

FRIDAY SERMON

25 November 2022

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Today we will continue with the discussion that the Promised Messiah (as) had with the two Christians who had come to Qadian. In the extract that we will be reading today, the Promised Messiah (as) was talking, among other things, about the purpose of his mission, the similarity between the two dispensations of Hazrat Moosa (as) and Hazrat Mohammad (saw). He said:

“It is for this reason that I desire to inculcate such faith in God that when a person believes in Him, they are saved from the poison of sin, their nature and disposition is transformed, a death overtakes them and they are granted a new life, so that their heart begins to loathe sin instead of deriving pleasure from it. An individual who becomes like this can say that he has recognized God.

In reality, God knows well that divine insight has disappeared in the present age. No religion has remained which can elevate a person to this station and develop such a nature within them. I cannot express disappointment in any one particular religion, for this calamity is affecting the whole of society at large and this epidemic has now become dangerously widespread. I can truthfully say that if a person believes in God, he can become an angel. In fact, the angels prostrate before such persons and they are filled with divine light.

Therefore, when an age dawns upon the people where insight of God vanishes and destruction and abundant transgression becomes prevalent, when fear of God disappears and the rights which are owed to God are given to other human beings, in such a state of affairs, God Almighty bestows divine insight upon a man and commissions him. That man is subjected to mockery and abuse, and grief and suffering is inflicted upon him by every possible avenue.

Ultimately, however, the one who is commissioned by God prevails and spreads the light of truth throughout the world. As such, in this era, God has appointed me and has bestowed upon me the light of divine insight. There is no curse that has not been uttered against me and no method of inflicting grief upon me has been spared.

However, I listen to all of these profanities and am forever willing to endure all of these pains. God Almighty knows well that I do this not artificially, in fact, it is my obligation

to hear such things because those who sit on the seat that I have been given have always been treated in this manner.

This movement has been established for more than twenty five years. This is a significant portion of one's life. It is a span of time in which a child can be born and then go on to have children of its own. It is due to the grace of God that at precisely the right time He blessed us with His support and had mercy on His creatures. God has granted me the extraordinary determination and resolve, which He always gives to His divine appointees. It is on account of this strength and vigour that I have not tired. A time is approaching when all the opposition that exists today will vanish without a trace and I am hopeful that this era is soon to come.

I can say in all honesty that there is discussion in the heavens. God desires to see a holy transformation in the people of the world. Just as any king naturally desires to see his majesty manifested, similarly, divine will intends to see the people of this world recognise the greatness and omnipotence of God, and for God—Who is becoming more and more hidden—to show a manifestation of His being to the world. It is for this reason that God has raised a man whom He has commissioned, so that the world may be cured of its leprosy, as it were.

One may ask what I have accomplished with my advent? What can I say except that the world will come to know itself what I have accomplished. Nonetheless, I do say this much that people repent from their sins on my hand. These people develop humility and meekness, and their immoralities are being driven out to give way to exemplary morals. These people are growing slowly and gradually in the likeness of foliage, and they are positively progressing in their good morals and habits. Man does not progress instantly, rather what we observe in the law of nature is that all things grow and progress in stages. Nothing is beyond the effects of this phenomenon. Of course, I trust that ultimately the truth will spread and a pure transformation will take place, but this is not my task, this is the work of God. It is God's will that purity should spread. The state of the world has been tarnished and it continues to rot. All that remains is the outer shell, the kernel is nowhere to be found. However, it is God's desire that His servants are purified and cleansed of every blemish. It is for this reason that by His sheer grace, He has established this movement.

The True Nature of the Promised Messiah

Question: In light of your books, your title is that of the 'Promised Messiah.' What does this truly mean?

Answer: In order to fully understand this secret, one must realize that God Almighty—who has laid the foundation for prophethood throughout the ages—established one such chain

of prophethood in the past which began with Prophet Moses, peace be upon him. The Prophets who appeared before him left behind no remnants of their existence. It was the book of Moses (as) which made mention of Noah and Adam and certain other Prophets, peace be upon them. In short, just like a family patriarch, Moses, peace be upon him, was also the patriarch of his family of Prophets, and through the Torah he passed down his divine law to them. After the demise of Moses (as), a man of God, Allah the Exalted continued to send Prophets to serve this religious dispensation, so that it would not suffer decline. These Prophets served the Mosaic dispensation. As such, in the fourteenth century after Moses, peace be upon him, Jesus, peace be upon him, whom you refer to as Christ, was sent to support the Mosaic dispensation. Jesus (as) was the final brick in the Mosaic dispensation. Just as the final brick brings the construction of a house to its end, in the same manner, the Mosaic dispensation was brought to an end with the Messiah (as), and God brought this dispensation to its completion.

