

FRIDAY SERMON

5th May 2023

By Imam Zafrullah Domun

We will start the Jummah with a hadith that we need to remind ourselves of very often so that we may be saved from some dangers in our spiritual path. It is as follows:

“Ibn al-Mubarak related, with a chain of authorities going back to a certain man, - that this man said to Mu'adh, 'O Mu'adh, tell me a Tradition you heard from the Messenger of God (God bless and preserve him).' The man continued: 'Mu'adh wept until I thought he would never cease, but at length he ceased; then he said:

'I heard the Messenger of God (God bless and preserve him) saying to me: 'I am going to tell you a Tradition (or tell you of a happening), Mu'adh; if you remember it, it will benefit you before God, but if you forget it and do not remember it, your plea of defence before God on the day of resurrection will be removed.

“O Mu'adh, God (may He be blessed and exalted) before creating the heavens and the earth created seven angels, and to each of the heavens He appointed one of these seven angels as keeper. Now the guardian angels are ascending with man's work from morning to evening; and the work has a light like the light of the sun. When they bring it up to the lowest heaven, they increase and multiply it, and the angel at the gate says to the guardians. 'With this work strike the face of the doer of it; I am in charge of backbiting; my Lord has commanded me not to allow the work of anyone guilty of backbiting to pass beyond me.'"

He continued: “Then the guardians bring one of man's good works and increase and multiply it, until they reach the second heaven with it. The angel responsible for it says, 'Stand and with this work strike the face of the worker of it, for in his work he sought worldly honour; my Lord has commanded me not to allow his work to pass beyond me; he boasted in men's society of his superiority; I am the angel dealing with boastfulness.'"

He continued: "The guardians ascend with a man's work, so bright with light from alms and Worship and fasting that the guardians were astonished. They passed with it to the third heaven, and there the angel in charge says to them, 'Stand and with this work strike the face of the worker of it; I am the angel dealing. with arrogance; my

Lord has commanded me not to let his work pass beyond me for he has treated people arrogantly in society."

He continued: "The guardians ascend with a man's work shining brightly like a star and ringing from the acts of adoration and Worship, from fasting and from the greater and lesser pilgrimages, and they pass with it to the fourth heaven. Then the angel responsible for that says to them, 'Stand and with this work strike the face and back and front of the doer of this work I am in charge of pride; my Lord has commanded me not to let this act pass beyond me; whenever this man performed any work pride entered into it.'"

He continued: 'The guardians ascend with a man's work and pass with it to the fifth heaven; it is like a bride being conducted to her husband. The angel responsible for it says to the guardians, 'Stand and with this work strike the face of the doer of it, and carry him away and place him on his shoulder; I am the angel dealing with envy; this man used 'to envy whoever studied and performed a work like his and all who were superior to men in some way; he used to envy them and slander them; my Lord has commanded me not to allow his work to pass beyond me.'"

He continued: "The guardians ascend with a man's work, radiant as the moon from Worship and almsgiving and the greater and lesser pilgrimages and the holy war and fasting, and they pass with it to the sixth heaven, where the angel responsible for that says to them, 'Stand and with this work strike the face of the doer of it; he had mercy on any of God's servants who had met with misfortune or sickness, but rejoiced at that; I am the angel of mercy; my Lord commanded me not to allow his work to pass beyond me.'" He continued: "The guardians ascend with a man's work consisting of Worship and fasting and the spending of money (in good causes, or otherwise as alms) and the holy war and continence; it had a sound like that of bees and a radiance like that of the sun; along with it were three thousand angels and they passed with it to the seventh heaven. The angel responsible for that said to them:

'Stand and with that work strike the face of the doer of it and with it strike his limbs and lock up his heart; I veil from my Lord every work that is not done for the sake of my Lord; this work was done for the sake of something other than God most high; he did it for the sake of honour among the religious scholars and fame among the intellectuals and renown among the cities; my Lord commanded me not to allow his work to pass beyond me; every work not done purely for God is hypocrisy, and God does not receive the work of the hypocrite.'"

