

FRIDAY SERMON BY KHALIFATUL MASIH V JAN 11, 2008

رَبَّنَا وَابْعَثْ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِنْهُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

‘And, our Lord, raise up among them a Messenger from among themselves, who may recite to them Thy Signs and teach them the Book and Wisdom and may purify them; surely, Thou art the Mighty, the Wise.’ (Al Quran 2:130)

In the last sermon I could not continue the discussion of the above verse due to the announcement of the New Year for ‘Waqfe Jadid.’ Today I return to that discussion. This verse recounts the prayer of Hadhrat Ibraheem^{as}. Previously I mentioned the first part of this prayer, now I present the subsequent portions. In his prayer he asked for four attributes for this great Prophet. The first has already been discussed. The other attributes were, “He should give them the knowledge of the Book and reveal for them the wisdom contained in it and purify them.” This was the prayer of Hadhrat Ibraheem for a future prophet. The great Prophet receives the knowledge and then recites that wisdom before those to whom he was sent. It did not mean mere recitation of certain verses which contained advice or example of those who have passed before or the news of the future, but these were guide posts for those to come. So Hadhrat Ibraheem prayed that this great Prophet be born among the progeny of Ishmael, and he should not merely recite the verses for the people of his time for their benefit alone, but he should be given this wisdom in the form of a book which should last till the Last Day and attract followers throughout.

It is clear from this prayer that Hadhrat Ibraheem had the knowledge from God that there will rise a Prophet whose teachings will last until the end. Therefore he prayed that the followers of this prophet be given the knowledge of the book and all the teachings should be contained in that book in a written form. This prayer was in fact revealed to Hadhrat Ibraheem by God. The Law which was to be given to the Great Prophet will be in a written form and will be protected until the Last Day. Nothing in it will be altered. By the Grace of God it is Holy Quran that Muslims have inherited after the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} which is written in the form of a book. Then God raised such men who have the entire book written in their hearts, minds and memory in every detail. God gave the teaching through the Holy Prophet and saved it in the form of a book as well as in the hearts and minds of the people. It has been safe guarded as never before. No book other than the Holy Quran has the claim that every word in it is protected in its original revealed form. Only Quran has the claim that it is safeguarded in its original revealed form. It even tells where to stop and how to pronounce a word, etc. This is the distinction of the book that was given to this great Prophet and about which God says:

الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيْتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا

“For your benefit I have perfected the Faith and completed My blessing. I have chosen the religion of Islam for you.” (Al Quran 5:4) This is the proclamation God has made in the Holy Quran. This is a sign of acceptance of Hadhrat Ibraheem’s prayer. All blessings have been perfected in this great Prophet. All guidance has been given. All historical events have been mentioned. All previous Laws have been considered and new standards have been set. The Law has been perfected. This is the proclamation of God. Now no past Law or book can stand before it. This is the only book that can be called ‘the Book.’ It not only mentions the religious law and discussion of faith but also contains scientific facts which were impossible for the ancient people to understand. Even in the time of Holy Prophet^{saw} no one could grasp these facts which were prophecies for the times to come. All knowledge has been mentioned in this book and then preserved in its original form to this day. God then said that He will protect the book and there is no one who can corrupt it. God says:

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

“I have revealed this recitation and I shall preserve it.” (Al Quran 15:10) Then God created the means of this protection. The book was written in the days of the Holy Prophet and saved. All verses and portions of the Holy Quran were preserved and saved.

Promised Messiah^{as} says in this regard, “Allah has revealed this book and He will be its guardian. Now for thirteen hundred years the truth of this prophecy is obvious. To this day there is no impurity of teaching found in the Holy Quran as opposed to other books. Even in future it is not probable that such teachings can be included in this book. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims have memorized this book in its entirety. There are thousands of translations and commentaries. Five times a day its verses are recited in prayers. It is read every day. It is spread in all nations and countries and has been printed in millions and every nation is aware of its teachings. These are all matters which ensure that it is impossible to create a change in the book, now or in future.”¹

This is a proof that even in future there can be no alteration in the text of the book. God has protected the book as He promised; a hundred years have passed since this writing of the Promised Messiah and the promise has continued to this day. As the Promised Messiah had said that logic does not accept that a change in the Quran can be introduced. The eternal and ever lasting God will continue to safeguard this teaching.

