

FRIDAY SERMON

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by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As I said last week, we will be sharing with our members and friends more extracts from the book Noah's Ark (*Kishti Nuh*) of Hazrat Masih Maood (as). I believe that these words of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) have to be repeatedly read or talked about so that every generation of Ahmadiis may be inspired by them. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) is no longer here but his teachings live on and it would be a sign of wisdom on our part if we valued them in our own lives.

These days, there are many articles in international newspapers about allegations of sexual misconduct by some highly placed officials of Jamaat Ahmadiyya in England, USA and even in Rabwah. The accusation is being made by the granddaughter of both the 3rd and 4th caliph. The details of the accusations can be found on the net. What is being revealed is beyond shocking. When we said that Jamaat Ahmadiyya needed reformation, Ahmadiyya leadership was quick to respond that their caliphs are sufficient to bring about the necessary reforms and there was no place for anyone coming from Allah. But carrying out reforms within an organization is a continuous process and Hazrat Masih Maood (as) repeatedly said that reforms are carried out by people who come from Allah and not by organizations or proclaimed caliphs who have introduced a new doctrine claiming that although they are elected by men, they are from Allah.

Anyhow, when people are more concerned with administrative matters than with self-reformation, one should not be surprised that such scandals surface. Unfortunately, this is a painful story which humiliates the Jamaat of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) and shows the corruption of those who are at the head for failing to protect one of their own and for attempting a coverup. You will hear that all these are allegations. Yes, they are. But the letters that this woman has exchanged with the caliph are circulating on the net and there has not been any denial of the audio leak from the Jamaat's leadership.

In the light of this one case, one can understand the hollowness of all the grand declarations of "love for all hatred for none" or "caliph of Islam" or even the many warnings that if Justice is not observed, people will pay with dire consequences. Allah's actions (*feli shahadat*), which the caliph is fond of saying, has proved that because of not doing what they speak about, the leadership itself can cause untold damage to the Jamaat and great confusion among the people. The shepherd was not able to look after his sheep. Some of them were wolves in sheep clothing.

That is why I think that we should keep reading the writings Hazrat Masih Maood (as) – everyone is then aware of how they can lead the life of a good Muslim. So, we continue from where we left off last time. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) says:

“An essential teaching for you is that you should not abandon the Holy Quran like a thing forsaken, for therein lies your life. Those who give precedence to the Quran over every hadith and every other saying will be given precedence in heaven. Today, there is no book on the face of the earth for mankind except for the Quran. The sons of Adam have no Messenger and Intercessor but Muhammad, the Chosen One, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. Endeavour, therefore, to cultivate true love for this Prophet of glory and majesty, and do not give precedence to anyone over him, so that in heaven you may be counted as those who have attained salvation.

Remember, salvation is not something that will be manifested after death. On the contrary, true salvation exhibits its light in this very world. Who is the one who attains salvation? Such a person is he who believes that God is true and that Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is the Intercessor between God and all His creation, and that under the heaven there is no Messenger equal in rank to him, nor is there any book equal in status to the Quran. God did not desire that anyone should remain alive eternally, but this Chosen Prophet lives forever.

To keep him alive forever, God has ordained that his spiritual and law-giving blessings would last until the day of resurrection. Finally, as a continuation of his spiritual blessings, God has sent unto the world the Promised Messiah—whose advent was essential for the completion of the edifice of Islam. It was necessary that the world should not come to an end until the dispensation of Muhammad had been granted a spiritual Messiah, as had been endowed to the Mosaic dispensation. This is indicated in the verse:

إِهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ

Moses was bestowed a treasure which earlier generations had lost, and Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was bestowed the riches, which the dispensation of Moses lost. Now the dispensation of Muhammad has replaced the Mosaic dispensation, but it is thousands of times higher in status. The one sent in the likeness of Moses is greater than Moses and the one sent in the likeness of the Son of Mary is more exalted than the Son of Mary. Just as the Messiah son of Mary came in the fourteenth century after Moses, the Promised Messiah appeared in the fourteenth century after the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and he appeared at a time when the condition of the Muslims was similar to that of the Jews at the time of the advent of the Messiah son of Mary. I am that Messiah. God does what He wills. So, in these calamitous times, my soul shall intercede only for such a person who sincerely enters my allegiance of *bai'at* and wholeheartedly follows me and

submerges themselves in obedience to me to the extent that they relinquish their own will.

