

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Amīr/National President

Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة الله وبرکاته

Extracts from the Friday Sermon delivered by Hadrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V (May Allah be his Helper) on 25 May 2018 at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

Allāh has promised that He shall bless you with the gift of Khilāfat Our Imam, Hadrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V (May Allah be his Helper) in the beginning of his sermon recited the following verse:

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آتَمُوا مِنْكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لِيَسْتَخْلِفَهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمْ
الَّذِي أَرْتَضَنَّ لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّ لَهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمَّا يَعْبُدُونَ نَفْسَهُمْ لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِهَا شَيْئًا وَمَنْ كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْقَاسِقُونَ.
وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ وَأَطْبِعُوا الرَّسُولَ لَعَلَّكُمْ تُرْجَمُونَ.

“Allāh has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as He made successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear: They will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me. Then whoso is ungrateful after that, they will be the rebellious. And observe Prayer and give the Zakāt and obey the Messenger, that you may be shown mercy.” (24:56-57)

In these verses Allāh gives a promise. It should be remembered that if certain conditions are met then Allāh promises to give us the gift of Khilāfat as a result of which we shall be granted peace and our fears will turn into tranquillity. This is a promise; it is not a prophecy that must be fulfilled. Allāh says that He will most certainly grant this gift, if the conditions are fulfilled. The conditions are to worship Allāh and to completely abstain from shirk [associating partners with God]. If people do not worship Him, do not fully abstain from shirk [associating partners with God], and do not avoid that which Allāh forbids, then they cannot benefit from His promise. They will not be able to benefit from Khilāfat even when it exists if they do not fulfil these conditions. Allāh commands us that in order to worship Him and to avoid shirk [associating partners with God], we should offer Ṣalāt, give Zakāt, and obey the Holy Prophet (May Allah's Blessings be upon him), only then will we be able to attain Divine grace. In the context of obeying the Holy Prophet (May Allah's Blessings be upon him), we should also remember his injunction: “Whoever obeys the Amīr appointed by me, obeys me; and whoever disobeys the Amīr appointed by me, disobeys me.” In the institution of Khilāfat the Khalīfa is the Amir appointed by the Holy Prophet (May Allah's Blessings be upon him). This shows that obedience to

Khalīfa is as important as obedience to the Holy Prophet (May Allah's Blessings be upon him).

The true relationship with the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) is dependent on acting upon his teachings:

Two days ago, our mosque in Sialkot (Pakistan) and an adjacent house were attacked by a mob comprising a few hundred *maulawis* and their followers under the supervision of the local administration and the police. They think they have done a great service for the protection of Islām! The house had already been sealed by the police a few days ago, and there was absolutely no justification for its demolition. Yet the sealed house was demolished under the formal supervision of the police. This mosque and house were built almost a hundred years before Pakistan came into being. Such is the state of those who have transgressed all bounds in their opposition. Our reaction to the destruction of a memorial of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) and the fact that it is now in the government's control is only that

إِنَّمَا أَشْكُو بَيْتِي وَحُزْنِي إِلَى اللَّهِ

"I only complain of my sorrow and my grief to Allāh". (12:87)

Even though we have an emotional attachment to the buildings, our true relationship with the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) requires not only to protect the buildings, but to act upon his teachings, to cling to the institution of Khilāfat after him, to fulfil the conditions that make us deserving of the gift of Khilāfat, to improve our standards of worship, to obey Allāh's commandments, and to strive to raise our levels of obedience.

The purpose of the advent of a Khalīfa

A person asked the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) about the purpose of the advent of a Khalīfa. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) said: "Reformation." We should always keep this in mind. It has always been the Divine practice that after a time people forget the teachings of a Prophet and lose the bounty of faith, enlightenment and knowledge. At such times when the world is engulfed with perilous darkness, God's mercy is roused and His name, oneness and attributes are once again manifested to the world through an extraordinary person and thousands of signs of God's existence are shown. And thus the lost knowledge and piety is re-established in the world and an extraordinary revolution takes place. It is in keeping with the eternal Divine practice that our Jamā'at was established.

Our Jamā'at was established in keeping with the eternal Divine practice

This sentence of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) should be a wakeup call for all of us. Our Jamā'at has come about as a result of the Divine practice that at the time when the world is filled with sin and transgression and higher morals are lost and *Tauhid* is forgotten, then God sends someone He loves in order to breathe new life into His religion. Thus if, even after accepting the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him), we are not reforming ourselves, then it is something we should be worried about. We should always reflect whether we are fulfilling the conditions that God has set for us in order to be associated with Khilāfat and to reap its blessings or not. Are we worshipping as we ought to? Are we punctual in our prayers? Is our very word and action free from *shirk*? What is the standard of our financial sacrifice? Are we achieving the standards that Allāh and His Holy Prophet (May Allah's Blessings be upon him) demand from us? Are we living up to the expectations that the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) had in this age from us?

What should our Ṣalāt be like?

With regard to what Ṣalāt should be like and its true spirit, the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says, “Some people go to mosque and pray and fulfil all the other pillars of Islām, but God’s help is not with them and there is no extraordinary change in their moral condition. (There should be an apparent improvement in the behaviour of those who offer Ṣalāt). This shows their worship is a mere formality and are not genuine. Obedience to Divine command is like a seed that affects both body and soul. Ṣalāt causes the heaven to come to the service of man (God draws closer to man). The one who offers Ṣalāt in the true manner considers himself to be like dead with his soul resting at God’s feet. The household where such prayer is offered is never ruined. It is written in a Ḥadīth that if such Ṣalāt had been prescribed at the time of Ḥadrat Nuh (May peace be upon him), those people would never have been drowned.

***Shirk* [associating partners with God] and latent desires**

The Holy Prophet (May Allah's Blessings be upon him) says, “I fear for my *Ummah* lest they succumb to *shirk* [associating partners with God] and hidden desires.” The narrator asked the Holy Prophet (May Allah's Blessings be upon him) whether his *Ummah* would fall prey to *shirk* [associating partners with God]. The Holy Prophet (May Allah's Blessings be upon him) said, “Yes. My *Ummah* will not worship the sun or the moon or the idols, but they will be ostentatious in their practice and will be fraudulent and succumb to latent desires. So much so that if one keeps fast in the morning and is faced with some desire during the day, he will succumb to his desire and not care for the fasting.” Huzoor (May Allah be his Helper) said: If we look deep in ourselves, we will find many such examples of *shirk*. Sometimes we miss some of our prayers due to certain other desires and sometimes our fasting also falls prey to worldly excuses.

Obedience illuminates the heart and embellishes the soul

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: Obey Allāh and His Prophet (May Allah's Blessings be upon him) and your leaders. Obedience, if undertaken with a true heart, brings light to the heart and pleasure and illumination to the soul. We do not need to undergo hard practices as we need to obey. But this has to be done with a true sincerity, and this is difficult to do. In obedience it is essential to sacrifice one's ego. Allāh had so blessed the Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allah's Blessings be upon him) that they were completely lost in his obedience. It is true that no nation can be called a nation unless they uphold the spirit of brotherhood and unity and until they adopt the principle of obedience. And if they fall prey to conflict and antagonism, then these are signs of their downfall. Thus if they let go of mutual dissent and obey completely as Allāh has commanded, they can achieve whatever they desire. Allah always helps the Jamā‘at, and the secret behind this is that God loves unity, and unity cannot come about without obedience.

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A‘lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 31 May 2018