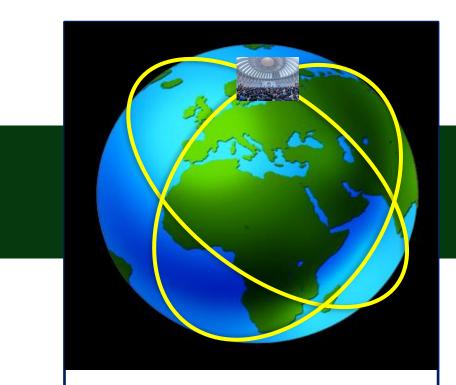


Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba); Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community



relayed live all across the globe

La ilaha illallah – There is no god but Allah – is the basis of the unity of God.

We are fortunate to have accepted the teachings which completely safeguards against associating partners with God.

God presented three conditions and signs.

'Thee Alone do we worship and Thee Alone do we implore for help'.

A verbal declaration of faith will render no benefit without action.

His Holiness, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) said that *La ilaha illallah* – There is no god but Allah – is the basis of the unity of God.

His Holiness (aba) said that the Holy Prophet (sa) said that Allah has ordained for such a person to be forbidden from entering the fire who recites this for the sake of attaining God's pleasure.
This indeed is the same teaching brought by all prophets. Yet, unfortunately, it is the people of those very prophets who have forgotten these teachings and turned them into a means of associating partners with God.

His Holiness (aba) said that we are fortunate to have accepted the teachings which completely safeguards against associating partners with God and also enables us to attain success in this life as well as the next.

The Holy Prophet (sa) himself said that one who sincerely proclaims *la ilaha illallah* will be deserving of his intercession on the Day of Judgement.

La Illaha Illallah: There Is No God but Allah

His Holiness (aba) said that the Holy Prophet (sa) was the Seal of Prophets and God also gave him the ability to be an intercessor. Believing in the Holy Prophet (sa) is in fact a...

...tenet of faith, and the true proclamation of God's unity cannot be bereft of belief in the Holy Prophet (sa) and the belief that he is the Seal of Prophets.

The Holy Prophet (sa) taught us how to be free from and safeguard against associating partners with God. Regrettably, there are those among his people and nation who succumb to various forms of the hidden <u>shirk</u> (association of partners with God).

Where we are taught of the deeper meanings of *la ilaha illallah*, we are also taught about the esteemed rank of the Holy Prophet (sa).

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God Himself explained His proclamation of having completed Islam as the perfect and complete religion; God presented three conditions and signs:

- 1. 'whose root is firm'
- 2. 'whose branches reach into heaven
- 3. 'It brings forth its fruit at all times'

(The Holy Qur'an, 14:25-26)

Regarding the first sign, the Promised Messiah (as) said that this refers to *la ilaha illallah*. For example, God Almighty states:

'Verily, in the creation of the heavens and the earth and in the alternation of night and day, and in the ships which sail in the sea with that which profits men, and in the water which Allah sends down from the sky and quickens therewith the earth after its death and scatters therein all kinds of beasts, and in the change of the winds, and the clouds pressed into service between the heaven and the earth — are indeed Signs for the people who understand.' (The Holy Qur'an, 2:165)

The Promised Messiah (as) said that Allah the Almighty is the only one who can help, and so He is the only one who should be turned to. It is stated in the Holy Qur'an: 'Thee Alone do we worship and Thee Alone do we implore for help'.

La Illaha Illallah: There Is No God but Allah

The Promised Messiah (as) said that God did not merely claim that there is no god but Him, rather he presented all the necessary proofs & arguments before making this claim. The grandeur of God's unity & *la ilaha illallah* was witnessed during the Conquest of Makkah.

When the Holy Prophet (sa) asked Abu Sufyan, that had he not realised the superiority of *la ilaha illallah*, Abu Sufyan replied saying that he surely had, for if any of their idols possessed any divinity, they would have helped them by now.

The meaning of *la ilaha illallah* according to the dictionary is, 'I have no desire, no beloved, no one to worship, no one to follow other than Allah'. When such a condition arises, then one begins to experience Paradise in this world.

His Holiness (aba) further quoted the Promised Messiah (as) who said that God has given many commandments, some of which are conditional. For example, Hajj can only be undertaken when all the requisite conditions are met. The same is the case with Zakat and it is compulsory only for those who meet the required conditions. There are also instances where the daily prayers can take on a different form, such as being combined or shortened due to travel. However, the commandment of *la ilaha illallah* is not a conditional one, rather it is universal.

'There is no god but Allah' is the overarching principle and commandment, and *'Muhammad (sa) is the Messenger of Allah'* is the example of how to follow and implement *la ilaha illallah*.

The Promised Messiah (as) said that life is not guaranteed and can slip away at any time. Therefore, one should not think that they have ample time, rather they should immediately turn to God and His worship.
The Promised Messiah (as) said that one who reads the Holy Qur'an is fully aware of the fact that God does not like mere verbal claims. Such claims cannot bring about any sort of change or betterment.
An oath will render no benefit without action. God cannot be deceived. Therefore, a person's actions must be sincere, and that sincerity can be derived from a true understanding of <i>la ilaha</i> <i>illallah</i> .

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Until one embodies the requirements associated with *la ilaha illallah* they will not achieve success in any form. Furthermore, if one accepts that all difficulties are for the sake of God and that He aids His servants, then nothing would worry them or cause them anguish because of their trust and belief in God.

La ilaha illallahrefutes not only idols, but all other forms of worship and things which people may associate as equal with God, whether they be hidden or apparent.

It is only when the inner idols of pride, arrogance, enmity, jealousy, hatred, hypocrisy, dishonesty etc. are eradicated that one can truly be a believer in the unity of God.

His Holiness (aba) said that during the month of Ramadan, we should strive to eliminate these inner idols so that we may be among those who truly believe in *la ilaha illallah*.

May God be the Only One we worship, our only desire, and beloved.

In the last ten days of Ramadan we speak of the Night of Destiny – this can only be achieved when our every word & action is devoted to God & this is the case for the remainder of our lives.

This is the true & everlasting sign of having attained the Night of Destiny. The true sign of having attained the Night of Destiny is the impact & change it brings about in a person's heart.

Other signs of seeing light, hearing rain or smelling a sweet fragrance are all temporary, whereas a revolution in the heart is a permanent manifestation of the Night of Destiny.

His Holiness (aba) also urged prayers for the general state of the world, that may Allah have mercy and bestow His blessings upon humanity.