

FRIDAY SERMON

19th May 2023

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Since last week, we have started sharing with our brothers and sisters a speech of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) which he made on the occasion of Jalsa Salana in 1905 about the differences between an Ahmadi and a non-Ahmadi Muslim.

The first point put forward and about which we spoke is that it is not correct to say or to believe that Allah the Almighty sent Hazrat Masih Maood (as) only to show the Muslims that Hazrat Isa (as) has died. We spoke about this last week and now we continue.

Where we stopped last week the Promised Messiah (as) was arguing that if there is a prophet who may be still alive through his teachings, it is the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). He said:

“With all this, another point is that a living prophet can only be one whose blessings and bounties are forever flowing. We find that since the time of the Holy Prophet to the present age, Allah Almighty has never forsaken the Muslims, and at the turn of each century, He sent a person who reformed the people in keeping with the demands of the time. And now, in this century, He has sent me so that I may establish that the Prophet lives.

It is also confirmed by the Holy Quran that Allah the Exalted has always and shall continue to safeguard the religion of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, as He states:

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

Meaning, ‘Verily, We, Ourselves, have sent down this Exhortation and most surely We shall safeguard it.’ The words إِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ clearly show that such persons shall continue to come at the turn of the century who would bring back the lost glory of Islam and guide the people. It is a matter of principle that with the passage of each century, the existing generation also leaves this world. The scholars, the Huffaz of the Quran, and the holy and pious people of that generation all pass away. Hence, the need arises for a person to be raised in order to revive the religion of Islam; otherwise, this religion would perish if a new arrangement was not made to keep it pure in subsequent centuries.

For this reason, at the turn of every century, God appoints a person who saves Islam from dying, and grants it new life, and safeguards the world from the errors, religious innovations, negligence and indolence that have crept into the people. The Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, alone enjoys this distinction, and this is such a convincing proof of his life that no one can contest in this regard. In light of this, the stream of his blessings and bounties are limitless and unending. Moreover, in every age, it is

through him that the Ummah is blessed, and it is through him that they are taught, thus becoming the beloved of Allah Almighty, as He states

إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ

‘If you love Allah, follow me: then will Allah love you.’ (Al-e-Imran, 3:32)

So, it is evident that the love of God Almighty has never abandoned this Ummah in any century, and this very fact alone serves as a brilliant argument in favour of the life of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. On the contrary, the life of Jesus is not established. Even during his lifetime, such disorder erupted as was unprecedented in the life of any other Prophet. This is why Allah Almighty felt the need to inquire from Jesus (as) ءَأَنْتَ قُلْتَ لِلنَّاسِ اتَّخِذُونِي وَأُمِّي الْهَيْئَ مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ

That is to say, was it you who told the people, ‘Take me and my mother for God’? The community that Jesus (as) established was so weak and unreliable that even the Christians themselves admit this fact. The Gospel corroborates that of the twelve disciples, who were the embodiment of the distinct spiritual power and influence of Jesus, one was Judas Iscariot, who sold his master and guide for thirty pieces of silver. Another who was greatest in rank and was known as his foremost disciple, and in whose hands were the keys of Paradise, namely Peter, cursed Jesus three times while standing before him. If this was the influence and grace of the Messiah in his own lifetime, one can only imagine what remains after 1900 years?

In comparison, the community built by the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was so faithful and loyal that they sacrificed their lives, abandoned their homelands and left their kith and kin for his sake. In short, they gave no importance to anything over him. How remarkable was this influence! Even adversaries admit this fact. And indeed, his ongoing influence has not halted, rather flows forth even today. The teaching of the Holy Quran still possesses the same influence and the same blessings as before.

Another example of this, which is worthy of mention, is that nothing is known about the whereabouts of the Gospel. Even the Christians themselves are faced with difficulties in determining the origins of the Gospel, its original language, and where it is now. However, the Holy Quran has always been protected. Not even a single word or dot can be altered. It has been guarded to the extent that *Huffaz* of the Holy Quran, numbering in the hundreds of thousands, are present in every country and nation, and there is complete consensus between them. They continue to memorize the Holy Quran and recite it to others. Now reflect, are these blessings of the Holy Prophet not ever-living? Do they not prove that the Holy Prophet lives?

Hence, whether in view of the protection of the Holy Quran; or whether in light of the Hadith on the coming of reformers at the turn of each century for the revival of religion; or whether on account of his blessings and influence, which continue even to this day; it is established that the Holy Prophet lives.

Now, the point to ponder is what benefit the doctrine relating to the life of Jesus has brought to the world? Has it resulted in moral and practical reform or has it given rise to evil? The more one ponders over this fact, the defects of this doctrine become all the more evident. I truly say that Islam has sustained immense harm owing to this doctrine, so much so that nearly three hundred million people have converted to Christianity. They have forsaken the true God to deify a humble mortal. The ‘benefit’ which Christianity has brought to the world is apparent. The Christians themselves have admitted that many immoralities have spread in the world due to Christianity. For when one is taught that their sins are now the burden of another, such a person becomes audacious in committing sin. Indeed, sin is a lethal poison for mankind, which has been spread by Christianity. Such being the case, the harm of this doctrine continues to increase manifold.

