

FRIDAY SERMON

30th AUGUST 2024

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As usual we are continuing with our reading of the Malfuzaat Volume 10 of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) which is a record of some of the speeches or conversations that he had during the last days of his life. In the following extract Hazrat Masih Maood(as) is speaking about the way to make reformation. It is recorded:

“Shaving the beard was under discussion. The Promised Messiah (as) said:

“What kind of silly objections people are occupied with! They look at the outer form. I am looking at their inner self. When a person’s heart becomes purified, these minor reforms take place on their own. If such matters are objected to at the outset, it becomes a trial for the person and he is deprived of many great things. Similar objections were raised against some Companions (ra) of the Holy Prophet (saw) soon after they became Muslim. Allah the Exalted admonished against this.

When a person comes to embrace one truth, he is blessed with the ability to gradually accept the others as well. This is why commandments kept being revealed gradually. The prohibition of alcohol did not come down right away because people’s dispositions were not yet prepared for it. I do not entertain any hope that such vain critics will gain any benefit at all. Had they been present in the days of the Holy Prophet (saw), they would not have even desisted from criticizing him and would have eventually turned apostate. Every Prophet and his followers have faced such objections. Thus, some ignorant people even said:

وَقَالُوا مَالِ هَذَا الرَّسُولِ يَأْكُلُ الطَّعَامَ وَيَمْشِي فِي الْأَسْوَاقِ

What is the matter with this Messenger that he eats food, and walks in the streets? (25:8)

[طَعَام] means ‘fine, sumptuous, excellent food’. When people exceed all bounds in denial, these are the kinds of objections that occur to them.

Thereupon, one Jamaat member quoted an individual who said that if the proof for the truth of the Promised Messiah (as) was found in the Quran, he would not even accept that Quran, and that if God were to prove his truth through His Signs, he would not believe in that God.

[The Promised Messiah said:] This accursed statement proves that hearts have become hardened to the extreme.’

A man who was a follower of Jesus (as), criticized him for letting a prostitute rub perfumed oil on him. He replied, ‘You wash my feet with water, but she does so with her tears. Allah esteems sincerity. Verily I tell you that such prostitutes will enter Paradise before the religious scholars and Pharisees of this age.’

He was, indeed, right in view of the condition of the scholars of that time. A person inquired about a [religious] matter: ‘A cat has beheaded a chicken that is still convulsing. Is it permissible to slaughter that chicken’?

The Promised Messiah (as) said:

“In such matters, remember it as a principle that, in religious matters, conjecture alone, is strictly prohibited. Only that conjecture is permissible which is deduced from the Holy Quran and Hadith. Our Faith has been transmitted to us by way of Traditions. Therefore, it is fine if some such hadith from the Holy Prophet (saw) is documented. Otherwise, why should one risk one’s faith for the sake of a few pennies?”

وَلَا تَقُولُوا لِمَا تَصِفُ السِّتَةُ الْكَذِبَ بِذَا حَلَلٍ وَبِذَا حَرَامٍ

**And say not—because of the falsehood which your tongues utter
—‘This is lawful, and this is unlawful’ (16:117).**

Someone asked about the expected earthquake. The Promised Messiah (as) said:

Read the book, *Haqiqatul-Wahi* (book written in 1905 about reality of Visions dreams and prophecies) for Allah has abrogated some in its enforcement, as He said: [God grants them respite till a specified term.]

Our God is the Omnipotent. He has full authority is our belief. He is not like a fortune teller. He issues an order in the morning and has the full authority to change it at night.

The verse: **مَا نَنْسَخْ آيَةً** bears witness to it. The verse is **مَا نَنْسَخْ مِنْ آيَةٍ أَوْ نُنسِهَا نَأْتِ بِخَيْرٍ مِنْهَا أَوْ مِثْلَهَا أَلَمْ تَعْلَمْ أَنَّ اللَّهَ عَلَى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ** () meaning "Whatever Sign We abrogate or cause to be forgotten, We bring one better than that or the like thereof. Dost thou not know that Allah has the power to do all that He wills?) After all, *sadaqah* [almsgiving] and *istighfar* [seeking forgiveness] do mean something. It is the unanimous consensus of all noble Prophets that *sadaqah* and *istighfar* ward off calamities. What is a calamity?

