

FRIDAY SERMON

7th June 2024

By Imam Zafrullah Domun

Astronomically speaking we are already in Zul Hijja 1445AH. By 16h00 this afternoon, Mauritian time, the new moon would have been born for about 24 hours. If the weather is clear we would be seeing the moon here this evening. If that is the case, the first day of Zul Hijja will be tomorrow 8th June 2023. Eidul Azhia will incha Allah be on Monday 17th or Tuesday 18th June here in Mauritius.

As far as the Saudis are concerned, they have already announced that they have seen the new moon. Hence, the day of Arafat will be on next Saturday.

This year, they are expecting about 1.7 million pilgrims from outside Saudi Arabia. According to statistics published by The General Authority for Statistics, the total number of pilgrims last year, 1444 AH, amounted to 1,845,045 pilgrims. This is one of the biggest, if not the biggest, gathering on earth. The Saudis have been doing a great job in making the life of the pilgrims easy and they are successful at it. May Allah reward them for that.

The first ten days of Zul Hijja are days of great blessing. So, we should do our best to try to derive as much of spiritual benefits as we can from them. According to the hadiths, we learn that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) is reported to have said: **“There are no days on which righteous deeds are more beloved to Allah than these ten days.”** *Sahih Bukhari*.

As good Muslims, we try to do good deeds every day. But here in the coming days we are given an added opportunity to become better and to avail ourselves of a greater manifestation of the generosity of Allah. So, we may start by being very careful with our prayers. To begin with, we should start by doing our *Wuzu* (ablution) in the best possible way and not just rushing through it. And then when we start praying, we should do our best to pray with complete concentration and thinking that this might be our last prayer. If we cannot pray as if we are seeing Allah, at least we should always know that He is seeing us. After doing our Farz prayer, we should try to say *tasbih* as we have been taught by the authentic Sunnah of our beloved prophet Muhammad (saw). In addition, he said that during these ten blessed days we should recite as much

as we can a lot of *Tasbeeh* (*SubhanAllah*), *Tahmeed* (*Alhamdulillah*) and *Takbeer* (*Allahu-Akbar*).

If we are not asking for forgiveness every day, these ten days are a great opportunity to do so because we are prone to sins and Allah expects that we should come back to Him with repentance of our sins. Fasting also is another deed that will help us to expiate of our sins. And it was the practice of the holy Prophet (saw) to fast during the first nine days of Zull Hijja especially the day of Arafat for those who are not participating in Hajj. Besides, there is the recitation of the Holy Quran, the opportunity to lengthen the *sajdahs* with supplications and remembrance of Allah and the giving of charity and helping those who might need our help. May Allah help each one among us to do our best to make the best use of our time during the first ten blessed days of Zull Hijja by doing what may please Him and by staying away from that which might displease Him. *Incha Allah. Ameen.*

Now, we will continue with our reading from Malfuzaat Volume 10 of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) from where we left off last time. Just to recall, Hazrat Masih Maood (as) was speaking about the sincerity, the devotion of his followers. Then, he said:

“As an illustration, you may just look at the example of one such person, the late Sahibzada Maulawi Abdul Latif, and see how strong he was in his sincerity and how true he was in his loyalty. He did not shy away from sacrificing even his life. He surrendered his life, but he did not surrender truth. When he was reported to the *Amir* [ruler of Afghanistan] and was brought before him, the *Amir* asked him exactly this, whether it was true that he had made the *Bai’at* [Pledge of Allegiance] to such a man [the Promised Messiah, peace be upon him]. As he was a righteous man, he replied clearly, ‘Yes, I have taken the *Bai’at*; I have accepted him, but I have chosen to follow him out of thorough understanding and not out of blind acceptance. I have not found anyone quite like him in the whole world. I would rather give up my life in his path than to sever my ties with him.’

Thus, the blessed soul has left behind an example of the strength of faith and the purity of belief that my followers have.

The trouble is that people have no interest to ponder over religious matters, to reflect upon issues with the fear of God [in their heart], to seek the distinction between truth and falsehood, or to employ a passionate urge to discover if the Movement is established at the behest of God or not. Notwithstanding, it should be remembered that this act of God Almighty is not frivolous. On the contrary, He has established this Movement with truth and wisdom and has raised it precisely at the time of need. He is most certainly going to demand an explanation from the disbelievers.

