

FRIDAY SERMON

17th May 2024

By Imam Zafrullah Domun

We continue with our reading from Malfuzaat of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) Volume 10 from where we left off last week. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) was speaking about the treatment that he had received as from most of the Ulemas because he said that Allah had sent him for the reform of the people. He continued:

“No one resists even a lowly orderly of the government when he comes for tax collection, but if someone does, he is declared a rebel and duly punished. Yet people are heedless of the Divine Government. It is true that those who come from God are clothed in humility. People look upon them with derision and disdain. They ridicule and mock them. But Allah the Exalted says:

يَحْسِرَةُ عَلَى الْعِبَادِ ۖ مَا يَأْتِيهِمْ مِّن رَّسُولٍ إِلَّا كَانُوا بِهِ يَسْتَهْزِءُونَ

**Alas for mankind! there comes not a Messenger to them but they mock at him
(36:31)**

Allah the Exalted is truthful and does not lie. He says that all Prophets who came, from Adam to the last one, have been ridiculed and mocked. However, when time passes, people begin to glorify them. Almost 200 ulema of his time issued a fatwa [religious verdict] of apostasy against Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani, may Allah have mercy upon him. Ibn Jawzi, who was a scholar of Hadith of his time, wrote a book and titled it *Talbis Iblis*, and used much bitter and unseemly words against him. Yet, the whole world knows how he [Sheikh Abdul Qadir Jilani] was acknowledged as a wonderfully accomplished and pious man, and how he was acclaimed far and wide just a couple of hundred years after his demise. He is not alone in this. All saintly people have received the same treatment. So, on this same pattern, all the ulema of the Punjab and India have bestowed upon me the titles of *kafir* [disbeliever], *dajjal* [deceiver], *fasiq* [transgressor], *fajir* [sinner], etc. They claim that I—God forbid—abuse the Prophets, whereas I hold all Prophets in great esteem, and it is to manifest their grandeur and truth that I have, in fact, been sent. Know for certain that if I am not from God and I am indeed a liar, then no one can prove the prophethood of any of the Prophets. If mentioning the death of Jesus (as) is equivalent to hurling abuse upon him, then the one who abused Jesus as first and foremost is none other than God.

What I mean to say is that it has always been the case that when the hearts of people become negligent of the rights of God and the rights of God's servants, when cruelty and oppression become the norm for people, when people appoint hundreds of idols for themselves and turn away from their Creator and the True God, and when they forget the teachings of the Prophets; Allah the Exalted rectifies all these evils by initiating a spiritual movement at such critical times. Even today, if one has the insight, he can discern whether the condition of Islam has reached such a critical stage or not when God should attend to it. This age is crying out by its very plight that a Reformer is needed.

Muslims are in a wretched state. The condition of ordinary Muslims is such that they do not merit even being counted. Those who are known as kings and are the caliphs of Muslims and the leaders of the believers—their own condition is such that despite being the king, they do not have the courage to permit an individual to speak the truth openly and freely in their realm. In the empire of the Sultan of Turkey, no one can pen even a few lines against Christianity, being apprehensive, perhaps, that all other Christian powers would be offended and take his kingdom. They do not hold so much as an iota of regard for the Kingdom of God nor do they have full trust in the power of God. Regard for self-interest is good only to an extent, but where it endangers one's faith, no considerations should be given to it. However, my experience shows that the government does not interfere in religion. Look, how many books I have written against the Christians and how forcefully have I refuted their false beliefs!

Nevertheless, it is a great tribute to this government that it has not expressed any displeasure. One's own weakness is the real culprit. Otherwise, the government does not interfere in religious matters at all.

Look, just consider this case against me and how justly and honestly it was decided. An arrest warrant was issued from Amritsar requiring a bail of 40,000 rupees. It was the providence of God that it was left on the books and the judge learned afterwards that he was not even authorized to issue it in the first place! But Allah's control, which always manifests itself in a variety of ways for those He sends into the world, helped me even at that perilous time. The petition was then suddenly transferred to the court of the Deputy Commissioner of Gurdaspur. He did not issue any warrant. He asked for me [to appear before him] and treated me with great respect and honour.

My purpose in pointing out this incident is only that, firstly, the government is not influenced—favourably or adversely—on account of religious considerations; it only does whatever is the demand of justice and honesty. And, secondly, that the bond with God is such a thing that, due to its blessings, one is comforted in every adversity and delivered from every calamity.

