

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President

Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

The aim of joining the Jalsa is to strengthen ourselves spiritually, intellectually and excel in righteousness and in terms of our faith, and to fulfil our obligations towards Allāh and His creatures.

Let us strive to acquire nearness of Allāh and knowledge of the Divine. Love for the Holy Prophet ﷺ should be reflected in our actions, and our actions should be truly good actions.

The weapons through which we will attain victory are repentance, seeking forgiveness, and prayers. Shun falsehood and backbiting and arrogance. Hold fast to truth and display good moral character.

On 25th August 2017, Ḥaḍrat *Khalifatul-Masih V* ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ delivered the Friday Sermon at Karlsruhe, Germany.

Ḥūẓoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: Today we are gathered here for the Jalsa. Every Aḥmadī knows that gathering for the Jalsa is not for the purpose of worldly hullabaloo, rather it is meant to foster spirituality and our intellectual prowess. It is meant to improve our conviction and to fulfil our obligations to God's creatures. Others might ask what are the rights of God's creatures, but an Aḥmadī will not, because these obligations are repeated to him time and again. It is the Promised Messiah's علیہ السلام favour upon us that he has left an unending wealth of teachings. Sometimes even when something is repeated, one can find a new meaning in it. These obligations are also specified in the Ten Conditions of Bai'at. We should always bear in mind the objectives of the Jalsa.

Ḥūẓoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: Beliefs impact actions. The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام says that Islām has two parts. One is that one should not associate any partners with God, and that in lieu of His favours we should obey Him completely. The second is to recognize the rights of His creatures and to fulfil them. Nations and people who committed the evident sins such as adultery, theft, backbiting and arrogance were destroyed. Ḥūẓoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: People have adopted their own gods. There are those who worship worldly people. Ḥūẓoor ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: If one's beliefs are good then one's actions will be good. When the Muslims forsook their good teachings, they started worshipping the *Dajjāl* nations as gods. Even great governments started revering worldly powers as gods.

As one's beliefs are corrected, so are one's actions. The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام says: God has told me again and again that all good lies in the Holy Qur'ān. The Holy Qur'ān says that God is One and without partner. To consider God to be One and without partner and to fulfil our obligations to Him demands that we also worship Him as He ought to be worshipped. The purpose of establishing this community was so that people should recognize God. Those who do not resort to both, prayer and the physical means, are at fault. Those who resort to both are the ones who practice true Islām. This is why we have been taught to employ the means to avoid sin and heedlessness. When a believer says ایاک نعبد (Thee alone do we worship), we are

reminded of the fact that we cannot worship Him without His grace, and so we seek His help. This is a subtle point that only Islām has understood. Hūzoor أيده الله تعالى said, it is necessary that a believer should hold fast to this rule, so that while he plans and acts he should also pray and ask other to pray for him.

Hūzoor أيده الله تعالى said: Aḥmadīs have to make people aware of God's existence and tell them about the reality of prayer, and realize that we cannot realize the truth of prayer without establishing a strong bond with the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says: What is the purpose of our Jamā'at? Do not think that superficial pledge of Bai'at is a source of salvation. It is not enough to accept me as the Imām in order to acquire salvation, because God has His sight on the hearts. For salvation it is necessary that one should, with the sincerity of one's heart, believe that God is One and without partner, the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم to be a true Prophet, and the Holy Qur'ān to be the book of God aside from which no other law or book shall appear till the day of judgment. In other words, there is no need for another book or law after the Holy Qur'ān.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says: Remember that the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم is the Seal of Prophets, there can be no new Sharī'ah or book after him. The Book and the laws revealed to him shall stand forever. Whenever in my books I am referred to as Prophet and Messenger, it does not mean that I have come to teach a new law or a new book, rather it is necessary that when God ordains someone, He grants him His discourse, and such a person is called a Prophet. What he receives is through his true and perfect obedience to the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, and by no other means.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says: Until our deeds are accompanied by true spirituality, they will not avail us anything. Our righteous deeds should be without any adulteration. Prayers that are adulterated are not purely for the sake of God. We wish to establish true peace. All our acts of worship should be done with heartfelt emotions and a spirit that is not to be found in others. We have to scrutinize ourselves to see whether our Bai'at is a true pledge or merely a verbal one, and whether our acts or worships are for the sake of God or not. The prayer اياك نعبد و اياك نستعين should be offered with heartfelt sincerity. The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم taught us to avoid discord and he taught us to do so through his practical example. There is no moral teaching that we do not witness manifested in his person.

