

FRIDAY SERMON

17th January 2025

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As I said last time, I intended to start with a new volume of the Malfuzaat of Hazrat Masih Maood(as) as from today. But in view of the turn of events in the world I would like to make a few comments.

As you might all be aware, since the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in February 2022 and the war between Israel and Hamas since October 2023, the situation in the world has reached a point which is considered the most dangerous since the 2nd World War (1939-1945). Now, with the coming of the new President of the USA who will take office on Monday next, it appears that there will be more turmoil in the world. Even here in Mauritius we do not seem to be safe. We are suffering from drought and our country also is already suffering from climate change and the level of water in our reservoirs are quite low compared to previous years. Even the new government, despite their good intention to manage the country in a different way, have a herculean task in front of them.

So as good Ahmadi Muslims who care for their country and for the world, we should not think that we will cross our arms and do nothing. Of course, we do not have worldly means to change the course of events. But by Allah's Grace we are members of a Jamaat which claims to have a living connection with the Almighty Allah. So, in these specially difficult circumstances we should resort to *Darood* and *Istaghfaar* and offer our prayers with great sincerity and anguish and give as much charity as we can so that Allah may direct the events of the world in such a way that the world is not completely annihilated. In addition, we should pray that Allah accept our prayers and that we may all get through these difficult times with peace in our heart.

One should be convinced in one's heart of heart that these are not just empty words. Since some time now I have been receiving words from Allah that things will

become difficult and that we should not be alarmed at the turn of events. At one time in the beginning of December last, I received the following words “*Neik ko kuch gham nahin goh bara gardaab hay*”. This is a verse from a poem of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) where he spoke about the anxiety that assailed him because of the words of revelation that he had received from Allah. A paraphrase of its translation is “those who are engaged in cultivating virtue, in living a life devoted to Allah, in brief, those who are good need not worry even if there are great disturbances or great havoc around”.

We should never forget why we exist on earth. Besides all worldly legitimate things in which we should be engaged like marriage, seeking our livelihood etc., we should never forget that in the end a day will come when we will return to our Lord and that we should get prepared for this.

We should all become very vigilant and shake off our negligence and see to it that what we are supposed to be doing we are doing as it should be done with a view to please Allah. May Allah have mercy on us and protect us from calamities and may He fill all our reservoirs with water as He has always been doing and that He help those who are governing the affairs of our country to take decisions that are in the interests of the country and not in their own interest. Ameen.

Since we should be motivated to consolidate our relationship with Allah, I have chosen to share with you some extracts from the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood (as) which might increase in each one among us a greater desire to incline more towards Allah and towards seeking His Help. These extracts are not being read here for the first time. But they are being read to be a reminder for all of us. May we all profit by these precious pieces of advice given by Hazrat Masih Maood (as) of blessed memory. Ameen.

He said “I pray earnestly that all members of my Jama‘at should be such as fear God Almighty and are constant in Prayer; they get up at night and fall down before God and supplicate, and discharge their obligations to Him, and are not avaricious, or miserly, or heedless, or worms of the earth. I hope that God Almighty will accept my prayers and will show me that I am leaving such people behind. But those whose eyes commit adultery and whose hearts are filthier than excrement and

who do not remember death, I and my God are disgusted with such people. I would be greatly pleased if such people were to leave me, for God desires to make this Jama‘at a model for people to remind them of God. They should be established at the highest level of righteousness and purity and should, in practice and truth, give preference to their faith above the world. But those wicked ones who, having placed their hand under my hand, and having professed that they will give their faith precedence over the world, return to their homes and so occupy themselves with worldly matters that the world becomes their heart and soul, and their glances remain impure as do their hearts, and no good comes from their hands, nor do they move their feet for the achieving of any good; they are like rats who are nurtured in darkness and dwell in darkness and die in darkness. In heaven, they have been cut off from our Jama‘at. Vain is their assertion that they are members of this Jama‘at, for in heaven they are not accounted as such. He who does not comply with my admonition, and does not hold his faith above the world, and does not bring about a pure change in his life, and does not become truly pure hearted and pure-intentioned, and does not cast aside the garment of impurity and unchastity, and does not sympathize with mankind, and does not become truly obedient to God, and does not follow me abandoning his own impulses, is like a dog who cannot keep away from the place where dead bodies are thrown and carrion is to be found.”[Majmu‘ah Ishtiharat, vol. 3, pp. 503-50]

