

FRIDAY SERMON

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Alhamdulillah, we have arrived almost at the end of the blessed month of Ramadan this year. According to astronomical calculation the birth of the new moon of the Islamic month *Shawwaal* (10th month of the Islamic year) is expected tomorrow Saturday 29th March at around 3PM Mauritian time. As such it will not be visible at all in the Mauritian sky. On Sunday 30th March it might be visible in our sky if the weather conditions are good. If that is the case, we will be celebrating Eidul Fitr in Mauritius on Monday 31st March. We will insha Allah pray our two *Rakaat* Wajib prayers here in Baitul Rahma Mosque at 9:30AM. We hope and pray that all members will do their best to be in the mosque by that time insha Allah. If for any reason the moon has not been visible on Sunday, then we will celebrate Eid on Tuesday 1st April at the same time insha Allah.

Nearing the end of this blessed Month of Ramadhan is a great relief for all Muslims whether they are men or women, children or old ones. All those who have been fasting are happy that the limited period (*ayyamam ma'doudaat*) for which Allah has prescribed Fasting this year is coming to an end. Everyone feels great happiness in the heart because the month of great sacrifice is coming to an end. Just as we feel great pleasure in breaking the fast everyday during Ramadan, we feel happy that we have reached the end of the Holy month of Ramadan.

Today is the last Friday of the Holy month of Ramadhan and it is well known by "*Jummatul Widah*". The meaning is the "The Farewell Jummah". The Muslims have

witnessed The Holy Month of Ramadhan once again in their life and now it is departing from them, so to say.

However, it is wrong to entertain the belief that because this is the farewell Jummah of the month of Ramadhan, its attendance can free one of all one's sins. Nowhere in the Holy Quran or in the Hadiths do we read any such statement. What we read there is what we said in the last sermon that whoever stands up for prayer during the night of *Laylatul Qadr* (the Night of Power) with the hope to have his/her sins forgiven will get all his/her past sins forgiven. During this night there is a manifestation of the great generosity of Allah to His servants who seek His Forgiveness for whatever wrong they have done to have all their sins erased from their books of action. That is, a book of the good and bad deeds that is kept by angels for every individual. That book will be opened and put in front of each individual when he will be presented in front of His Lord for judgment to be passed upon about how he behaved while he was alive on earth. This is a very important moment for everyone because Allah's judgment will decide who responded well to His message and who did not.

Anyhow the new moon of Shawwal will be born tomorrow and we will be celebrating Eid here in Mauritius as I have just said on Monday or latest Tuesday next. Therefore, we do not have much time left to make up for what we may have missed during this Holy Month . We should all do our best to improve our devotions with the convinced hope that insha Allah they will be accepted by Allah. After Jummah we can use the available time up till Maghrib to multiply our good deeds. Among these good deeds are, of course, reading Nawafil, giving in charity, engaging ourselves in reading the Holy Quran, read Darood and asking for forgiveness and supplicate Allah for our personal needs and the needs of all those are suffering because they say that they have believed in Allah as Muslims. May Allah have mercy on each one among us and on all those who are suffering in Palestine and elsewhere in the world. Ameen.

Each year the Holy month of Ramadhan comes and goes and it is indeed a great blessing on all Muslims. Allah imposes upon us some restraint for our own benefits. There is no doubt that if we observe the fasts as they should be observed, our submission will please Allah and He will grant us all the rewards that have been spoken of in the Holy Quran and the Ahadith of the Holy Prophet Mohammad(saw). But for the believer the end of Ramadhan brings a temporary joy and Hazrat Masih Maood (as) had advised us to look for a permanent joy which he explained as follows:

