

EID-UL-FITR SERMON

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By Imam Zafrullah Domun

First of all, I wish you all Eid Mubarak. *Taqabbalallahu minna wa minkoum*. By Allah's Grace, we are being given the opportunity to celebrate another Eid in our life. *Alhamdulillah*. Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, the whole Jamaat was unable to meet and pray together as we used to do before. Although we were live broadcasting our sermons to those who could not come to the mosque, it was not at all like getting together in the mosque. So, we say *Alhamdulillah* that the situation has slightly improved and that many of our friends have been able to come to the mosque. Now, as you all know, when we meet, we have to take some precautions. Everyone should have his or her mask on. We should avoid sitting close together. When we meet, we join our fist instead of giving a handshake and we avoid embracing each other. We have two very senior persons among us and it will be better to avoid touching them at all. I hope everyone will understand the constraints under which we are holding this congregation and everyone will cooperate for the common good. Incha Allah.

By Allah's Grace, most among us have been able to fast during this blessed month of Ramadan that has just left us except those who had valid excuses not to do so. It is a great favour of Allah upon us that each one among us has been able to accomplish this important obligation of fasting. We hope and pray that Allah has accepted it from us all. As good Muslims, we have done what we could with the hope that Allah accepts our fasts and that he rewards us for it as He has promised us in the several hadiths that we have mentioned in our recent and previous sermons. Allah always appreciates our humble efforts. He tells us 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.*

In a hadith, we are told:

“By Allah, Allah is more pleased with the repentance of His servant than what one of you would do on finding the lost camel in the waterless desert. When he draws near Me by the span of his hand, I draw near him by the length of a cubit and when he draws near Me

by the length of a cubit. I draw near him by the length of a fathom and when he draws near Me walking, I draw close to him hurriedly.” (Muslim Book 37, no. 6610)

In another hadith, the first part of the hadith is explained thus:

“Allah is more pleased with the repentance of His believing servant than a person who loses his riding beast carrying food and drink. He sleeps (being disappointed of its recovery) and then gets up and goes in search for that, until he is stricken with thirst. Then comes back to the place where he had been before and goes to sleep completely exhausted placing his head upon his hands waiting for death. And when he gets up, lo there is before him his riding beast and his provisions of food and drink. Allah is more pleased with the repentance of His servant than the recovery of this riding beast along with the provisions (of food and drink)” (Muslim Book 37, no. 6613)

So, we understand that Allah is very pleased with His servants when they come back to Him. Coming back to Allah means that we understand that we have been committing sins and we want to be absolved of them. The holy month of Ramadan came in order to give us plenty of occasions to repent and to carry on our life in a way that conforms to His teachings as spelled out in the Holy Quran and as explained by the Sunnah of the Holy prophet Mohammad (saw). The purpose of our existence is spelled out in the following verse as I explained in my Jummah sermon a few days before. The verse is:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

And I have not created the Jinn and the men but that they may worship Me. (51:57)

Under the commentary of this verse, we read from the five-Volume Commentary published by Jamaat Ahmadiyya International:

“The primary signification of the word (عبادة) (*Ibadat*) as shown under Important Words above, is to subject oneself to a rigorous spiritual discipline, working with all one’s inherent powers and capacities to their fullest scope, in perfect harmony with and in obedience to God’s design, so as to receive the Divine impress and thus be able to manifest in oneself God’s attributes. This is, as stated in the present verse, the great and noble aim and object of man’s creation and this is exactly what worship of God means. The external and internal endowments of human nature give us clearly to understand that of God-given faculties the highest is the one which awakens in man the urge to search after God and incites in him the noble desire completely to submit himself to His will. This being the great object of man’s existence the Quran has not failed to prescribe ways and means to attain it.” (p. 2995-96)

Those who are interested to know more should read it on alislam.org/Quran. There is a detailed explanation of how we can achieve this noble objective.

So, in the light of the above we may say that all those who fasted have done their best to achieve this great purpose of our existence during this month of Ramadan. We have been sacrificing our food and drink and our sleep because Allah has asked us to do so. We have been reading the Holy Quran more than we usually do in the other days of the year. We have spent money in charity so that the poor also may have something with which they can cope in the difficult times we are going through. We have avoided discussing with anyone who wants to pick a quarrel with us and we have done our best to control our eyes and we have avoided watching stupid films on television or even in engaging in stupid conversations. This has been what we have been trying to do during the past 29 days. We did all this because Allah has imposed most of these restrictions and duties upon us. In other words, we did our best to obey Him. However, He does not expect us to obey Him only for 29 or 30 days of the year. He expects us to obey Him every hour every moment of our life. That is the challenge which we have to face when we declare that we are a Muslim. The Muslim does not have to struggle with others as some people misunderstand. The Muslim has to struggle with his base self commonly known as *nafse ammara*. That is a lifetime struggle.