It is an adverse painful event that has been decreed through the will of God Almighty. Now, when a Prophet informs of such a calamity, it becomes a prophecy, but Allah the Exalted is the Most Merciful of all who show mercy. He turns with His mercy towards those who supplicate with humility. Therefore, I do not believe that prophecies that contain a warning are irrevocable. On the contrary, they can be averted.

You see, where I have mentioned the earthquake, I have also drawn attention towards repentance, seeking forgiveness, supplications with humility, and almsgiving which implies that this grave calamity can be averted. Alas! People have advanced in my enmity to such an extent that

they have even forgotten the principles of Islam. They read “Allah would not punish them while you are among them and Allah would not punish them while they seek forgiveness” (*Surah al-Anfal*, 8:34). and still criticize me. May Allah guide them.”

In the morning of 15th May 1908 two important Muslim barristers came to visit Hazrat Masih Maood(as). This conversation is quite interesting as you will see when we read it. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) mentioned a future plan that it shall be done so, but also said *Insha 'Allahul-Aziz* [‘If Allah the Mighty so wills’]. He then explained:

“It is very important to say *insha 'Allah*, because all the affairs of man are not under his control. He is surrounded by all kinds of adversities, impediments, and obstacles. It is possible that whatever he has willed to do may not come to fulfilment. That is why help is sought from God Almighty, who is the Fountainhead of all powers, by saying *insha 'Allah*. In this age, people who are foolish and oblivious of the consequences, laugh at it.”

Abuse and slander at the hands of the opponents were mentioned. The Promised Messiah (as) said:

“Note that all kinds of things are made use of in farming. There is water and seed. Still, there is the need for manure which is extremely filthy. So, in the same way, filthy opposition does the work of manure for our Movement.”

The Promised Messiah (as) said further:

“Divisions are developing day by day among Islamic sects. This division is extremely detrimental to the cause of Islam. Thus, Allah the Exalted says:

وَلَا تَنَازَعُوا فَتَفْشَلُوا وَتَذْهَبَ رِيحُكُمْ

“And dispute not with one another, lest you falter and your power depart *from you*.” (8:47)

Ever since the divisions started in Islam, it has been in continuous decline. This is why God has established this Movement so that people may leave sectarianism and join this Jamaat [Community] which is totally secure against absurd disagreements, and is treading upon that Straight Path that the Holy Prophet (saw) had pointed out.

I long for some civil, decent, fair-minded, and God-fearing people to be assembled so that I might explain to them what I believe and wherein I differ—as well as why—from others who similarly recite the *Kalimah* [Islamic creed]. The fact is that God has established this Movement at a time when Islam is suffering the brunt of two assaults—one assault is external and the other is internal. For instance, some from among the Muslims themselves say that there are no injunctions in Islam—all this Fasting, *Salat* [Prayer], and Hajj [the Pilgrimage] are things belonging to an age gone by, that could have been of some benefit only for the savages of Arabia. Then they raise various and sundry objections about the details related to the circumstances of the Day of Judgement. Then there are others who have veered towards exaggeration and they have gone to such a degree in exaggerating the status of some Prophets that they have made them God.

Take, for instance, just the one example of Jesus (as). He has been credited with certain attributes which are unique to God. No doubt, he was from among those near to God. He was blessed by Allah and had the distinction of prophethood. However, it is incorrect to accredit him with any attribute that is not present in other Prophets. They say that he has been sitting in the heavens with his physical body for many centuries whereas the disbelievers solemnly pledged to the Holy Prophet (saw), that they would

accept him if he could climb into the heavens in front of them. The reply that was given to them was this:

سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ بَلْ كُنْتُ إِلَّا بَشَرًا رَسُولًا

Holy is my Lord! I am not but a man *sent as a Messenger* (17:94).

When Allah had established the principle from the beginning, that فِيْهَا then why would He act against His own practice? Had this belief [of the bodily ascension of Jesus as] existed among the Muslims of that time, the disbelievers had the right to indict them by questioning how they could allow it for one Prophet but not for another; whereas, you believe that the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, was superior to all Prophets—and to Jesus (as), in particular—and is the embodiment of all the excellences of prophethood....” (P477)

We will stop here for today. We will continue incha Allah next time. May Allah help us and may we all throughout our life follow His noble teachings. Ameen!