

FRIDAY SERMON

16th June 2023

By Imam Zafrullah Domun

Today, *incha Allah* we will finish reading the booklet “The Advent of the Promised Messiah(as)”. We have about three pages left. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said:

“Apart from the issues mentioned earlier, there are other academic and theological errors, which continue to spread among the Muslims, and our task is to remove them. For instance, they believe that only Jesus and his mother are free from the touch of Satan while all others, God-forbid, are not. This is a blatant error, nay, it amounts to disbelief and is an extreme dishonour to the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. Those who concoct such ideologies are bereft of even the slightest indignation. They seek to disgrace Islam. Indeed, such people are far from Islam. In actual fact, it is evident from the Holy Quran that there are two kinds of birth. One is with the touch of the Holy Spirit and the other with the touch of Satan.

The children of all those who are pious and righteous are born with the touch of the Holy Spirit. Children that come from sin are born with the touch of Satan. All the Prophets were born with the touch of the Holy Spirit. However, the Jews alleged that God-forbid, Jesus was an illegitimate child who was born out of Mary’s illicit relation with a soldier named Panthera, and so he was a result of the touch of Satan. For this reason, in order to absolve Jesus from this allegation, Allah Almighty testified in his favour and said that he too was born with the touch of the Holy Spirit. Since no such allegation was raised against our Noble Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, nor any other Prophet, there was no need to make the above statement about them. Abdullah and Aminah, the parents of our Noble Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, had always been held in high esteem, and no one had ever entertained any sort of mistrust and suspicion about them. Testimony is required only to exonerate a person who falls into the clutches of a lawsuit, but as for one who is free from the grip of litigation, no such testimony is required.

Similarly, there is another error that has crept into the Muslims and it relates to the Mi’raj. We believe that the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, experienced the *Mi’raj*, but it is wrong to believe, as some people do, that this was nothing more than an ordinary dream. Likewise, it is false to believe that the Holy Prophet went to heaven with his physical body. The true and correct belief is that the *Mi’raj* was a kind of vision, experienced with a body made of light. There was a body, but it was spiritual; there was a state of wakefulness, but spiritual, in the form of a vision.

This cannot be comprehended by the people of this world, except for those who have undergone such an experience.

The Jews also demanded the miracle of ascending bodily to heaven in a state of wakefulness from the Holy Prophet (saw). The Holy Quran responds to this as follows:

قُلْ سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ بَلْ كُنْتُ إِلَّا بَشَرًا رَسُولًا

[O Muhammad (saw)], Holy is my Lord. I am not but a man sent as a Messenger; mortals never fly to heaven. This is the practice of Allah, which has existed since time immemorial.

Another error which exists among a vast majority of Muslims is that they give precedence to the Hadith over the Holy Quran while it is wrong to do so. The Holy Quran possesses a rank of certainty while the Hadith possess an element of conjecture. The Hadith are not a judge over the Holy Quran, rather, it is the Holy Quran that stands as an authority over the Hadith. Nevertheless, the Hadith are an exposition of the Holy Quran and ought to be given their due rank. It is incumbent to believe in a Hadith so long as it accords with and does not oppose the Holy Quran. However, if a Hadith contradicts the Holy Quran, then such a statement is no Hadith at all but is rather a worthless statement. Nevertheless, the Hadith are crucial in order to understand the Holy Quran. For the divine commandments revealed in the Holy Quran were first put into practice by the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, and then practiced by others under his instruction.

In this manner the Holy Prophet set an example. If this example had not existed, Islam could not have been understood. Still, the primary source remains the Holy Quran. Some who experience visions hear directly from the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, such Hadith that others have not yet come to know of, or are able to confirm the authenticity of Hadith already present.

Hence, many such things are found to exist among these people, which are diametrically opposed to Islamic practice and due to which God Almighty is displeased. And so, Allah Almighty no longer considers them to be Muslim, unless they denounce these false doctrines and return to the right path. It is for this purpose that God Almighty has commissioned me so that I may remove all of these errors and so that I may re-establish true Islam in the world.