“What is the day that is better than the two Eids and Jummah and is also blessed? I am telling you that this is the day when a person repents. It is the best of days and even better than all Eids. Why? Because on that day, the book of bad actions that was taking man near to hell and which was bringing him under Allah’s wrath will be washed clean and his sins will be forgiven. In fact, what can be a greater day of joy and Eid than this; that it will deliver him from the eternal hell and eternal wrath of Allah. When the sinner who, previously, was far from God and was a target of his punishment, repents, he becomes near Allah by His Grace and he is far removed from hell and its punishment. As Allah has said *“Innallaha yohibbut tawwabeena wa yohibboul muttatahhereen* (HQ 2:223) (Definitely, Allah loves those who repent and who keep themselves pure). From this verse, not only do we understand that those who repent become the beloved of Allah, but that true repentance is necessarily accompanied by purity and cleanliness. One ought to get rid of all types of uncleanness and filth or else by just repenting with words will bring no benefit at all. So that day is indeed such a blessed day that a man repents of his bad deeds and makes an engagement of peace with Allah and submits himself to obeying his commandments. As a consequence, there is no doubt that he would be safe from the punishment which was being prepared for him stealthily as a result of his bad deeds and he would win that thing which he did not expect at all.” (Malfuzaat, vol 7, Edition 1984, p. 149-150)

May Allah grant to everyone among us such a day of happiness in our life when we come to know that Allah is pleased with us. While we have been freshly cleaned through devotions which we hope Allah has accepted may we not rest on our laurels. Let us renew our efforts, our determination, our enthusiasm to understand better the aim of our life and may Allah grant each one among us the capacity to fulfill that aim incha Allah. Ameen. Let us all determine to be regular in our prayers, let us find time to ask forgiveness for our sins, let us give charity more often, let us read our Holy Quran regularly everyday of the year even a ruku at a time, let us do some more *nafil* prayers, let us find time especially on Fridays to say more Darood. In brief let us not neglect our religious duties and let us hope to make them permanent features of our daily life Incha Allah.

In another extract Hazrat Masih Maood(as) said:

1. **“Who is my friend? It is he who has accepted me before seeing any sign and has offered his life, property and honour in such a manner as if he had witnessed thousands of signs This is my Jama‘at. These are my friends who found me**

alone and helped me, and found me sorrowful and consoled me, and being unacquainted honoured me like a friend. May God Almighty have mercy on them. If anyone accepts the truth only after witnessing signs, what is that to me and what reward will he obtain and what honour would he find in the presence of the Lord of Honour? Those alone have accepted me in reality who observed me with a discerning eye and weighed my words with intelligence and considered my circumstances, and listened to me, and reflected and, on that basis, God opened their hearts to me and they joined me. He alone is with me who gives up his own pleasure for my pleasure, and makes me an Arbiter in whatever he does, and walks along my path, and is wholly devoted to me, and has discarded his own self. I am compelled to affirm with a sigh that those who seek clear signs will not be honoured by my Lord God with praiseworthy titles and honourable ranks which will be bestowed upon the righteous ones who recognized the hidden secrets and who smelled the fragrance of the servant [of God] who was hidden under His mantle. For example, what merit can be claimed by the one who offers his salutation to a prince whom he observes in his pomp and glory, surrounded by his men? Deserving of merit is the one who encounters him in the guise of a beggar and recognizes him. It is not within my power to bestow such insight upon anyone for it is only the One Who bestows it. Those whom He holds dear, He invests with the discernment of faith. These are the things through which those who are inclined towards guidance are guided and the same things become the cause of more crookedness for those whose hearts are crooked.

2. [A'ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 5, pp. 349-350]

In another extract Hazrat Masih Maood(as) said:

1. "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. Do I need people merely to profess with their tongues that they are with me, so that I should have a large Jama‘at for show? I tell you truly that if all people were to abandon me, and not one of them was to remain with me, my God would create another people for me who will be better than them in their sincerity and loyalty. It is a heavenly attraction that is drawing good-hearted people towards me, and no one can obstruct this heavenly attraction. Some people rely more upon their own cunning and deceit than upon God. Perhaps, in their hearts, they secretly entertain the notion that all Prophethood and Messengership is pretence and it is only by chance that such people acquire fame and acceptance. There cannot be a concept more corrupt. He who entertains it has no faith in God, without

Whose determination not a leaf falls. Accursed are such hearts and accursed are such dispositions. God will destroy them in humiliation, for they are the enemies of God's designs. Such people are in fact atheists and possess impure hearts. They live a cursed life and after death they can look forward to nothing but the fire of hell."[Majmu'ah Ishtiharat, vol. 3, pp. 503-50]

All that I have said today are words that I have spoken before. But I have said them so that we might reflect about what kind of person we should do our best to be when we say we are Ahmadi Muslims. May Allah help us to be so by His Grace.