

FRIDAY SERMON

2nd February 2024

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We continue reading from Malfuzaat Volume 10. We are reading records of the last months of Hazrat Masih Maood's (as) life. We continue from where we left off last week. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said:

“The truth is that trust in God alone is the one thing that can make man succeed and achieve his goals. Allah the Exalted says:

وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ حَسْبُهُ

Allah becomes sufficient for him who puts his trust in Allah the Exalted, provided he progresses in everything honestly with a sincere heart and with the true understanding of trust in God.

And he should be patient and steadfast. He should not withdraw by becoming intimidated by adversities. This world is a temporary, transient place as is everything in it and so too are the affairs associated with it. Therefore, it is essential for man to grieve over it less and be more concerned about the Hereafter. If concern for religion comes to prevail over man, God Himself becomes the surety for his worldly affairs.

It is a pity that great calamities are taking place every day and yet people pay no heed. They do not care. Even the disbelievers of Moses (as) were better in that they would at least become heedful when the chastisements would descend upon them, and would say that they would accept if only those calamities would abate. However, the disbelievers of today are even more diehard than they were, given that they are not perturbed even though ever-new calamities befall and the wrath of God descends in ever-newer forms.

Just look at how lethal the attacks of this plague alone have been! How heart-wrenching the destruction that took place that one shivers in fear just listening to

their accounts, and yet no one was moved. Those people would ask Moses (as) to pray for them in such a crisis, but these people say it is not much—such things do happen and such calamities come all the time.

It was the promise of God from yore that diverse calamities would visit in the Latter Days. Some would accept at that time but most would perish. God does indeed show Signs but only they benefit from Signs who are believers and they are but a few.

A person had come to me and said: ‘The plague has wreaked such havoc in my town that many are prepared to come to Your Holiness and repent. In fact, it is the plague that has brought me to Your Holiness as well.’

This year the plague is somewhat less and, because of it, the hearts are hard. People are audacious, but who knows what is to transpire in the future? Therefore, one should not feel secure and one should repent and lean towards God and seek protection from Him before the chastisement strikes. However, all this can happen only with His help. At times, Satan creates great doubts in man: my relations and links would be severed, my honour and respect would suffer, my means of livelihood would get shut down, or my superiors would become displeased with me. However, remember, all these concerns do not stop one from accepting the truth.

Besides, my doctrine - by the grace of God - is not such that would offend the government. As for relationships getting severed or livelihood getting compromised, one should remember that God does not waste the one who surrenders something and subjects himself to some hardship for the sake of God. On the contrary, God Himself becomes his Helper and Benefactor in every situation.”

From Lahore, the Promised Messiah (as) said:

“Rectitude, probity, righteousness, and purity were the blessings of Islam which were inseparably found in Muslims, but now people have become bereft of these attributes. If they observe *Salat* [Prayer], it is only very rarely. Mosques are lying deserted. No worshippers can be seen. There was a time when it was hard for a worshipper to find mosques. Most of those who pray, pray for show because they are bereft of the impact of blessings of real *Salat* and its fruits. Whereas the Christians got rid of their worries by killing off Jesus (as), most Muslims have found salvation in the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Husain (ra).”

“It is difficult to get out of the quagmire of carnal passions. If Allah the Exalted has decreed for someone that He should bestow upon him some measure of blessings, then He shows him some wonder or extraordinary Sign or some heart-captivating

manifestation of His own Being. Without this, the impurity of heart cannot be cleansed, and the fire of lustfulness cannot be extinguished.”

“The degree to which one is bestowed abundance of the means of worldly luxury and extravagance, is that very degree that he becomes arrogant by becoming unmindful and heedless of God and to the same degree his arrogance grows. I was stoned in Amritsar. I was maltreated in Sialkot. All these are, indeed, the effects of heedlessness and audacity.”

The Promised Messiah (as) said:

“God has vouchsafed me a firm promise, and there is not the slightest doubt about it, and it is:

“Kings shall seek blessings from thy garments.”

After this revelation, those kings were also shown [to me].”

He then spoke about the death of Hazrat Isa (as):

“The good fortune of Muslims lies in this very idea that Jesus (as) should die. Now that very age has come that the thinking [of people] is changing. Some will accept and some will pass away. The rest will become so weak that they will not have any ability left and their existence will be equal to their non-existence. Therefore, let Jesus die for therein lies the life of Islam.”

