Truth and Falsehood

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

relayed live all across the globe

February 5th 2016

NOTE: Al Islam Team takes full responsibility for any errors or miscommunication in this Synopsis of the Friday Sermon.
Truth and Falsehood

Summary

- People of God do not tell lies and do not attend places where falsehood and frivolity is common.
- God has called falsehood as something foul and has likened it to idolatry.
- Those who always adhere to truth are not disgraced because they are in God’s protection.
- True Ahmadis are those who try to follow the blessed model of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him).
- Love and embellishment of the world is the root of all wrongdoings.
- Spiritual development is indeed gradual and one cannot please God with mere words.

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The purpose of the advent of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) was not simply meant to clarify the concept of life and death of Jesus (on whom be peace) but entailed many other factors.

He gave a detailed discourse on matters that had caused the decline of Muslims and for the reformation of which he had been sent.

One of these was avoiding falsehood and upholding truth. He advised his Jama’at to raise their standard of truth adding that simply accepting his advent was not enough.
The Holy Qur'an states:

'And those who bear not false witness...' (25:73)

Shirk (associating partners with God) and falsehood have also been mentioned together in the Holy Qur'an as if falsehood is as big a sin as shirk is!

‘Zoor’ is used in the aforementioned verse to denote falsehood. It means lying, associating partners with God, assemblies or places where falsehood is rampant, gatherings of song and idle, frivolous pursuits etc.

People of God do not tell lies and do not attend places where falsehood and frivolity is common, nor do they go to places where idolatrous practices are pursued and they do not give false evidence.

Those who avoid all these situations are true believers.
The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said:

Was the Holy Prophet a worldly man, did he practice usury? Did he give precedence to the world over faith? These matters should be pondered over and footsteps of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) should be followed to discover how this will be followed by God’s grace!

The Companions of the Holy Prophet certainly adopted the right ways and God transformed their lives. They became completely distant from worldly matters. Compare your situation with theirs; are you doing what they did?

The cause of internal strife among Muslims was love of the world. How could people who did not follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) be called Muslim? God has stated: Say, 'If you love Allah, follow me: then will Allah love you and forgive you your faults...' (2:32) If, instead, precedence is given to the world, could it be following the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him)?
The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said:

God has called falsehood as something foul and has likened it to idolatry. It is stated: 'Shun therefore the abomination of idols, and shun false speech.' (22:31) Just as the foolish leave God and turn to idolatry, similarly, those who shun truth rely on falsehood and this is why God had made association between idolatry and falsehood. Just as an idolater seeks salvation from idols, one who relies on falsehood also seeks solutions therein.

People think nothing to give false evidence in court cases in exchange of small amount of money. Can lawyers say that all witnesses they present in court cases are truthful? ..... Not only false witnesses are produced and false court cases brought on but even false documents are created and the truth is avoided in everything. Could those who argue that this mission (of the Promised Messiah) was not needed say if this is the teaching the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) bring?
The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) appeared before a British magistrate once. During the hearing the judge inquired if the Promised Messiah had in fact placed the letter in the package to which he replied yes indeed and added that he was not aware that by doing so he was breaking the postal regulations, nor did he intend to defraud the post office. .... God turned the judge's heart in the Promised Messiah's favour and although the opposing official made long submissions the judge dismissed him by saying no, no and honourably discharged the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace).

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said how I could say that there is no alternative but to speak falsehood when the fact was that there was no other way but truthfulness. He said he recalled the incidence with great relish that he abided by what God commands and God made a concession for him in a way that it became a sign! '...And he who puts his trust in Allah — He is sufficient for him...' (65:4)
The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said:

For example once a man beat up his cook only because he did not get the seasoning right. When his attention was drawn to the disproportionate chastisement he said that the cook had been with him for a long time and had been very well looked after. Likewise, a large hoard of man's wickedness at times brings about him being caught and penalised.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that there was nothing as wicked as falsehood. Worldly people say that people who tell the truth end up being penalised. He said, how could I accept this because I have been through seven court cases and did not use falsehood in even one of them and with the grace of God did not lose a single case. How could God punish a truthful person!

