

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya,

Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Promised Messiah عليه السلام truly loved the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم; it was through him that we understood what it means to truly love the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

In order to be close to Allāh and to be His beloved, it is essential to follow the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. Salvation is not possible without following his footsteps.

No one can be truly virtuous or receive truths and verities and visions unless he is totally immersed in obedience of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

On 20th October 2017, Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* ايده الله تعالى delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

After reciting verse 32 of Sūrah *Al-e-‘Imran*, which is translated as follows:

Say, ‘If you love Allāh, follow me: then will Allāh love you and forgive you your faults. And Allāh is Most Forgiving, Merciful.’ (3:32)

Ḥūzoor ايده الله تعالى said: In my last sermon I read an extract from the writings of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام in which he says that if the Muslims had not reached such a deplorable state and had not deviated so far from the essence of Islām, there would be no need for his advent. Today we see that the most corrupt state is that of the muslims. While they recite the *Kalima*, they kill or usurp the rights of others or try to harm those who recite the same *Kalima*. Is this the teaching of the Holy Qur’ān? Is this the example set by the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم? Today we see that Muslims are enamoured of the world, and if they ever speak of religion it is only to serve their political ends.

Ḥūzoor ايده الله تعالى said: Speaking of the character of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, Ḥaḍrat Ayesha (r.a) said, “His morals were the Quran itself.” Ḥūzoor ايده الله تعالى said: Therefore, those who believe in him should follow in his footsteps and not rest content merely with raising slogans. In the above verse, Allāh says that if you want to establish a true relationship with Me, you will have to follow My beloved. Does the condition of the Muslims today show that God loves them? No. In fact, the *ulema* whom the common people consider to be close to Allāh are foremost in spreading mischief. This view is now being expressed by columnists and commentators in Pakistan.

Ḥūzoor ايده الله تعالى said: The Promised Messiah عليه السلام truly loved the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم and he was sent to uphold the Holy Prophet’s صلى الله عليه وسلم Sharī‘ah. It was through him that we gained full understanding of the Holy Qur’ān. He guided us at every step. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام elaborated the same theme on various occasions and told us that these are the conditions that can make us God’s beloved. Muslims have no other way to survive and to keep peace in their countries other than to follow the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. Otherwise their claim

of الله لا اله الا الله is an empty claim. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says that if the Muslims truly followed in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, they would not be in the state they are today. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says: I am an example of true obedience to the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. Those who truly follow the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم should raise their levels of worship, and each of us should do introspection in this regard, otherwise our claims are mere claims.

Hūzoor ايدو الله تعالى said: Hadrat Ayesha (r.a) said that the Holy Prophet's صلى الله عليه وسلم morals were the Qur'an itself. Therefore, before we tell others to do so, we first need to read the Holy Qur'an and act upon it. Materialism has been the source of all the division among the Muslims. How can these people be called Muslims who do not follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم! Allāh says that you should follow the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم if you love me, but these people give preference to the world. Is this the way of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم? Was the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم a materialist? Did he indulge in usury? Did he show laxity in fulfilling God's commandments? Was he, God forbid, hypocritical? Did he give preference to the world over the faith? No. If they truly walk in his footsteps, they will witness God's immense blessings.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says, "I say truly, and I do so on the basis of my own experience, that none can truly act virtuously, attain the pleasure of Allāh the Exalted, nor derive benefit from these rewards, blessings, profound wisdoms, truths and visions, which are acquired at the highest stage of the purification of the soul, until he subjugates himself in following the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. Furthermore, evidence of this is found in the very words of God, and I am a practical and living proof of this statement.

Hūzoor ايدو الله تعالى said: The person whom the world accuses of denigrating the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم is in fact his most ardent lover. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says: Your claim that you love Allāh can only be true if you follow the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. This verse clearly says that man cannot attain God's nearness through his own efforts and meditations and striving without following the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. The light and blessings of the Divine cannot descend on anyone unless he wholly becomes immersed in obedience to the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. As for those who completely obey him and bring a kind of death upon themselves, they are given the kind of light and faith and love that frees them from all other than God, and this saves them from sin and brings salvation. In this very world, they find the pure life and are freed from the dark and narrow grave of the passions of the self.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says: For the ultimate bliss, Allāh has opened one path, and that is to follow the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. The verse clearly asks the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم to say: Come to me so that Allāh may befriend you. This does not mean offering physical worship and praying and fasting. What it means is to submit oneself wholly like a sacrificial lamb, just as the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم said: My death and my life, my prayers, my sacrifices are all for the sake of God, and I am the first to offer my life for Him.

Hūzoor ايدو الله تعالى said: Our claim that we follow the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم is hollow if we do not raise the standards of our worship. Not everyone has the power to reach God on his own; it is therefore essential to find Him through the medium of the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. The one who abandons Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم will never attain salvation. Man is in essence a servant and he has to accept what the Master says. So if you wish to benefit from the blessings

of the Holy Prophet ﷺ, you should become his servant, offer *Durood*, and not deviate from any of his teachings.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says: There is only one way to please God, and it is through obedience to the Holy Prophet ﷺ. We see that people are engrossed in traditions which not only contradict the Holy Prophet ﷺ but are even derogatory to him. The Holy Prophet's ﷺ highest status was that of being the beloved of God, but he also told others of the way through which they can find Him. Anyone who thinks that salvation can be achieved without the Holy Prophet ﷺ is false, and anyone who holds malice towards the Holy Prophet ﷺ will not prosper.

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام says: I have received this blessing, not through my own ability, but through the Holy Prophet ﷺ. Hūzoor ايدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: It was on account of his complete love for the Holy Prophet ﷺ that the Promised Messiah عليه السلام was given the status of a follower-Prophet. May Allāh enable us and others to follow him to the best of our ability. *Amīn*.

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 25 October 2017