He continued: "The guardians ascend with a man's work consisting of Worship, almsgiving, fasting, the greater and lesser pilgrimages, a good character, observance of silence and recollection of God most high. It is accompanied by the angels of the seven heavens until they have passed through all the veils to the presence of God most high. Then they stand before Him and bear witness to Him of the good work, performed solely for the sake of God most high; and God most high says, "You are the guardians over the work of My servant, but I am the Watcher over his heart; this act was not done for My sake, but for the sake of something else; so, My curse is upon him.' Then the angels all say, 'Thy curse and our curse be upon him'; and the seven heavens and those in them curse him."

At that Mu'adh wept, and then continued: "I said: 'O Messenger of God. you are the Messenger of God, and I am Mu'adh; how shall I have purity of intention and salvation'? Muhammad said: 'Imitate me, even if you fall short somewhat in what you do. O Mu'adh, guard your tongue from slandering your brothers who know the Qur'an by heart; attribute your sins to yourself and not to them; do not justify yourself and blame them; do not exalt yourself above them; do not mingle the work of this world with the work of the world to come; do not act arrogantly in society so that men avoid you because of your bad character; do not whisper to one man while another is also present; do not magnify your importance above other men so that you lose the good things of both this world and the one to come; do not tear to pieces people's characters so that on the day of Resurrection the dogs of Hell tear you to pieces in Hell. God most high says (Q. 79, 2); "By those who draw forth"; do you know what these are, O Mu'adh?' I said: 'What are they, O Messenger of God (may you be ransomed by my father and mother)?' He said: 'The dogs in Hell drawing the flesh from the bones.'

I said: 'O Messenger of God (may you be ransomed by my father and mother) who is able to acquire these good qualities, and who will escape from these dogs?' He said: 'O Mu'adh, it is indeed easy for him for whom God makes it easy". Khalid b. Mi'dan said: "I never saw anyone more assiduous in reading the noble Qur'an than Mu'adh on account of this noble Tradition".

From time to time, we remind ourselves of this hadith so that we may do our best to stay away from all the evil characteristics mentioned above. May Allah help us and may we all become good Muslims day in and day out. Incha Allah. Ameen.

Now, I will say a few words about our highly esteemed elder Janab Elias Jhangeerkhan saheb *nawwarallaho marqadahou* (may Allah illumine his tomb) who

passed away in the early morning of Saturday 29th April 2023. *Inna lillahe wa inna elayhe ra'jeoune* “To Allah we belong and to Him is the return”.

Personally, I know Nana Elias, as we usually called him, since I was about 13/14 years old. Very often, I went to buy meat for someone from him at the market in Rose Hill. As time went on, we knew him from the mosque in Darus Salaam. He used to look after meat especially on Eid days or Jalsa Salana. Later on, when I got married, I got to know him even better and I learned several practical matters from him. But after we were removed from mainstream Jamaat Ahmadiyya in 2001, we became better friends and he joined us in 2003 after seeing a light directing him to my house where at that time we used to pray.

In 2005, his wife Kala Razia, *nawwarallaho marqadaha* (may Allah illumine her tomb), passed away. In 2006, he told me that he wanted to build a mosque on his house for our Jamaat. I asked him not to do it. But he went ahead and eventually the mosque was built and for the last seventeen years we have been praying in it by Allah's Grace.

Nana Elias was a person who thought that his wife would outlive him. When this did not happen, he always thought that he would follow her soon. When in 2013/14, he started getting health problems he expected his death to be soon. He told me that once he was having so much pain that he addressed Allah and said “If I have to live with so much pain, why are you keeping me here”. Immediately after that, he said his pain stopped.

