

FRIDAY SERMON

11 February 2022

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

Today, we will insha Allah finish the reading of the booklet of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) “*Kishti Nooh*”. So, he said:

“Become righteous so that you may live long and receive the blessings of God. He who remains engrossed in extreme luxury, lives an accursed life. He who shows discourtesy or inconsideration, lives an accursed life. He who neglects God and is unsympathetic towards His servants, lives an accursed life. A rich person will be held accountable for his duties towards God and his fellow human beings, in the same way as will one of meagre means, nay, even more severely. How unfortunate is the one who places his trust in this short span of life and completely turns away from God and makes use of those things prohibited by God with such impudence as if they were lawful for him. In the likeness of one who is mad, when angered, such a person is prepared to curse, injure or even kill. In the heat of their lustful passions, they are driven to the extremes of shamelessness. Such a person shall never attain true happiness until death seizes him.

My dear ones! You have only come to this world for a short while, much of which has already passed. Thus, do not displease your Lord. An earthly government of great might annihilate you if you displease them. Reflect, how then is it possible for you to escape the wrath of God Almighty?

If you are righteous in the eyes of God none can destroy you, for your Lord Himself shall protect you. The enemy who thirsts for your life will never be able to prevail over you. If not for this protection, no one can guard your life, and you will spend your life in fear of your enemies and be made anxious by all types of affliction. And ultimately, your final days will be consumed by grief and anger. God becomes the refuge of those who attach themselves to Him. Therefore, hasten towards him and forgo all forms of opposition to Him. Do not be indolent in fulfilling your obligations towards Him, and do not wrong His servants through your words or deeds. Remain forever fearful of the anger and wrath of heaven for this is the only path to salvation.

O learned ones of Islam! Do not hasten to reject me for there are many secrets which are not so easily understood. Do not reject what I have to say at the very first instance, for this is not the way of righteousness. If you had not been wrong about certain matters or mistaken in your interpretations of certain *ahaadeeth*, the very advent of the Promised Messiah who is the Arbitrator would have been useless...Further, your doctrines that the Messiah son of Mary will descend from heaven, join forces with the Mahdi and wage war with the people in order to coerce them into becoming Muslims are such as defame the religion of Islam. Where in the Holy Quran is the use of compulsion in religious matters permitted? Rather, Allah the Exalted says in the Holy Quran:

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ

This means that there is no compulsion in religion.

How then can the Messiah son of Mary be granted liberty to coerce people to such an extent that he would force them to accept Islam. The entire Quran repeatedly states that there is no compulsion in religion and evidently demonstrates that the battles which took place in the time of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, were not to propagate religion by force.

Instead, they were [1] in the nature of retribution, that is to say, they served as a penalty against those who had murdered a large party of Muslims and who had forced others from their homes, and committed immensely grave injustices against them. Allah the Exalted says:

أُذِنَ لِلَّذِينَ يُقْتَلُونَ بِأَنَّهُمْ ظَلَمُوا ۖ وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَىٰ نَصْرِهِمْ لَقَدِيرٌ

(HQ 22:40)

That is, permission to fight is given to those Muslims who are being subjected to war by the disbelievers, because they have been wronged, and God has the power to help them. [2] Then, there were defensive wars, which were fought to preserve freedom of choice or [3] to establish liberty in the land against those who aggressed to destroy Islam or forcefully suppress its propagation.

The Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and his blessed Caliphs never waged war except in these three cases. In fact, Muslims tolerated the injustices of other peoples to such a degree that no similar example can be found among other nations. So, what right will Jesus the Messiah and the Mahdi have to come and begin murdering people? [...]

In this country, *gaddi-nasheen* [the custodians of shrines] and *peerzaadahs* [the descendants of saints] are so estranged from religion and so deeply engrossed in their self-invented beliefs that they are entirely oblivious of the trials and tribulations that afflict Islam.

Instead of the Holy Quran and books of Hadith, their gatherings are enlivened by all sorts of tambourines, violins, drums and *qawwalee* singers etc. which are innovations in the faith. Yet despite this, they boast of themselves as being guides of the Muslims and followers of the Holy Prophet [...].

