

FRIDAY SERMON

26th August 2022

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We will continue reading from the 3rd volume of Malfuzaat of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) in English. As we have said several times before, our members should make it a habit reading pages from these translations everyday if possible. But if it cannot be done everyday, then a few times every week. For someone who cannot read from the Urdu original this translation will go a long way to give one the essence of the teachings of the Promised Messiah (as). I, personally, and some of our friends have been reading these texts for a long time and we have benefitted enormously from them and we invite our young generation to do the same. It will bring them enormous spiritual benefits that is difficult to be found elsewhere.

Explaining the nature of voluntary deeds, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) says:

“There is a Hadith in *Sahih Bukhari* that through voluntary acts of worship a believer grows closer to Allah. There are obligations and then there are deeds done voluntarily. In other words, there are those injunctions that are necessary rights that must be fulfilled, and then there are voluntary deeds which are above and beyond one’s obligations. These voluntary deeds are prescribed to complement a potential deficiency in one’s obligations. People believe that voluntary worship is limited to the formal Prayer alone.

This is not the case. Every deed can be supported by an act of voluntary service. For example, a person who pays the zakat should give charity that is above and beyond this basic requirement. People fast during the month of Ramadan, but one should fast at other times during the year as well. If someone must repay a debt, they ought to return an amount that is somewhat greater, because the one who gave them the loan did them a kindness.

Voluntary deeds serve to complete a person’s obligations. When a person performs voluntary deeds, they do so with humility and fear in the hope that this will compensate for the lapses in their obligations. This is the secret that underpins the very deep relationship between voluntary acts of worship and nearness to God. Essentially, people who engage in voluntary service develop within themselves a

state of humility, meekness, and detachment from the world. Fasts are observed on the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth day of the lunar month and also there are the six fasts which are observed in the month of Shawwal. All of these are voluntary acts of worship to attain the nearness of God.

So, remember that perfect love of God can only be developed through voluntary acts of worship. As a result of this, God states: ‘I become the sight of My believing servants who are close to Me’, that is to say that the sight of such people is directed exactly in the direction that God wills. One who is sincere and true to God does not wait for death and is never heedless of the Divine.

Then God Almighty states that He becomes the ears of such people. This means that wherever Allah, His Messenger or His Book are being dishonored and denigrated, they become averse and displeased with such gatherings and leave at once. They cannot hear such things and do not pay heed to anything that is contrary to the will of Allah Almighty or against His command. They do not sit in the sorts of gatherings aforementioned. In the same manner, they avoid discussions revolving around sin and transgression, and stay away from the indecent displays and voices that are characteristic of the Sufi practice of *sama*. Illicit thoughts roused by listening to the voices of those who are beyond the permissible bounds is a fornication of the ears. This is why Islam has taught the practice of the veil. The statement of the Messiah that one should not look at someone with adulterous eyes is no complete teaching. In contrast, a complete teaching is one which saves a person even from the initial causes that lead to sin. Allah the Exalted states:

قُلْ لِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَغُضُّوا مِنْ أَبْصَارِهِمْ

Meaning, do not look at women with any intention because a man’s heart is not within his control. What a perfect teaching indeed. Then, Allah the Exalted states that I become the hands of such people. On certain occasions, an individual inflicts grave cruelty on another by the use of his hands. God states that the hands of a believer do not unjustly cross the limits of moderation; they do not touch a person of the opposite gender who is beyond the permissible bounds. Allah Almighty also states that He becomes the tongue of one who grows close to Him through voluntary worship. This may be expounded further by the following verse:

وَمَا يَنْطِقُ عَنِ الْهَوَىٰ

He does not speak of his own desire.

It is for this reason that all the words of the Messenger, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, were actually the words of Allah Almighty. In respect of the hand of the Holy Prophet (saw), Allah the Exalted states:

وَمَا رَمَيْتَ إِذْ رَمَيْتَ وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ رَمَىٰ

Thou threwest not when thou didst throw, but it was Allah Who threw.

In short, through voluntary acts of worship, an individual achieves a great rank indeed and attains the nearness of God, until he is admitted into the class of those who are known as friends of God. In respect of such people, Allah the Exalted states:

Man aadaa li waliyan faqad baazartohou lil harbe

Meaning, I say to the enemy of my friend that he should be prepared to fight Me. It is related in a Hadith that God pounces on such an enemy in the likeness of a lioness who defends her cub if it is taken from her. Therefore, man should constantly strive to reach such a level. No one knows when death will arrive. It is incumbent upon a believer that he never grows heedless and to forever remains in fear of God Almighty.”

During the days of his illness, Qazi Muhammad Alim Sahib, a resident of Qazikot, wrote to Qazi Ziya-ud-Din Sahib, who was also a resident of Qazikot but was in Qadian at the time, to submit a request for prayer to His Holiness (as).