This is the difference between these people and us. Their condition no longer accords with the essence of Islam. They have become like a ruined and barren garden. Their hearts are impure. God Almighty desires to create a new people who will become a model of the true Islam by embracing the truth and righteousness. (Al-Hakam, 17th February, 17th May, 17th June 1906)

Now let us talk a bit about *Eid ul Adha*. As you might be aware, the new moon of Zul Hajj of the year 1444H.E will be born on this coming Sunday at around 04:47UT which is 8:47AM in Mauritius. Since there will be only about 9 hours to sunset, the moon will

not be visible in Mauritius. It might be visible in the USA. But the next night, Monday 19th June, it is expected to be visible almost everywhere in the world. However as usual we will have to wait for the decision of the Jumma Mosque in Mauritius to be fixed on *Eid ul Adha* day. If the moon is visible here on Monday night, Eid will be on 29th June. Or it might also fall on Friday 30th June if the moon is visible on 20th June. Next week we should be fixed about this *incha Allah*.

Since as from the beginning of next week we will be entering Dhul Hijjah 1444, the last month of the Islamic calendar we should avail ourselves of the opportunities that we have been given to multiply our good deeds during this period. This period of ten days is mentioned in the Holy Quran in Sura Al Fajr. Allah says “*Wal Fajr wa layalin ashrin*” meaning “by the dawn and by the ten nights” (HQ 89:1-2). There is a consensus among Muslim scholars that the ten days mentioned refer to the first ten days of dhul Hijja. Since Allah swears by them, it means they have a special significance. In addition, in another verse Allah says ‘Remember Allah during the appointed days’ (2:203)

In addition, we read in the books of hadith that the Holy Prophet (saw) is reported to have said **“There are no days in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than in these (ten) days. The people asked, "Not even jihad for the sake of Allah?" He said, "Not even jihad for the sake of Allah, except in the case of a man who went out to fight giving himself and his wealth up for the cause, and came back with nothing."** (Reported by al-Bukhari, 2/457).

So, when we take all these abovementioned instructions into consideration, and since we are not going to Mecca for the pilgrimage, it is in our interest to increase our good deeds during the coming days. And in another hadith, we read that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) taught us the following: **“The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) commanded us to recite a lot of *Tasbih* ("Subhan-Allah"), *Tahmid* ("Al-hamdu Lillah") and *Takbir* ("Allahu akbar") during this time. ‘Abdullah ibn ‘Umar (may Allah be pleased with him and his father) reported that the "There are no days greater in the sight of Allah and in which righteous deeds are more beloved to Him than these ten days, so during this time recite a great deal of *Tahlil* ("La ilaha ill-Allah"), *Takbir* and *Tahmid*."** (Reported by Ahmad, 7/224).

We can also read more of our Holy Quran during these days and read namaz Tahajjud as well or if we are unable read some more *nawafil*. These are acts of virtue that will endear us to Allah provided it is Allah who is our main objective in life. We should also not forget to daily recite *astaghfaar*. This will *incha Allah* increase our capacity to repel the temptations of Shaitan and be also a means to clean our heart. Those who have the capacity should try to fast voluntarily. It is not an obligation but rather a suggestion. Whatever good deeds you feel like doing, just do it and hope that Allah will forgive you and reward you as well. In brief, ten blessed days are coming. Let us all do our best to take our fill of all the spiritual benefits that such sacred times bring with them. *Incha Allah*.

As you know, we are not allowed to go for Hajj. But it appears that we may go for Umra these days. Those who can may try to avail themselves of these opportunities. Not going for Hajj should not cause us any type of distress. Under all circumstances, we should be resigned to the will of Allah.

Now, I will retell you about an incident which is reported in Islamic books about somebody who intended to go for hajj but was not able to go but even then, Allah rewarded him with a Hajj.

