

FRIDAY SERMON

16 May 2025

prepared by Imam Zafrullah Domun

delivered by Dr Mahmud Ahmad Sooltangos

During the past Friday Sermons, we have been reading from a section from the book “Essence of Islam Volume 4” where Hazrat Masih Maood(as) has been counselling members of his jamaat about how they should be, how they should behave. There are two or three extracts left from that section and we will insha Allah finish reading them today. So Hazrat Masih Maood (as) said:

“I wish to admonish the members of my Jama‘at that they should learn Arabic, for without it they cannot appreciate the Holy Qur’an. In order to understand the Qur’an, it is necessary and proper that they should make some effort to learn Arabic. In these days, many easy methods have become available for learning Arabic. It is the duty of every Muslim to study the Holy Qur’an. It does not therefore become a person to pay no attention to the learning of Arabic, while his whole life is devoted to the learning of English and other languages.”
[Malfuzat, vol. 1, p. 297]

I think that anyone among us easily understand the relevance of this advice for becoming a better Muslim. Our daily prayers are in Arabic and they have to be offered in Arabic. If we do not understand what we are saying we are like those who are described in the verses:

5. So woe to those who pray, فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ ۖ

6. But are unmindful of their Prayer. الَّذِينَ هُمْ عَنْ صَلَاتِهِمْ سَاهُونَ ۖ

If we do not understand what we are saying in our prayers we should pay attention because a time will come when we would be called to account for our negligence in such an

important duty. So, a little effort should be made at least for our daily prayers and also to try to better understand the Holy Quran. These days there are even better facilities available to help anyone to understand Arabic than in the time of Hazrat Masih Maood(as). If one really puts in the effort one can easily understand each word which we pronounce in our prayers within a few weeks provided one is keen to learn. May Allah help those who do not know yet each word that they pronounce in Arabic to pay attention to learning all the words *in cha Allah*.

It is reported in a hadith that The Prophet (ﷺ) said, "Allah says: 'I am just as My slave thinks I am, (i.e. I am able to do for him what he thinks I can do for him) and I am with him if He remembers Me. If he remembers Me in himself, I too, remember him in Myself; and if he remembers Me in a group of people, I remember him in a group that is better than they; and if he comes one span nearer to Me, I go one cubit nearer to him; and if he comes one cubit nearer to Me, I go a distance of two outstretched arms nearer to him; and if he comes to Me walking, I go to him running.' "(Bokhari 7405)

So, if we try to do what Allah has commanded us to do He will help us in doing it.

In the next extract Hazrat Masih Maood(as) said:

“I categorically forbid the members of my Jamaat, wherever they might be, from participating in debates, disputes and confrontations. If they happen to hear something disagreeable, they should overlook it. I say with confidence and full faith that a great preparation is afoot in heaven in our support. We have conveyed the message to the people in full measure and from every point of view. Now God Almighty will carry out His design which He always does after the message has been fully conveyed. I fear that if the members of our Jamaat should not refrain from harsh language and purposeless discussions, the heavenly design might be delayed or obstructed, for it has ever been the way of God Almighty that His chastisement overtakes those upon whom He has bestowed innumerable favours and bounties, and to whom He has exhibited His signs. He pays no attention by way of chastisement or admonition or reproach to those against whom His final decree is yet to issue. In the Holy Qur'an, the Holy Prophet(saw) was addressed:

فَاصْبِرْ كَمَا صَبَرَ أُولُوا الْعِزِّ مِنَ الرُّسُلِ وَلَا تَسْتَعْجِلْ لَهُمْ

Have patience, then, as had the Messengers of strong determination; and be in no haste about them. (46:36)

وَلَا تَكُنْ كَصَاحِبِ الْحُوتِ

And be not like the Man of the Fish (i.e., Hazrat Yunus(as)). (68:49)

وَإِنْ كَانَ كَبُرَ عَلَيْكَ إِعْرَاضُهُمْ فَإِنْ اسْتَطَعْتَ أَنْ تَبْتَغِيَ نَفَقًا فِي الْأَرْضِ أَوْ سُلَّمًا فِي السَّمَاءِ فَتَأْتِيَهُمْ بِآيَةٍ

*And if their aversion is grievous to thee, then, if thou art able to seek a passage into the earth or a ladder unto heaven, and bring them a Sign, **thou canst do so.** (6:36)*

This admonition was made because the Holy Prophet(saw) sought a quick decision with regard to the disbelievers, while God Almighty, having regard to His purpose and His ways, proceeded slowly and gently. But in the end, He crushed and ground down the enemies of the Holy Prophet(saw) in such a way that all traces of them disappeared. In the same way, it is possible that hearing abuse and impostures and vilifications of all kinds directed against this truthful Jamaat, some of its members might become impatient and might desire the hasty chastisement of the enemy, but they should always keep in mind the way of God Almighty which He adopted with regard to the Holy Prophet (saw). Therefore, I direct you repeatedly and emphatically to keep away from all occasions of disorder and dissent, because the task that you desire to accomplish—i.e., to fully convey the message to your opponents—has now been taken by God Almighty in His Own hand. **Your task now should be to occupy yourselves with prayers, seeking forgiveness, worshipping God, and the purification and cleansing of your souls.** Thus, make yourselves deserving of the favours and attention of God Almighty which He has promised.

