

FRIDAY SERMON

30 December 2022

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We will continue today with our reading of Hazrat Masih Maood's (as) Malfuzaat (Volume 3).

While delivering a speech in 1901, he said:

“Allah the Exalted states that when you sever your ties with the world completely and turn towards Him, God will Himself become your Guardian and Supporter. A person who does not detach himself completely from the world and remains somewhat inclined to the world and somewhat inclined to God, can never attain the prime objective at hand. Such a one can neither find honour in religion, nor in the world. God Almighty desires for you to become a complete Muslim. Even the word *Muslim* itself demonstrates that one must sever one's ties with the world completely.

Allah the Exalted has showered His infinite grace on every Muslim by making them a Muslim, provided that the individual reflects and understands. If you were to engage in a debate with a Hindu on the divinity of Ramchandra or God Almighty as the Creator, you will feel a pleasure and joy over the fact that your God is Omnipotent, He is the One Who gives life, He is the One Who causes death, and He is the Creator of all things. And this is in contrast to those who believe in Ramchandra - a man dependent on food and drink - to be God. When it is said to them that Rawana abducted his wife, how embarrassing will this be for those who believe in this god, in that what a strange god indeed who could not even protect his own wife?

Further, when a follower of the Arya Samaj is challenged by an opponent that the nature of their God is such that he has not created even a single particle and that he cannot grant salvation to even his greatest of lovers and devotees; and when he is asked whether this God of theirs has prescribed for mankind a religious law which permits a man, who cannot have children with his wife, to allow her to sleep with

another man and to have children with him, how embarrassed would that person be if he has even an ounce of honour and shame in him? On the contrary, how full of joy would a Muslim be, and how immensely would their hopes grow, when they present their own Creator—the Creator of all things—the Holy and Pure.”

The Names of the Pious and Holy Remain Until the End of Time

The Promised Messiah (as) said: “So remember that God Almighty never wastes His chosen servants. As such, Allah the Exalted states:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَا يُضِيعُ أَجْرَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Surely, Allah suffers not the reward of those who do good to be lost.

The names of those who are pious and holy remain until the end of time. No one speaks the names of kings who belonged to olden times, not even the Caesar and Chosroes, but as for those who are among the righteous and chosen ones of God Almighty, they are praised and admired the world over. Observe the degree to which our Messenger of God, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, commands greatness in the world. There are 940 million (that was then; today this figure has doubled) Muslims in the world who speak his name, and who constantly invoke salutations and blessings on him.

Does anyone send salutations on Caesar or Chosroes? Observe, how great is Jesus, peace be upon him, revered in the world today? So great is the extent that in their ignorance and lack of knowledge, they have turned him into God.

The fact of the matter is that the class known as Messengers have passed on from this world bearing hardships. However, since they abandoned the luxury and comfort of this world and bore countless forms of pain and suffering for the sake of God, this elevated them to a station of greatness. This does not mean that the beloveds of God are plagued by misfortune. There is a fine secret in the difficulties experienced by the Prophets. They are not faced with the most hardships and misfortunes so that they would perish, but so that they can grow and flourish more than everyone else. One may observe that the law which God has established for the gifted is that firstly, they are subjected to suffering. A farmer pierces the belly of the earth and refines the soil to such an extent that gusts of wind carry the soil here and there. A foolish man would surmise that the landowner has committed a mistake and ruined a patch of soil that was perfectly fine. However, a wise person knows well that until the soil

is refined to such an extent, the land cannot demonstrate its inherent capacity of producing fruits and vegetation. Similarly, a seed is planted in the land, which is mixed with the dust and almost becomes a part of the soil itself. However, are seeds planted in the soil so that the farmer may view them as though they were worthless? Of course not. Those seeds are invaluable to the farmer. His only purpose in throwing these seeds into the ground is so that they will germinate and flourish, and so that each may turn into a thousand more.