So, this is what we should bear in mind when we are leaving the month of Ramadan behind. We should do our best to consolidate what we have been doing in the month of Ramadan. We do not just feel a relief that the struggle of Ramadan is gone and now we can relax. And we start relaxing by praying Namaz Fajr late on Eid day. If that is the case with us, then we have difficulty in learning and practicing. After Ramadan is not the time to put our Holy Quran on a shelf and reopen it the coming Ramadan. We should be Muslims who read the Holy Quran every day of the Year and do our best to absorb its teachings and do our best to put them into practice. In addition, we should pray to Allah to help us get a deep understanding of His Book. We should study and be always desirous of more knowledge. We need to constantly ask Allah to unlock our heart and to illumine us by His light so that we might see everything through Him, to avoid being deluded into believing a mirage to be water.

Allah has made us Muslims and we should be proud and thankful for that. Recently, I read an extract from one of the speeches of Hazrat Ali (*karamallaho wajhahou*) about Islam. I found it to be so beautiful that I wish to share it with you all so that we might understand the gift of belonging to the religion of Islam. He said:

“All praise is for Allah, Who laid down Islam and made its laws for those who enter its fold; Who made its pillars strong against those seeking to vanquish it. He made it a sanctuary for those who cling to it and a source of peace for those who enter it. He made it a proof for one who speaks about it, an evidence for him who debates in its defense and a light for one who seeks light from it. He made it a source of understanding for the intelligent and the source of intellection for the contemplative. He made it a sign of guidance for the discerning and a source of insight for the determined. He made it a lesson

for those seeking exhortation and the means of salvation for those who testify to its truths. He made it a source of confidence for those who put their trust in Allah, the source of tranquility for those who entrust their affairs to Him, and a shield for those who are patient.” (*nahjal balagha*)

As we can notice, Hazrat Ali (*karamallaho wajhahou*) is here speaking about Islam as a religion, its shariah. In other words, its teachings. It is incumbent upon us all to delve deep into these teachings so that we might know our religion in the best possible way and that at the end of our existence, we are very happy to go to where we would be meeting our Allah. Incha Allah. We may relax a bit but we should never be negligent in doing what the shariah has imposed upon us. We should be ever vigilant and prevent Shaitan from deluding us with the life of this world.

I will end with an extract from the Malfuzaat of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) which I have personally translated because I could not find the translation anywhere. He said:

“What is the day that is better than the two Eids and Jummah and is also blessed? I am telling you that this is the day when a person repents. It is the best of days and even better than all Eids. Why? Because on that day, the book of bad actions that was taking man near to hell and which was bringing him under Allah’s wrath will be washed clean and his sins will be forgiven. In fact, what can be a greater day of joy and Eid than this; that it will deliver him from the eternal hell and eternal wrath of Allah. When the sinner who, previously, was far from God and was a target of his punishment, repents, he becomes near Allah by His Grace and he is far removed from hell and its punishment. As Allah has said “*Innallaha yohibbut tawwabeena wa yohibboul muttatahhereen* (HQ 2:223) (Definitely, Allah loves those who repent and who keep themselves pure). From this verse, not only do we understand that those who repent become the beloved of Allah, but that true repentance is necessarily accompanied by purity and cleanliness. One ought to get rid of all types of uncleanness and filth or else by just repenting with words will bring no benefit at all. So that day is indeed such a blessed day that a man repents of his bad deeds and makes an engagement of peace with Allah and submits himself to obeying his commandments. As a consequence, there is no doubt that he would be safe from the punishment which was being prepared for him stealthily as a result of his bad deeds and he would win that thing which he did not expect at all.” (Malfuzaat, vol 7, Edition 1984, p. 149-150)

May Allah grant us knowledge and deep insight of the Holy Quran and may he accept our humble efforts in practicing islam. We implore Him to deal with us with His Mercy. Ameen. Once again, Eid Mubarak to you all.

