

GIVING PRECEDENCE TO FAITH OVER WORLDLY MATTERS

I shall give precedence to faith over worldly matters' is the mantra of Ahmadi Muslims.

This is the guiding principle and the practical basis of how every Ahmadi is expected to live his life.

Faith means spending one's life in accordance with the commandments of God and aspiring to gain His pleasure through every word and deed.

Thus, anything that distract us from the pursuit of our faith has to be avoided.

We can do this by gaining religious knowledge and learning what our faith is and how we should not let worldly matters distract us from our faith.

Sad news of another Martyrdom in Pakistan!

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I shall give precedence to faith over worldly matters' is the mantra of Ahmadi Muslims.

This statement is the part of condition on Bai'at and our pledge.

We are reminded of this fundamental principle by our Khulafa and orators at different occasions.

This is the guiding principle and the practical basis of how every Ahmadi is expected to live his life.

An Ahmadi, who does not conduct him/herself according to this guiding principle can not sustain a true connection with Ahmadiyyat, Khilafat and Nizam of Jama'at .

For such a person, the promise of Bai'at and claim to strive to attain God's pleasure are just empty words!

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In this regard the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said: 'If someone asserts during Bai'at that he will give precedence to faith over worldly matters but does not practice it and does not honour his pledge, then what care has God for him?'

This phrase should be our guiding principle at all times.

We must not let worldly matters distract us from our faith.

What is faith?

Faith means spending one's life in accordance with the commandments of God and aspiring to gain His pleasure through our every word and deed.

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When striving in the matter of faith, we are judged according to our intention.

This is because, in terms of our resources, capacity, knowledge and intellect, we are all different.

So our ability to strive in the path of faith is different.

However, it is possible for each one of us to have the same good intention, **'to give our faith preference over all worldly matters'**.

Today's sermon was based on an exposition by Hazrat Musleh Maud (may Allah be pleased with him) on this subject.

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Intention plays a great part in what one can achieve in life.



For example, if one's intention is to always look immaculate, this will detract them from attaining their full potential, for they will avoid tasks that involve mud and dust.



While, those whose main intention is to attain a certain task, will be willing to get their hands dirty, sit in the dust and mud and do whatever it takes to achieve their goal.



Their commitment to appearance would not become a hindrance to what they achieve in life.

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Huzoor quoted an incidence from the life of Sir Walter Raleigh, who was noted for his courtly manners and immaculate dress sense.



Sir Walter Raleigh was reputed to have placed his cloak over a puddle in order to prevent Queen Elizabeth I from muddying her shoes.

So, in spite of being a dapper and stylish person Walter Raleigh forfeited his style for the Queen.

If a worldly person can sacrifice his valuable cloak to please his Queen by protecting her shoe, then just think how much we need to do for the propagation of Islam to attain the pleasure of our Creator!

Remember, when one seeks God's pleasure one becomes the recipient of Divine blessings and also has an excellent ending.

God's pleasure can be attained when one truly gives precedence to faith over worldly matters.

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God does not forbid us from earning in this world, wearing nice clothes and jewellery, living in nice houses and eating fine food.



However, Islamic teaching is that these things should not distract us from our faith.



For example, Islam does not prohibit one from marrying an attractive woman, but..



.. the commandment is that the woman's religious attributes should be the main deciding factor in the choice of marriage.

Shariah says that a wife should not become a hindrance in the worship of the husband.

If our young men and women and their parents are mindful of this, family problems would be resolved.

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Similarly it is certainly not forbidden to wear fine clothes.



But, if the style of our outfit distract us in Salat, then this has to be avoided.



Because, Islam teaches not neglect one's religious obligations for worldly matters.



Similarly, it is all well and good to have nice food, but good food should not take us away from our faith.

To have an insight about how one can give precedence to faith over worldly matters, it is important to seek religious knowledge and put it in practice.

Without gaining religious knowledge one cannot know what faith is and how should one give precedence to faith over other matters!.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said in this regard:

‘Look, there are two types of people; firstly those who accept Islam and then become engrossed in worldly business and trade and Satan overcomes them. I do not mean here that trade is forbidden. ...Those who become slaves of the world are aficionados of the world and Satan overcomes and vanquishes such people.

‘The other type of people are those who are concerned about the advancement of faith. This is the group which is referred to as HizbAllah (party of Allah). They triumph over Satan and his hosts.’

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It is really important to understand the concept of giving precedence to faith over worldly matters.

We can enjoy blessings of this world as much as we like, as long as they do not interfere with our ability to fulfil the rights of God and mankind and help to propagate our faith.

We have to fulfil our responsibility of spreading the beautiful teaching of Islam by building mosques, translating the Holy Quran in various languages and promoting the best values.

