

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

A reminder to parents about their responsibilities with regard to the proper upbringing of their children in accordance with the teachings of Islām.

Both parents are guardians; both have to walk in the path of taqwa and do good deeds.

Be virtuous and set a righteous example for your children; pray and strive to make them righteous.

On 14th July 2017, Ḥaḍrat *Khalifatul-Masih V* (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Many men and women when they write or meet in person ask to pray for their to be born child or ask how they can keep their kids pious who are on the threshold of adulthood. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that, by the grace of Allāh, even in this materialistic age most Aḥmadīs are concerned about the proper upbringing of their children. The Holy Qur’ān on various occasions has taught us prayers to be offered prior to the birth of a child and afterwards, and thus it also reminds us of our responsibilities. There is no doubt that proper upbringing of children is a difficult task and everyday new satanic devices are becoming a hurdle in this path. Therefore, we need constant prayers and struggle. A true believer is expected to attach himself to God and save himself and his children from Satan and not allow negative thinking. We need to utilize all our capabilities in order to become part of the revolution for which the Promised Messiah (a.s) was sent, and we have to inculcate the spirit in our future generations and not allow Satan to succeed. There is no reason for despair. We have to move on with a strong resolve and follow the guidelines set by Allāh. The Holy Qur’ān teaches us to pray:

“My Lord, grant me from Thyself pure offspring; surely, Thou art the Hearer of prayer.” (3:39)

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Along with prayers, parents should also be pure of thought and conduct. Sometimes mothers are more inclined towards faith than men, but in order to save our children from the evil effect of the environment, it is necessary that both men and women should be pious and virtuous. As we pray for our children in the words of Ḥaḍrat Zachariah (a.s), we should also bring about a pious change in ourselves.

Once a man came to the Promised Messiah (a.s) and said, “Pray for me, if I have a son I will become an Aḥmadī.” The Promised Messiah (a.s) said I have come as the Promised Messiah (a.s) and I have not come to bring people male offspring. However Promised Messiah (a.s) prayed for another person who as a result was blessed with a male child as desired by him. Huzoor (May Allāh be

his Helper) said: Sometimes people also write to me that if such and such of their desire are met they will become Aḥmadī. Such acceptance has no meaning.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There is also the prayer of Ḥaḍrat Zachariah (a.s):

“My Lord, leave me not childless, and Thou art the Best of inheritors.” (21:90)

This prayer can only be offered by those who give preference to their faith over the world. We should not only pray for pious progeny, but for progeny that is pious and righteous and a servant of the faith. Being tried on account of one’s children is a great tribulation, hence if one’s progeny is righteous he has nothing to worry about. God Himself says: “He protects the righteous”. Whoever subjugates his own ideas to the will of God is contented on the part of his children.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) says: “Be virtuous yourself and present an excellent example of piety and *Taqwa* for you children and strive to make them virtuous and pious. You should strive for this just as you strive to accumulate wealth for them.”

Pray to Allāh consistently and set an example. Allāh says that those who wish to be saved from Satan’s attacks have the following qualities, They pray that:

“Our Lord, grant us of our wives and children the delight of *our* eyes, and make us a model for the righteous.” (25:75)

Both parents should offer this prayer. Both mother and father are guardians and they can only do justice to the upbringing of their children if both walk in the path of *Taqwa* and watch over their actions. Allāh says that if you wish to have a righteous progeny then you should watch over your own actions, otherwise your desire for righteous progeny will only be a claim. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Many people ask me to pray that their children may be righteous, but when I ask them about their own five-time prayers, they say, “We try to offer them.” Thus they are false in claiming that they desire a righteous progeny. The desire to have progeny just so that they may continue one’s name is an idolatrous desire.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) says: “Some people only desire heirs for their property. But in fact we should desire children who are servants of the faith.” And if we desire righteous progeny we must act upon Allāh’s commandments. It is a great responsibility of parents to pray for their children and set examples for them. If one’s own conduct is contrary to the teachings of faith, then the prayer for righteous progeny are not well-intentioned. Both father and mother should pray رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا فُرَّةً أَعْيُنٍ (Our Lord, grant us of our wives and children the delight of *our* eyes), and this prayer teaches us to act in a way that we become models for our children. Thus in the Holy Qur’ān while Allāh teaches us to pray, He also stresses the need for us to scrutinize our own actions. If a person continues to sin, then what can he desire from his children other than to leave heirs for his sins. If your desire for children is not for the purpose of faith and piety, then it is a frivolous and sinful desire. It is often seen that people desire children, but rarely do we see them worrying about making them virtuous. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says: “There is no Ṣalāt in which I do not pray for my companions, my children and my wife.” There are many parents

who teach their children bad habits. And when the children learn bad habits they do not admonish them, and consequently they become bold and audacious.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: One should not desire children just to be one's heirs, rather one should desire them to be servants of the faith. The parents of *Waqf-e-Nau* children should be even more mindful of this. Most people do everything for the love of the world and not for God. If we desire children it should be in keeping with the verse "Make us a model for the righteous," so that we have progeny that becomes the means for spreading the message of Islām. If such is one's desire then God has the power to grant progeny as He did in the case of Ḥaḍrat Zachariah (a.s). Parents of *Waqf-e-Nau* children should pray that may their children be counted among those who give preference to their faith over the world and not merely take on the title of *Waqf-e-Nau*, and that they should uphold the honour of their family and be virtuous. One should always pray for the piety and virtue of one's children. If you become truly pious and virtuous then rest assured that God will be kind to your children. The Holy Qur'ān relates the episode of Moses and *Khidr* who mended a wall that belonged to orphaned children, regarding whom Allāh says: "Their father was righteous". This is what we should strive for. May Allāh enable every one of us to give preference to our faith over the world. Instead of looking at others, let us strive for our own reformation. Let us constantly pray for our children. *Amīn*.

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 19 July 2017