

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President  
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

**The responsibilities of guests and volunteers at Jalsa Sālāna UK.**

**The purpose of the Jalsa is to foster piety, come closer to Allāh, and to grow in spirituality. We have to fulfil our obligations to others and make greater sacrifices.**

**The speakers put a lot of hard work into their speeches. Listen to them with the intention of acting upon those teachings. Attend all the programs of the Jalsa faithfully.**

On 28th July 2017, Ḥaḍrat *Khalifatul-Masih V* ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ delivered the Friday Sermon at Hadiqatul Maḥdī, UK.

Ḥūzoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: By the grace of Allāh, today is the start of Jalsa Sālāna UK. During these days we should focus on prayers and almsgiving so that Allāh may bless this Jalsa and make it a success. In the last sermon, I reminded the volunteers of their responsibilities. Today I wish to remind the guests that they have some obligations as well. Islām places responsibility on both sides so as to create a harmonious society.

Ḥūzoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: There was a year during the life of the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام when the Jalsa was not held, and it was because the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام was unhappy with the attitudes to those who attended the Jalsas and their failure to fulfil their duties and obligations. It was not because he had himself been hurt in any way, rather it was because they were not fulfilling their obligations towards one another. Some would give preference to their own comfort, while others attended the Jalsa like it was some sort of fair, while in fact the purpose of the Jalsa is to enhance *Taqwa* and spirituality and to foster the spirit of sacrifice. When the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام saw that people were not living up to this standard, he was deeply hurt. He said that we should always keep the purpose of the Jalsa in mind, which is to establish a relationship with God and to enhance spirituality.

Ḥūzoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: As far as non-Aḥmadī guests are concerned, we have to provide them the best hospitality within our means. The Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم says that when the leaders of other people and nations come to you, you should honour them. Likewise, anyone who comes seeking the truth should be provide full hospitality. We have been taught not to make any distinction in this regard and to serve everyone regardless of whether we know him or not, and regardless of whether they are rich or poor.

Ḥūzoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: When an Aḥmadī attends the Jalsa, he should see himself both as a guest and a host. Guests should try to facilitate things and not create difficulty. The arrangements for the Jalsa are temporary, therefore it is not possible to provide facilities like in a permanent arrangement. Hence, there are bound to be lapses and shortcomings. But it is wrong to think that since

Aḥmadīs are in charge of the arrangement, we can criticise them as we like. These volunteers have come with the spirit and zeal to serve the guests of the Jalsa. Many of them are highly educated and affluent people. Therefore, it is important to treat the volunteers with kindness, and if they are unable to meet any of your needs and apologise for it, accept their apology with good humour.

Ḥūzoor ايدو اللہ تعالیٰ said: Aḥmadī guests should not consider themselves guests, rather they should come with the intention to reap the blessings of prayers and to progress in spirituality, and not waste their time in petty squabbles. While I say to the workers that they should treat the guests cordially and with forbearance and patience, the guests too should happily partake of whatever is available. Workers should serve food in a respectful way. And the guests should leave the food marquee as soon as they finish eating so that others can have their turn.

Ḥūzoor ايدو اللہ تعالیٰ said: Although every effort is made to fulfil the needs of the guests, there can still be some shortcomings. Last night a pipe broke in the bathrooms and they had to be closed. The parking system has been changed to avoid congestion, and the guests should fully cooperate with those on parking duty. They should also try to start early in order to arrive in time. Security concerns are rising, therefore they should cooperate with the security staff and show their cards as many times as it is required. Do not give your card to anyone else. Sometimes even workers are guilty of this mistake. If someone has two cards, they should both be checked. No one should feel offended, nor should those on duty shy away for this.

Ḥūzoor ايدو اللہ تعالیٰ said: Keep watch over your surroundings. Focus on prayers and do not move about during the proceedings. The management should have arrangement for food at all times. Some people arrive late and can become sick due to prolonged starving. But such guests should also eat their food quickly and join the Jalsa marquee. Likewise, the administration should see to it that the bazaar is completely closed while the Jalsa is going on. If some stalls cannot be closed complete and have valuable items, arrangements should be made for those on duty to listen to the Jalsa on the spot.

Ḥūzoor ايدو اللہ تعالیٰ said: This year also there are the Shroud of Jesus and Review of Religions exhibitions, which guests should benefit from. This year the *Al-Qalm* project will also be held; those interested should participate in it. There is also an exhibition of holy relics and photos. But all these will remain closed while the Jalsa is in session.

Ḥūzoor ايدو اللہ تعالیٰ said: The speakers put in a lot of hard work in preparing their speeches, it is important to listen to them carefully. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says that everyone should listen carefully and should not only appreciate the apparent verbosity of the speaker. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says, My nature demands that everything I do should be for God. We should say everything for the sake of God and seeking His pleasure; whatever we hear, we should take it as the words of God and act upon them. Otherwise there are numerous conferences and lectures where great linguists and scholars make speeches, but why is it that they are so ineffective and the people continue to spiral downwards rather than rise upwards? This is because those who attend these occasions are devoid of sincerity.

Ḥūẓoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: Let us attend the Jalsa with sincerity and with the intention of acting upon what we learn. It is God's grace upon us that our scholars benefit from the word of God, His Prophet ﷺ, and the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام, and convey that knowledge to us. If we act upon these teachings, we can bring about a revolution. May Allāh enable all the participants of the Jalsa to fulfil its aims and objectives.

Please convey these guidelines given by Ḥūẓoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ to members of your Jamā'at.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'ālā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 3 August 2017