

FRIDAY SERMON

1st September 2023

By Imam Zafrullah Domun

We continue reading from Malfuzaat Volume 10 of the Promised Messiah (as). From an entry dated 12th January 1907, we read:

“Death on Friday, complete awareness at the time of death, the colour of the face being bright at the time of death—these cannot be considered as sure signs of faith because even atheists die on this day, fully conscious, faces bright. The fact of the matter is that some diseases like tuberculosis are actually such that those suffering from them remain conscious till the very end; in fact, some forms of the plague are also of this very nature. I have personally witnessed instances when a patient was made to recite the *Kalimah* [creed of Islam] and *Surah Ya Sin* [Chapter 36 of the Holy Quran] was read out to him [because death was presumed nigh], but thereafter he survived and returned to his previous sinful life. This indicates that he had not truly repented, or else he would not have behaved in this way. Actually, the recitation of the *Kalimah* at such a time does not mean one has come to believe. This type of declaration of faith at a time of fear is not accepted.

Speaking about how Muslims can progress, the Promised Messiah (as) said:

“If the Aryas had not spouted this filth, I would not have been so moved. Their objections became the reason for me to present verities and insights. The zeal that other nations have to donate for the needs of their national religious tasks is not present in the Muslims. Perhaps this is because those who like to give are far from wealth, but there are also many princes and rich and prosperous people among Muslims.

The objective before every Muslim should be the propagation of Truth. Previously, when the Muslims enjoyed an age of success, it was the result of their achieving excellence in the Faith. Now again, if they want to see that same previous age of success, they should turn their attention to religion. Following in the footsteps of these others will not yield true Muslims any results. Instead of improving their own condition, those who have appointed themselves the reformers among Muslims want to amend the commandments of Islam regarding Prayer and Fasting. They see the progress of the Muslims tied to such actions. God Almighty desires progress through the Faith but they seek success by abandoning the Faith. They will not achieve success

in this way. Islam alone believes God to be One without partner. If these Muslims also part from this Oneness of God, it will not bode well for them.

Following the footsteps of other nations would not be a blessing for them. If others achieve success even through being irreligious, it is by way of a trial. God Almighty deals with each person separately. Christians may be involved in unpleasant deeds, they may drink and gamble, and it may be of benefit to them, but if Muslims do such deeds they will most certainly have the wrath of God descend upon them.

Look, the worldly governments also act in this way. If a servant of the king participates in some treacherous actions, he is given an exemplary punishment. Thus, in the same way, those who recite the *Kalimah* [creed of Islam] are God's special servants, yet if they become guilty of impertinence and disobey Allah the Exalted, they will most certainly be seized.

In the following revelation that I received:

Woh wa'da taleh ga nahin jab tak khoon ki nadiyan charon taraf seh beh na ja'ain"

‘The promise will not be averted till streams of blood have flown in all directions.’

There is an indication in this that Allah the Exalted does not desire [belief in] His Oneness to disappear from the world.

When Muslims themselves begin to like disbelief and start associating partners with Allah, then what complaint can we lodge against other nations? When one's home is clean and pure, only then can he reform others. Atheism is increasing among all nations. God Almighty desires to prove His existence. So according to “First the kinsmen, then the mendicants”, we have a duty to first reform our own nation.

When there are thousands of evil practices among Muslims themselves, what can we say to others? They cry for jihad, but I say that if we were given the command to carry out jihad, it would be waged against them first. It is Allah's practice to first straighten the people among whom there is a Book, before focusing on others. The example of the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, is there. He first reformed the Quraish before turning his attention to the Jews and Christians.

There are two types of people among the Muslims. One group who does not even know how to recite the *Kalimah* and from among these are also those concerning whom the Aryas keep making it well known that we have made so many Muslims Aryas. I saw many such men in the mountains that had no knowledge of Islam at all. The second group are those who are considered educated and civilized. They look upon the religion of Islam with disdain. They laugh and mock at the tenets relating to Prayer and say that this Prayer and Fasting pertain to the age of savagery, that these commandments are

not appropriate for the present age. Thus, reformation of both these groups is necessary above all, but what reformation can we bring about until it is not implemented from heaven?

Those who are ready to listen I speak to happily, but there are some who turn away and do not listen when you say something to them or they veer the conversation in another direction. A poisonous wind of alienation from religion is blowing that has destroyed some, blinded others, and makes others yet lazy. There are only a few who cultivate a relationship with Allah. It is essential to prove the existence of God.

