

FRIDAY SERMON

26th May 2023

By Imam Zafrullah Domun

Today as well, we will continue reading from the booklet “The Advent of Ahmadiyyat” which explains the difference between Ahmadi Muslims and other Muslims. This is the third Friday sermon on this subject. We continue from where we left off last week. Hazrat Masih Maood (as) says:

“Since, God has desired to make the Muslims vigilant, it is very important for the progress of Islam to emphasize the issue relating to the death of the Messiah and for the Muslims not to believe that the Messiah has ascended to heaven alive. Regrettably, I must say that my opponents, owing to their own misfortune, fail to understand this secret and raise a pointless clamour. If only these fools would realise that if we all laid stress on the death of Jesus(as), the Christian faith would be no more. I proclaim with certainty that the life of Islam lies in this death. Ask the Christians themselves: if it is proved that the Messiah lives no more and has died, what would remain of their religion? They themselves are convinced that it is this very issue which uproots their religion. Yet the Muslims give them strength by believing in the life of the Messiah, and thus cause harm to Islam. Their example may be described as such: “A person who saws off the same branch on which he sits.”

These Muslims have taken hold of the very same weapon that the Christians use against Islam, and wielded it foolishly without understanding, thus inflicting severe injury on Islam. However, it is a matter of jubilation that Allah the Exalted has informed them of this at precisely the correct time and has armed them with a matchless weapon to break the cross; in order to reinforce it and make use of it, He has established this Community. As such, by the grace and succour of Allah Almighty, this weapon, namely the death of the Messiah, has left the religion of the cross so weak and powerless that now this is not hidden to anyone. The Christians and their supporters are well aware that if there is any sect or community that can uproot their religion it is this Community. This is why the Christians are eager to compete with the people of every other religion, but dare not face this Community. When a certain Bishop was invited to compete, he did not come forward to contest, even though various English newspapers urged him to accept the challenge. The reason for this is that we possess such weapons to uproot Christianity, which have not been given to others, the first of which is the weapon of the Messiah’s death. To prove him dead is not the real objective. This was merely a weapon of the Christians that inflicted harm

upon Islam. Allah the Exalted desired to rectify this error, and so was it done in the most emphatic of ways.

Aside from this, **another of our chief objectives** is to remove the errors and self-invented beliefs that have crept into Islam. It would be unwise to suggest that there was no difference whatsoever between this Community and other Muslims. If the Muslims of today have remained unchanged in their beliefs and both are one and the same, then did God the Exalted establish this Community in vain? To entertain such a notion is a great dishonour to this Community, as well as an act of temerity and insolence in the face of Allah the Exalted. For He has repeatedly expressed that darkness has engulfed the world both in respect of practice and doctrine.

Countless Prophets and Messengers appeared in the world, and tirelessly toiled and strove to establish the Oneness of Allah, but today a dark veil has been drawn over it. Further, the people have fallen victim to various forms of polytheism. The Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, enjoined that one ought not to love the world, but today, the love of the world dominates every heart and everyone seems immersed in this very love. When asked, some are averse to undertaking even an iota of work for the sake of religion, reluctance holds them back and they begin to invent thousands of excuses. Every form of misconduct and immorality is considered permissible and every possible transgression is brazenly committed. Religion has become fatally weak and stands helpless like an orphan. In this state, if Islam had not been helped and supported, when else was it to confront such circumstances as would lend reason for its support? Islam remains only in name. If even now it were not afforded protection, it would undoubtedly perish.

I truthfully say that only a lack of understanding prompts the question as to whether there is any difference between our community and other Muslims. If only one such matter existed, what need was there for such effort and why establish an entire community? I am aware that Allah Almighty has repeatedly disclosed that darkness has fallen and nothing can be seen. The Oneness of God which was once our crown and the pride of Islam has now been reduced to mere lip service.