I do not say that the people of this age are at fault alone for believing in the life of the Messiah. Nay, some among the people of past too were mistaken, but even in their error they remained worthy of divine reward. For it is written *qad youkhti wa yoseeb* that is, on certain occasions a *Mujtahid* errs and on other occasions he is in the right. (A *Mujtahid* is scholar of Islam who strives to come to a conclusion on religious matters on the basis of his own analytical reasoning, in light of the fundamental sources of Islam, namely, the Holy Quran, Sunnah and Hadith.)

But in both cases he receives divine reward. The fact is that this matter remained hidden from them because this is what divine will had so desired. Thus, they remained in ignorance and, like the People of the Cave, this truth was not disclosed to them. (The People of the Cave is a reference to the early Christians who took refuge in catacombs to save themselves from persecution at the hands of various idolatrous emperors).

In this context, I also received the revelation:

أَمْ حَسِبْتَ أَنَّ أَصْحَابَ الْكَهْفِ وَالرَّقِيمِ ۖ كَانُوا مِنْ آيَاتِنَا عَجَبًا

Do you think that the People of the Cave and the Inscription were a wonder among Our Signs? (18:10)

Similarly, the issue relating to the life of the Messiah is a remarkable secret. The Holy Quran clearly and lucidly establishes the death of the Messiah and the Hadith also substantiate this fact. Further, the verse that was recited to deduce the same, on the day that the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, passed away also confirms this. (The verse in question is ‘and Muhammad is only a Messenger. Verily, all Messengers have passed away before him.’ (Al-e-Imran, 3:145)

However, despite this matter being so manifest, God Almighty concealed it, and kept it hidden for the Promised One. And so, when he appeared, he disclosed this secret. In His wisdom, whenever Allah Almighty so wills, He conceals a secret or unveils it. Thus, He kept this matter hidden until its appointed time, but now when the Promised One has appeared, in his hand was the key to this secret, and so he revealed it. Now, anyone who does not accept this and remains obstinate, wars with Allah Almighty. Therefore, the issue

of the Messiah's death has become a matter that is no longer shrouded in any obscurity; rather, it has become clear in every respect.

The Holy Quran establishes the death of the Messiah and the Hadith also lend support to this. Moreover, the incident of the *Mi'raj* of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, also testifies to the Messiah's death. The Holy Prophet (saw) gives eye-witness testimony as it were, because he saw Jesus (as) and John (as) together on the night of the *Mi'raj*. Likewise, there is the following verse:

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ بَلْ كُنْتُ إِلَّا بَشَرًا رَسُولًا

This also bars the Messiah from ascending to heaven alive. For, when the disbelievers demanded the Holy Prophet to show a miracle by ascending to heaven, Allah the Exalted gave him the answer: سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ بَلْ كُنْتُ إِلَّا بَشَرًا رَسُولًا, that is to say, my Lord is above and beyond going back on His promise. For He has already decreed those human beings are born in this very world and it is here that they shall die. God states:

فِيهَا تَحْيَوْنَ وَفِيهَا تَمُوتُونَ

Therein shall you live, and therein shall you die. (al-A'raf, 7:26)

I am not but a man sent as a messenger, i.e. I possess limitations of human nature, which keep me from ascending to heaven. In fact, the disbelievers had posed this question deliberately, for they had already heard that a human lives and dies on this earth. Therefore, they took their opportunity and posed this question. However, the answer given to them frustrated their design. Therefore, it is already a settled matter that the Messiah (as) has passed away. It is indeed a miraculous sign that the people were kept in ignorance to this fact and the wise were kept oblivious. Do bear in mind that those who passed on before the present age are excused, for this matter was not proved to them categorically. They shall receive their reward and recompense from Allah Almighty for what they interpreted in their time according to their own earnest judgement. However, now that age is over. In this age, Allah Almighty has lifted the veil and has revealed this hidden secret together with the evil and dangerous implications of the issue at hand.

You see that Islam is in a state of decline and the Christians continue to attack Islam with this very weapon of the life of the Messiah. Muslim progeny is falling prey to the Christians. I truthfully say that it is arguments such as these, which they put forth to the people so as to convert them. They are turning people away from Islam by quoting in schools and colleges the distinct qualities which the Muslims ascribe to Jesus in their ignorance. Therefore, God Almighty has desired that now the Muslims be warned. (The advent of the Promised Messiah (as), p. 20)

We will stop here today. We will continue *incha Allah* next week. May Allah grant us deep faith in the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah (as) and may we never falter in what we believe *incha Allah. Ameen.*