

# FRIDAY SERMON

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**By Imam Zafrullah Domun**

We will read some extracts from Hazrat Masih Maood's (as) *Malfuzaat* before we go back to the book “Ills or maladies of the soul and its remedies” by Imam Sulami. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said:

“Then, I see that a number of our friends bid farewell to this world every year. No one knows who will be alive in the year to come and who shall be summoned by God. Therefore, before a person departs this world, they must be in good standing with God. It is also true that no individual can receive divine grace until they possess sincere love for the chosen one of God. The manner in which one can truly prove their love is by obeying the one sent by God.

The Sufis say that a follower can have no benefit until they consider their spiritual guide to be better than all others. In my view, this is undoubtedly true.

However, those who suggest that a spiritual guide should sit with a constant scowl on their face are wrong in my estimation. Why should a person do away with good morals? A spiritual guide must never forsake the way of the Prophets; rather, they must be men of great magnanimity and kindness. Those who come from God on the precepts of prophethood bring with them sublime morals. This is my belief. In my view, anything but praise for the Prophets, peace be upon them, is blasphemy.”

The Promised Messiah (as) says: “Therefore, a truly magnificent quality for an individual is to inculcate exemplary morals and righteousness. This, however, requires one to remain in the company of those who are among the Truthful, so be concerned about how you can stay with me. Consider these days to be a gift and look at the life of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, as an example to follow.”

Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk Fath-e-Nawaz Jang Syed Mahdi Husain Sahib, Bar at Law, who was a trustee of Aligarh College, came to visit His Holiness (as) with immense joy and sincerity.

The Promised Messiah (as) delivered the following address: “Each and every step that is taken on the path of rectitude, and in search of the truth, is blessed with a great reward. However, the realm of spiritual reward is hidden and cannot be seen by the physical eye.

The fact of the matter is that despite being manifest, Allah Almighty is the most hidden and concealed; one of His names is *Al-Ghayb* (the Unseen). In the same manner, belief in the unseen is also an aspect of faith which, although beyond the physical eyes, becomes manifest through the practical state of an individual. At present, belief in the unseen has become extremely weak. If people truly believed in God, why do they not possess a thirst for truth and rectitude, which is the hallmark of faith?

It is faith which moves a person to bear hardships on the path of God, and to become fully prepared to endure trials and tribulations in His cause. Faith is a power that grants one true courage and resolve. This example can be found in the lives of the noble companions, may Allah be pleased with all of them. When they accepted the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, what gave them the hope of receiving spiritual reward for joining a seemingly weak and helpless man? All that a worldly eye could see was that after joining this one man, all the surrounding peoples became enemies. As far as this community was concerned, it was inevitable that a mountain of hardships and afflictions would fall upon them and crush them, and they would perish. But these people possessed another eye as well, which saw these trials and tribulations as though they were nothing, and which made them feel that it was a means of pleasure and tranquility to die in this cause. This eye saw what was completely hidden and imperceptible by the eyes of those who viewed the apparent. This was the eye of faith and the power of faith, which made all this pain and suffering seem insignificant.

Ultimately, it was faith that prevailed. Indeed, it was a miracle of faith that he who was the target of ridicule, and who was deemed weak and helpless, raised—through the power of faith—this community of followers to remarkable heights.

That spiritual reward, which was hidden initially, later became so manifest that the world witnessed it and was able to perceive that it was indeed the fruit of their faith. It was by the gift of faith that the community of the companions did not tire, nor lose strength. In fact, moved by the power of faith, they made the greatest, most magnificent achievements; and after all this, they would say that they had not done as much as they should have. Faith granted the companions such strength that putting forward their necks and laying down their lives was insignificant, and all this at a time when Muslims were yet to see any concrete results. Just observe the kinds of hardship and affliction that the Muslims endured at the hands of their enemies merely for proclaiming:

*Laa Ilaha Illallah Mohammdur rasoolallah*

*There is none worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.*

There was a time when laying forth one's head to be slaughtered seemed insignificant.

Yet, now we are in an era where people have fallen so weak in the strength of their faith that even though our opponents do not subject us to such torments, even though we live under the shade of a just government, even though the ruling power does not interfere in our religious obligations, even though every facility is available for the acquisition of religious knowledge, even though there is no actual difficulty in fulfilling the tenets of our religion, even one prostration in Prayer seems a heavy burden on the people. Reflect! On the one hand, there are people whose heads were severed, while here all that is required is one prostration. This clearly demonstrates the extent to which the people's faith has deteriorated.