He used to say jokingly that he had already sent an application to pass to the next world but he was still on the waiting list. Around 2005/2006, he had a dream and I noted it down. It is as follows. He said:

“I dreamt that I was dead. Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen has made all arrangements for my burial. Members of JAAM and some of my brothers stood for my funeral prayer. They carried me to the road. Farouk's lorry was on the road and Alfred was driving. Then they started to move. When they arrived near the straight road to the cemetery, people dressed in white and of hugely built stature and of white complexion said to you (me) do not go any further. They took the Janaza and they started walking. Many like them joined them. When they reached ASAS offices, Fareed (his brother) was there filming the whole event. The roads were blocked with same type of these white people. When the time came to complete the burial, someone asked “is the Holy Prophet (saw) present?” When no reply was received

members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen completed the burial. Members of the other Jamaat remained aloof.”

Since then, he told me that we should bury him in Pailles cemetery as it would be easier for us to pay a visit to his tomb when we pass by and to pray for him. That is why arrangements have been made for him to be buried in Pailles cemetery.

During the month of Ramadan, on the morning of the eleventh day of fasting when I went to put drops in his eyes, I saw that he did not seem to be quite well. He said that he was having pain in one part of his head. He said that his time was near. I asked him how he knew that. He said he felt it. He told me it was time to go. He said “we have worked a lot, we had money, we have spent it and now we have to go”. As usual, I did not take him too seriously because he had been saying this to me so often.

As a matter of fact, he got better. Then, on Eid day, when I went to see him in the morning, he did not appear well. He appeared a bit weak but he managed to come to the mosque. After Eid, all the children went to pay him a visit and they came to tell me that he was not well and he refused to go to the hospital. I went to see him and persuaded him to go the hospital. We went to the hospital and he was admitted almost against his will.

On Monday, I talked with his doctor and she said that he will have to undergo a programme of rehabilitation because some of his movements have been impaired. Slowly, in the hospital some other complications developed. Then, on Wednesday 26 April, when I went to turn on the lights in his house before maghrib prayers, I received the following words “ *Wa jaa’at sakratul maut*” and I understood that the inevitable would be coming soon. On Friday last, when I went to have my lunch before Jummah, I received “

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ
ارْجِعِي إِلَىٰ رَبِّكِ رَاضِيَةً مَّرْضِيَّةً
فَادْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي
وَادْخُلِي جَنَّتِي

"And thou, O soul at peace! Return to thy Lord well pleased *with Him and* He well pleased *with thee*. So, enter thou among My chosen servants, And enter thou, My Garden. (89:28-31)

I was made to understand that this concerns Nana Elias. I was very happy for him.

When we left him in the hospital last Friday afternoon, he could not speak clearly, he kept praying “*Laa hawla wa laa quwwata illa billahil aliyil azeem*”. I told the nurse that if anything happens to him, they should inform me immediately. When I came home, I had some difficulty sleeping in the first part of the night and I kept praying “*Yaa Arhamour Raheemeen farrij anho* (O thou who are the Most Merciful of those who show mercy relieve him from his distress). So, when my phone rang at 2:30am last Saturday, I knew that what had to happen had happened and we went to fetch him.

In a hadith, Uthman ibn Affan reported: “The Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, said

مَنْ بَنَى مَسْجِدًا بَنَى اللَّهُ لَهُ مِثْلَهُ فِي الْجَنَّةِ .

“Whoever builds a mosque for Allah, Allah will build for him a house like it in Paradise.” (Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 450, Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim 533).

For us, *Baitoul Rahma Mosque*, this whole building and many other good deeds will for a long time be a testimony to the generosity, sincerity and loyalty of Janab Elias Jhangeerkhan who never had any doubt about what he believed in. He was guided to truth and he remained loyal to it till his last breath. The value of this building that he has donated to the Jamaat is around 3,500,000 MUR.

مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ رِجَالٌ صَدَقُوا مَا عَاهَدُوا اللَّهَ عَلَيْهِ فَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ قَضَىٰ نَحْبَهُ وَمِنْهُمْ مَّنْ يَنْتَظِرُ ۚ وَمَا بَدَّلُوا تَبْدِيلًا

Among the believers are men who have proven true to what they pledged to Allah. Some of them have fulfilled their pledge, others are waiting. They have never changed ‘their commitment’ in the least. (33:23)

We pray that Allah forgives all his sins and grants him an elevated place in his house in Jannat as He has promised. Incha Allah. Ameen.