

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Extracts from the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 19 October 2018 at Baitul Aafiyat Mosque, Philadelphia, USA.

In the beginning of the Friday Sermon Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) recited Verse 18 of *Sūrah At-Taubah*, which is as follows:

إِنَّمَا يَعْمُرُ مَسْجِدَ اللّٰهِ مَنْ أَمَنَ بِاللّٰهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَخْشَ إِلَّا اللّٰهَ فَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ

أَنْ يَّكُونُوا مِنَ الْمُهْتَدِينَ

“Verily, he alone is worthy of maintaining the Mosques of Allāh who believes in Allāh, and the Last Day, and observes Prayer, and pays the Zakāt, and fears none but Allāh; so these it is who are far more likely to be counted among the guided.” (9:18)

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said:

Allāh, by His grace, has enabled us to build the first mosque in this city, and today it is being formally inaugurated. The first and foremost purpose of building a mosque is to fulfil our obligation of worshipping Allāh. We all claim to believe in Allāh and the Last Day, but we can only demonstrate this practically if we are steadfast in our prayers. This means, first of all, that we should pray punctually in congregation. Secondly, it means to pray with full concentration, beseeching Allāh and seeking His forgiveness, and this is what we learn from the sayings of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him). Each one of us can look within ourselves and see how far we have been able to uphold our worships.

The other condition is to pay *Zakāt* and make financial sacrifices for the faith, and also spend for the welfare of mankind and fulfil our obligations towards them. Allāh says that true believers do not fear anyone except Allāh, and their only fear is lest, on account of some wrongdoing on their part, they might incur His displeasure or be deprived of His love. They act at all times in keeping with God’s commandments which He has given to the true believers. This is not a small responsibility, for you have to fulfil your obligations towards God as well as to your fellow beings.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There are many kinds of *shirk* (idolatry). Even though there still exist people who take stones or lifeless objects or idols to be God, in this time of knowledge and enlightenment such practices are viewed with revulsion. Man is now at a stage where his mind

cannot accept that these stones and idols can do anything for us. But there is another kind of idolatry that is working secretly like a poison and is growing rapidly in this age, and it is that people do not have faith and trust in God. They are more concerned about their jobs and businesses and worldly endeavours, and are less concerned about prayers and attending the mosque. We should pray that God may make us perfect believers, because this can only come about through His grace and it can only be achieved by beseeching Him. We should not be content that we have built a beautiful mosque in this city, rather we should fulfil our obligations regarding this mosque so that when we appear before God we hear the words: *These are the people who built a mosque for the sake of God and then did their best to fulfil their obligations towards it.* When we have this intention and strive to achieve it, we will experience the blessings of this mosque in this world as well. Our children will become attached to the faith and we will be able to spread the message of Allāh in this city and establish God's Oneness in the world.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says that if you wish to spread the message of Islām in an area, you should build a mosque there. At this time the Jamā'at needs mosques, and once a mosque is built in a village or town, you can rest assured that you have laid the foundation for the progress of the Jamā'at. God will then bring people towards it. But the condition is that our intention in building the mosque should be pure and there should be no element of ego in it, only then will God bless it.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Another responsibility that now lies upon Aḥmadīs here is that they have to make this mosque a means of *da'wat Ilallāh* (propagation). It is said that there are up to 47 prayer centres in this city, but this is the first purpose-built mosque. Through prayers and worship and spreading the peaceful teachings of Islām and demonstrating it in practice we need to increase the population of Aḥmadīs. This is a large area of land and if houses are built here for Aḥmadīs, there can be a large congregation. If this is practical, it should be worked upon. When there is an Aḥmadī population near the mosque and they come here with the intention of spreading the message, God will bless their efforts. Now that Allāh has enabled us to build this beautiful mosque, the Jamā'at and the missionary stood strive to make this a beautiful and peaceful place so that people are attracted to come and live here. If the true message of Islām reaches the people of this city, true worshippers will be born among them. Every mosque that we build challenges us to improve our character as it opens for us new avenues of *da'wat Ilallāh* (propagation).

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says that the beauty of a mosque does not lie in its building rather it lies in the worshippers who come to pray in it with pure heart. Thus if we come to this mosque with sincerity and *Taqwa* (righteousness), we shall be able to spread our message. We should be mindful of the Hereafter. Every day we should keep track of ourselves and reflect on how far we have progressed. Those who forget their obligations towards God on account of their worldly businesses should remind themselves of their pledge of *Bai'at* and check whether they are acting upon it or not. To immerse in the worldly matters only is to ruin oneself. Always remember to give your faith priority over the world.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: Remember, this Jamā'at was not established in the manner of the common worldly people who only

verbally profess to be in this Jamā‘at without the need for any practice. It was this state of the world that required my coming for its reformation. Therefore, if someone associates himself with me but does not undergo practical transformation and does not strengthen his practical faculties and considers it enough to verbally profess faith, such a person, through his actions, emphasises that there was no need for my coming. Be loyal to me. Learn the meaning of the Holy Qur’ān and act upon it. Value it and show with your example that you are indeed the community of the truthful.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This is not easy, and it requires focus and attention. Always remember that material wealth does not guarantee the future of our progeny. The only guarantee is to follow the wise commandments of the Holy Qur’ān.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The land for the mosque was bought in 2007. The construction began in 2013 and was completed this year after some hindrances. The total cost is 8.1 million US dollars. 2 million was contributed by the local Jamā‘at and 4.47 million by the national Jamā‘at. Initially, two acres of land was bought, now the total area is four acres. Houses can also be built in this land. The covered area is 21,400 square feet. It is a three-storey building. There are separate halls for men and women. There is a 6000 square feet multi-purpose hall. Community offices are also located here. There is parking space for up to 45 cars.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed: May Allāh enable every Aḥmadī to fulfil the objectives of this mosque, and may this mosque prove to be a milestone in our efforts to spread the true message of Islām. *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 Ahmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 25 October 2018