

by Imam Zafrullah Domun

As I said last week the new moon was born yesterday 1st August at 3:11 AM GMT. In Mauritius, it was at 7:11 AM and was visible only in some part of Americas, Hawaii and the Polynesian island. But this morning I have read that the Zul Hijja moon was seen by one of the observatories in Saudi Arabia and they have already announced that the Day of Arafat will be on Saturday 10th and Eid ud doha will be on Sunday next. Here, in Mauritius, Eid will most probably be celebrated on Monday 12th August incha Allah.

Today I will share with you some of the merits of the first ten days of this month as it is reported in the Hadiths.

The first hadith is from Hazrat Ibn Abbas (*radhi Allahu anhu*) who said that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) said: “There are no days in which actions are superior than in these days.” It was asked, “Not even fighting for the sake of Allah?” He replied, “Not even fighting for the sake of Allah, except that a person sets out with his life and his wealth and returns with neither.” [Musnad al-Imam Ahmad, Vol. 1, Page 346].

In the translation, the word used is “superior” but in the original Arabic the Holy Prophet (saw) said “more pleasing to Allah”. We may infer from this that Allah is pleased and He rewards us better for whatever good deeds we might accomplish during these days.

In another hadith we learn more about what we should do. The Holy Prophet (saw) is reported to have said “There are no days that are greater before Allah in which Good Deeds are more beloved to Him, than these ten days, so recite a great deal of *tahleel*, *takbeer* and *tahmeed* during them.” Narrated by Ahmad, 7/224.

Since Allah appreciates more our of good deeds during these days, as good and grateful servants we should then do our best to multiply good deeds during these sacred days. *Tahleel* means to recite *Laa Ilaha Illallah* (There is no god but Allah); *Tahmeed* is to recite “*Alhamdo lillah*” (All praise belongs to Allah) and *Takbeer* means to recite “*Allaho Akbar*” (Allah is the greatest) and *Tasbeeh* means to recite *Subhaan Allah* (Glory be to Allah). There are plenty of Hadiths explaining the untold blessings of reciting these words in other days of the month. But our beloved Prophet Mohammad (saw) has recommended that we recite these words especially the first three during the blessed days of Zul Hajj.

The Holy Prophet is further reported to have said “What you mention of glory of Allah, of *Tasbeeh* (*Subhanallah*), *Tahleel* (*Allahu-Akbar*) and *Tahmeed* (*Al-Hamdu lillah*), revolves around the Throne, buzzing like bees, reminding of the one who said it. Wouldn't any one of you like to have, or continue to have, something that reminds of him (in the presence of Allah)?”

Apart from all these special deeds, we all need to remind ourselves that we have to be regular in our prayers, read the Holy Quran daily and devote some time to reflect on what we read. Furthermore, we should use these special moments that have been gifted to us by Allah to try to draw ourselves nearer to Him through more focused prayers and supplications, through repentance and asking for forgiveness for all our sins and through other good deeds about which the Holy Quran speaks or which we can learn through the practice of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) or through his companions or even the practice of the Promised Messiah (as). May Allah grant each one amongst us the privilege to understand the importance of these coming days and may we all use them to our advantage in this world and in the next insha Allah.

Since we are speaking about supplications and since we are forbidden to go for Hajj, I will share with you a prayer which Hazrat Masih Maood (as) requested a very sincere friend of his to make near the Kaaba. This happened after he had published his book *Buraheen Ahmadiyya* but before he was ordered by Allah to form a Jamaat. Hence it should be somewhere between 1885 and 1889. The name of that sincere friend was Hazrat Sufi Munshi Ahmad Jan Sahib. The Promised Messiah wrote to him as follows:

"Kindly remember the humble request of this low and worthless one, when by the Grace of Allah, you see the House of God. In that blessed and praiseworthy place offer this prayer of a lowly servant of God, with utmost humility. Raise your hands in prayer with meekness and total devotion and supplicate:

"O the Most Merciful of all who show mercy, your meek, worthless, and full of faults humble servant, Ghulam Ahmad, who is in the part of world called India supplicates to You, O the Lord of Mercy! Be pleased with me; forgive my sins and transgressions, for You are the Most Forgiving and Merciful. Enable me to do deeds that please You greatly. Put as much distance between me and my evil self as there is between the East and the West. Let my life, my death and every faculty that I possess, be for Your sake. Keep me alive in Your love, cause me to die in Your love and raise me among those who love and obey You the most. O the Most Merciful of all who show mercy! Accomplish my mission of propagation that You have entrusted me. Ensure that the service for which You have put zeal in my heart is completed. Cause the truth of Islam to become

apparent through this humble one, to all the enemies of Islam. Show the beauty of Islam to those who are yet unaware of the beauties of this faith. Keep this humble one, my friends and my companions, protected by Your forgiveness and mercy. Be with them and Be sufficient for them in the worldly and the spiritual matters. Enable them to achieve Your pleasure. Shower Your blessings and Darud on Your Messenger, his Companions and his followers. Amin O Lord of the Universe." This is the prayer and it is your responsibility to offer this prayer in the Ka'ba, on behalf of this humble one, without any change of words."