O ye people who consider yourselves members of my community! You will be counted as such in heaven when you truly tread upon the ways of righteousness. So, offer the five daily prayers in such fear and with such complete attention as though you were actually beholding God Almighty. Sincerely observe your fasts for the sake of God. Let everyone who is liable to pay the Zakat do so and anyone upon whom the Hajj has become obligatory and who face no hindrance ought to perform the pilgrimage. Do good in a handsome manner and discard vice with disgust. Bear well in mind that no action of yours, which is empty of righteousness, can reach God. Righteousness is the root of all goodness. No action that is rooted in righteousness will go in vain. It is inevitable that you should also be tried with various forms of anguish and misfortune, just as the faithful before you were tried. Be on your guard, lest you should falter. So long as you have a firm relationship with heaven, the earth can do you no harm. Whenever harm befalls you, it will be from your own hands and not from the hands of your enemy. Even if you lose all honour on earth, God will bestow eternal honour upon you in heaven. So do not forsake Him. You will certainly suffer pain and many of your desires will not be fulfilled, but do not lose heart in such situations, for your God tries you to see whether you are steadfast in His path or not. If you desire that even the angels should praise you in heaven, then endure beating and remain joyful, hear abuse and be grateful, suffer setbacks but do not sever your relationship with God.

You are the last community of God, so practice virtue at its best. Anyone of you who becomes slothful will be cast out of the community like a foul thing and will die in regret and will be able to do no harm to God. I gladly inform you that your God truly exists. Though all are His creation, but He chooses the one who chooses Him. He comes to the one who goes to Him. He bestows honour upon him who honours Him. Approach God with sincere hearts, and pure tongues, eyes and ears, for He will then accept you.

What God requires of you, in the matter of belief, is that God is One and that Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is His Prophet and *Khaatamul-Anbiyaa'* [the Seal of the Prophets] and that he is the greatest of them all. After him there is no Prophet except one who is cloaked in the mantle of Muhammad (saw), by way of reflection. For a servant cannot be separated from his master, nor is a branch separable from its root... Know for certain that Jesus son of Mary has died. His grave is in Mohalla Khanyar, Srinagar, Kashmir. God Almighty Himself has spoken of his demise in His Beloved Book...I do not deny the greatness of Jesus, peace be upon him, despite the fact that I have been informed by God that the Messiah of Muhammad (saw) occupies a higher status than the Messiah of Moses. Nevertheless, I hold the Messiah son of Mary, in high esteem, inasmuch as I am spiritually the *Khaatamul-Khulafaa'* [the

Seal of the Caliphs] in Islam, just as the Messiah son of Mary was the *Khaatamul-Khulafaa'* of the Israelite dispensation. The Son of Mary was the Promised Messiah of the Mosaic dispensation and I am the Promised Messiah of the dispensation of Muhammad (saw); so, I honour greatly the one whose name I bear. Anyone who asserts that I do not revere the Messiah son of Mary is mischievous and a liar...

I repeat that you should not be content with having made a superficial covenant of *bai'at*, for this amounts to nothing. God looks at your hearts and will deal with you accordingly. Look here, I discharge the obligation of conveying my message by telling you that sin is a poison—do not consume it. Disobedience to God is a filthy death—safeguard yourselves against it. Supplicate so that you might be granted strength. He who at the time of supplication does not believe that God has power over all things, except that which might be contrary to His promise, is not of my community. Whosoever does not give up lying and deceit, is not of my community. Whosoever is consumed by material greed and does not lift his eyes to look at the hereafter, is not of my community.

Whosoever does not truly give precedence to religion over the world, is not of my community. Whosoever does not repent of every vice and every evil deed, such as drunkenness, gambling, lustful glances, deceit, bribery and every misappropriation, is not of my community. Whosoever does not observe the five daily prayers, is not of my community. Whosoever is not constant in supplication and does not remember God with humility, is not of my community. Whosoever does not discard the company of an evil one who influences him towards vice, is not of my community. Whosoever does not honour his parents and does not obey them in all matters that are not contrary to the Quran, and is careless in serving them diligently, is not of my community. Whosoever does not treat his wife and her relatives with gentleness and benevolence, is not of my community. He who refrains from doing even the least bit of good to his neighbour, is not of my community. He who does not desire to forgive an offender and harbours rancour, is not of my community. Every husband who deceives his wife, and every wife who deceives her husband, is not of my community.

Whosoever breaks the covenant of *bai'at* in any respect, is not of my community. He who does not truly believe in me as the Promised Messiah and Awaited Mahdi, is not of my community. Whosoever is unwilling to obey me in all that is *ma'roof* [good], is not of my community. Whosoever associates with my opponents and endorses what they say, is not of my community.

Every adulterer, transgressor, drunkard, murderer, thief, gambler, deceiver, bribe-taker, usurper, tyrant, liar, forger and those who sit amongst them, and everyone who slanders his brothers or sisters and does not repent of his foul deeds, and does not abstain from evil company, is not of my community. All these are poisons. You cannot consume this poison and survive; light and darkness cannot exist together. Everyone who possesses a

crooked disposition and is not straightforward with God, can never achieve the blessing that is bestowed on the pure hearted....” (p. 6-12)

We will continue incha Allah next week. May Allah have mercy on all of us and on the Jamaat of the sincere followers of the Promised Messiah (as) so that they might cope with the humiliation that has been brought upon them by their own leadership. Ameen.