The Promised Messiah (as) said:

“I will definitely pray for him. You should reassure Muhammad Alim. He should not give in to any apprehensions on account of Ahmad Shah, for indeed he is nothing. He ought to consider such evil suggestions to be an association of partners with God. The more people seek to mislead him, the more their mockery and ridicule begin to show its effects, the more he should consider his path to be clear and unimpeded. Satan cannot even touch those who possess complete faith...

Attachment to the Present Life Is the Root of Sin

“An excessive desire for the present life is often the root of sin and weakness. Our friends must endeavour always to spend their precious time in attaining the pleasure of God, their True Master; this is everything. Otherwise, what difference is there in dying today or departing this world in another fifty years? The sun and moon that exists today, will be the same then. Allah the Exalted Himself blesses the life and health of a person who is beneficial to the world and is a servant of God’s religion;

and He does not care about the evil designs of the people. So, in all circumstances, do your every deed for the sake of God, and Allah the Exalted will protect you Himself.

It has been more than thirty years since Allah the Exalted stated to me in categorical words that I would live to eighty years, or perhaps a few years more or less.

There is an underlying secret in this statement, which is that the work assigned to me was destined to be completed in this number of years. Therefore, when I am ill, I am never grieved at the thought of death. I remember vividly the trees that I played beneath when I was six or seven years of age. Even today, those trees stand in their places flourishing and thriving, as lush green as they were then. But when I look at myself, the state of affairs is completely different. You can reflect over this as well. Consider the reproach and mockery of your contemporaries to be a blessing. This serves as a means of reformation for one's soul. If this ceased to exist, how would your service to the Noble Lord and your offering to the God of Reverence be worthy of Him? You are worried on account of an illness. However, your brethren before you—the companions—swore allegiance on the very purpose of laying down their lives, and would always wait for the time when they could sacrifice their lives in the way of God, their True Master. Therefore, in every state of affairs, whether you enjoy good health or suffer an illness, keep your affairs in good standing with the Noble Lord. Everything as a result will turn out positively.”

The Volumes of Malfuzaat do not contain just the speeches of the Promised Messiah (as). They contain his statements that he made on several occasions. For example, on one occasion, he said:

“The month of Ramadan is a blessed one. It is a month of prayer.

As for me, I only leave my fast if I have reached a state that is near death. Otherwise, my disposition feels an aversion to foregoing the fasts. These are blessed days; they are days in which the grace and mercy of Allah Almighty are sent down.”

These words give us an idea of the importance that he gave to fasting in the month of Ramadan. We should not forgo fasting for any flimsy excuse.

Once, he said: “Remember that until one inculcates within yourselves the simplicity that is characteristic of children, one cannot follow the way of the Prophets.” These are words that provoke reflection and we should check our behaviour how far we act with the innocence of children and how far we act otherwise.

He further said, “Everything rests on a pillar, and the pillar of life and health is the grace of God Almighty”

Someone submitted a request for prayer to the Promised Messiah as for his debts. The Promised Messiah (as) said: “Recite the prayer for God’s forgiveness often. This is the way in which a person can free himself from grief. Seeking forgiveness from God is the key to spiritual progress.”

An individual submitted: “Your Holiness, please pray for me so that I am blessed with children.” The Promised Messiah (as) said: “Recite the prayer for God’s forgiveness abundantly. Through this Allah the Exalted not only forgives a person’s sins, but also grants them children as well. Remember, certainty of faith is a great thing. God Almighty always supports the one who has absolute faith in Him.”

In his book Noah’s Ark (Kishti Nuh), the Promised Messiah spoke about certainty in faith thus:

“You who are in search of God! Pay heed to me and listen. There is nothing like certainty. It is certainty which delivers one from sin. It is certainty which gives you the strength to do good deeds. It is certainty which imbues you with the true love of God. Can you cease from sin without certainty? Can you cease pursuing your selfish desires without witnessing a truly certain manifestation of God? Can you discover peace without certainty? Can you bring about a sincere change without certainty? Can you achieve true prosperity without certainty? Is there beneath the heaven any atonement or expiation which can deliver you from sin? Will the so-called atonement of Jesus son of Mary grant deliverance from sin? Followers of Christ! Utter not such falsehood which brings about utter ruin on earth...

Remember, without certainty you cannot emerge from a life of darkness, nor can you find the Holy Spirit. Blessed are those who possess certainty for it is they who will come to see God. Blessed are those who rid themselves of doubt and uncertainty for it is they who shall be delivered of sin. Blessed shall you be when the treasure of certainty is bestowed upon you, for only then will your sin be effaced.” (Kishti Nuh, p. 27-28)

May Allah help each one among us to do our best to keep journeying towards Him and may He make this journey easy for us all. May we all value these teachings and may we all be among those who are keen to follow them till our last breath. Incha Allah. Ameen.