There are many groups, but atheists are the largest. Divine Grandeur no longer exists at all, but what is there to discuss about Grandeur when belief in the very existence of God no longer remains!

The Last Remedy

There has been some bloodshed in the days of each Prophet. The Holy Quran says:

“It does not behoove a Prophet that he should have captives until he engages in regular fighting in the land (*Surah al-Anfal*, 8:68).

The things that were destined to take place at the hands of man are at an end. Now Allah has taken all such matters into His own hand. This plague, earthquakes, diseases, and catastrophes of all kinds are all the swords of Allah. The amazing thing is that tragedies upon tragedies and calamities upon calamities come, but apart from the members of my Jama'at, no one else is moved by them. These misfortunes are all an attempt to drive heedlessness away from the people and to make them adopt humility so they may realize that God exists.

Look, afflictions are taking place on all sides and who knows what more is yet to come in the future? My belief is indeed that now whatever will be done will be done by God alone. Surgery is the last remedy. All other treatments have been attempted.

So, this is the last cure; now the patient will either die or be restored to health. Several hundreds of thousands of people have died, but the practical condition of those remaining shows that nothing whatsoever has yet come to pass! They are still far removed from the side of truth and much closer to the side of evil. *Istighfar* [seeking forgiveness] should be engaged in.

In the past, it used to be the case that during times of epidemics, Muslim kings would generally draw attention to repentance, prayer, charity, and almsgiving continually. However, now, not only does this not occur, but to even mention the name of God is considered contrary to civility!

The Sultan-ul-Muazzam consulted his viziers about a certain matter and asked for suggestions regarding it. After hearing the advice of all, he expressed surprise that no one had mentioned supplication and praying to Allah. He was, after all, the son of a Muslim. There was at least something of the worship of God within him. He attends the Friday Prayer and also keeps contact with the ascetics, so he is virtuous on account of this God Almighty declared in the beginning age that I am your God and now again, in the Latter Days, He has said that **الْمَوْجُودُ أَنَا** [I am present]. Remember that He is the Guide. If He were to let go, everyone would become an atheist. Thus, He continues to provide proof of His Being and this age is in particular need of this.

The thing that reigns its effect comes to be manifested. If today a righteous man who has attained the truth cannot influence thinking, then obviously misguidance still reigns. When such a wind blows, everyone is affected. Although a believer remains safe, he cannot cast his influence upon others. The awe and influence of misguidance is such that there are many very highly educated people and no one dares say anything to them about religion lest they become upset or that people make fun of me or mock me.

We should look at the example of the Noble Companions of the Holy Prophet (saw). During a period of weakness for Islam, the Holy Prophet (saw) wrote letters to all the rulers. That was not a very civilized age either nor was it a time of peace like now. The Companions (ra) took these letters and explained their beliefs in the very courts of these rulers. When this message of Islam reached one Christian king, he exclaimed that this appears to be the message of the same God who sent the Torah and said that if he could go this Prophet, he would kiss his feet. He sent for the priests and said to them, ‘Look, how beautiful the religion of Islam is. Do you like it?’ And when he sensed their opposition to it, he dismissively remarked that, ‘I was just testing you.’

This weakness was the result of the love of this world. Those who do not worship the world are not afraid to speak the truth and to proclaim it openly and God helps them.

It is essential for our Jamaat to learn the ways to invite people of every level in the most appropriate and suitable manner according to the need of the circumstances. Some have the knack of speaking so well that they can say all that needs to be said and cause no offense either. Some people appear to be evil and there seems to be no hope from them, yet they accept [the Message], while others look humble and one places great hope in them but they do not accept. It is, therefore, necessary to speak in a decisive, irrefutable manner with which victory is ultimately achieved.

There was fierce opposition in Delhi. Eventually, I said you have followed the doctrine of the life of Jesus for 1300 years and, as a result, many have left the Faith. Now you

should try the idea of the death of Jesus and see the result. One person stood up and involuntarily said, ‘The truth is indeed what you have set forth.’

So decisive, irrefutable speech is a great bounty. How truly well has someone said [Punjabi]:

Alchemy indeed is this alone that one should know how to speak!

We will stop here for today. We will continue *incha Allah* next week. May these words inspire each one among us to be a worthy member of the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah (as). *Ameen*.