

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

If we spend new year’s night and the dawn of the new year with prayers and introspection, we will be blessed in the hereafter.

Every Aḥmadī should remember the pledge of Bai‘at and judge himself accordingly and set down his goal accordingly.

We should pray that in the coming year we do not repeat any spiritual shortcomings of the previous one.

At the start of the new year we should pray that God may forgive our past sins and enable us to do more good deeds in the coming year.

On 30th Dec 2016, Ḥazrat *Khalīfatul-Masīḥ* V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futuh Mosque, London.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The new year is about to start. We start the new year both with the lunar and solar calendars. Today the Gregorian Calendar is the one that is most popular and all countries use it to calculate days and months. This is why everywhere in the world the year starts on 1st January and ends on 31st December. Worldly people while away their months and years in frivolities worldly pleasures. There is no limit to what these people do on the New Year. The night between 31st December and 1st January is full of frivolity in the world at large and in the Western world in particular. They spend the whole night in revelry and singing and dancing. In short, they end the year and begin the new year with frivolous and untoward activities. Most of the world has lost the eye of faith, hence they cannot see what a believer sees or should see. A believer should shun all frivolity and reflect on what the past year brought and what it took away, what we lost during this year and what we gained. Are we going to reflect on what worldly gains we had or are we going to look at what spiritual progress we made. And if we are going to look at our spiritual condition, then what are the criteria we have to consider to know what we have gained or lost. We Aḥmadīs are blessed that Allāh enabled us to accept the Promised Messiah (a.s) and Mahdi, who gave us the essence of the teachings of Allāh and His Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم and said that by looking at this criteria we can judge whether or not we are living up to the purpose of our lives.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Only if you bear these standards in mind will you become true believers. Only if you live up to these conditions will you be able to gauge the level of your faith. The Promised Messiah (a.s) received a pledge of Bai‘at from every Aḥmadī and therein he laid down some

conditions which give us guidance on how to act. He expected every Aḥmadī to do self-analysis every day, every week, every month, and every year. Therefore, if we begin every new year with prayers and introspection, then we will be blessed in the hereafter. But if we begin the year by exchanging wishes like worldly people, then we would have lost much and gained nothing, or very little. If we find weaknesses in ourselves and our introspection is not satisfactory, then we should pray to God that the next year may not be like the previous one in terms of weakness in our faith, and that we should take every step in accordance with His will. Each day we should tread in the path of the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Every day and night we should strive to fulfil our pledge of Bai‘at to the Promised Messiah (a.s). Do we abstain from the *shirk* of our latent desires, from falsehood, fornication, adultery, trespasses of the eye, debauchery, dissipation, cruelty, dishonesty, mischief and rebellion? Do we offer the five daily prayer punctually, invoke Durood on the Holy Prophet ﷺ, and ask forgiveness for our sins, and praise and glorify God? Do we live up to the commandments to abstain from harming others, practicing forgiveness and humility, and remaining faithful to God in all circumstances of life, in sorrow and happiness, adversity and prosperity, in felicity and trial? Do we completely submit to the authority of the Holy Qur’ān and the Holy Prophet ﷺ? Have we given up pride and vanity and do we pass our days in humility, forbearance and meekness? Do we uphold faith, the honour of faith, and the cause of Islam every day in our lives? Do we keep ourselves engrossed in the service of Islām and God’s creatures? Are we using all our faculties to benefit God’s creation? Do we pray that we should live up to our duty of obedience to the Promised Messiah (a.s)? Have we entered into a real bond of brotherhood with the Promised Messiah (a.s)? Do we pray that we may grow in our relationship of love and devotion to Khilāfat? And do we teach our children to do the same? And do we regularly pray for the Khalīfa and for the Jamā‘at?

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: If the answer to most of these questions is in the affirmative, then, despite some weaknesses, we have gained a lot in the previous year. But if most of the answers are in the negative, then this is something we need to worry about. And this can be remedied by praying during these nights and making a solemn pledge for the new year. Pray that Allāh may forgive our past shortcomings, and in the coming year we should gain and not lose, and that we may be counted among the believers who are ever ready to sacrifice everything for His pleasure.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) read the following extract in which the Promised Messiah (a.s) says:

“My entire Jamā‘at who is present here and others should listen to this advice very attentively. Those who entered this Jamā‘at and are associated with me as followers, by doing so they should attain righteousness and they reach the highest standards of piety, and no thought of mischief or transgression or debauchery should ever cross their minds. They should be the people who offer prayers five times a day, abstain from dishonestly, never harm anyone with their tongue, never indulge in any evil deeds, and not even the thought of

mischief, aggression or creating disturbances should enter their minds. Thus they should shun all sorts of criminal acts, and unwarranted words and deeds. And they will become God's pure-hearted people and there shall not remain in them any poisonous element. Sympathy for mankind shall be their principle and they shall fear God.... God desires that you become a community that sets an example of righteousness for all people. Be quick to remove from among yourself one who sows discord. Become vigilant and pure-hearted, and you will be recognized through your five-time prayers and moral superiority.... The truth is that when a field is sown and cultivated with hard work, weeds also grow in that field which are worthy of being pulled out and burnt. This is the law of nature, and our Jamā'at is not outside this law. I know that the people who have truly joined our Jamā'at have such hearts that they are by nature averse to evil and love righteousness. And I am hopeful that their lives will be an excellent example for others.”

At the end of the sermon Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: May Allāh enable us to live our lives in keeping with these teachings and fulfil the pledge of Bai'at that we have made. May our lives be spent seeking the pleasure of Allāh. May we mould our lives according to the wishes of the Promised Messiah (a.s) and set a righteous example for others.

May Allāh overlook our shortcomings and bless us with His bounties. May Allāh show us the success that is destined for the Jamā'at of the Promised Messiah (a.s). May the new year be a harbinger of great blessings, and may the enemy be frustrated in their ever-increasing designs against the Jamā'at. As for Pakistani Aḥmadīs who are sad that they were unable to travel for Jalsa Sālāna Qādiān this year, may Allāh fulfil their desire. May Allāh help Aḥmadīs in Algeria who are in difficulties. May Allāh provide the means for the release of all who are in prisons. As the enemy grows in aggression, we should mould our lives according to the God's desire and focus on prayers. May Allāh enable us to do so. *Amīn*.

Please convey these guidelines given by Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) to members of your Jamā'at.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 5 January 2017