

FRIDAY SERMON

21 April 2023

By Imam Zafrullah Domun

Today, we find ourselves in the first Jummah of the month of Shawwal which is also its first day although the moon is still not yet visible, at least for us and also a large area of the Muslim World. We expect to see the moon tonight in most parts of the world. If the moon is visible, we will be celebrating Eid here at Baitul Rahma Mosque at 9:30AM tomorrow morning. Should the moon not be visible, we will have to wait until the next day, that is, Sunday 23rd April. This is a situation that we face from time to time because we follow what the majority of the Muslims of the country decide.

Anyhow, we are at the end of the blessed month of Ramadan. Let us hope and pray that Allah accepts our fast and prayers despite all our shortcomings only by His sheer Grace. Ameen. May all that we have been doing during this holy and blessed month motivate each one among us to do more of the same during the rest of the year except the fasting of course. Fasting has been prescribed for us so that we might become righteous, “*muttaqees*”, meaning those who tread very carefully in the world and see to it that they observe all the prescriptions and prohibitions that Allah has prescribed for them. This is no easy task at all. It demands from us a lifetime commitment after we have realized how important Allah should be in our life. During Ramadan, Allah out of His Mercy imposes upon us to refrain from food, drink and sexual enjoyment during the day. Following the example of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw), we are expected while fasting to devote more time to the reading of the Holy Quran and to ponder over its meanings so that we might be better equipped to face all the challengers of life in the other months of the year. We are also expected to pray more and supplicate more in order to develop a personal relationship with our Lord. This relationship is of course not developed in an instant or even in just the thirty days of fasting. We need to sustain it in the other days if we truly understand that Allah should always be the focus of our attention amidst our many concerns. May Allah grant us such wisdom and may He always help us to continue our journey to Him despite the setbacks that we might get on this path. Ameen.

Ramadan came and now Ramadan is gone for this year and we can just hope and pray that Allah helps us to see more months of Ramadan as we go along. However, in the other months of the year, we are not supposed to sit idle or just sleep. Now that we have gone through another Ramadan and we have fasted and have also engaged in voluntary acts of prayer and at the same time have been engaged in other acts of virtue such as spending in the Way of Allah or even just feeding the poor depending on our means, it is quite

appropriate that we remind ourselves of our own duties as members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya created by Hazrat Masih Maood (as). In one of his books, he said:

“Beware! O ye who are so watchful and by nature pure.

In your greed for this world, do not ruin your faith.

Do not tie your heart to this transitory abode,

For underneath its pleasure lie hidden hundreds of woes.

If only you had the ears to hear;

You would catch the voice from the grave singing:

'O my would-be prey;

Do not agonize over the sordid affairs of this world'.

Everyone who is enamoured of this wretched world,

Is a hostage to misery, trials and tribulations.

Delivered is he who is ever-mindful of his death

Who breaks free from this world and hastens to follow the right path.

Even before his death, he sets out on his journey to the Friend;

Taking leave of this world and all that it contains.

He is ever ready to leave for the hereafter;

Discarding all the things mundane.

Since the affairs of this life are so secret and arcane;

You'd better break yourself free from this abode.” (The Will, p. 33)

“My dear child! The Hell of which the Holy Qur'an speaks,

Is none other than this greed for the world.

Since in the end one must bid farewell to this world;

And, must sooner or later take this trip.

Why should a wise man tie his heart to a garden;

Whose flowers are a prey to the autumn winds?

It is but folly to tie one's heart to this hussy,

For she is an enemy of faith and truth and purity.
Of what use is this two-faced sweetheart,
Who kills you at times by peace and at times by war.
Why not fall in love with the Sweetheart;
Whose love delivers from heavy chains?
Go, think of your end, O rebellious one!
Listen to Sa'di, if you will not listen to me.
The hour of your death shall be the hour of rejoicing;
Provided you die in virtue."

"Listen, O you who can: What is it that God desires from you? All He desires is only that you become solely His and do not associate any partners with Him, neither in the heavens nor on the earth. Our God is that God Who is alive even now as He was alive before. He speaks even now as He used to speak before. And even now He hears as He heard before. It is a false notion that in these times He only hears but does not speak. On the contrary, He hears and also speaks. All His Attributes are eternal and everlasting. None of His Attributes is in abeyance, nor will it ever be. He alone is the One without any associate; He has no son, nor has He any wife. He alone is Peerless and there is no one like Him. And He is the One Who is unique in that none of His Attributes are exclusively possessed by anyone beside Him. He has no equal. He does not share His attributes with anyone. None of His powers is less than perfect. He is near, yet far and He is far, yet near. He can reveal Himself to *Ahl-e-Kashf* . He has no body, nor any shape. He is above all, but it cannot be said that there is anything beneath Him. He is on *'Arsh*, but it can't be said that He is not on the earth. He is the sum total of all Perfect Attributes and He is the Manifestation of every True Praise. He is the source of all that is Good and encompasses all Powers and He is the source of all forms of Beneficence. He is the One to Whom everything returns. He is the Lord of all the realms. He possesses every Perfection and is free from all defects, imperfections and weakness. It is His sole prerogative that all those who belong to the earth as well as all those who belong to the heavens should worship Him. Nothing is impossible for Him. All souls and their potentialities and all particles and their potentials are His and only His creation."

These are one of the passages where Hazrat Masih Maood (as) tries to help us to get a notion of who Allah is. Even after Ramadan, we should not lose our focus on Allah. May the end of Ramadan be a new beginning for each one among us in our relationship with Allah. May Allah help each one among us in our life mission which is to recognize our Lord Allah and establish an intimate relationship with Him under all circumstances. Ameen.