“The arrogant one seeks to sit upon the throne of God. Therefore, you should always seek refuge from this vile trait. Even if all the promises of God Almighty are with you, you should still show humility because only the one who shows humility is dear to God.

Look, the successes of our Holy Prophet (saw) were such that the likes of them are not found in any of the previous Prophets, yet as God bestowed all the more success [upon him], he grew humbler.

An incident is recorded that once a man was caught and brought to the Holy Prophet (saw). When the Holy Prophet looked at him, he was trembling and terrified. When he came close, the Holy Prophet (saw) asked him very gently and kindly, ‘Why are you so frightened? After all, I am also a human being like you, and I am the son of a woman.’

The Promised Messiah (as) said:

“When an issue becomes too contentious, God Almighty takes the decision into His own hand. I have been preaching for twenty- six years and have accomplished all

the preaching so far as was possible. Now it is for Him to manifest His power and pass Judgement. One who has resolved not to accept me no matter what happens and whose rancour has become extreme—his case is consigned verily to God Himself. One should not persist with him. No one can fathom the providence of God. These are Divine prerogatives. He can draw to Himself whomsoever He pleases and reject whomsoever He pleases. Look, the person of the Holy Prophet (saw) was a mercy for the world, as Allah the Exalted says:

وَمَا أَرْسَلْنَاكَ إِلَّا رَحْمَةً لِّلْعَالَمِينَ

And We have sent you not but as a mercy for all peoples (*Surah al-Anbiya*, 21:108).

But was he a mercy for Abu Jahl? They must have thought that he was an orphan child not long ago, that he used to graze sheep, that he was weak and poor, that he could not even afford marriage. In short, these kinds of thoughts must have crossed their minds, but little did those unfortunate people know that this very orphan would one day be the emperor and the savior of the world.”

On the 1st of May 1908, which was a Friday, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) spoke with some people before Jummah. He said:

“I know from experience that these are not the days of felicity and happiness for Islam, but rather, these are days of misfortune for Islam because I see that people have no interest in religious matters. In fact, people have even forgotten God...”

This is what the Promised Messiah (as) said 116 years ago. These words and those which I have just spoken about in the beginning of the Jummah are as relevant today as they were then. The world of Islam is in pain today as it was then. Even today people are very slack in offering prayers which is really a great matter of concern. What has been going on in Palestine is a thorn in the flesh of every Muslim around the world. More than twenty five thousand Palestinians have been massacred in four months and the world of Islam has only made empty declarations without almost any effect and women and children and men are still being killed mercilessly in Gaza. Let us continue to pray so that Allah puts an end to this misery and may He punish with an exemplary punishment all those who are responsible for allowing such a catastrophe to visit the world of Islam. Even here in Mauritius the situation does not seem to be that good. The weather is making a havoc with ordinary life and people are suffering and children are not going to school and almost all vegetables have been destroyed. In fact, we are living in very hard times and things do not appear to

be improving in the coming days. May Allah have mercy on the suffering of human kind and may people take heed before it is too late.

Now we continue with the extract that we were reading. He said:

“.... these are days of misfortune for Islam because I see that people have no interest in religious matters. In fact, people have even forgotten God. This is an error on the part of Muslims, which perhaps they will realize at the time of their death rattle. At that time, they will know for certain that, indeed, the warp and woof [essential foundation and base] of all that they had understood was wrong. Only those who strive shall find. If one’s hard work is entirely for the world and the name of God does not come to mind even so much as a stray thought, and there is neither righteousness nor piety, and yet one remains hopeful of meeting God—this is impossible. Now, finally, the time has come to hand over recompense to those who give preference to the Faith over their worldly concerns. Nothing can be achieved without the will and help of Allah.

Look, the Noble Prophet (saw) had given up the world for the sake of God, but look how God Almighty humbled the world and cast it before him like slaves. The world runs miles away from those who pursue it, but it chases and pursues the one who advances towards God with a sincere heart and pays no attention to the world in the way of God.

Look, there are 400 million people who worship Jesus as at this time. They believe in his ‘Divinity’, not just his prophethood. These are all examples of the might of God showing that the one who comes to God is never wasted. He attains faith and the world is also brought before him. One who adores this world may have his way for a few days but, in the end, he will lose this world, and his life in the Hereafter will be ruined as well...” (p. 329)

We stop here for today. We will continue *incha Allah* next time. May Allah help each one among us to lead a life in which Allah is ever present and to do our best never to forget Him. *Ameen*.