In “*Kishti Nuh*”, he writes:

“God is the most Faithful and He manifests wondrous works for those who are loyal to Him. The world desires to devour them and every enemy grinds their teeth at them, but He who is their friend, delivers them from every place of danger and bestows victory upon them in every field. How fortunate is the person who never lets go the mantle of God? We have believed in Him and we have recognized Him. The God of the whole world is He who has sent down His revelation to me, who has shown mighty signs in my support and

who has sent me as the Promised Messiah in this age. There is no God beside Him, neither in heaven nor on earth. He who does not believe in Him is bereft of all good fortune and is ensnared in disgrace. The revelation I have received from God is as bright as the sun. I have seen that He alone is the Lord of the world and that there is none other than Him. Truly Omnipotent and All-Sustaining is the God whom we have found. How great are His powers of Him whom we have witnessed. The truth is that nothing is beyond Him except that which is contrary to His Book and His promise. So, when you pray, do not be like ignorant naturalists who have in their own fancy devised a natural law which does not bear the seal of God's Book. They are the rejected and their prayers will not be accepted. They are blind, not of those who see. They are dead, not of those who are alive. They present to God their self-devised law and presume to limit His infinite powers and deem Him weak. So, they shall be dealt with according to their condition. When you stand up in prayer, it is necessary for you to have firm faith that your God has power over all things. Only then will your prayer be accepted and you will behold the wonders of God's power that we have beheld. Our testimony is based on observation and not on hearsay. How should the supplication of a person be accepted and how should he have the courage to pray at times of great difficulty, when according to him he is opposed by the law of nature, unless he believes that God has power over everything? O fortunate ones, follow not these practices. You God is One who holds aloft innumerable stars without the use of columns and who has created heaven and earth from nothing. Then would you think so ill of Him as to imagine that your objective is beyond His power? Such ill-thinking will frustrate you. Our God possesses countless wonders, but they are visible only to those who become His out of sincerity and loyalty. He does not disclose His wonders to those who do not believe in His Power and who are not sincere and loyal to Him. How unfortunate is the man, who even now, is unaware that there is a God who has power over all things. Our paradise lies in our God. Our highest delight is in our God for we have seen Him and found every beauty in Him. This wealth is worth procuring though one might have to lay down one's life to procure it. This ruby is worth purchasing though one may have to lose oneself to acquire it. O ye, who are deprived! Hasten to this fountain as it will satiate you. It is this fountain of life that will save you. What am I to do? How

shall impress the hearts with this good news? What sort of a drum should I beat in the streets in order to make the announcement that this is your God, so that people might hear? What remedy shall I apply to the ears of the people so that they should listen?" (p. 12-14)

The time calls for all of us is to pray more fervently, with greater pain in our heart, with full sincerity, with complete confidence that Allah has the Power to accept our supplications. We should all have this mindset when we pray. May Allah help each one among us to strive to make such prayers and may Allah accept them from us. On one of these past days when I went to sleep after fajr, I received these words which are part of the verse of the Holy Quran that we repeat every week in the second Khutbah of the Jumma Prayer. It is as follows "*ya ezokoum la'allakoum tazakkaroune*" **He admonished you so that you may take heed** "*ouzkorullaha yazkourkoum*" **Remember Allah He will remember you;** *wad'ouho Yastajib lakoum*" **Call upon Him He will respond to you** "*wa lazikrullah akbar*" **And the remembrance of Allah is greatest.** May Allah enable each one among us to better worship Allah than we have been doing up till now. Incha *Allah*.