In this time Dajjal has hatched a conspiracy that they should be able to introduce changes in the Holy Quran. But they will never succeed. I have mentioned this before also. They had a dangerous plan of introducing alterations in the Quran or to bring a different one in its place. They first published it with the name of ‘Furqan ul Haq.’ They wrote certain portions and mixed them with some verses of the Holy Quran and as such created a new manuscript with different verses and different chapters. I think it consisted of 70 or 77 chapters or Suras. This was first published in 1999 by some Evangelical Christian church in USA. They thought the best way to prepare the soil for the second coming of Jesus

Christ is to introduce a book by the name of 'Furqan ul Haq' to the Muslims. I had heard that this book is being distributed in Kuwait or has been taught to the children. I had advised the Arabic desk to report to me on its details but they have delayed it. We had first come to know about it two years ago that it was published in USA.

In addition to this there is another effort to introduce interpolation in the Holy Quran. This is by a group of Muslims that has stood up against the Shariah. These people want that the verses in the Holy Quran about Jihad and warfare should be removed. This is a group that is showing extreme cowardice and weakness and is trying to please the West or the Christians or they have no love for the religion at all. They want to introduce friction among the Muslims by introducing changes in the Holy Quran. These people despite their Muslim identity are trying to shoot their own feet or are working as hypocrites. At any rate such people can never succeed as Allah has promised the preservation of the Holy Quran. These people just have a worldly paradigm; they think that as changes were introduced in the Bible the same can be done to the Holy Quran. They fail to realize that there was no divine promise for the Bible or any other book other than the Quran. The Holy Quran was revealed to that Great Prophet, whose teachings were to last forever, so this is the only book that has the divine promise of preservation. So, such people, whether they are Muslims or non-Muslims, if they believe in God, witnessing of this miracle that the Quran has continued to survive in its original form for so long, should incline them to sincerely ponder over this issue. On the one hand a great prophet like the prophet Ibraheem^{as} had been praying for a special prophet and on the other hand Allah says that He granted the prayer and such a prophet, indeed, appeared in Arabia who taught this beautiful book and the world also saw the amazing influence of the book in the history of mankind. Animosity against this holy book, in presence of all these details and manifestations is possible only if one's eyes are shut or there is lack of belief in God. Such people are only trying to sow disorder. Allah has declared that the Holy Quran is the highest teaching that was revealed to the crown and seal of the prophets, the Prophet Muhammad, without following whom no one can rise to the station of prophethood and that no new scripture will be revealed after this. If these opponents want to continue their deceptive practices let them be warned that they can never be successful. Allah continues to safeguard this book and its teaching through his special people and in our times Allah sent the reformer who was to break the deceptive spell of Dajjal. So, no matter how hard the Dajjal tries, it is a destiny from Allah that in this final struggle between the men of the Gracious God and men of the Satan the Gracious God's party is going to be victorious. The freedom that the satanic forces are enjoying was also prophesied by the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw}. It had to be so. Allah wanted to demonstrate that as He is the source of all powers He can manifest His will in face of all odds. So we have no concern or worries that the deceptive practices of Dajjal to spoil the integrity and security of the Holy Quran will have any success. The only concern that we have is that some naive and ignorant people will be put to trial and may get wasted. Some of them are trapped because of their naivety and others because of their ill designs. Therefore, those who despite their Muslim identity are embarrassed over some of the teachings of the Holy Qur'an should seek perception from the words of the Imam of the age. They should learn from him what is right and what is wrong. The Quranic teachings are 'everlasting principles' that have always been true and will continue to do

so. Allah has been safeguarding each and every word of the Holy Quran since the day of its revelation and will continue to do so.

