

FRIDAY SERMON

19th April 2024

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These days we are at such a point in world history where many things can go wrong and we may all be engulfed in paying the consequences of the western nations' stubborn defense and alliance with Israel's genocide in Gaza. The situation has become even more alarming with last week's Iranian drone and missile attack on some targets in Israel. But our sermon is not about how the political actors in the Middle East and the larger world will respond to the crisis that the world is facing. We have to see what we can do to stay safe.

We, Ahmadi Muslims, strive to have a very good relationship with Allah and we trust in Him to keep us safe even if throughout the Jamaat's history there have been many crises through which the Jamaat especially in Qadian in the 1930s and 1940s and in Pakistan in 1953, 1974 and 1984 and even 2010 has been going through. In facing any kind of crisis, the Jamaat as a whole knows that we should focus our attention on seeking Allah's help through patience and prayer as stated in the following verse of the Holy Quran (2:46,47):

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46. And seek help with patience and Prayer; and this indeed is hard except for the humble in spirit,

47. Who know for certain that they will meet their Lord, and that to Him will they return.

وَاسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ
إِنَّهَا لَكَبِيرَةٌ إِلَّا عَلَى الْخَاشِعِينَ ﴿٤٦﴾
الَّذِينَ يَظُنُّونَ أَنَّهُمْ مُلْقُوا رَبِّهِمْ
وَأَنَّهُمْ إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ ﴿٤٧﴾

Whenever we are in a difficult situation, we should spend more time in seeking Allah's help by praying to Him with greater pathos and pain in our heart until our prayers are heard and the world might avert a world war which will indeed be catastrophic for the people and the planet as well. So now is the time for us to seek Allah's Help so that He might extinguish the fire of war that is being kindled by war mongers who want to save their economies. Allah says again in Surah Al Maida (Ch. 5) of the Holy Quran:

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*65. And the Jews say, 'The hand of Allāh is tied up.' Their *own* hands shall be tied up and they shall be cursed for what they say. Nay, both His hands are wide open; He spends how He pleases. And what has been sent down to thee from thy Lord will most surely increase many of them in rebellion and disbelief. And We have cast among them enmity and hatred till the Day of Resurrection. Whenever they kindle a fire for war, Allāh extinguishes it. And they strive to create disorder in the earth, and Allāh loves not those who create disorder.

وَقَالَتِ الْيَهُودُ يَدُ اللَّهِ مَغْلُولَةٌ
 غُلَّتْ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَلُعِنُوا بِمَا قَالُوا بَلْ
 يَدُهُ مَبْسُوطَتَانِ يُنفِقُ كَيْفَ يَشَاءُ
 وَلَيَزِيدَنَّ كَثِيرًا مِّنْهُم مَّا أُنْزِلَ
 إِلَيْكَ مِنْ ذِكْرِكَ طُغْيَانًا وَكُفْرًا وَ
 أَلْقَيْنَا بَيْنَهُمُ الْعَدَاوَةَ وَالْبَغْضَاءَ
 إِلَى يَوْمِ الْقِيَامَةِ كُلَّمَا أَوْقَدُوا نَارًا
 لِّلْحَرْبِ أَطْفَأَهَا اللَّهُ وَيَسْعَوْنَ فِي
 الْأَرْضِ فَسَادًا وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ
 الْمُفْسِدِينَ ﴿٦٥﴾

With the backing of the USA, the UK, Germany and France, the Jews have stolen Arab land in Palestine and now they want to expel all Palestinians from where they and their ancestors have been living since the 13th Century. Allah knows well what is their plan for Greater Israel which they are trying to implement these days just like Hitler tried to execute his plan for world domination in 1939 and as the Japanese Emperor also tried. Anyhow, we are confronted with a very dangerous situation and we need to pray that Allah help humanity by preventing a world war of catastrophic consequences to take place. So, we will remind ourselves of some extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah (as)

about the need to solicit Allah's help in such a critical time. We should not panic and be frozen with fear. We have learned that Our Lord is a lord of Power and He will help those who are in trouble as He has always done throughout the history of mankind.

First of all, let us remind ourselves who our Lord is. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said:

“Let it be clear that to affirm the covenant of *bai'at* with the tongue alone amounts to nothing unless it is practiced with full, heartfelt resolve. Thus, whosoever fully acts upon my teachings enters that house of mine, concerning which God Almighty has promised in His Word:

Inni Ohafezo koulla man fid daare

That is, I shall protect everyone who is within the four walls of your home. This should not be taken to mean only such people who dwell in my house made of brick and mortar; rather, this also refers to all those who follow me completely and dwell in my spiritual home.

