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"The Muslim Herald" is the official organ of the London Mosque, which is open for discussion on topics relating to different religions, on the role of Islam in the modern world, and on the problems facing mankind and their relationship with Islam.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
نَحْمَدُكَ وَنُصَلِّي عَلَى رَسُولِكَ الْكَرِيمِ

GOD'S FAVOUR AND THE PROGRESS OF AHMADIYYAT

IS
INTERLINKED WITH CALIPHATE

by

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"The opponents of Islam must not feel jubilant if a few weak and misguided Muslims of defeated mentality have capitulated and absconded from the Citadel of the Holy Prophet. Why do they not see that a fresh contingent, bursting with youthful vigour and full of pious ambitions, has entered the Citadel through the main gate to revive Islam and to re-establish the Kingdom of God on earth". (Al-Musleh Mau'ood: Al Fazl: p. 4: 28-2-48).

Caliphate—Eternal Miracle of Islam

The system of Caliphate in Islam, supported by the invisible Hand of Allah, is an ever-living miracle of the Holy Prophet. This surpassing miracle is all the more remarkable when we bear in mind that glad tidings concerning this system were revealed to the Holy Prophet during the 5th year of the Hijra, when Islam was toddling in its infancy and the newly established Muslim Community was being ruthlessly harrassed and attacked by the vindictive Quresh of Mecca and the surrounding tribes in league with the rancorous Jews of Medina.

Caliphate is the Key to Success

The Divine Promise regarding Caliphate was revealed to the Holy Prophet during the earlier period of Islam in the following words:

“He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear”.

(Al-Quran: 24-56).

At the demise of the Holy Prophet his Companions were badly shaken with the fear of stubborn opposition. But by the grace of Allah, the Chosen Caliph succeeded in safely steering away the wobbling ship of Islam through troubled waters and re-established the authority of the new Muslim Government.

Unprecedented Triumph of the Earliest Caliphs

The wonderful prophecy, mentioned above, was fulfilled in a manner which leaves not the least ground for any criticism, even from the bitterest enemies of Islam. ‘Aesha, the truthful wife of the Holy Prophet has reported that when her father was elected as the first Caliph, he found himself surrounded by innumerable odds and set-backs. Tribes all over Arabia had rebelled and had challenged his authority. A number of false prophets sprung up like mushrooms and the Jews had laid a mesh of intrigues. Difficulties he had to face would have crushed even a mountain. But the succour of Allah came to his aid. All the false prophets were annihilated, rebellions were crushed and a silver line on the horizon of affairs soon showed up. The scare that the Muslims had felt was transformed in hope and gratification. Truth prevailed and all the satanic forces were completely destroyed. God the Protector, not only saved the edifice of Islam, but also blessed them with unparalleled success and progress. The Muslims took rapid strides and in an incredibly short space of time conquered and dominated all the surrounding countries. The weak and seemingly tottering battlement of Islam grew into an invincible stronghold, the pinnacles of which rose high into the heaven. In no time the pride of Xerxes was ingloriously humbled and the power of the Caesars

was irreparably shaken even during the reign of the second Caliph—Omar the Great. During the reign of the third Caliph Othman, the flag of Islam fluttered over the kingdoms of Khurasan, Seestan and Afghanistan in the East, and in the West the whole of North Africa including Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco came under his sway. With the blessings of Allah, Muslim advance and progress continued so long as they adhered to the tenets of the faith and kept in view the importance of the Caliphate.

Concept of Caliphate in the Eyes of the “Companions”

The first recipients of the Divine blessings—the Companions of the Holy Prophet—attached the greatest importance to the institution of Caliphate. That was the reason why Ali would not agree to Abu Bakar’s leading the punitive army in person which went from Medina to quell the rebellion of the first dissenters in Islam. Ali said:

“Any untoward accident to the person of the Caliph was bound to endanger the existence of Islam”.

(Kanz-ul-’Ammal: p. 5).

In a gathering of the Companions where Abu Bakar declared war on the back-sliding dissenters and hypocrites, none came forward with his views and everyone kept silent. Then Omar stood up and in a thundering voice said, “O ye Muslims! what has happened to you? Why do you not welcome the command of the Commander of the Faithfuls so that he may cause you to attain eternal life? At this Khalid bin Saeed stood up and said:

“Sir, we are all willing to obey”.

(Kanz-ul-’Ammal: Vol. 5: p. 294).

A small army was hastily collected and sent out to quell the rebellion. Although their number was very small, they gave a crushing defeat to the rebels.

During the time of the third Caliph, Othman, the dissenters and the miscreants, who had very cunningly taken over the con-

trol of Medina, a notable Companion, Hanzala by name, declared, " I am greatly surprised at the talk of these men. How strange that they are contemplating to do away with the Caliphate. If they succeed in this, all the Divine blessings shall be taken away from the Muslims and they shall be humbled and scattered like the Jews and the Christians".