Therefore, the Holy Quran is a book that no one can change. Some Muslims think that some of its teachings should now be abrogated. But as I said before these Muslims should learn the teachings of the Holy Quran from the true disciple of the Holy Prophet Muhammad who is also the Imam of this time. Allah has directly appointed him for this mission in our times.

It is important to understand about the Holy Quran that it comprises of two types of teachings one of which are absolutely mandatory. Some of the teachings are absolute and others can be modified according to the circumstances. Some of the teachings are of personal nature and others are of community and national level. The teachings that are of personal nature are flexible and the person has been given some discretion depending on the circumstances. For example there are the *Fard* prayers that are obligatory and then there are voluntary or *Nawafil* prayers that are optional. Then in the obligatory prayers there are the additional details of congregational prayers, different etiquettes of the prayers and ablution before the prayers etc. etc. So, there are several details in these teachings. Additionally the travelers and the sick have been allowed concessions and flexibility in prayers. Such are the teachings of the Holy Quran and many such examples can be cited.

Some Muslims feel shy about the communal and the national teachings like Jihad and warfare and want to change these teachings to please the West. The first fact they need to realize is that the history of these countries is filled with tyrannical wars. Even in these times many of these countries have controlled other countries unfairly and there is a continued state of war. So the true and real Muslims should try to put these foreign critics to shame rather than being shy themselves. They should point out the contradiction in their actions and speech.

Secondly when Jihad is mentioned in the Holy Quran it is in the state of defensive warfare. There are several conditions for such defensive warfare. It is only when someone persecutes you or attacks you that you can fight back. If someone surrenders then in that case Muslims are not supposed to find excuses to continue the hostilities further. Likewise, there are several other conditions and teachings for the defensive warfare. Along the same lines there are teachings to treat prisoners of war fairly. Moreover, if war has to be declared it can be declared only by a sovereign ruler. Every Tom Dick and Harry cannot do that. Allah has sent an Arbiter and Judge (*Hakam and Adal*) who is the reformer of this age. The Arbiter has decided that with his coming the Jihad with sword and guns has been now prohibited. Now in religious war you have to use the same weapons as the enemies of Islam are using. The enemies are defaming Islam through literature and media, so we should fight back with the same weapons. We should create not only literature defending Islam but should also demonstrate that the Quranic teachings are the ones that lead to salvation and are indeed the teachings from God Almighty. If the opponents of Islam resort to deception and create a book to mimic the Quran, to promote Christianity then it is our duty to write its refutation.

So the upshot of the teachings about Jihad is that the present era is an age of intellectual Jihad with the pen. Jihad does not mean just wielding the sword. Nor did the Holy Prophet^{saw} or his companions thought it to be so. The highest Jihad is acting on the teachings of the Holy Quran and adapting ones life according to its precepts. If a country attacks another country then the latter is free and allowed to defend herself. But it is not the job of organizations to start warfare. Demonstrating logically to the Evangelical Church who is trying to alter the Quran that their effort is a childish one is also Jihad. If you review their book it becomes apparent that it is an immature and a foolish effort. Apparently, they are claiming great wisdom but even a person with ordinary intelligence can immediately see through this. At any rate, Allah has given guarantee that the Holy Quran will be preserved for ever.

Even those Orientalists that are not friendly towards Islam and distort its image have been so influenced that they have given testimony in favor of the preservation of the Holy Quran. Here I will mention a few of them. John Burton writes in the *Collection of the Quran*, “The text which has come down to us is in the form in which it was organized and approved by the Prophet. ... What we have today in our hands is the mushaf (original manuscript) of Muhammad.”²

Hamilton Alexander Rosskeen Gibb writes about the Holy Quran in his book *Mohammedanism*, “It seems reasonably well established that no material changes were introduced and that the original form and contents of Mohammed’s discourses were preserved with scrupulous precision.”³

Sir William Muir, the well known Orientalist writes in the introduction section of his book, *Life of Mahomet*, “There is probably in the world no other work which has remained twelve centuries with so pure a text.”⁴

Dr. Maurice Bucaille writes in his book, *the Bible the Quran and Science*, which has been translated from French into English, “Today's editions of the Qur'an are all faithful reproductions of the original copies. In the case of the Qur'an, there are no instances of rewriting or corruption of the text over the course of time.”