To follow me, it is necessary for them to believe that they have an Omnipotent, Self-Sustaining God, who is the Creator of all things, and whose attributes are eternal, everlasting and unchangeable. He has no father and no son. He is above suffering, being crucified and killed. He is such that despite being far, He is near; and despite being near, He is far. Despite being One, His manifestations are diverse. For a person who brings about a change in himself, He becomes a new God for him and deals with him by means of a new manifestation. Thus, such a person experiences a change in God according to the change in himself. Yet no change takes place in God, for He is eternally unchangeable and possesses complete perfection, but when a person undergoes a transformation and begins to move towards virtue, God manifests Himself to such a person in a new way. At the time of every improved condition that manifests itself in a person, the manifestation of God Almighty's power also reveals itself to a greater extent. He manifests His might in an extraordinary way

only when an extraordinary change takes place in a person. This is the root of all extraordinary happenings and miracles.

The God so described is the fundamental bedrock of my community. Believe in Him and give precedence to Him over your own souls and comforts and over all your relationships; show sincerity and loyalty in His cause by exhibiting courage in your practice. Worldly people do not prefer Him over their means, and their kith and kin, but you ought to, so that you may be counted in heaven as belonging to His community.

It has been the practice of God since the remotest ages to manifest signs of His mercy, but you can partake of it only when nothing separates you from Him, His will becomes your will, His desire becomes your desire, and you remain prostrate at His threshold at all times and in all conditions—whether of success or failure—so that He may do whatever He wills. If you do so, then God, who has for so long kept His countenance hidden, will manifest Himself in you. Is there anyone from among you who will implement this and seek His pleasure, without being dissatisfied by His will and decree? So, when you encounter misfortune, you should step forth even more eagerly, for this is the means of your success”.
(Noah’s Arc)

“Dread the ways of ruin and always be fearful of God. Adopt righteousness and worship not His creation. Cut asunder from everything to turn to your Master. Turn your hearts away from the world and become wholly His; live for Him alone and, for His sake, hate every impiety and sin, for He is Holy. Let every morning bear witness that you have spent the night in righteousness, and let every evening bear witness that you have spent the day with the fear of God.

Be not afraid of the curses of the world, for they shall vanish before your eyes like smoke and cannot turn day into night. Fear instead the curse of God which descends from heaven and uproots its victims in both worlds. You cannot save yourselves with hypocrisy, for your God is He who sees the innermost depth of man.

Can you then deceive Him? So become straightforward, clean, pure and truthful. If even a particle of darkness is left within you, it will dispel all your light. And if you possess even the slightest arrogance, hypocrisy, self-conceit or sloth, you are not worthy of being accepted. Be careful lest a few accomplishments delude you to think that you have sufficiently fulfilled your purpose. For God desires a complete transformation in your being and He demands from you a death whereafter He should revive you. Hasten to make peace with one another and forgive your brethren their sins. For he who is not inclined to make peace with his brother is wicked and will be cut off, because he is the cause of dissension. Part with your ego in every way and do away with mutual grievances. Be humble like the guilty, though truth be on your side, so that you may be forgiven. Do not feed your vanity, for those who are bloated cannot enter the gate to which you have been called...”

“Have mercy on your subordinates and your wives and your less fortunate brethren so that you too may be shown mercy in heaven. Become truly His, so that He too may become yours. The world is home to a thousand evils, one of which is also the plague. So, hold fast to God with sincerity so that He should safeguard you against all calamities. No calamity visits the earth until there is a command from heaven, and no affliction is alleviated until mercy descends from heaven. So, you would be wise to take hold of the root rather than the branch. You are not prohibited from having recourse to the necessary means and appropriate remedies, but you are forbidden to rely upon them. Ultimately, the will of God will prevail. Complete trust in God, if one has the strength for it, is greater than all else.”

On page 8, he said: “Righteousness is the root of all goodness. No action that is rooted in righteousness will go in vain. It is inevitable that you should also be tried with various forms of anguish and misfortune, just as the faithful before you were tried. Be on your guard, lest you should falter. So long as you have a firm relationship with heaven, the earth can do you

no harm. Whenever harm befalls you, it will be from your own hands and not from the hands of your enemy. Even if you lose all honour on earth, God will bestow eternal honour upon you in heaven. So do not forsake Him. You will certainly suffer pain and many of your desires will not be fulfilled, but do not lose heart in such situations, for your God tries you to see whether you are steadfast in His path or not. If you desire that even the angels should praise you in heaven, then endure beating and remain joyful, hear abuse and be grateful, suffer setbacks but do not sever your relationship with God.

You are the last community of God, so practice virtue at its best. Anyone of you who becomes slothful will be cast out of the community like a foul thing and will die in regret and will be able to do no harm to God. I gladly inform you that your God truly exists. Though all are His creation, but He chooses the one who chooses Him. He comes to the one who goes to Him. He bestows honour upon him who honours Him. Approach God with sincere hearts, and pure tongues, eyes and ears, for He will then accept you.” (Our Teaching, p. 9)

May Allah help us and may He listen to our prayers and may He protect the world and may He extinguish the flame of war that is being lighted by the World Jewry. May Allah destroy all their plans and frustrate all their designs and may He help Muslims keep their lands and resources and may He raise amongst them people of understanding who really understand what is at stake and who really understand what needs be done. May Allah help us and help humanity at large. Ameen.