After this, God lay the foundation for a new dispensation which was established through the progeny of Ishmael (as), and was known as the dispensation of Muhammad (saw). As is evident from the word *Ishmael* itself, and as God Almighty had intimated through Moses, peace be upon him, a community was destined to be established among the children of Ishmael, just like the Mosaic dispensation. This was because the children of Israel, or the Jews, were neither kind to Moses, peace be upon him, who was the first, nor to the Messiah (as), who was the last; in fact, they were not good to the Prophets who appeared in between either. This nation was so cruel and brazen that the like of them cannot be found on the face of the earth. This nation left no stone unturned in rejecting the Prophets and inflicting grief upon them. They did not value the illumined men of God, so this dispensation was brought to an end with Jesus (as).

A Warning of Destiny in the Fatherless Birth of the Messiah

The end of this dispensation was not due to God's pleasure, but in fact, due to His displeasure. Even the birth of the Messiah (as) himself served as a sign; in that he was born without a father. Since one's lineage continues from the father, through the fatherless birth of Jesus (as), God warned the children of Israel that due to the misfortune of their evil deeds, this succession of Prophets within the Israelites now comes to a close.

There are two things, which even you yourselves believe. Firstly, you believe that God caused Jesus (as) to be born without a father. Further, you claim that anyone who says that he was born with a father contradicts the law of God Almighty and denigrates this sign of God Almighty, which was manifested in his birth.

Secondly, you accept that he was the last brick. This metaphor has been mentioned in the Gospel in the parable of the vineyard where it is narrated that a landowner planted a

vineyard and when the fruit drew near, he sent his servants, and so on and so forth; the parable goes on. This parable demonstrably establishes that God did not view the Jews with favour and affection. Then, the third sign which proves that the Mosaic dispensation came to an end with the Messiah (as) was that their land was taken from them as well.

Therefore, the birth of the Messiah, peace be upon him, without a father served as a sign post, as it were. From a family which was previously one and in which a succession of Prophets had continued to emerge throughout the ages, God gave rise to a second branch and thus laid a new foundation among the children of Ishmael (as). I have alluded to the destruction of Jewish rule, because God had conferred upon this nation both prophethood and worldly rule. In any case, by causing Jesus (as) to be born without a father, God declared in essence that due to the evil actions of the Jews and on account of their temerity, their rejecting the Prophets and their hostility towards those commissioned by God Almighty, they had reached a state where they were no longer worthy of divine favour, but of God's displeasure. As a sign that now their family of Prophets would come to an end, they were given a sign that no one from the children of Israel would father the Messiah; and by causing Jesus (as) to be born without a father, God intimated that in the future, prophethood would not continue among the children of Israel.

Since this shift in prophethood was the result of God's wrath, for this reason, worldly rule—another blessing that this nation had received along with prophethood— was lost to them as well. The underlying objective in my explanation is to highlight that on the one hand, we have the Mosaic dispensation, the final brick of which was the Messiah son of Mary, and by whose fatherless birth God announced that it was destined to come to an imminent end. Similarly, in accordance with His promise, God gave rise to a magnificent dispensation from among the children of Ishmael (as), which was similar to the Mosaic dispensation, and our Noble Prophet, Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was the founding father of this dispensation. In this way, the Holy Prophet (saw) became the likeness of Moses (as), for just as Moses, peace be upon him, was the founder of his dispensation, so too our Noble Prophet was the head of his dispensation; and just as Moses (as) gained victory over Pharaoh, so too, ultimately, the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was blessed with a clear victory and Abu Jahl, who was the Pharaoh of this nation, perished. There are many other parallels as well, which I shall not mention at this time.”

We will continue incha Allah next time. May Allah help each one among us to become a better Muslim day by day and may we all be counted among those who have strived to fulfill the purpose of the coming of the Promised Messiah (as). Ameen.