2nd Sermon

Alhamdo Lillah once again Allah has gratified our heart with words from Himself. I will speak about two of them. First is “رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ”, which means “Allah is pleased

with them and they are pleased with Him.” I tried to find out from the Holy Quran where these words are written. I found four places. They are as follows. I will read them so that we might know in what circumstance Allah has said these words. I am not reading them in the order they are written in the Holy Quran because the message in each place can stand alone.

لَا تَجِدُ قَوْمًا يُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ يُوَادُّونَ مَنْ حَادَّ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ وَلَوْ كَانُوا آبَاءَهُمْ أَوْ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ أَوْ إِخْوَانَهُمْ أَوْ عَشِيرَتَهُمْ ۖ أُولَٰئِكَ كَتَبَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمُ الْإِيمَانَ وَأَيَّدَهُم بِرُوحٍ مِّنْهُ ۖ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ۗ ۖ وَيُدْخِلُهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا ۚ أُولَٰئِكَ حِزْبُ اللَّهِ ۗ أَلَا إِنَّ حِزْبَ اللَّهِ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ ﴿٢٣﴾

Thou wilt not find any people who believe in Allah and the Last Day loving those who oppose Allah and His Messenger, even though they be their fathers, or their sons or their brethren, or their kindred. These are they in whose hearts Allah has inscribed true faith and whom He has strengthened with inspiration from Himself. And He will make them enter Gardens through which streams flow. Therein will they abide. Allah is well pleased with them, and they are well pleased with Him. They are Allah's party. Harken ye O people! it is Allah's party who will be successful.
(58:23)

قَالَ اللَّهُ بَدْءَ يَوْمٍ يَنْفَعُ الصَّادِقِينَ صِدْقُهُمْ ۚ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٌ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا ۚ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ۗ ۖ ذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ۖ أَبَدًا

Allah will say, 'This is a day when only the truthful shall profit by their truthfulness. For them are Gardens beneath which streams flow; therein shall they abide forever. Allah is well pleased with them, and they are well pleased with Him; that indeed is the great triumph.' (5:120)

ۖ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ ۖ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمْ خَيْرُ الْبَرِيَّةِ ۖ جَزَاءُهُمْ عِنْدَ رَبِّهِمْ جَنَّاتٌ عَدْنٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا ۖ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ ۗ ۖ ذَلِكَ لِمَنْ خَشِيَ رَبَّهُ ۖ

Their reward is with their Lord — Gardens of Eternity, through which streams flow; they will abide therein forever. Allah is well pleased with them, and they are well pleased with Him. That is for him who fears his Lord. (98:8-9)

وَالسَّابِقُونَ السَّابِقُونَ مِنَ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنْصَارِ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ
رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي تَحْتَهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا
أَبَدًا ذَلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ

And as for the foremost among the believers, the first of the Emigrants and the Helpers, and those who followed them in the best possible manner, Allah is well pleased with them and they are well pleased with Him; and He has prepared for them Gardens beneath which flow rivers. They will abide therein forever. That is the supreme triumph. (9:100)

The second verse that I have received is تَحِيَّتُهُمْ يَوْمَ يَلْقَوْنَهُ سَلَامٌ ۖ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَرِيمًا

This is from Surah Al Alzab (Ch 33)

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اذْكُرُوا اللَّهَ ذِكْرًا كَثِيرًا
وَسَبِّحُوهُ بُكْرَةً وَأَصِيلًا
هُوَ الَّذِي يُصَلِّيْ عَلَيْكُمْ وَمَلَائِكَتُهُ لِيُخْرِجَكُمْ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ ۚ وَكَانَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ رَحِيمًا
تَحِيَّتُهُمْ يَوْمَ يَلْقَوْنَهُ سَلَامٌ ۖ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ أَجْرًا كَرِيمًا

O ye who believe! remember Allah with much remembrance;

And glorify Him morning and evening.

He it is Who sends blessings on you, as do His angels, that He may bring you forth from all kinds of darkness into light. And He is Merciful to the believers.

Their greeting on the day when they meet Him will be, 'Peace.' And He has prepared for them an honourable reward.

(33:42-45)

Allah draws our attention to what He has said in His book which is revelation *par excellence*. Our task is to read His book everyday and love the book and absorb its teachings. By doing so, we will be more deserving of Allah's rewards and incha Allah we will achieve the objective of our existence. This is the take away message as we are withdrawing from the blessed month of Ramadan of this year. May Allah help us all to see further months of Ramadan.