Hūzoor أيده الله تعالى said: If we truly believe Muḥammad صلى الله عليه وسلم to be the true Prophet and believe that the Promised Messiah عليه السلام to have been ordained as his servant and the Imām of the age, then we have to raise the standards of our worship and our actions. We will also have to undertake some self-scrutiny regarding what is allowed and what is forbidden. In this age when people are being led away from God, it is the duty of Aḥmadīs to strive to establish a relationship with God and to seek knowledge about Him. Our love for the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم should not be confined to words, rather it should be expressed in practice. We should present the true picture of Islām.

Hūzoor أيده الله تعالى said: We should try to apply the Holy Qur'ān's governance upon ourselves. Our every action should be a righteous one, and we should strive to stay away from Satan and come closer to God. True Ṣalāt is achieved when man becomes consumed in the way of God, so much so that he is willing to give up his life for Him. The true believer is the one who is counted a believer in heaven, and it doesn't matter if he is an infidel in the eyes of the world. People of the world call us *kafir*, but we do not care about this. In fact it is very difficult to believe truly and to show perfect sincerity. When one believes truly, he witnesses many signs. When a person tramples the world under his feet and distances himself from it, then he pleases God. In the

same way, when he comes out of the womb of the ego, he becomes a believer. True faith involves service of mankind and to show perfect sincerity and fidelity. Do remember that it is not a great feat to avoid evil until it is accompanied by good deeds.

Ḥūzoor ايدو اللہ تعالیٰ said: An empty plate will not satisfy your hunger. In the same way you need to understand *Taqwa*. You have to clean the plate of the ego and then fill it with good deeds. Ḥūzoor ايدو اللہ تعالیٰ said: One of the great sins is falsehood which is mentioned in the Holy Qur'ān many times and yet people do not pay heed to it. God says that falsehood is akin to idolatry. Some people speak lies in jest, but the Promised Messiah عليه السلام says that one cannot be truthful until one abstains from all the forms of falsehood. I see that sometimes when there are quarrels, people start to attack each other's honor. The one who abides by *Taqwa* is included among the angels. A *Mutaqqi* is saved from the tribulations of this world. People cannot benefit from my Bai'at unless they have *Taqwa* in them. If they are still full of pride and arrogance, then what is there to distinguish them? A righteous person possesses a divine awe. It is not right to hurt someone through falsehood. Ḥūzoor ايدو اللہ تعالیٰ said: All the high morals culminated in the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. And if we still behave like beasts, then it is unfortunate indeed. Do not malign others. If you see someone in error, pray for him rather than publicizing it. He who does not have good morals, his faith is in peril. He is also deprived of God's help.

Ḥūzoor ايدو اللہ تعالیٰ said: One who is harsh and is quick to anger cannot utter words of wisdom. His tongue is deprived of the subtleties. Anger and wisdom cannot coexist. Our Jamā'at should avoid evil deeds. The branch that does not have a strong bond with the tree is left barren. If there is no true relationship, then one cannot partake of God's promises. People come to the Jalsa to partake of the prayers of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, but if their practical condition is not correct then how can they benefit from these prayers. Ḥūzoor ايدو اللہ تعالیٰ said: At times anger creates problems and brings a bad name to the Jamā'at. Some young people engage in quarrels which tarnishes the image of the Jamā'at.

Ḥūzoor ايدو اللہ تعالیٰ said: All the Prophets were abused and ridiculed. This is the inheritance of Prophets. Become such as though you do not possess the faculty of anger. You have to suppress your anger even when others abuse you. Throw away your evil habits. Repent and seek forgiveness. Always resort to prayer. The weapons through which we will become victorious are repentance, seeking forgiveness, prayer and Ṣalāt. Do supplicate in the Ṣalāt and do not be lax in this. Avoid every evil.

May Allāh enable us to meet these standards, to understand the purpose of the Bai'at, and to teach it to others. *Amīn*.

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 31 August 2017