Though God Almighty has made me great promises, and there are many great prophecies which I am sure will be fulfilled, yet you should take no pride in them. Avoid every kind of jealousy, envy, rancour, backbiting, arrogance, pride, all overt and covert ways of evil and vice, sloth and heedlessness. Remember well that the good end is always for the righteous, as God Almighty has said:

وَالْعَاقِبَةُ لِلْمُتَّقِينَ

and the end is for the God-fearing.

Therefore, be concerned to become righteous.” [Malfuzat, vol. 3, pp. 282-283]

Lastly, we will read a Nazam which Hazrat Masih Maood(as) composed for a friend of his who was living in Madras. He was a rich man who later on faced financial difficulties. Hazrat Masih Maood(as) advised him to be steadfast and never lose hope in Allah. He wrote:

One day you will be brought face to face with death.

No plan can succeed against the decree of God.

You will have to leave this mortal world one day,

Everyone is powerless before the command of God.

You have to carry on faithfully O man,

*In face of grief and sorrow, in disappointment and pain, and faced with calamity.
Despair not from God Who resolves all difficulties.
Difficulties amount to nothing for Him Who relieves all difficulties.
Humble human beings cannot fulfil thy needs,
Lay thy needs before Him Who has power to meet all needs.
Wipe out from thy heart all trace of a second one,
Prostrate thyself before the Master of the heaven and the earth alone.
Hate vice and love virtue,
Remember that one day you too have to present yourself before God.
In confrontation with Truth, how can falsehood flourish?
What value has a stone compared to a priceless ruby?*

[Durr-e-Thamin as quoted from Alfadl 13 January 1928]

Now we will read some more extracts from the writings of Hazrat Masih Maood(as) where he speaks about himself. He said:

“God Almighty knows—and He is the best witness over everything—that the first thing that has been granted to me in His way is a **pure heart**—that is, a heart that had no real attachment with anyone except God, the Lord of honour and glory.

There was a time when I was young and now, I am old, but at no time in my life have I had any real attachment to anything except God, the Mighty, and the Glorious... Because of this love of mine, I have never been reconciled to any religion, the doctrines of which were in conflict with the Greatness and Unity of God, or involved any dishonour to Him. That is why I did not approve of the Christian faith, for at every step it dishonours God, the Mighty, and the Glorious... In the same way the Hindu faith, one branch of which is the Arya sect, falls far short of the truth. According to them, every particle in this world is self-existing and has no Creator. Thus, the Hindus do not believe in God, without Whom nothing comes into existence and without Whose support nothing can continue to exist... I have reflected deeply and I have found both these religions opposed to the truth. It is not possible for me to recount here all the inhibitions and despair that are encountered in these faiths in one's search for God Almighty. It is enough to state in brief that these two religions afford no guidance to God Who is sought by pure souls and by finding Whom man achieves salvation in this very life and the gates of divine light are opened for him and perfect love can be generated through His perfect recognition. On the contrary, these religions push their

followers into the pits of ruin. There are other similar religions in the world, but they all fail to lead a votary to the One God, who has no associate. They leave the seeker in darkness.

These are all the religions in the study of which I spent a great portion of my life. I reflected over their principles with honesty and diligence, but I found them all divorced and estranged from truth. The blessed religion, the name of which is Islam, is the only faith that leads to God Almighty and is the only faith, which fulfils all the pure demands of human nature... The God of Islam does not shut the door of His grace upon anyone. He calls everyone to come to Him and the door is opened for those who eagerly run towards Him.

I have, by the sheer grace of God, and not on account of any merit of my own, been accorded a full measure of the bounty, which was bestowed before me on the Prophets and Messengers(as) and the Chosen ones of God. It would not have been possible for me to be granted this bounty had I not followed the ways of my lord and master, the Pride of the Prophets, the Best of Mankind, Muhammad(saw). Whatever I have been given, I have been given due to this adherence and I know through my true and perfect knowledge that no man can reach God except through following the Holy Prophet(saw) nor can anyone arrive at a full understanding of God except through him. **[Haqiqat-ul-Wahi, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 22, pp. 59-65]**

We will stop here for today. May Allah help each one among us to profit from these words. Ameen!