as a Muslim and what is expected of us to achieve it. Today we will read another extract. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said:

“The time of battle and the sword is so dangerous that even just the thought of it is very disturbing. It is a time when emotions are aroused [and one can easily forget all else] but the Companions of the Holy Prophet (saw) did not forget God even at times such as these. They did not abandon their Salat and always turned to prayer. The unfortunate thing these days is that the Muslims, in their efforts to assist the advancement of the Muslims tend to neglect God. They hold conferences, they make long speeches and put in much effort to bring about a change in the situation of the Muslims but they are so negligent towards God that they do not even give Him a thought. In such a state of affairs, when all their efforts are for the world, what hope is there that their wishes would bear fruit!

Remember that until [the meaning of the words] *La ilaha illallah* [i.e. there is no God but Allah] penetrates into the heart and mind and until the light of Islam reaches into every particle of one's being and rules over it, there can never be any progress. Should you present the example of the Western nations having achieved progress then remember that theirs is a different case. You have been given the Book [the Holy Qur'an], and a conclusive argument is before you. For others it is a separate matter and for them there is a different time for reckoning. However, if you, [the Muslims] abandon the Book of God, then for you there is hell in this very world. Given the present state of Islam, groups are formed and conferences are held in nearly every town to make the condition of the Muslims better but no sympathizer of Islam ever utters the words that the Qur'an should be made the Guide and the basis of our practice. If they say anything at all it is that people should learn English, colleges should be set up and people should aim to adopt professions such as that of a barrister or a lawyer. This shows that there remains no faith in God. It is the case that even the very skillful physicians end their

treatment should it not produce positive effects within ten days. Here, there is failure after failure and yet there is no turning away from the proposed ‘remedy’. If it was in fact the case that there was no God, then by all means progress could be achieved by abandoning Him. However, when there is a God, and there necessarily is a God, then we can never achieve progress by abandoning Him. Having shown disrespect to God and to God’s Book, people still wish that they should be successful and their nation should be formed – but it can never be so. In my view it is quite evident that there is only one path of progress and that is to know God and to have a living belief in Him. However, if such ideas were to be mentioned in a worldly gathering, people would mock at them but I feel pity for them that they are unable to see what I can see!” [Malfuzaat, Vol. 2, pp.155-158.]

These words are very important for each one of us. There is no doubt that we need to work to have a source of income in this world. Yet, we should not make the world and its riches become the “be all and end all” of our life. For us, it should be just a means. Our ultimate aim should always be to understand why we are here and once we understand that aim, what should we do to achieve it. It is in such circumstance that I repeat the golden words of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) when he said:

“Our paradise lies in our God. Our highest delight is in our God for we have seen Him and have found every beauty in Him. This wealth is worth procuring though one might have to lay down one’s life to procure it. This ruby is worth purchasing though one may have to lose oneself to acquire it. **O ye, who are bereft! Run to this fountain and it will satisfy you.** It is the fountain of life that will save you. What shall I do, and how shall I impress the hearts with this good news, and by beating what **drum** shall I make the **announcement** that this is our God, so that people might hear? What remedy shall I apply to the ears of the people so that they should listen?” (From *Kashti Nuh*, Essence of Islam Vol. 1, p. 38).

By Allah’s Grace, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) was honoured by Allah. What he knew of Allah was because of his submission and his deep love for Him. When he came to know how great a treasure Allah was, he wanted others to know about Him and that is why he created Jamaat Ahmadiyya under Allah’s instructions. We might delude ourselves by thinking that just by being a member of the Jamaat we can achieve that aim. But that is not the case. Being a member of Jamaat Ahmadiyya means you are ready to embark on that difficult journey for the quest of Allah. Note the words that he used above. He says:

“Remember that until [the meaning of the words] *La ilaha illallah* [i.e. there is no God but Allah] penetrates into the heart and mind and until the light of Islam reaches into every particle of one’s being and rules over it, there can never be any progress.”