Caliphate in the Latter Days. Let Our Antagonists Ponder

The peerless blessings of the system of Caliphate are not merely a glorious chapter in the past history of Islam. Its benefits were to extend to a later period—the period of its revival. In this respect there is a definite promise of God Almighty. He said,

"A large party from among the early Muslims and a few from the later ones". (Al-Quran: 56:14-15).

According to the above verse, Allah has promised to revive the institution of Caliphate after the ministry of the Promised Messiah—the illustrious spiritual son of the Holy Prophet. Caliphate was, therefore, bound to get re-established so that the above promise would not, in the eyes of the opponents of Islam, appear to be a mere literary adornment of the Holy Quran. After a lapse of 1,400 years this Divine promise became a reality thus giving our opponents a matter for serious thought.

It must be remembered that Ahmadiyya Movement during the ministry of the Promised Messiah was in its infancy and, therefore in a very weak state. This could be gauged by the number of men that came to attend the last Annual Gathering in his life-time. The number did not exceed three thousand. (Badar: 9-1-1908). At that time the Jama'at had only one administrative institution known as the 'Sadar Anjuman-i-Ahmadiyya', which had been established only two years earlier. Its income for the year from 1st October, 1907 to 30th September, 1908 amounted to Rs. 40,938-13-3. (Ref: p. 14 of the Annual Report of 1907-1908).

Predictions of Our Opponents Prove False

The Promised Messiah passed away on 26th May, 1908 at Lahore. There was then not a single Mission outside the country and the institution for training missionaries did not exist. The opposing *mullas* of the time exhibited their characteristic meanness by organising public processions and taking out mock-funerals on this sad occasion. In jovial mood they garlanded each other and congratulated their leaders on their supposed victory over Ahmadiyyat. In their jubilation they distributed alms to the poor as thanksgiving. This was the horrid manner in which they celebrated the demise of our beloved master—the Promised Messiah. (Al Mujaddid: June, 1908) and they predicted that that was the end of the Ahmadiyya Movement.

Maulvi Sana Ullah, of Amritsar, a vicious enemy of Ahmadiyyat, wrote:

“Caliph Nurud-Din has commanded his followers that a religious school be started to commemorate the Mirza. We also support the proposal very strongly and hope that followers of the Mirza will contribute generously for this, because we know that the school will revert to us ultimately and the Movement of Mirza will become a story of the past and gradually fade away from the minds of the general public”. (Muraqqa-i-Qadiani: September-October, 1908).

He further added:

“If anyone seeks our opinion, we must readily advise him that, if it be possible, the Muslims should collect all the books of the Mirza and throw these into a burning oven (tanoor) and then throw the ashes into the deep sea. This would not be enough. No Muslim or non-Muslim historian should ever mention his name in any future History of India”. Wakeel: 13-6-1908) and Badar: 18-6-1908).

Even Khwaja Hasan Nizami, a liberal religious leader advised the Ahmadis to forget and deny the claim of the Mirza as the Mahdi and the Promised Messiah. He wrote:

"In the absence of Mirza's guide and management the Ahmadiyya Community will not be able to cope with the attacks of their adversaries".

(Paisa Akbar: 5-6-1908: quoted from Badar: 18-6-1908).

From the First to the Present Caliph

The Ahmadiyya Community was in a state of deep melancholy and utter helplessness when Allah came to the rescue of His humble servants with His Second Manifestation and Hazrat Hakim Noor-ud-Deen was unanimously elected the First Caliph. Under his able guidance, from 27th May, 1908 to 13th March, 1914, the Jama'at steadily kept on the path of progress. After him Hazrat Mirza Bashi-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad—the Promised Reformer—was elected as the Second Caliph. During his long ministry of 51 years the Ahmadiyya Movement progressed by leaps and bounds and the message of truth reached all the ends of the globe. The foundation of Ahmadiyyat, the True Islam, every day gained from strength to strength. The blessed ministry of this illustrious Caliph came to an end on 8th November, 1965, and the present Caliph was elected. The glad tidings of far reaching success during the ministry of his successor. (Anwar-i-Khilifat: p. 116).

The ministry of the present Caliph, Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, has now entered its eighth year. Everyone who has the eye to see will testify that the spiritual conquest of Islam has extended to every end of the earth. Even our adversaries are spell-bound to see our unique success about which the Founder of the Movement, the Promised Messiah, had predicted in the following words:

"Perennial Divine succour and His aid is manifest all over the place; and the back of our adversary, owing to our undisputed success, is bent double with jealousy and blank dispondency. Hark ye! the time has now arrived for the true and perfect Unity of God to prevail and the period of trials and afflictions is to cease. Because God has removed the obstacle of ignorance and darkness. Therefore, praise is due to Allah Who has humiliated my enemies".