Take note that there has never been a Prophet nor a Messenger sent to this world, but whose deniers were chastised by God Almighty with humiliation and ignominy. Once the conclusive arguments for the truth of the Prophet have been furnished, it becomes necessary and essential that the disbelieving people be made to suffer chastisement in order to bring about a distinction between the truth and falsehood.

There are two sins that are extremely grave in the sight of God. The first is to forge lies against God; that is, a person claims that God speaks to him or sends revelation or inspiration to him, whereas he does not receive any of them, nor has God ever spoken to him. Even fabricating a dream is included in this. So, one is the issue of forging a lie against God while God Almighty knows quite well that the person is a liar. The second person who is subjected to the severe wrath and chastisement of God is the one who rejects a truthful person who has come from God. In any case, what I mean to say is that this has always been the norm. And in this age, God Almighty has demonstrated it by establishing a prophetic Movement. People should at least derive some benefit from it, and whereas they take on such headaches and work so hard, striving for their worldly pursuits, it behoves them to at least do some investigation to determine whether this person—who ascribes his enterprise to God and makes such a momentous claim—is, in fact, truthful or a liar.

Then, God says that if someone disobeys His Messenger, He will not leave him until he is made to answer for his rejection. Even ordinary rulers and governments do not leave those who rebel and violate their ordinances without due punishment; then, how can he who disobeys a Messenger of God and violates His commandments remain safe when God is the Most Just of judges and has absolute control over every particle?

If I did not have any Signs of God with me and was not accompanied by the help and support from Him; or if I had carved out a path distinct from that of the Holy Quran, or if I had intruded into or modified the Quranic commandments and Shariah or had abrogated it; or if I had advocated a new path besides that of following the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him; then it would have been justified and the objection of the people would have been reasonable and worthy of being accepted that this person is, in reality, an enemy of God and the Messenger of God, and a denier of the Holy Quran and of its teachings, and one who abrogates them—that he is a transgressor, a sinner, and an apostate. But I have not made any changes in the Quran, or altered even a dot or an iota of the current Shariah brought by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw). Quite to the contrary, I am dedicated to the service of the Quran and the Quranic commandments and the pure religion of the Holy Prophet (saw), and have devoted my entire life to this path.

Moreover, I firmly believe that salvation is not at all possible without the Holy Quran—which is the perfect, complete, and comprehensive Book—and without its perfect

obedience, and without following the Holy Prophet (saw). I believe that anyone who adds or subtracts anything from the Quran or refuses the yolk of obedience of the Holy Prophet (saw), is an infidel and an apostate. So, this being the case, and in spite of the manifestation of thousands of Signs in the heavens and the earth from God in support of my truthfulness, if a person still calls me a *kazib* [liar], a *muftari* [fabricator], and a *dajjal* [deceiver], or does not show deference to me and does not lend an ear to my call, he should know for certain that God will never ever leave him without calling him to account for it.

The ship of Islam is about to sink. This age is bearing witness, and the time is proclaiming the need for help again and again. The internal state [of Muslims] is so precarious that no heart can feel reassured and content. The external onslaughts are so lethal that they are threatening to uproot Islam from its very foundations. Hence, hasn't the time yet come for God to appoint someone for the help of Islam, and to send some Reformer who could remedy the sinking ship of Islam?

The head of the century has also passed, but all the promises turned out to be false? So, you tell me whether the time has still not come for God to attend to the welfare of Islam, or is there going to be a more critical and precarious situation? Would someone come only when Islam is totally dead with no breath of life left in it? What would the use and benefit of such a person be if he comes then?

Remember it well that if I am false, then Islam is also false. And if Islam is also a dead religion like the others, then what greatness lies in it and what's its distinction? The *Tauhid* [Oneness of God] that you and I take pride in, is claimed by the Brahmins and Aryas as well. Once a person gave a lecture right here in Lahore and said, 'We believe in ["There is none worthy of worship except Allah"] then why do we need ["Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah"]?'

When this is the state of affairs and other religions also believe in *Tauhid*, then what is the distinction between you and them?"

We will stop here for today. The Promised Messiah (as) will go on to talk about "the essence of Jihad" in the next section. We will take it up next week. In the meantime, in the coming days let us all try to profit by the blessed days that Allah is gifting us so that we might draw closer to Him. May He help us to really profit from the coming days and may He be always pleased with us. *Incha Allah. Ameen.*