

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Today, I will read the last two pages of the Arabic booklet *Sirat Abdaal* by Hazrat Masih Maood (as). Then I will read an extract from the writings of Hazrat Abdul Qadir Jilani (ra) which will insha Allah benefit us all. So, we start with the last part of the booklet that we have been reading for the past three sermons. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) says:

“Among their signs is that they remain undaunted by the strikes of trials; rather, they sail across the oceans of trials and tribulations like ships. They do not confound truth with falsehood and abhor all that is impure, and seek immaculate righteousness and commit themselves wholly [to it]. They do not want any other colour to be mixed with it. Their land is one on which rain falls unceasingly that renders them green and fresh. They possess a spear that kills the wolf, and their sublime nature resembles lofty hillocks. Their pot [intrinsic nature] boils with love [for Allah] and so they become thoroughly cooked.

Whoever comes to them—despite being like a hefty camel that is weighed down by the love of this world—will be able to go through the eye of a needle with the blessing of this righteous company. And if someone who was the servant of the Devil visits them, he will be transformed into one who transgresses not, and if an arrogant and devilish one comes to them faithfully, he definitely will humble himself to the command of Allah and become among the righteous.

O ye who hear! Do not be surprised at this for their station is even loftier, and how can I describe it when you cannot understand? They are a people who cry so profusely that their tears far exceed the water that you drink.

Among their signs is that they separate true and good deeds from the accumulated heap of actions and leave the chaff for the misguided. They take what is pure and never practice miserliness and keep seeking the truth. They continue to shake everything until it reveals what lies beneath it and discloses what they were looking for right before their eyes. They do not deny what the ignorant deny, but conduct a thorough enquiry into it. They do not live like the poor and mean, but secure the best from the market of the hereafter and are never negligent. In fact, you can hear the sound of their hearts’ restlessness like that of a boiling pot; this is the rod with which they beat the Devil. They abstain from every evil for the sake of their Beloved whom they prefer [over everything]. They broke the fangs of the snake that had misled Adam and they

beat it with a whip which is most lacerating. Thus, was it no longer possible for it to attack them; rather, it fled away from those who pelted it with stones. They pounced upon it like a lion and took it upon themselves to extirpate it, and to redeem and deliver the people from its evil. They removed its hair by boiling it just like the wool is removed from a lamb leaving its skin bare. They injured it with spears.

Their necks bow down before their Lord and they remain submissive to Him alone. They are the ones on whose account the eyes of creation are dazzled, and they surprise even the angels with their feats. They dished out their flesh to their Lord, so that He ate what was offered on the table; they were consumed with the fingertips of love and were annihilated for their Chosen Beloved.” (Booklet ends here)

In this booklet and in several others Hazrat Masih Maood (as) has been speaking about the qualities of people who are really close to Allah. It is our duty now that we strive even more to be included in the group of the selected few. May Allah help us and may He admit us out of His Grace among His chosen People. Ameen.

The second extract I wish to share with you today is from Hazrat Syed Abdul Qadir Jilani (ra). He was indeed an extraordinary man and since some time now, many of his books have been translated into English and French from Arabic. These texts are indeed spiritual treats. No one who reads them will be left uninfluenced by them. You can imagine how knowledgeable of Allah he was that what he said is quoted by Hazrat Masih Maood (as) in his booklet “*Barakaatud dua*” which has been translated into English as “Blessings of Prayer”. One of the famous books of Hazrat Abdul Qadir Jilani is “*Futuh ul Ghaib*”. I bought a copy of this book in the 1970s and the copy is still with me. But these days, most of these books are available on the net. This book contains a series of his “talks” to his students about Islamic teachings, not just the basics but the inner core of what Islam is. In the third speech/talk, he said:

“When the servant of God is in the grip of a trial, he first tries to escape from it with his own efforts, and when he fails in this, he seeks the help of others from among men such as kings and men of authority, people of the world, men of wealth, and in the case of illness and physical suffering, from physicians and doctors; but, if the escape is not secured by these, he then turns towards his Creator and Lord, the Great and Mighty, and applies to Him with prayer and humility and praise. So long as he finds the resources in his own self he does not turn towards the people and so long as he finds resources in the people he does not turn towards the Creator.

Further, when he does not get any help from God he throws- himself in His presence and continues in this state, begging and praying and humbly entreating and praising and submitting his needs in fear and hope. God the Great and Mighty, however, tires

him out in his prayer and does not accept it until he is completely disappointed in all the means of the world. The decree of God and His work then manifest themselves through him and this servant of God passes away from all the worldly means and the activities and efforts of the world and retains just his soul.