Otherwise, there are perhaps very few who really profess the Oneness of God in terms of practice and belief. The Holy Prophet(saw) advised that one ought not to love the world, but now every heart is engrossed therein. Religion has become helpless as though it were an orphan. The Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, clearly said:

“Love of the world is the root cause of all vice”

How pure and true is this phrase. But observe now and you will find everyone is victim to this error. Our Arya and Christian opponents have very well come to know the reality of their religions, and yet they cling to them. The Christians are well aware that the principles and doctrines of their religion are improper and that it is inappropriate to deify a human being. In this age, knowledge of philosophy, physics and science has advanced greatly and

people have come to realise clearly that the Messiah was but a weak and frail mortal who did not possess any supernatural power whatsoever. After having studied these sciences, in light of one's personal experiences, and in view of the weaknesses and frailties of the Messiah, it is impossible to believe that he was God. Never in the least.

Associating partners with God began and was founded at the hand of a woman; that is, Eve, who followed the command of Satan instead of God Almighty. And now too it is women who support this great form of polytheism—Christianity. In all truth, the Christian religion is one which human nature repels from afar and can never accept. Was it not for worldly motives, a large majority of Christians today would have become Muslim? In fact, some among the Christians have been Muslims in secret. They concealed their belief, but at the time of death proclaimed that they were Muslims when leaving behind their wills. There were very high-ranking officials among these people as well. They did not reveal that they were Muslims during their life out of their love for the world, but ultimately, they conceded this fact. I see that Islam has found way into their hearts and now it continues to flourish. The love of this world has blinded the people.

In short, it is this very love of the world that has caused internal dissent among the Muslims as well. For if the pleasure of Allah Almighty had taken precedence it could easily be ascertained as to which sect possessed sounder principles, and by accepting them, everyone could have reunited. Now, in view of this shortcoming, caused by the love of this world, how can these people be called Muslims? For they do not follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. As such, Allah Almighty has said:

إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي يُحْبِبْكُمُ اللَّهُ

Meaning, say, 'If you love Allah Almighty then obey me, and God will in turn befriend you.' But now it is the love of this world that is given precedence over love for Allah and following the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. Is this obedience to the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him? Was the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, a worldly man? Would he accept interest? Was he negligent in carrying out his obligations and in fulfilling divine commandments? Was he (God-forbid) a hypocrite? Would he compromise on matters of principle? Did he give precedence to the world over religion? One ought to reflect.

Obedience means to follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet(saw). Then behold how Allah Almighty showers His blessings. The Companions of the Holy Prophet(saw) acted in this manner and witness how Allah Almighty rewarded them with immense success! They turned their backs to the world and completely renounced its allure. They extinguished their desires. Now compare your state with theirs. Do you follow in their footsteps? Alas! Today, people do not realise what God Almighty desires of them. Indeed [love of the world] has spawned many a child. People go to court and do not feel the least bit of shame or regret in bearing false testimony for a mere two *annas*. Can advocates

declare on oath that all the witnesses they produce in court are truthful? Today, the state of the world has become dire in every respect. False witnesses are produced, lodging false lawsuits is nothing, and false certificates are forged. Whenever people speak, they steer clear of the truth. Now, one must ask these people, who see no need in establishing this community, is this the religion which the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, brought? Allah the Exalted equates falsehood to filth and states that one ought to abstain from it:

فَاجْتَنِبُوا الرِّجْسَ مِنَ الْأَوْثَانِ وَاجْتَنِبُوا قَوْلَ الزُّورِ

Shun therefore the abomination of idols, and shun false speech (22:31)

Here falsehood is mentioned with idolatry. Just as a foolish person abandons Allah Almighty and bows before stone, so does one shun truth and piety to achieve his own ends, and takes falsehood as an idol. This is the very reason that Allah the Exalted has mentioned falsehood alongside idol-worship and drawn a parallel between the two. Just as an idol-worshipper seeks salvation from an idol, a liar also carves an idol and surmises that they shall be delivered through this idol. How rampant has evil become? It is a pity that when people are asked the reason for their being idolaters and are advised to shun this abomination, they say that they cannot, and that they have no other option. What can be more unfortunate than the fact that such people consider their lives to be wholly reliant on falsehood? I assure you, however, that ultimately truth prevails, and goodness and success belong to it alone.” (p. 29)

Then Hazrat Masih Maood (as) will talk about his personal case when he was tried for sending a letter within a parcel and how he spoke the truth despite the advice of his lawyer and was acquitted. We will speak more of that *incha Allah* next week.

May Allah, the All Mighty help each one among us to value the teachings that we have received and may we all do our best living according to them. *Incha Allah. Ameen.*