

FRIDAY SERMON

17th November 2023

By Imam Zafrullah Domun

We start our reading of selected extracts from the Malfuzaat Volume 10 of Hazrat Masih Maood(as) by an entry dated 25 March 1908. It is as follows:

“Respected Doctor Khalifah Rasheed-ud-Din, Assistant Surgeon, mentioned the prosperous past of Farrukhabad and its downfall and destruction, and their palaces becoming ruins.”

For your information Farrukhabad is a place in Uttar Pradesh in India. It is well known since antiquity. The question of its downfall to which reference is being made is most probably to the period following the Moghul rule in India.

Upon this the Promised Messiah (as) said:

“It was the practice in the time of earlier kings that they would always have some godly people in their courts as well. Kings would work in consultation with them and would benefit from their prayers. This is not the case anymore. The condition of these Muslims has also become similar to that of the Children of Israel. In consequence of their evil deeds, God had abandoned them [the Israelites] too and they would not get any help [from God]. The same is happening nowadays. God Himself has pledged to help and assist Islam but there should be some [true] Muslim. The Muslims, in fact, are themselves becoming the target of God’s wrath and punishment. How can they possibly be helped [by God]?”

These few Muslim states of India which became the target of God’s wrath would certainly have been safeguarded and helped by God if there had

been even a little piety left in them. This punishment and decline that became their lot was the result of their own evil deeds. Consider how the Israelites faced defeat even in the presence of Moses (as). The reason for that, too, was that their own condition was not fit to attract Divine help. In fact, Moses (as) had already told them not to fight at that time as neither the opportunity was right nor had the time yet arrived when they should receive Divine help.” (P 238-9)

There is an authentic hadith where the Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw) has spoken about the similarity of Jewish and Muslims behaviour. It is as follows:

*“Abdullah bin Amar^(ra) relates that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said “Surely things will happen to my people as happened earlier to Israelites, they will resemble each other like one shoe in a pair resembles the other to the extent that if anyone among the Israelites has openly committed adultery to his mother there will be some who will do this in my Ummah as well, verily the Israelites were divided into 72 **sections but my people will be divided into 73 sections, all of them will be in the fire except one.**” The companions asked, ‘Who are they O Messenger of Allah,’ Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) said, **“They are those who will be like me and my companions.**”* “Tirmizi Book of Iman”

Now one may say that because of what is happening in Gaza Muslims are being punished. In fact, since the Jews started the project of establishing themselves in Palestine around 1895 their plan duly documented has been to drive all Arabs out of Palestine after getting a stronghold. In fact, the British Jewry has exerted great pressure on British politicians during the 1930s to bring their plan of having a homeland in Palestine to fruition. What is happening today as will most probably happen tomorrow is still the execution of that plan. But Allah knows best when the tides will turn and His righteous servants will take over Palestine again. Just imagine the anguish of all these Muslims around the world and especially the Arabs which surround Israel today that for one month while Israel has been

executing its plans, they have not been able to deliver even one liter of water to the people of Gaza. I humbly think that this is a moment that Muslims have to pause and ask ourselves why have we been so humiliated by a handful of Jews because of their backing by the greatest military power of the world of the day. Of course, Allah is the greatest. The question is why the Help that has been promised to the best Umma has not been materialized yet. But we should not despair. It is not the characteristic of a Muslim to despair. Help will insha Allah come and victory also will come insha Allah. We should turn to Allah and keep begging for His Help in favour of those who cannot defend themselves.

Now we go back to Masih Maood's Malfuzaat. He continued:

“Salah-ud-Din was blessed with good fortune. He also observed *Salat* [obligatory Prayers] regularly. Therefore, God Almighty also helped him and conferred victory upon him in the most difficult of times and during the attacks of his opponents. The fact is that when a nation becomes corrupt and, turning away from God, leans towards the world and drowns itself in foul deeds, sin, and transgression, Allah the Exalted gives another nation dominion upon it by His own design....”

Now let me say a few words about Salahuddin Ayyubi. From the encyclopedia Britannica we can read “**Saladin**, (born 1137/38, Tikrīt, Mesopotamia [now in Iraq]—died March 4, 1193, Damascus [now in Syria]), Muslim sultan of Egypt, Syria, Yemen, and Palestine, founder of the Ayyūbid dynasty, and the most famous of Muslim heroes. In wars against the Christian Crusaders, he achieved great success with the capture of Jerusalem (October 2, 1187), ending its nearly nine decades of occupation by the Franks....

Crusades, military expeditions, beginning in the late 11th century, that were organized by western European Christians in response to centuries of Muslim wars of expansion. Their objectives were to check the spread of Islam, to retake control of the Holy Land in the eastern Mediterranean, to conquer pagan areas, and to recapture formerly Christian territories;

they were seen by many of their participants as a means of redemption and expiation for sins. Between 1095, when the First Crusade was launched, and 1291, when the Latin Christians were finally expelled from their kingdom in Syria, there were numerous expeditions to the Holy Land, to Spain, and even to the Baltic; the Crusades continued for several centuries after 1291. Crusading declined rapidly during the 16th century with the advent of the Protestant Reformation and the decline of papal authority.”

