

FRIDAY SERMON OF IMAM ZAFRULLAH DOMUN

03 FEBRUARY 2012

After reciting the *Tashahhud*, the *Ta'uz* and the first chapter *Al Fatiha* of the Holy Quran Imam Zafrullah Domun recited verses 32 from chapter 3 and verse 22 from chapter 33 of the Holy Quran and then he said:

As members are aware on Sunday next a majority of Muslims in Mauritius and in the Indian Sub continent will be celebrating what is known as the “the day of the prophet” (*Yaumunnabi*). Here in Mauritius a function will be held where dignitaries from the Government will be invited and they will talk and listen to speeches about the life of our beloved prophet Mohammad^{saw}. This is a yearly routine that has been going on for years now. Even mainstream Ahmadiyya Jamaat will organize its own function and invite one or two non ahmadis to address the gathering. But in some parts of the Islamic world like Saudi Arabia and in many Arab countries such a day or date is not at all celebrated. They consider this to be an innovation and they do not practice it nor give it any importance at all. In fact we in Jamaat Ahmadiyya Al Mouslemeen also think that such a day should not be celebrated because we do not think that it has any significance as such. Definitely the day of the birth of the Holy Prophet^{saw} was a blessed day but the blessings that we are supposed to derive from the Holy Prophet^{saw} has nothing to do with the day of his birth. Furthermore we understand from the Holy Quran and the Books of hadiths that the Holy Prophet Mohammad^{saw} never asked us to make such a celebration. However we are not saying that those who make this celebration are sinning by doing so. Some people argue that it is a good innovation (*bid'a hasana*) whereas others think that it is not so at all and should be shunned.

Muslims have been taught to go for the essence and not for the shell. Celebrating one day or remember the life events and some of the teachings of the Holy Prophet Mohammad^{saw} is nothing compared to the importance that the Holy Prophet should have in our life. The translation of the first verse which I just read is “**Verily you have in the Prophet of Allah an excellent model, for him who looks forward to Allah and the Last Day and who remembers Allah much.**”(33:22). From the translation done by mainstream Jamaat Ahmadiyya we read “him who fears Allah and the last day”. But the root verb is *ra ja wa* carries the meaning of “ look forward to with hope and fear”. That is why we prefer the translation that we are giving. Its meaning is more extensive than “fears”. We understand that the Holy Prophet is not an excellent example for everyone. The Holy Prophet is the excellent exemplar for the person who exhibits three characteristics. He looks forward to Allah. We understand it to mean that such a person knows one day, sooner or later he or she will meet Allah. Similarly the person knows that there will be a day of reckoning that we understand to be the Last day. When we read other verses of the Holy Quran we understand that on that day each person will have enough on his own plate and will tremble with fear especially if he has been doing wrong on earth. So such a person was conscious while he was living on earth that he would have to render an account of his deeds and so he saw to it that he remembered Allah a lot. He knew he sinned often but he relied on the mercy of Allah

and constantly he was at Allah's threshold to ask forgiveness for his sins. He did not live as if he would live forever and amuse himself with the illusions of the pleasure of this world. Such a person knows that the "life of this world is but a sport and a pass time" as Allah has repeatedly emphasized in His Book.

In other words the Holy Prophet is the most beautiful example for those people who are convinced that Allah is their final destination and that they would have to render an account of their deeds. So they tread the path of life with fear and hope and they do their best to remember Allah as much as they can so that they may find acceptance in His Sight. So the person who aims to follow his model cannot and is not satisfied with hearing or talking about his model once in a year. To him it is a lifetime endeavour to try to understand the subtleties of the behavior of the Holy Prophet ^{saw} because Allah has made it quite clear in the second verse that I just read that **Say, 'if you love Allah, follow me: then will Allah love you and forgive you your faults. And Allah is most Forgiving, Merciful.'**(3:32). In this verse a guarantee is given to those who seek Allah's love. Allah tells the prophet to tell the people through the Holy Quran that if they seek Allah's love they just have to strive to copy the behavior of the Holy Prophet Mohammad^{saw}. Copying the example of the Holy Prophet is something that we try to do every day. To begin with we start by reading namaz Fajr on time every day. We strive to understand the teachings of the Holy Quran. We behave well with all people whether we know them or we do not know them. We remember that the Holy Prophet has advised Muslims not to be cross with other fellow Muslims for more than three days. We learn how to reconcile differences wherever we might find them. We accept other's differing point of views. We do not just reject them and think that we are the ones who know better. Similarly there are many other actions that we should learn to practice every day in order to follow the path taken by the Holy Prophet Mohammad^{saw}. Anybody who tries to follow this path will see that he will have plenty to strive for and to do every day.

