

FRIDAY SERMON

25 March 2022

By Imam Zafrullah Domun

This is the last Friday prior to the coming blessed month of Ramadan. We pray that Allah help us to see this blessed month this year. On the approach of Ramadan, the companions and the *Tabe'eens* following them used to pray for Ramadan thus ***Allahumma sallimni ila Ramadan wa sallim li Ramadan wa tasallamhu minni mutaqqabbala*** which is translated as “O Allah! Preserve me until Ramadan, safeguard Ramadan for me and accept it from me (receive my deeds with acceptance.” This prayer is not found in the six main books of Hadiths. But it nonetheless gives an idea about what we should pray for before the arrival of Ramadan. May Allah help each one among us to see Ramadan and may we all have the opportunity to fast therein and make plenty of prayers and other good deeds as well. Incha Allah. Ameen.

Now we go back to the extracts from Malfuzaat Vol 3 of Hazrat Masih Maood (as). He was speaking about the need for obedience once someone makes the oath of Allegiance. He said:

“In other words, obey Allah and His Messenger, and obey your rulers. Obedience is a quality, which if practiced wholeheartedly, bestows a spiritual radiance to the heart and illuminates the soul, granting it a pleasure.

Spiritual exercises are not needed as much as obedience is required. The condition, however, is that this obedience ought to be sincere, and this is the challenge at hand. For obedience, one must slaughter one's base desires. Without this, obedience is impossible. It is base desires which have the potential to become an idol in the hearts of even the greatest believers in God's Oneness. How blessed were the companions, may Allah be pleased with all of them, and how lost this community was in obedience to the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. It is true that no group of people can be deemed a nation, and the spirit of community and unity cannot be blown into them, until they adopt the principle of obedience.

If a community is plagued by differing views and disunity, then one may be certain that these are signs of ill-fate and decline. One factor among others, which resulted in the weakening and decline of the Muslims was mutual discord and internal dissension as well. Hence, if difference of opinion is set aside and the entire community obeys one leader—to whom Allah Almighty has made obedience obligatory—any objective can be achieved. The hand of God rests on those who are one community. This is the secret that lies beneath the surface. Allah Almighty likes unity and unity cannot be developed without obedience.

In the time of the Messenger of God, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, there were many learned companions who commanded wise views because this was the nature vested in them by God. They were experienced in principles of rule and administration, because ultimately when Hazrat Abu Bakr, may Allah be pleased with him, and Hazrat Umar, may Allah be pleased with him, and other companions became the Caliph and assumed rule, the impeccable manner in which they managed the heavy burden of sovereignty sheds ample light on their capability and wise judgement. But despite this, in the presence of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, when he would say something, all of these companions would consider all of their own views and knowledge to be worthless, and they would consider it necessary to act upon whatever instruction was given to them by the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. They were so lost in obedience to the Holy Prophet (saw) that they would seek blessings from the water left over after the Holy Prophet (saw) would finish with his ablution; they considered his holy saliva to carry blessings. If the companions did not possess this nature of obedience and submission, and if each of them gave preference to his own view, resulting in disunity, they would not have attained to the lofty ranks that they acquired. In my view, the one argument that is amply sufficient for the Sunnis and Shias to do away with their disputes is that the noble companions were free from mutual discord; indeed, all forms of discord and enmity. For their successes and their triumphs establish that they were one, and that they harboured no malice at all with anyone.

We will stop here for today. We will incha Allah restart after Ramadan. I suggest and advise that we seek *tawfiq* from Allah that he helps us to fast. Sometimes we are so confident about ourselves that we neglect asking Allah's Help to fast and the result is that we are unable to fast and we are deprived of the blessings of Ramadan. May Allah help each one among us and all Muslims in general to fast and to win His pleasure incha Allah.