

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā'at Ahmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Separation between parents impacts the children psychologically, morally and in other ways.

The main cause of family and marital problems is estrangement from and ignorance of faith and an inclination towards worldliness.

The solution for all matrimonial problems lies in the Holy Qur'ān, Ḥadīth and teachings of the Promised Messiah (a.s). Seek Allāh's blessings and act righteously.

On 3rd March 2017, Ḥazrat *Khalīfatul-Masīh* V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that problems relating to matrimony and conjugal relationships are causing a lot of anxiety in households. They do not only affect the husband and wife but also their parents and even the children. Such problems cause the children to suffer both in material and spiritual terms. Almost every day I receive letters or meet people who relate such problems.

Regarding some problems arising from marriages contracted outside Pakistan, Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the major cause of this is the fact that both sides do not reveal everything about themselves truthfully. The verses that are recited on the occasion of Nikah stress the need for telling the truth, whereas people often do not speak the truth about themselves. Sometimes parents force their daughters to marry men who are not compatible with them in terms of education and lifestyle. Likewise, some men marry according to their parents' desire and then start tormenting their wives afterwards. No one party can be blamed one hundred per cent, because in some instances the men are at fault while in others the women are at fault. Conjugal problems affect the children as well. Sometimes after spending many years together and having several children, a man starts complaining that he cannot live with his wife anymore and wants to divorce her, or that he wants to take another wife; or the wife says that she has spent her life in torment and now wants *Khula'*. Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the ratio of *Khula'* in our Jamā'at is greater than that of divorce. In any case, it is the children who suffer. Statistics collected by international institutions also prove that separation between husband and wife adversely affects the children, no matter who they live with.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Another fact that causes problems among couples is the interference of the wife or the husband's parents. Some wives complain that their husbands do not fulfil their responsibilities. In short, there is no end to complaints from both sides which sometimes go on for many years even after the children have grown up. It is mostly childish things, impatience and wrong friendships that are at the root of such problems. If all the marital problems of different age groups are summed up in one sentence, it would be that they are caused by ignorance and lack of interest in religious teaching and an inclination towards materialism. The solution to these problems can only be found in the light of the Holy Qur'ān, Ḥadīth, and the teachings of the Promised Messiah (a.s).

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that we are fortunate to have accepted the Promised Messiah (a.s) who took from us the pledge that we shall give priority to our faith over

everything worldly. And in matters of matrimony, we have the Holy Prophet's ﷺ specific instruction that faith must be given priority. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said: "A man marries a woman for four things: her wealth, her lineage, her beauty, or her piety. I advise you to marry a pious woman, and may God bless you." If both sides make faith and piety their priority, then most of these problems will automatically disappear.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that since we do not know how a person really is, it is important to perform the *Istikhara*, or ask God to guide us, and to stop us if the matter is not good for us. Prayers that are offered before marriage help to lead a happy life after marriage. But Satan keeps attacking in various ways, therefore it is important to always keep praying for a happy and loving relationship.

Ḥazrat *Khalīfatul-Masīḥ* I (r.a) says: I advise you to care for your relatives in keeping with *Taqwa*, and be truthful. If you want to see success in your life, then *Taqwa* is essential.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) says: In matters of matrimony, one should only see if the person has a good character and is pious. Islām does not differentiate between race and caste. The basic principle is to decide on the basis of *Taqwa*, all else are false innovations. And it is also important to consider compatibility.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Once the boy's side has seen the girl's photograph and has received all the relevant information, they should not unnecessarily delay the decision and cause emotional distress for the other side.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) says: It is evident from the Holy Qur'ān that marriage has three benefits: piety and virtue, preserving one's health, and progeny. If these three things are kept in mind, then there will be no problems in matrimony.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I receive complaints from some countries that people do not wish to marry missionaries. Such thinking is wrong and one should always give priority to faith.

With regard to taking more than one wife, the Promised Messiah (a.s) says, "You should not be overwhelmed by lust and desire, but if there is a genuine need, you can take a second wife."

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that Allāh may enable all members of the Jamā'at, men and women, to solve their problems in keeping with Allāh's teaching, and to give priority to the faith over the world. Thus we will also enable our future generations to follow the right path and to serve the faith.

After the Friday prayer, Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Muḥammad Nawaz Mu'min Ṣāḥib of Germany, Sayyed Rafīq Aḥmad Safeer Ṣāḥib of UK, Dr Mirzā Laeeq Aḥmad Ṣāḥib, son of Sahibzada Mirzā Hafeez Aḥmad Ṣāḥib, and Ameenullah Khan Ṣāḥib, ex-missionary, USA and led their funeral prayer after the Friday prayer.

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: 8 March 2017