One can easily assess the discrepancy that exists between words and deeds when one sees the extent of the differences that exist between Muslims the world over and even between the different groups within Jamaat Ahmadiyya. These days people are being taught in universities how not to let differences of opinion spillover into conflict. People are learning that there are ways and means that can help iron out their differences and make the world a better place to live. Wherever biases or inferiority complex or spite prevail there are bound to be conflicts. In this field as in many others Jamaat Ahmadiyya mainstream has lamentably failed. It has shown to the world its inability to solve differences of opinion in a peaceful way. Yet it tells the world that it knows the true Islam and it will spread it the world over. It tells you it knows the true status of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ^{saw}. Yet when it comes to putting his teachings into practice they have shown themselves to be quite sectarian and miserably unable to reconcile differing viewpoints within Islam! Hence we see talking is easy. But doing and striving to preserve unity amongst the people is difficult when people abandon the way of the Holy Prophet ^{saw}.

Many Muslims think that Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} did not understand the true status of the Holy prophet ^{saw}. But the truth is that he perfectly understood the status that Allah gave to the Holy Prophet ^{saw}. His books are full of his great appreciation of the Holy Prophet ^{saw}. I will read you some extracts from his writings. Hence you will be able to appreciate by yourself whether this person understood or failed to understand the grandeur due to our beloved prophet Muhammad ^{saw}. He says:

“That light of high degree that was bestowed on perfect man was not in angels, was not in stars, was not in the moon, was not in the sun, was not in the oceans and the rivers, was not in rubies, emeralds, sapphires, or pearls; in short, it was not in any earthly or heavenly object. It was only in perfect man whose highest and loftiest and most perfect example was **our lord and master, the Chief of the Prophets, the Chief of all living ones, Muhammad, the chosen one** [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]. That light was bestowed on this man and, according to their ranks, upon all those who bore the same colour to some degree.... This dignity was found in its highest and most perfect form in our lord and master and our guide, the immaculate Prophet, the righteous one, testified to by the righteous, Muhammad, **the chosen one** [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]. [A’ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam, **Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 5, pp. 160-162**]

Speaking about the status of the Holy Prophet he says:

“I always wonder **how high the status of this Arabian Prophet was**, whose name was Muhammad, (thousands of blessings and peace be upon him). One cannot reach the limit of his high status and it is not given to man to estimate correctly his spiritual effectiveness. It is a pity that his rank has not been recognized, as it should have been. He was the champion who restored to the world the **Unity of God** which had disappeared from the world; he loved God in the extreme and his soul melted out of sympathy for mankind. Therefore, God, Who knew the secret of his heart, **exalted him above all the Prophets and all the first ones and the last ones** and bestowed upon him in his lifetime all that he desired. He is the fountainhead of every grace and a person who claims any superiority without acknowledging his grace is not a man but is the **spawn of Satan**, because the Holy Prophet has been bestowed the key to every exaltation and he has been given the treasury of every understanding. He who does not receive through him is deprived forever. I am nothing and possess nothing. I would be most ungrateful if I were not to confess that I have learnt of the true Unity of God through this Prophet. The recognition of the Living God we have achieved through this perfect Prophet and through his light. The honour of converse with God, through which we behold His countenance, has been bestowed upon me through **this great Prophet**. The ray of this sun of guidance falls like sunshine upon me and I continue illumined only so long as I am adjusted towards it. [Haqiqat-ul-Wahi, **Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 22, pp. 118-119**]

Again he says:

“O all ye who dwell upon the earth, and O all human souls that are in the east or in the west, I announce to you emphatically that **the true reality in the earth is Islam alone**, and the True God is the God Who is described in the Qur’an, and the Prophet who has everlasting spiritual life and who is seated on the throne of glory and holiness, is Muhammad, **the chosen one** [peace and blessings of Allah be on him]. The proof of his spiritual life and holy majesty is that by following him and loving him we become recipients of the Holy Spirit and are favoured with the bounty of converse with God and witness heavenly signs.” [Tiryaq-ul-Qulub, **Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 15, p. 141**]

Speaking about how the Holy Prophet has enhanced the status of previous prophets he says:

“The man who in his being and his attributes and his actions and through his spiritual and holy faculties set an example of perfection, in knowledge and action and in sincerity and steadfastness, and was called the perfect man was Muhammad [peace and blessings of Allah be on him].... The man who was most perfect as man and as Prophet, and came with full blessings, and who through a spiritual revival and

resurrection manifested the first Judgement in the world and revived the dead world, that blessed Prophet, **the Seal of the Prophets, the leader of the righteous ones, the pride of the Prophets, was Muḥammad, the chosen one** [peace and blessings of Allāh be on him]. Our Lord, send down on that beloved Prophet that mercy and blessing that Thou hast not sent down on anyone since the beginning of the world. Had that grand Prophet not appeared in the world then we would have no proof of the truth of lesser Prophets like Jonah, Job, Jesus son of Mary, Malachi, John, Zechariah, etc. Though they were favorites and honoured and were beloved ones of Almighty God, they are under obligation to this Prophet that they were accepted in the world as true Prophets.

O Allah, send down Thy blessings on him and on his people and on his companions, all of them. Our last word is that all praise belongs to Allah, Lord of the worlds.

[Itma m-ul-Hujjah, Ruḥa ni Khaza'in, Vol. 8, p. 308]

Incha Allah next week we will continue with the same subject.