When a man becomes devoted to God, God shows him deference in every matter. Those people who are engrossed wholly in the cares and concerns of this world, and remain oblivious to God, do not merit being called believers. A believer is one who does not forsake God even when he reaches the very edge of destruction. It is a hallmark of faith that one should not lose hope and continue to believe, to the very end, that all matters are in the hand of God.

To be called the King, the Caliph of the Muslims, *Amirul- Mo 'minin* [the Leader of the Faithful] and yet be heedless of God is not a good thing. To be so fearful of the creation of God as if God has no power, is a serious type of weakness. People say that he is the caretaker of the holy places [Makkah and Madinah], but I say that the holy places are protecting him. It is the blessing of the holy places and it is because of them that he is still surviving. The religious freedom that we have in this country is not enjoined even by the Muslims in Muslim countries.

Look at the freedom with which I have been working, and the effect my publications have had on this country. Christian priests used to come to Qadian all the time. They would always set up their camps in the outskirts of Qadian. They would roam around town and preach, but now—for last fifteen years— we haven't seen the face of so much as a single priest! They always invited Muslims and challenged them if anyone would debate with them. They claimed that—God forbid—the Holy Prophet (saw) did not show any miracle. They always wanted to debate the topic of the Living Prophet. How times have changed!

Now I invite them and even offer a reward, but no one comes. It is as if they have changed their stance altogether. I am always prepared to undertake any method that can be employed to effectively and conclusively settle the arguments”.

Speaking about how representatives of other religions are attacking Islam, the Promised Messiah (as) said:

“You may also recall the time when they used to say that there was not a single miracle in the Holy Quran. They would say the prophecy of: **Ghulibatir-rum** (the Romans have been defeated) was simply a guess that the Holy Prophet (saw) made after comparing the two powers. This was how far things had advanced.

Then, for a very long time, they had tarnished the pure and luminous face of Islam by alleging that Islam had spread with the force of the sword. In short, they had created such a maelstrom of varied accusations and uncalled for objections that in my estimation, if we were to pile up all the books and magazines they had written against Islam in the last half century, it would make a mountain. Knowledgeable people know that so many attacks have never been made against any other Prophet, nor was such

foul language ever used against any other Prophet since the creation of the world, nor was any other Prophet abused to this extent or slandered to this degree.

Look at the Aryas. Their books are filled with so much filth that I do not think any Muslim who has a sense of honour can read even a single line from these books, especially if you look at the books written by Lekh Ram. ...”

Speaking about the internal enemies of Islam, he said:

“In short, this is the status of the hostility of external enemies. The inner condition of the house [of Islam] is much worst. The enemy from within is causing greater loss and harm while claiming to be well-wishers. The condition of the religious scholars, who were thought to be the pillars of the Faith and the means of salvation, can be judged from their response to this Divine Movement. When God Almighty, in accordance with His age-old tradition, established a Heavenly Movement at the exact time of need with perfect wisdom and truth for the reformation and eradication of these evils, and showed thousands of miraculous Signs to testify that it was from Allah, they turned hostile to it and sought to destroy it.

It was more incumbent upon them, being the pillars of the Faith and being learned and knowledgeable of the Holy Quran and Hadith, to support this Movement. Instead, they occupied themselves with all the schemes to extinguish this Divine light.

The state of their learning is so pathetic that the following couplet of Hafiz Shirazi [a famous Persian poet] was perhaps written for these very scholars:

On the pulpit the preachers put up a great show;

In private, they act quite differently

Next to them is the echelon of society comprising the rich and powerful. Their condition is also manifestly evident. They are totally dissociated from religion. They are so occupied in their sensual pleasures and pursuits that they have no time to spare, and if they do have any time to spare, they would spend it playing chess.

If you look at the third tier of society, which consists of the general masses, you feel even more sorry at the wretched and precarious condition of Islam. Jails are filled with Muslims. It is Muslims who are ruining themselves in bars. The Muslims are the ones who are in the miserable plight as prostitutes. If you look closely at any activity of immorality, debauchery, crimes, and sin, you will find Muslims outnumbering others.

It has become almost a profession for Muslims, especially the so-called *maulawis*, to give false testimony. And yet, I am the one receiving their fatwas of apostasy and being accused of so many things.

It is my wish and I am eager to see a group of influential Muslims to at least investigate whether these accusations that are levelled against me are indeed true. Is it true that I have abandoned the Holy Quran and the Messenger (saw)? Have I— God forbid—made some new religion? Is it true that I insult the Prophets?” (p. 379)

We will stop here for today. *Incha Allah* we will continue next time. May Allah help us to understand His Teachings and to do our best to excel in implementing them in our daily life. *Ameen*.