Since the beginning Christian powers always tried to finish Muslims. But by Allah’s Grace Muslims became dominant but unfortunately Muslims lost their dominions one by one. And today Muslims appear weak in the world because of the divisions among themselves. Allah knows best how these divisions might end eventually.

Now we go back to Malfuzaat. The next topic Hazrat Masih Maood(as) speaks about is a mother’s rights.

“A Jamaat member inquired in his letter that his mother was displeased with his wife and wanted him to divorce her while he had no complaint against his wife—what should he do?

The Promised Messiah (as) said:

“A mother’s right is very great and her obedience is obligatory, but one should first inquire if there is something else behind her displeasure that may release him, under the command of God, from such obedience of his mother. For instance, if the mother’s displeasure is because of some religious reason or because of her [daughter-in-law] observing *Salat* and Fasting, in such a case there is no need to obey the mother. But, in the absence of any such religiously lawful exception, she is liable for divorce.

The fact is that some women cause grief to their mother-in-law only out of mischief. They abuse, harass, and torment them even in trivial matters. A mother does not become displeased with her son’s wife without a cause. In fact, the mother is the one who is most desirous of the success of her

son's married life. She has special interest in it. She gets her son married—praying all the while—spending thousands of rupees with great eagerness. How can it even be imagined that she would quarrel with her son's wife without a cause and desire to ruin his household?

In such disputes, it is generally observed that often it is the mother who is in the right. It is also the ignorance and foolishness of the son that he says that his mother is displeased [with his wife] but that he is not. When his mother is upset, why does he say such words of disrespect that he is not displeased while his mother is? This is not a case of dispute between co-wives. If there is no religious reason for the dispute between his mother and his wife, why does he show such disrespect?

If there is some other reason or basis, it should be immediately rectified. If the mother is displeased for some issues concerning household expenditure and if he gives allowance to his wife for the household expenditure, then it is necessary that he should have expenses managed through his mother and hand over the entire management of the household to his mother. He should not make his mother dependent and subservient to his wife.

Some women appear to be very gentle on the surface, but deep down they sting grievously. Therefore, the cause [of friction] should be removed and the reason for the displeasure should be addressed, and the mother should be made happy. One should consider that if one makes the effort, even lions, wolves, and other beasts can be tamed and can become harmless; friendships can be cultivated among enemies if one makes peace. Then what is the reason that the mother should be kept displeased?

A man had two wives. After a dispute between the two, one of them left for her parents' home without the permission of her husband. The person came to me and asked if he should divorce her? I thought that these are very delicate matters and a co-wife has to endure rather great hardships. It has been seen that some women commit suicide because of their

difficulties. Just as an insane person is not held accountable for his actions, similarly such women also are not accountable, and they deserve mercy because the difficulties that co-wives face can drive them to the brink of insanity.

The fact was that this person was himself a little more inclined towards his second wife and that wife also abused and pestered the poor woman. Eventually, she could not bear those hardships and felt compelled to leave. The man himself admitted that this, indeed, was the case and retracted his decision [to divorce her].

God Himself forgives such faults as well. Thus, He says in the Quran:

Wa Laa tohammilna maa laa taqatalana behi

Burden us not with what we have not the strength to bear (2:286)

If something exceeds the human capacity and capability to bear, God, too, overlooks it.

Look at the incident of Hagar (ra) which was also of a similar nature. She was the grandmother of the believers. The first time when she was expelled from her home, the angel called her and consoled her greatly and treated her benevolently, but when she was expelled the second time, her co-wife told Hazrat Ibrahim to leave her at a place where there was no food or water. Her objective was to let her [Hagar ra] die and perish this way. Abraham (as) did not wish to do this, but God told him that, okay, do as she desired and accept what Sarah says. The fact is that God willed to manifest His might. This incident is recorded in detail in the Torah. When the child started crying due to extreme thirst, Hagar (ra) kept running to the mountain back and forth, panicking in search of water. However, when she thought the child would not survive, she put the child down at one place and went to pray at the top of the mountain because she could not bear the sight of her child dying. At that time, she heard a voice from the unseen, ‘O Hagar! O Hagar! Go see your son for he lives.’

When she returned and looked, the boy was alive and a fountain of water was flowing there. Now, it is the same well [i.e., the Well of Zamzam] whose water reaches all around the world and people drink it with great regard, respect, and reverence. This entire incident stemmed from the mutual jealousy and stubbornness between co-wives.” (P242)

May Allah help us to improve ourselves day in and day out. May we become better Muslims as we grow older. May Allah open a way out for the Palestinian people. Ameen