

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Allāh is the Concealer of faults and the Forgiver of sins. We too should overlook our brothers’ weaknesses and sins instead of publicizing them.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ says that if a man overlooks the weakness of his brother, Allāh will conceal his sins on the Day of Reckoning.

True sympathy requires that when we see a weakness in people, we should pray for them and try to reform them.

On 31st March 2017, Ḥazrat *Khalīfatul-Masīḥ* V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There is no person in the world who is free from sin. Allāh is the Concealer of faults and Forgiver of sins. He has taught us to pray that we be saved from sins and errors and has exhorted us to seek forgiveness for our sins, for if we do so He will conceal our faults and will hear our supplications. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that when someone truly repents, Allāh forgives his sins. Allāh forgives a person despite thousands of faults. Allāh forgives people’s faults even though He sees them, whereas man raises a hue and cry over other people’s faults without even knowing them. If God were to hold everyone accountable, He would destroy everything, but His mercy supersedes everything. If we understand this and stop prying into other people’s affairs and trying to find their weaknesses, we can build a society that is full of love and harmony.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Many of us are eager to expose other people’s faults, but when our own weaknesses are exposed, we become furious. We should desire for our brother what we desire for ourselves. If you wish that your faults are concealed, then you should conceal the faults of your brother. This is essential for a peaceful society. When we see a fault in someone, then, instead of exposing it, we should conceal it and seek Allāh’s refuge lest our own faults are exposed. If we conceal other people’s faults with good intentions, then we merit Allāh’s blessings. Therefore we should always seek forgiveness of our faults from Allāh.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is written in a hadith that if a person conceals the sin of his brother, Allāh will conceal his sins on the Day of Reckoning. And he who exposes his brother’s sins, his own sins shall be exposed so that he will be humiliated in his own home.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Instead of looking for other people’s faults, we should analyse our own selves. However, if there is some evil that is affecting the Jamā‘at or the society, then you can convey it to those who are responsible for their reformation or inform the *Khalīfatul-Masīḥ*. Making

people's faults public is forbidden because it would only serve to spread that evil in society.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I would also like to remind the office-bearers that they should undertake the work of reformation with great care, and people should never be given the impression that their shortcomings were made public by such and such office-bearer. Such things can have adverse reactions.

The Holy Prophet ﷺ says that if a person works to help out his brother, Allāh will also save him from one hardship. Concealing other people's faults is necessary to attract God's grace and mercy. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says: The fact is that Allāh conceals the faults of people, because He is *Sattar*, and if He did not do so, everyone would know what evils are hidden inside everyone. Therefore, instead of exposing other people's faults, we should examine our own selves. The perfection of man's faith demands that he should adopt Divine attributes and try to mould himself accordingly. For instance, God is Forgiving, man should also forgive; God is Merciful, man should also act with mercy and compassion.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Some people, when they hear of another's shortcoming, cannot rest until they have told everyone about it. It is written in a Hadith that Allāh covers the sins of those who hide the shortcomings of their brothers. In order to purge evil and spread harmony, it is essential to spread what is good and virtuous. To publicize people's weaknesses just for the pleasure of gossip is a great sin that every Aḥmadī must avoid.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We have pledged in our Bai'at that we will not hurt our fellow beings in any way. The wounds inflicted by the tongue are not easily healed. We can only express true sympathy for others when we hide their weaknesses and try to correct them. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says: When you find weakness in someone, you should advise him separately, and if he does not listen to you then pray for him, and if neither of these have any effect on him, then consider this as a matter that has been decreed. If God has accepted him as he is then you also should not become furious at his weakness. Even godly people at times do wrongful things. Many a thief and fornicator have turned into godly and virtuous people. Therefore, it is not our way to hastily abandon anyone. If someone's child is ill-behaved, he tries his best to reform him. The Holy Qur'ān does not teach us to publicize people's weaknesses, rather it teaches us to offer advice with patience and kindness. Prayer has great effect, and pitiable is the person who speaks of another's weakness a hundred times but does not pray for him even once. One should only speak of another's weakness when one has first supplicated for him for forty days.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: If we are not abiding by God's commandments, then we are not fulfilling our pledge, and thus are guilty of sin. What did the Promised Messiah (a.s) want from us? He wanted that we should pray and conceal each other's faults. We should always help one another through prayers, only then can we become the Jamā'at that the Promised Messiah (a.s) desired, and only thus shall we find God's forgiveness. In order to seek Allāh forgiveness and to receive His blessings, the Holy Prophet ﷺ has taught us to pray: "O Allāh! Conceal my shortcomings and bestow peace upon me by removing my fears. O Allāh! Protect me Yourself from all dangers, and encompass me in Your security from all directions, whether it is from in

front, behind me, from my right, left or even above. I seek the shelter of Your Majesty, lest I fall prey to any hidden difficulty." When we pray in this way, we will feel the same emotions for others as well. May Allāh grant us His pleasure. *Amīn.*

At the end of the sermon, Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the tragic martyrdom of Malik Saleem Lateef Sahib, advocate, of Nankana Sahib, Pakistan and led his funeral prayer in absentia 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: 5 April 2017