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) explained that when some people are penalised for speaking the truth, their castigation is not due to being honest. Rather, its cause is some hidden, unknown sin or wickedness of theirs that God has knowledge of.
The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said:

Those who always adhere to truth are not disgraced because they are in God's protection. However incomplete goodness does not avail and unless one's practice is most excellent it cannot yield the desired fruits. Flawed practice does not please God.... If a person makes a few stiches in a coarse piece of fabric he does not become a tailor and it does not mean that he could also sew fine silk. Adulterated piety is of no avail.

Indeed, God does not waste even the minutest of good which is based on sincerity: 'Then whoso does an atom's weight of good will see it,' (99:8) Thus when something does not reach fruition it is because it lacks sincerity because sincerity is conditional for good deeds: '...making yourselves sincere towards Him in religion...' (7:30)
Every Ahmadi should self-reflect and see how much they match up to what is expected of them.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) gave this advise with great pain.

It was most significant to completely free oneself from shirk and make one's practice such that it does not even have a hint of shirk. He stressed to establish truth and abhor falsehood.

Do we use falsehood in court cases, or tell lies for monetary gain?

Do we not say the truth when arranging matrimonial matches, and not follow the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

Do we use falsehood to extract social or welfare allowances from the state?
Income is also not disclosed to gain state benefits and this in turn is tax evasion/fraud.

Tax evasion not only creates personal difficulties but can bring Ahmadiyyat into disrepute.

Those who use falsehood for such purposes should not keep worldly advantage in view but should try and please God by avoiding falsehood and by living on small means.

Be mindful that falsehood is not used in asylum applications, even if your lawyer incites you for this.

Office-holders should also self-reflect whether they put false items in their reports. They must abide by qawl e sadeed and reporting what is the unambiguous truth?

Matters should be dealt with righteousness. Each person should deal with matters devoid of personal gain, devoid of egotism and with only fear of God in view.
We have great responsibilities as Ahmadis and true Ahmadis are those who try to follow the blessed model of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him).

If this is not the case, this leads to divisions and discord and unity and accord of community or at least in a specific section of community is lost.

And the unity that the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) came to establish is lost. Islam was split in sects due to love of the world and this could also further lead to such divide.

Thus, one evil gives rise to many.
The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said:

People are engrossed in love of the world in all their waking and sleeping hours with no thought whatsoever about what will happen after death. ...This is because their hearts are devoid of God's greatness. Indeed, one should always fear God. He overlooks most of our wrongs but when He chastises He is severe, as stated: 'And He cared not for the consequences thereof.' (91:16)
It is stated: 'Do men think that they will be left alone because they say, 'We believe,' and that they will not be put to trial?' (29:3) Indeed, each blessing requires hard work. And Islam makes no such arduous demands, for example, as monks and hermits in other faiths have to go through. The teaching of Islam is: 'Surely, he prospers who augments it,' (91:10), that is, one who leaves every harmful innovation and selfish desires and assumes the way of God!

Spiritual development is indeed gradual and one cannot please God with mere words.

Those who wish to turn to God and attain Divine nearness usually employ haste and do not realise that matters of faith require great patience and steadfastness. People work night and day for worldly goals and wait years to see results but when it comes to matters of faith, they wish to become saintly at mere blowing of breath and wish to experience high heaven instantly. And this without putting in any hard work or having experienced any hardships and trials. Spiritual development is indeed gradual and one cannot please God with mere words.
May we bring about change in our practice, understand the significance of truth and give precedence to faith over worldly matters.

After taking Bai'at, may we truly and not merely in words understand the advent of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace)

May we try our very best to follow the blessed model of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and deem God's pleasure the most important of all.

February 5th 2016
Funeral Prayer of Kassim Touré Sahib, our missionary from Ivory Coast was announced.

He passed away on 25 January.

He was a moosi and had served the Jama'at since 1986.

Among his services was translation of Friday Sermons in Joomla language.