People are negligent, even though the observance of Prayer and performing ablution carries medical benefits as well. Physicians say that if every day a person did not wash their face, this would cause ophthalmia (an inflammation of the eye— Editor) and this is a precursor to cataract. This results in many other ailments as well. Tell me, why does it feel like the end of the world for people to perform ablution? Anyone can see the excellence in this practice. In the ablution, a person must rinse their mouth with water and they must brush their teeth; this expels foul odour from the mouth and strengthens the teeth, which in turn

enables one to properly chew their food so that it may be easily digested. Then, one is required to clean their nose. When a foul smell enters the nasal passages, this disturbs the mind. Now do tell me, what is so unacceptable about this? After this, they take their needs before Allah Almighty and receive an opportunity to submit their requests to Him. During this time one has ample opportunity to make their supplications.

At most, it takes one hour to offer the Prayer; although some Prayers take less than fifteen minutes. It is astonishing then that the offering of Prayer is considered to be a waste of time, even though it possesses such merits and benefits. Even if the entire day and night are wasted away in vain and useless things, or in sport and merriment, this is regarded as being occupied. If the people possessed strong faith—rather, strong faith aside, if they possessed any faith at all, why would this be their condition and why would matters reach such a plight?

The state of the people's faith has deteriorated immensely. Yet, the individual who desires to make the people realize this weakness and cure it, and the one who tells them of a path by which they can receive strength and courage from God, is labelled a disbeliever and Antichrist. I say that if the people cannot accept with certainty that faith bears fruit, then in the least, let them suppose it. Even assumed propositions lead to great and significant outcomes. Just observe how the entire foundation of Euclid is based on a set of initial axioms; thus, even assumptions are remarkably beneficial. Many important and fundamental sciences are based initially on hypotheses. Now, if the people had accepted faith even on the basis of assumption, I am certain that they would not have remained deprived of belief completely. However, the state of affairs in this era is that they consider faith to be something that is wholly meaningless.

### **The Faith of the Companions**

Once again, I present the state of the companions as an example and say that they believed in the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and demonstrated through their practical example that they witnessed with their eyes—indeed, with their eyes—that God Who is the most unseen of all beings, and Who is hidden and veiled from the sight of those who worship falsehood.

Otherwise, do tell me, why did they not care even slightly for the fact that they were compelled to leave their people, abandon their homeland, forsake their properties and sever ties with their friends and relatives? It was nothing other than trust in God alone. It was through trust in God that they were able to accomplish feats which fill a person with astonishment and wonder when passing through the pages of history. The companions possessed faith, and faith alone. In contrast, they were confronted by the schemes and designs of worldly people, along with their utmost endeavours and intense efforts, yet their opponents could not prevail over them. The opposition was greater in number, supporters, wealth and in everything else, but they were devoid of faith. It was due to their lacking this one aspect—faith—that they perished without attaining success. The companions, on the other hand, won over everything due to the strength of their faith. They heard the voice of a man who was brought up without a formal education, as one unlettered, but he was renowned for his truth, honesty and righteousness. When he announced that he had come from Allah Almighty, they joined him at once, and followed him madly. I reiterate once more that it was only one thing that transformed the state of the companions, and it was faith. Remember! Faith in God is a magnificent quality.

The British and other western nations in general are occupied in worldly investigations and objectives. Initially, they begin their work on the basis of a presumed and supposed hope. Hundreds of lives are wasted and thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of rupees, are spent and exhausted in this cause. Ultimately, they do find some truth. Then, how unfortunate and surprising is it that people say one cannot find God. Who has ever made an effort, and striven in this cause, and then not found God? God can be found, and very quickly at that, but where are those who seek Him?

If someone were to raise the allegation that God does not exist, I would say that this is absolutely absurd; nothing could be more foolish and ignorant than to deny the existence of God. Worldly courts issue a verdict even if there are two witnesses; in fact, a few witnesses are enough for the courts to issue a verdict against something as valuable as life itself, and people are hung. This is despite the fact that fabrication and conspiracy in the matter of witnesses is not just some imaginary risk; there are actual cases of this as well. Yet, when it comes to God, the testimony of thousands, in fact, hundreds of thousands of people who are categorically recognized in their own nation and country as being righteous and of good character, is deemed insufficient. What could be more asinine and obstinate?

Hundreds of thousands from among the holy bear witness, and have demonstrated through their practical example, and written testimony with the blood of their heart that God most definitely exists. After all this, anyone still in denial is foolish.” ( Malfuzaat, Vol. 3)

May Allah help us to reflect upon these words. May Allah increase our faith in Him every moment we live. Ameen.