

Summary of Hazur-Aqdas Speech at Taj Hotel, Calicut, Kerala

I would like to thank all of the distinguished guests who have joined us here today. Your coming proves your compassion, brotherly love and respect for the feelings of others. In the world today the majority of people are involved in their own selfish pursuits and they expect their needs to be met without giving to others their due rights. Thus your coming here today is most praiseworthy.

To win hearts and to promote love in society is a very difficult task. From a societal level to a national level suspicions often arise which in turn lead to conflict and open disputes. On the one hand we, in this era, claim to be more educated and civilised than ever before, but on the other hand our tolerance levels are less than ever. Greed is consuming all. Instead of being satisfied and caring for what we have, the eyes of people are on the property of others.

It is necessary that each other's rights must always be discharged. A place of tolerance and respect for each others religions must emerge. The resources granted by God Almighty must be utilised for the betterment of our societies.

Here in India religion has always played a big part. All religions have been represented in this country and indeed in this region. The various religions live side by side in peace. To continue this peace those with vested interests must be avoided. God has granted great knowledge and wisdom and it is imperative that it is used to promote peace and harmony in society.

I remember a conversation I once had with a friend from Ghana and a friend from Kerala when I lived in the former. The Ghanaian asked me what was the difference between an Indian and a Pakistani. Before I had a chance to answer my friend from Kerala answered that the only difference was geographical. Thus the world should note that we are as one and united.

It is our belief that God sent prophets to all parts of the world. Having sent prophets to all parts of the world who delivered His teaching, God ultimately sent the Holy

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) who brought with him the complete teaching of Islam. Then following him came his greatest servant, the Promised Messiah, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, who was sent to bring mankind back towards His Creator.

The Holy Qur'an states that *'There should be no compulsion in religion'* and thus our teachings we spread with love and not by force. If having received our message a person does not believe then that matter rests between him and God alone.

Another issue that is prevalent today is that some sections of the West are provoking Muslims by ridiculing the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) which automatically leads to rancour. The West in general is filled with tolerant societies but it must stop mocking Islam. If a person speaks ill of another's father then automatically that person will cause resentment. The Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) has a status far above that of any other person in the eyes of every Muslim and so if he is spoken ill of then it can only cause great hurt.

The reaction of some Muslims cannot be justified but in the same way their reaction should not come as a total surprise. We Ahmadis believe in all of the prophets and respect them completely and so cannot say a single word against them. The Promised Messiah taught us how to deal with situations where our revered persons or our faith are mocked or spoken ill of. He said that at such times a person must excuse himself from that particular gathering. This is the same teaching that we are given in the Holy Qur'an.

However we must remember that we should never display permanent anger or anxiety. The Holy Qur'an has taught us that wherever virtuous discussions are taking place then we must partake. One must not think that because the invitation is from a Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Athiest or any other faith that they should not accept. Further, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) taught us that wherever we receive good counsel then we should hasten to adopt it.

Those familiar with the early history of Islam will be shocked that despite the severe oppression the Muslims were still instructed not to react. On hot sands were their naked bodies laid upon which hot stones were pressed, people were lashed, whilst some had their bodies attached to two camels who then rode in opposing directions. Despite these cruelties the commandment remained that the Muslims were not to transgress. When he conquered Makkah, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) forgave all and he commanded that the sword should never be raised to force someone to accept Islam as this was unjust.

During that era enmities in the Arab world lasted for long eras yet the Muslims were taught to forgive all previous grudges and hatred. This was very difficult no doubt, but the Holy Prophet himself exemplified these teachings.

You must always cooperate with others in virtuous tasks. Vanity and arrogance are to be avoided. God has ordained such as a means to establish peace. Each others feelings must be respected. Muslims, Christians, Hindus must all accept this principle. I am very happy to hear that these principles are practiced by the majority of people in this city and province. To establish peace at every level is incumbent. Some NGO's are working towards this and some Governments claim to do the same. They must be sincere in their efforts.

If we do not act today and try and establish peace then our future generations will weep for years to come. The weapons of mass destruction that are available throughout the world if used would cause destruction beyond our imagination. Thus we must act to save future generations and every individual must play his part in this.

Thank you once again.

End of Summary

Editors Please Note: This is a summary of the original speech and not a transcript.