When one goes out to work to earn money with these intentions, then even earning a living becomes an aspect of faith.

For instance, if we slacken in paying chanda so that we can buy the latest iPhone, then what is otherwise a lawful act, becomes a sin in the sight of God.

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During the Battle of Uhad the rumour started that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) was martyred.



A Companion who had starved for days was eating his meal which consisted of dry dates only.



When he heard the news he threw aside the dates and leapt into the battle field and was martyred.



He appreciated that at this time, when his services were needed for the battle, sitting and eating dates was sinful.

So anything, no matter how good, lawful and luxurious, if stands in the way of one's faith, is best avoided.

We should try and instil this spirit in ourselves and this will incline us to seek the pleasure of God.

A Tradition relates that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) was sitting in the mosque with his Companions when three men walked in.

One of them saw space near the Prophet and quickly went and sat near him.

The second person sat behind other people where he found space and the third person thinking there was no space for him, turned away and left.

When the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) finished his discourse he explained that one of the three men sought refuge near God and God granted it to him.

The second man was a little abashed and God too treated him with abashment. That is, his taking seat in the assembly caused his sins to be forgiven by God.

The third person turned away and God also turned away from him.

On the face of it this is a very ordinary narrative. The third man assumed that there was no point in staying there and he left.

The first two were rewarded according to their actions and the third one remained deprived and caused Divine displeasure

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A sacrifice made in the cause of Allah, at the time of need and with sincere intention is rewarded by God.

At times, a small financial contribution by a person, who has the capacity to make much bigger sacrifice, can suffice as long as his intention is to meet the need of the time.

At other times, a very small contribution by someone with limited resources will suffice, as his intention is to do his best for the need of the time!

It should always be remembered that the real objective is to attain pleasure of God; therein lies success and prosperity.

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We have been given the responsibility to do great tasks. We pledge to sacrifice our life, property time and honour.

Indeed we should always ponder as to how we should utilise our capacities to give precedence to faith over worldly matters

God is not in need of anything of ours. It is indeed His grace and favour that He has told us that if we give precedence to faith over worldly matters we will attain His pleasure.

Otherwise God is not in need of any money; the sole purpose of financial sacrifice is to gain Allah's pleasure. God has bestowed us with children. It is a great responsibility of Ahmadi parents to do the upbringing of their children in a way that they may serve faith.

They should nurture their children in such a way that they have an insight into giving precedence to faith over worldly matters from childhood.

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**GIVING PRECEDENCE TO FAITH OVER WORLDLY
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Office-holders of all levels should appreciate that their responsibility to fulfil giving precedence to faith over worldly matters is more than others.

It is their responsibility to make other's understand about the objective of giving faith precedence over everything; they can only teach others if they practice this themselves!

Office-holder of every level, must develop a correct appreciation of their status and try and fulfil his pledge.

God always blesses the sincerity of those who serve faith and He confer His nearness to them.

Office-holders should try their utmost to attain this station.

May God enable office-holder of every level and every Ahmadi to have true insight of giving precedence to faith over worldly matters and to practice upon it



Latif Alam
Butt
Sahib

Latif Alam Butt Sahib was martyred in Kamra, district Okara on 15 October close to his home.

- He was gunned down by unknown assailant on motorcycle.

His father Khurshid Alam Sahib was the first in the family to accept Ahmadiyyat in 1934.

- At the time of martyrdom Shaheed was serving as nazim publication Ansarullah

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Martyrs of Ahmadiyyat

He had also served Jama'at in other capacities. His home was used as Salat centre for a long time. Shaheed was always eager to do Jama'at work and had a devoted connection with Khilafat. His was regular in offering Salat and used to arrive at mosque two hours prior to Friday Prayers.

Shaheed was a very courageous man and had fought off an assailant in 2007 when a man tried to shoot him but the gun jammed. He was 62 years old at the time of martyrdom. His Wasiyyat was being processed at the time of his martyrdom and Hazrat Khalifatul Masih graciously approved of it and instructed the relevant office to carry out all proceedings in accordance.

Shaheed always participated in all Jama'at programmes, never missing any. He leaves behind his widow, one daughter Iram Waseem and four sons; Khurram Butt, Zeeshan Butt, Umer Butt and Ali Butt.

After retirement Shaheed consciously stayed in the area and made home there with the hope that Jama'at would be established there. May God bring Shaheed's good intention to fruition and may in return of his martyrdom God grants us hundreds of Ahmadis and Jama'at is established in the area.

May God elevate the status of Shaheed and grant steadfastness to the bereaved family.

May God keep members of Jama'at safe in Pakistan in every way! The enemy is intensifying in enmity. May God soon bring about peace and tranquillity for us!