Praise, indeed, is due to Allah.

In the Annual Gathering of the last year more than a hundred thousand adherents of Ahmadiyyat from all over the globe, flocked to attend the auspicious gathering and to see their beloved leader, Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad.

The total number of the followers of Prophet Ahmad has now passed ten million. At the Centre where there used to be only one administrative institution, now there are a number of such institutions, all are working zealously on the path of progress. The annual budget of only three of these institutions i.e., Sadar Anjuman-i-Ahmadiyya, Tahrik-i-Jadid and Waqf-i-Jadeed—this year exceeded Rupees Sixteen million.

In 1908, there was, no school in Qadian for religious instruction. But now, under the auspices of the Tahrik-i-Jadid, a great number of colleges and schools are imparting religious and secular instruction and an army of Ahmadiyya Missionaries is working zealously in all the ends of the earth to enlighten the seekers of truth and to acquaint them with the true teachings of the Holy Quran, are being distributed free of charge in large numbers. Practically every library in every important town in all the five continents of the world has copies of these publications which give the true picture of Islam as taught and practised by the Holy Prophet himself. Many books written by the Promised Messiah have been translated into English, German, Spanish, Dutch, Swahili and Chinese languages. A host of Muslim and non-Muslim writers and historians have expressed favourable views regarding the Ahmadiyya Movement which fact reflects the importance and popularity the Movement has gained. This same Movement, regarding which its adversaries and antagonists in 1908 proudly pronounced adverse predictions of extinction and signed its death warrant has now grown from its infancy to youth, and has reached the stage where the sun never sets on its adherents. This was bound to happen, and rapid progress continues. So all praise is due to Allah for all these blessings.

Caliphate—An Everlasting Blessing for Ahmadiyyat

As a result of the blessings of the Holy Prophet and his expectations, our present Imam has also inherited the prosperity

and progress that prevailed during the ministry of the Third Caliph Othman of the earliest History of Islam. It cannot be denied that the machinations of Abdulla-ibn-Sabaa and the shameful intrigues of his companions did succeed in shaking the edifice of Caliphate. But this is not going to happen during the present spiritual revival of Islam. The spiritual kingdom of the Holy Prophet is bound to get re-established in the hearts of men of all nations of the world. The present Caliph of Islam is destined to succeed and prosper and no 'Sabaaite' machination shall ever be able to do any harm to it. Islam will, ultimately predominate and all the evil-wishers of the True Islam are doomed to dismal failure. The hand that rises against it shall get benumbed and the eye that looks upon it with evil intent, shall lose its lustre. "For this, as pre-ordained by the Omnipotent God, is their ultimate fate".

The Promised Reformer, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmud Ahmad the second Caliph, in one of his speeches during the year 1919, had said:

"The first Adam had been thrown out of the garden of Eden, but the Adam that has now been sent by Allah has the mission to lead men to the Garden of Eden. The first Joseph was put into prison, but this second Joseph, has come to retrieve men from spiritual bondage. From among the early Caliphs, Othman and Ali were subjected to torment and murder. But I hope and believe that the Caliphs of the Promised Messiah shall escape this type of misfortune and all their enemies shall fail in their evil designs".

(Al Fazl: 27-10-1950).

He further added the following glad tidings:

"The tree of Ahmadiyyat will continue to grow so that its branches shall reach the high heavens and this same tree will become a spiritual link between the earth and the heavens, exactly as it was linked during the ministry of the Holy Prophet". (Al Fazl: 27-10-1950).

Holy Prophet's Messenger

Since all the heavenly blessing and the progress of Ahmad-

iyyat is linked with the Caliphate in Islam, the Holy Prophet had foretold about the tribulations of the latter days. He warned his followers against despondency and down-heartedness and advised them to gather round the banner of Caliphate. This is what he actually said:

“If you see the Caliph of God on this earth, gather round him even though your bodies be torn and tortured and you be dispossessed of your properties”.

(Masnad Ahmad bin Hambal: p. 403).

The Oath of the True Adherents of the Holy Prophet

“O Holy prophet of God! we, who are your humble followers and devoted servants, do sincerely and faithfully promise that in obedience to your above mentioned command, we shall always be prepared to sacrifice every possession for the sake of Islam and the Caliphate. God-willing we shall always serve the Caliph with the last drop of blood in our veins”.

“Who shall dare to extinguish the Light of the Divine candle? And who shall dare to harm him who enjoys the full support of God?”

O God! bestow Thy blessings on the Holy Prophet and his Caliphs; and bestow Thy favours and peace on them; for Thou Only art Praiseworthy and Great.

(Translated into English by M. A. K. Ghauri, Rabwah).