To help us to understand “*laa Ilaha Illallah*”, the Promised Messiah said:

“The Muslims are urged to be saying *La ilaha illallah*, for, without this, they cannot become brave. When a man says *La ilaha illallah* he begins to realise the truth of the authority of all the rulers, officers, opponents, friends as being futile. He thus acts bravely and there is none who can frighten him Spiritual insight is also something worthwhile. A Jew saw the Holy Prophet, *sallallahu alaihi wa sallam*; had a look at him and remarked that he could see the signs of prophethood in him. Likewise, when the Christians were called to a prayer duel they rejected the offer, for, their adviser told them that what he saw in his (the Holy Prophet) face was that if he asked the mountain to move, it would definitely move away from its place. (*Malfoozat*, Vol. 1, p. 374)

When we read the writings of the Promised Messiah (as), we understand that each one among us should embark upon a quest for Allah. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has explained in detail the steps leading us to Allah. In the early days of the Divine manifestation in Mauritius, there was much talk about *abdaals* (the changed ones). Here is what the Promised Messiah (as) said on this important matter:

“You should know that as a man goes on bringing about a change in his life, he moves into the category of *Abdaal*. The secrets of the significance of the Holy Quran are not revealed to any one unless he joins the category of *Abdaal*. The generality of the people have misunderstood the meaning of the word *Abdaal* and they have given it various interpretations. Whereas the fact is that *Abdaal* are the people who bring about a pious change in their lives, the change which removes the darkness of the sin and clears off the rust. The kingdom of the Satan is demolished and their heart **becomes the seat of God the Almighty**. Thereafter they become the recipients of power from the Holy Spirit and they are vouchsafed the Grace of God. I give you the good news that whoever from among you bring about a pious change in their lives, will become *Abdaal*. If a man moves towards God, God's grace comes forward to hold his hand. It is quite true – and I should like to impress it upon you that no amount of cleverness can make a man know the secrets of the Holy Quran. It is not enough to have a sharp brain, to attract the knowledge of the Holy Quran. The real source of this knowledge is *Taqwa*. God Himself is the Teacher of the *Muttaqi*. That is why the Prophets are mostly unlettered. And that also is the reason why the Holy Prophet has been called *Ummi* (unlettered). (*Malfoozat* Vol. 1, p. 408)

Hence the need for introspection which can help us to continue our struggle on the path to Allah. We should be able to examine how we are doing in this journey towards Allah. We need to check whether we are steadfast in our prayers. We need to ask ourselves how far we do our best to pray on time and to pray five times daily. We need to ask ourselves whether we are doing what is needed to have a better understanding of the

Holy Quran or not. If we are not doing so, we should start now and devote the necessary time for this important study. In addition, there are many other things that should be of concern to us but I will leave them for now.

In another extract from his writings, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) tells us:

“In my opinion, there is no *zikr*, recitation (*ta’weez*), care, or medicine, better than “*Istighfar*” (seeking forgiveness). I advise my friends to build a connection and friendship with God, and to always remain busy with prayers.” (Al Hakam, 30th June 1899)

Many times before, I have tried to stress the fact that we should all (young and old) engage in reciting *Istighfaar* every day. It will help us to get the necessary force to repel evil and it will help us to be protected from our evil deeds whether they have been committed deliberately or involuntarily and it will help us to keep Allah ever present wherever we are. One will understand the importance and value of *Istighfaar* when one starts reciting it often and also immediately after doing something that pricks our conscience. If the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) told us that he did *Istighfaar* more than seventy times in a day, just imagine how many should sinners like us do.

So, I say it again that all our young ones should make it a part of their life mission to study the Holy Quran and to read all the books of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) which are at present available in English on www.alislam.org.

May Allah help us all to become His obedient servants. Ameen.

I had finished preparing this sermon yesterday morning. Today, in the morning, I received the following message from Allah and I am sharing it with you. It is as follows:

قُلْ إِن صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

The first verse is from chapter 6 verse 162 and the second is part of verse 163. Its translation is as follows:

“Say, ‘My Prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are *all* for Allah, the Lord of the worlds

And so am I commanded, and I am the first of those who submit”.

Last week as well I received a few messages. The first one was “*sayaj’ allallaho bar’ da ousrin yousra*” meaning “Allah will bring about ease after hardship”. This is part of verse 8 of chapter 65.

Similarly, I received at least three verses of the Holy Quran about placing our trust in Allah. The first one was “*wa allalahe falyatawakkalil mutawakkeloun*” meaning “In Allah should all those who trust place their trust”. The second one was “*wa man yatawakkal alallhe fa howa hasbohoun*” meaning “Allah is sufficient for him who places his trust in Him”. And the third one was “All the people (*an naas*) should place their trust in Allah”.

All these are very soothing words from *rabboul alameen* to us all. May it be blessed for us all. Ameen.