Anyone can claim to love God, but only those love Him, whose devotion is testified to by heaven. Everyone claims that their religion is true, but only the religion of such a one is true who is bestowed heavenly light in this very life. Everyone claims that he will attain salvation, but only such a person is true in his word who sees the heavenly light of salvation in this very world [...].

My dear people! This is the time for rendering services to the cause of religion.

Dear ones! The time has come to serve religion and assist its cause. Prize this opportunity—it shall not come again [...]. Why do you lose heart when you follow such a magnificent Prophet? Display such conduct that even the angels in heaven are left astonished at your loyalty and purity, and invoke blessings upon you [...].

I now conclude and pray that my teachings prove beneficial for you. May such a transformation take place within you that you become the stars of the earth, and that the earth is illumined by the light you have been granted by your Lord. *Aameen*, and again, *aameen*.” (p. 32-36)

Here ends this booklet which Hazrat Masih Maood (as) wrote in 1902. As one might rightly infer, this booklet contains the essence of the teachings of Islam which Hazrat Masih Maood (as) summarized for all his followers. Hence, it is imperative for each one amongst us to make it binding upon us that we read and reread this book quite often so that we might always be aware of what is needed from us and we do not fall into negligence concerning our duties to Allah and to our fellow human beings.

In our Friday sermons, as you might have noticed, we give priority to what Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said. In no way does this mean that we belittle what the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) said. Allah Forbids. We do so only because we believe that Hazrat Masih Maood (as) explained to us in the best possible way what Hazrat Mohammad (saw) taught us. Our life experience has been that these teachings appeal to what is best in us and help us to tread a path that puts us on the way to Allah.

To have an idea of the status of the Promised Messiah in the sight of Allah, here is a sample of how Allah has addressed him:

“[Arabic] O Ahmad, Allah has blessed you. The Most Gracious God has taught you the Qur’an so that you may warn people whose ancestors have not been warned and so that the way of the guilty ones might be made manifest. Say: I have been commissioned and I am the first of the believers. O ‘Isa [Jesus], I shall cause you to die and shall raise you towards Me and shall clear you of the calumnies of those who disbelieve and shall, until the Day of Judgment, raise those who follow you above those who disbelieve. This day, you are the one of established position and the one in a position of trust with Us. You are to Me like My Unity and My Uniqueness. The time has come that you should be helped and be recognized among people. Allah will teach you from Himself. You will establish the law and revive the faith. We have made you the Masih Ibn-e- Maryam [Messiah, son of Mary]. Allah will safeguard you Himself even if people do not safeguard you. Allah will help you even if people do not help you. This is the truth from your Lord. Then be not one of the doubters. O My Ahmad you are My purpose and are with Me. You have a high standing in My presence. I have chosen you for Myself. Say: If you love Allah, then follow me, Allah

will then love you and forgive you your sins and will have mercy on you. He is the Most Merciful of all those who show mercy.” (Tazkira p. 307)

Explaining the meaning of the descent of Hazrat Isa (as) and dajjal, he writes this:

“I beseeched Allah the High and threw myself before Him desiring that the mystery of descent might be resolved and the true interpretation of the Antichrist might be revealed so that I should know it with the certainty of knowledge and should see it with the certainty of sight. His favour then turned towards my instruction, my understanding, and it was revealed to me. I was taught from His Presence that descent in its true meaning is a reality, but that the Muslims have not understood that reality [...] My Lord informed me that descent is spiritual and not physical [...].

As to the Antichrist, now listen, I will explain to you the reality on the basis of the clear and pure revelation that I have received [...]. Then understand, my dear ones, that it has been disclosed to me that the reference to the Antichrist as one individual is not designed to indicate his personal individuality, but his unity as a species, meaning thereby that in that species there will be a unity of ideas as is, indeed, indicated by the word *dajjal* [Antichrist] itself and in this name there are many Signs for those who reflect.

The meaning of the word *dajjal* is a chain of deceptive ideas, the links of which are so attached to each other as if it was a structure of equal-sized bricks of the same colour, quality and strength, some of them firmly overlapping others and further strengthened by being plastered from outside. (*A'ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam*, pp. 552–555, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 5, pp. 552–555)

So, we have received words of wisdom from the Promised Messiah (as) and we should all value them. May Allah open our hearts to these words and may we all do our best to live by them. Ameen.