This letter gives us an idea of what went through the heart and mind of the Promised Messiah (as) as a devotee of the Holy Prophet (saw) who could not make the journey to Mecca. Note how he thought of himself. Should not we also follow in his footsteps and not think much of our own selves and develop true humility so that we might become dear to our Lord. We should all reflect about this letter and do our best to imitate the Promised Messiah (as) in all good deeds that were dear to him.

So, I will now read to you some extracts from the writing of the Promised Messiah which will remind us of how we should better submit ourselves to Allah seeking His Pleasure above everything else. The Promised Messiah (as) said:

"One of the meanings of Fatiha is to conquer. It proves a -believer to be a believer and a non-believer to be a non-believer. That is, it makes a distinction between the two. It opens the heart and grants an understanding. That is why Sura Fatiha should be recited very often and one should ponder over this prayer very deeply. It behoves a man to become like a complete beggar and like the one having dire needs. Just as a beggar humbles himself and attracts the mercy by either posing to be in great need or by his change of tone, one should be utterly humble and then ask God for the fulfilment of one's needs. Unless a man humbles himself during the prayer and unless he makes the Salat a means of his supplications, the Salat cannot be enjoyed to its full extent." (Malfoozat Vol. II, p. 145)

"It is only the Faith that makes a move in the heart of the man that he should undergo hardships and bear with all sorts of difficult situations. Faith is a force which grants a man true valour and courage. We find the examples of this in the lives of the Companions of the Holy Prophet, *sallallaho alaihi wa sallam* - may God be pleased with all of them. When they joined the Holy Prophet, *sallallaho alaihi wa sallam*, apparently there was nothing to make them realise that they would be rewarded by doing so, for, the Holy Prophet was a weak and a helpless person at that time. On the surface of it they could only visualize that they would

make all the peoples their enemies which would result in bringing hardships to themselves and they would be burdened under them and finish them up. But there was another eye (view point) too which did not mind these hardships and to give away life for this cause was a great pleasure for them. This eye saw what the other eyes could not; what was hidden and far away from the physical eyes. That eye was the eye of the Faith and it was the force of the Faith which made all the hardships meaningless. Ultimately, it was the Faith that won the victory, and it showed miracles. The person who is considered to be weak and helpless took them to unimaginable heights. The reward that was hidden from the eyes in the beginning, became so conspicuous that everybody could see it and realise that it was really the fruit of the Faith. It was because of the Faith that the Companions did not feel tired nor they became slack; they performed wonderful acts through the Power of the Faith; and despite all this they said that they had not been able to do what they really felt that they should have done”. (*Malfoozat* Vol. II, p. 151)

“I once again place before you the example of the Companions of the Holy Prophet, *sallallaho alaihi wa sallam*, may God be pleased with them. Having believed in the Holy Prophet, *sallallaho alaihi wa sallam*, they showed it through their practical life that the God who is Unseen and who is invisible to the worshipper of falsehood has been seen by them with their own eyes. If that was not the case, then, tell me what was it that made them care for nothing else (except God and His Commandments); they left their people, their relatives and friends. They put the whole of their trust in God and having put their trust in Him and Him alone, they did the kind of things which are a matter of great surprise-especially to those who look into the pages of history. It was faith and nothing but faith that made them do these things. The plans of the opponents and their activities were great but nobody succeeded against the Companions of the Holy Prophet, *sallallaho alaihi wa sallam*. The opponents were large in number; they had more of means and they were like a well-knit group, but they did not possess faith. It was due to lack of faith that they were destroyed without achieving any success. But as for the Companions of the Holy Prophet, *sallallaho alaihi wa sallam*, they won over everything through their faith. When they heard the voice of one person, who, though brought up as an unlettered person was well known for truthfulness, honesty and said that He had been sent by God, they joined him. Thereafter they followed him as if they had been charmed. I say it again that it was faith which turned them into people like these. Remember, Faith in God is a very great thing. (*Malfoozat*) Vol. II, p. 154)

That was the advice of the Promised about faith in Allah and His Promise to the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw). We all know what the effects of this faith were. It worked marvels. Even today unless we have such faith we will not achieve anything. The message of Eid ul Adha is that we should always think of the example of the people associated with this Eid and strive to follow their example in such a way that we might declare as the Holy Prophet (saw) was told:

قُلْ إِنَّنِي بِدِينِ رَبِّي إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ ۝
دِينًا قَبِيمًا مِلَّةَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ حَنِيفًا
وَمَا كَانَ مِنَ الْمُشْرِكِينَ ۝

Say, ‘As for me, my Lord has guided me unto a straight path — a right religion, the religion of Abraham, the upright. And he was not of those who join gods *with God*.’

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

Say, ‘My Prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are *all* for Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

لَا شَرِيكَ لِي ۚ وَبِذَلِكَ أُمِرْتُ وَأَنَا أَوَّلُ الْمُسْلِمِينَ

‘He has no partner. And so am I commanded, and I am the first of those who submit.’ (6 v 162-164)

May Allah open our hearts to this submission incha Allah. Ameen.