“The Cobbler's Hajj

It is related that a noted Muslim scholar Abdullah bin Mubarak, had a dream while he was sleeping near the Kaaba.

Abdullah bin Mubarak saw two angels descend from the sky, and start talking to each other.

One of the angels asked the other: "Do you know how many people have come for Hajj this year?"

The other angel replied: "Six hundred thousand have come for Hajj."

Abdullah bin Mubarak had also gone for Hajj that year.

The first angel asked: "How many people's Hajj has been accepted?"

The second replied: "I wonder if anyone's Hajj has been accepted at all."

Abdullah bin Mubarak was grieved to hear that. He thought, "So many people have come from all over the world, crossing so many obstacles like rivers, jungles, mountains, suffered so many hardships, and meeting so many expenses. Would their effort be wasted? Allah does not let anyone's effort go to waste".

He had thought only so far when he heard the other angel speak: "There is a cobbler in Damascus. His name is Ali bin al-Mufiq. He could not come for Hajj, but Allah ﷻ has accepted his intention of Hajj. Not only will he get the reward for Hajj, but because of him, all the Hajjis will be rewarded."

When Abdullah bin Mubarak woke up, he decided he would go to Damascus and meet that cobbler whose Hajj intentions carried such a lot of weight.

On reaching Damascus, Abdullah bin Mubarak inquired if anyone knew a cobbler named Ali bin al-Mufiq. The town people directed him to a house. When a man appeared from the house Abdullah bin Mubarak greeted him and asked his name. The man replied ‘Ali bin al-Mufiq’.

Abdullah bin Mubarak asked: ‘What do you do for a living?’

Ali replied: ‘I am a cobbler’. Then Ali asked the stranger's name that had come looking for him.

Abdullah bin Mubarak was a very well-known scholar of Islam, when Abdullah bin Mubarak introduced himself, the cobbler was anxious to find out why such a well-known scholar was seeking him out.

When Abdullah bin Mubarak asked Ali to tell him if he had made any plans to go for Hajj. Ali replied ‘For thirty years, I have lived in the hope of performing the Hajj. This year, I had saved enough to go for Hajj, but Allah ﷻ did not will it, so I couldn't make my intention translate into action.’

Abdullah bin Mubarak was eager to find out how could this man's Hajj be accepted and blessed for all the people who went for Hajj that year when he didn't go for Hajj in the first place. While talking to the cobbler he could feel a certain purity in his heart. Islam regards greatness not in wealth or in power, but in civility, in good manners and the goodness of heart.

Abdullah bin Mubarak further asked: ‘Why could you not go on Hajj?’. In order not to disclose the reason, Ali again replied ‘It was Allah's will.’

When Abdullah bin Mubarak persisted, Ali revealed: ‘Once I went to see my neighbor's house. His family was just sitting down for dinner. Although I was not hungry, I thought my neighbor would invite me to sit down for dinner out of courtesy but I could see that my neighbor was grieved about something and wanted to avoid inviting me for dinner.

After some hesitation the neighbor told me: ‘I am sorry I cannot invite you for food. We were without food for three days and I could not bear to see the pain of hunger of my children. I went out looking for food today and found a dead donkey. In my desperation I cut out some meat from the dead animal, and brought it home so that my wife could cook this meat. It is *halal* (lawful or permitted) for us because of our extreme condition of hunger, but I cannot offer it to you.’

Ali continued: ‘On hearing this, my heart bled with tears. I got up and went home, collected the three thousand dinars I had saved for Hajj, and gave my neighbor the money. I too had to go hungry but that was to save money for Hajj, but I thought helping my neighbor during his difficult times was more important. Although I still desire to go for Hajj if Allah wills.’

Abdullah bin Mubarak was greatly inspired by the cobbler's story and told the cobbler of his dream.”

May Allah help us to do such good deeds that they might become an equivalent of a hajj or even more. Let us busy ourselves in the coming days to remember Allah as much as we can. *Incha Allah*.