At this stage, he sees nothing but the work of God, the Great and Mighty, and becomes, of necessity, a believer in the unity of God (Tawhid) to the degree of certainty, that in reality there is no doer of anything except God, and no mover and stopper except Him, and no good and no evil and no loss and no gain and no benefit, and no conferring and no withholding and no opening and no closing, and no death and no life and no honour and no dishonour, and no affluence and no poverty but in the hand of God. He then becomes in the presence of God as a suckling babe in the hands of its nurse and a dead body in the hands of the person who gives it the funeral bath and as a ball before the stick of the polo-player — kept revolving and rolling and changing position after position and condition after condition until he feels no strength either in his own self or in others besides himself for any movement. He thus vanishes completely his own self into the work of his Master.

So, he sees nothing but his Master and His work, and hears and understands nothing except Him. If he sees anything, it is His work and if he hears and knows anything, he hears His word and knows through His knowledge and he becomes gifted with His gifts and becomes lucky through His nearness and through his nearness he becomes decorated and honoured and becomes pleased and comforted and satisfied with His promise and is drawn towards Him. And he feels aversion for and is repelled from those besides Him and he desires and relies on His remembrance and he becomes established in Him, the Great and Mighty, and relies on Him and obtains guidance from, and clothes and dresses himself with the light of His knowledge. And is apprised of the rare points of His knowledge and of the secrets of His power and he hears and remembers only from Him, the Great, the Mighty, and then offers thanks and praise therefore, and takes to prayer.”

This is a very interesting piece of advice. Each one amongst us should not fear trials. We should of course pray that Allah does not try us but tried we will be because Allah says in the Holy Quran;

أَحْسِبَ النَّاسُ أَنْ يُتْرَكُوا أَنْ يَقُولُوا آمَنَّا وَهُمْ لَا يُفْتَنُونَ
وَلَقَدْ فَتَنَّا الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَلَيَعْلَمَنَّ الْكَاذِبِينَ

Do people think that they will be left alone because they say, ‘We believe,’ and that they will not be tried?

And We did try those who were before them. So, Allah will surely distinguish those who are truthful and He will surely distinguish the liars from the truthful.
(29:3-4)

So, when we meet with trials, we will try to use our own resources to deal with them but more often than not, they are not enough and we should call upon the One who holds in His Hands the full control of every atom in this universe. But to realize such a Powerful God's existence takes some time. We need to persevere in our search for Him and under no circumstance should we be discouraged despite heavy odds against us. Eventually, Allah will take us by the hand because He says in the Holy Quran:

وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

“And *as for* those who strive in Our path—We will surely guide them in Our ways. And verily, Allah is with those who do good.” (29:70)

So, we should all strive in Allah's Path. Here I am not speaking about a jihad with sword. I am speaking about the demands that Allah has upon us which are spelled out by all the injunctions of the Holy Quran and the authentic sunnah of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). We should be asking ourselves if we are praying as we should be praying and whether we offer prayers with concentration, taking all our time or do we just rush through without paying any heed to the words that we are uttering and fail to solicit Allah's Help as we should. I will continue to remind myself and you as well of the famous words of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) concerning Allah. He says in “Noah's ark”:

How unfortunate, indeed, is the man who does not even know that he has a God with power over all things! Our Paradise, indeed, is our God: our highest enjoyment is in God, for we have seen Him and all beauty found in Him. This treasure is worth having, even if at the cost of one's life; and this is a jewel which should be purchased even if obtainable only by sacrificing one's entire being. O ye that are devoid, run to this spring, for it will slaken your thirst. It is the spring of life that shall save ye. What am I to do, and how am I to impress this glad tiding upon your mind, with what drum should I go crying through the streets that This is your God, so that all should hear! And with what unguent am I to treat the people so that their ears open to hear!

May Allah help each one among us to realize this great truth in this very life. This is possible if one does not let this world beguile us as Allah says in the Holy Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّ وَعْدَ اللَّهِ حَقٌّ فَلَا تَغُرَّنَّكُمُ الْحَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا يَغُرَّنَّكُم بِاللَّهِ الْغُرُورُ

“O ye men, assuredly the promise of Allah is true, so let not the present life deceive you, nor let the Deceiver deceive you with respect to Allah.” (35:6)

So, let not this world deceive us and let us do our best to consolidate our relationship with Allah by sincerely obeying Him and by doing what He expects from us. Ameen.