So, this is the law that God has instituted for all the gifted. God casts His special servants into the soil and people walk over them, crushing them under their feet, but it is not long before they emerge from the ground with a wondrous colour and splendour in the likeness of vegetation, which sprouts from a seed buried under dry leaves and straw, and every onlooker is left in amazement. Since time immemorial the way of God has been to put His chosen servants into a grand vortex, not to drown them, but so that they may attain the pearls that lie in the depths of the ocean of divine unity. They are cast into fire, not so they may burn, but so that a spectacle of the power of God Almighty may be manifested. In short, they are mocked and ridiculed, and cursing them seems to the people a good deed, and this continues until God Almighty shows a manifestation of His being and exhibits the shining brilliance of His succour. At that time, the truth is proven to the world; the jealousy of God surges forth for the sake of this seemingly helpless individual, and his enemies are crushed to pieces with one manifestation alone.

So firstly, it is the enemies that remain dominant, but in the end, it is the chosen one of God who reigns supreme. It is to this that the following alludes:

إِنَّ الْعَاقِبَةَ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ

And the end is for the God-fearing.

Then, another secret purpose in the trials and tribulations which are faced by those appointed by God Almighty is so that their exemplary model of good morals may be shown to the world, and so that the magnificent quality that they possess, which is no less than a miracle, is manifested.

Steadfastness

What is that quality? It is steadfastness—a quality about which it is stated:

Al istiqamato fawqoul Kiramate

Steadfastness is greater than showing a miracle.

It was this very steadfastness in Abraham, peace be upon him, that when he was instructed in a dream to slaughter his son, even though that dream could have been interpreted or understood metaphorically, he was prepared to fulfill this command as soon as he received it; and he would have slaughtered his young son, since he possessed such faith in God Almighty, and his heart was full of such strength and steadfastness.

In the present time, if someone's child is afflicted by various illnesses and dies, people begin to entertain a thousand doubts about God Almighty, and begin to complain and criticize. But Abraham (as) was a man who crushed the love he had for his son and was prepared to slaughter him with his own hands. It is people like these whom God never allows to be ruined. The words of such people are declared by God to be holy and pure, and prayers are accepted through them and God proclaims that their garments too are blessed.

The Outstanding Courage and Steadfastness of the Messenger of Allah

Remember that the pain which believers experience actually becomes a means of reward for them; others do not partake of this. We cannot even begin to fathom the extent of the hardships and misfortunes to which the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was subjected during the thirteen-year period spent in Mecca after his claim. The heart palpitates even at the thought of them. From this we come to learn about the outstanding courage, open-heartedness, steadfastness, determination and perseverance of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. What a magnificent man he was! Mountains of misfortune fell upon him, but he did not waver in the least. He was not weakened or disheartened even for a moment from fulfilling his mission.

These challenges could not dissuade him from his objective. By way of misunderstanding, some people state that if the Holy Prophet (saw) was the beloved of God, the Chosen One and the Elect of God, why then was he subjected to so many misfortunes and hardships? My response is that how can water be extracted from the ground until the earth is dug into and its heart is pierced, as it were? It is only when a person continues to dig deep into the ground for many yards that finally pleasant

tasting water can be attained, which sustains life. Similarly, the pleasure that one receives by showing perseverance and steadfastness in the way of God Almighty cannot be attained until man passes through trials and tribulations.

How can those who know nothing of this subject understand and feel the pleasure that is derived from these misfortunes? How can these people know that whenever a pain was inflicted upon the Holy Prophet (saw), a spring of pleasure and delight would gush forth from within him; he would grow in his trust of God Almighty, in his love for Him and in his faith in divine succour.

Love is something that can make a person do anything. When a person is in love with someone, what will they not do for the sake of their beloved? There was a woman who was madly in love with someone. They would bring her forcefully and torment her in countless ways; she would suffer physical abuse, but continue to say: ‘This gives me pleasure.’

When superficial forms of love, when passions that stem from sin and transgression, can move a person to feel pleasure in bearing difficulties and misfortunes, then just imagine the degree of pleasure that an ardent lover of God Almighty, who yearns to offer themselves at the threshold of the Divine, can feel in bearing pain and hardship.

Observe the state of the noble companions, may Allah be pleased with all of them. Countless pains were inflicted upon them in Mecca; some of them were captured, others were gripped by a multitude of tortures and torments. Men aside, even Muslim women were subjected to such brutalities that even the thought of them makes one tremble.” (p. 197)

We will continue incha Allah next time. May Allah help each one among us to understand what we should understand about the purpose of our life in the best way and may we be among those who completely submit to Allah’s Will. Ameen.