Again, Sir William Muir writes in the introduction section of his book, *Life of Mahomet*, “there is otherwise every security, internal and external, that we possess a text the same as that which Mahomet himself gave forth and used.”⁵

“Slight clerical errors there may have been,” writes Prof. Theodor Nöldeke, this is his subtle way to create doubt, but the subsequent description is confirming the Quran, “but the Koran of Othman contains none but genuine elements, though sometimes in very strange order. Efforts of European scholars to prove the existence of later interpolations in the Koran have failed.”⁶

Several such references can be found. So, the Quran is indeed ‘the Book’ that was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad, the seal of the Prophets and has stayed unaltered. The attempts to alter it have neither succeeded in the past and nor would they

succeed in future as Allah has promised to safeguard it. As a result of this divine custody the Holy Quran has safely reached us, and at no time an accusation of alteration can be proved against the Holy Quran.

Another meaning of the book is the entity that collects and accumulates as such the Holy Quran is a book in which all the necessary teachings have been put together. The Holy Quran has social information as well as religious and as I have said before it also contains financial and moral teachings and also has scientific information.

Promised Messiah^{as} says that Quranic words, **ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ** imply that this is that book which acquired its existence through divine revelation and there is no doubt in it as God's knowledge is above and beyond any other knowledge and is complete. So the teachings that are revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{saw} reflect Allah's omniscience. As the Shariah was being completed so the teachings that are mentioned in the Holy Quran are not present in such pristine beauty in any other scripture. Some teachings are similar but even there the levels of the teachings are different. By saying **لَا رَيْبَ** that there is no doubt in it Allah has stressed that as He is the source of all knowledge there is no doubt in it being the highest teaching. The Quranic teachings are beyond any reproach. The enemies may try their utmost but they cannot create its equal. Out of pretense they can try but they get exposed immediately. I was talking about the reprehensible effort of some Evangelists in writing of 'Furqan ul Haq.' Even a person with limited education with a little attention can pick up the limitations in this book and can figure out how haphazardly it is put together. The teachings of the Holy Quran are a description of monotheism, and the whole Quran revolves around it. In this Evangelical effort they have mentioned trinity in the very beginning and as such tried to deceive the Muslims. In this verse after a little mention of monotheism they have made trinity into monotheism. How can a Muslim who has some basic knowledge of religion accept this? If they had built on monotheism for some time and then brought in trinity they could have possibly deceived some Muslims. But putting monotheism together with trinity in one verse that they have put in the very beginning they have given themselves away. At any rate this creation of the Evangelists is mere compendium of nonsense. ...

Editor's note: This is translation of the first half of the sermon that was mainly about the preservation of the Holy Quran. The second half of the Friday sermon has some detailed quotes from the writings of Promised Messiah^{as} about other attributes of the Holy Quran that can be read in the Urdu text.

¹ Barahin-i-Ahmadiyya (Amritsar, Safir Hind Press, 1880); Now published in Ruhani Khazain, Volume 1, page 102 in the footnote.

² John Burton. The Collection of the Quran. Cambridge University Press, 1997. Page 239-240.

³ Hamilton Alexander Rosskeen Gibb. Mohammedanism. Oxford University Press, 1976. Page 34.

⁴ Sir William Muir. Life of Mahomet. Third edition, 1894. In the introduction section, pages: xv-xxvi. Publisher Smith Elder and company from London.

⁵ Sir William Muir. Life of Mahomet. Third edition, 1894. In the introduction section, pages: xv-xxvi. Publisher Smith Elder and company from London.

⁶ Encyclopedia Britannica Edition 1911. Under heading 'Koran' page 905.