

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 11th October 2019 from the Mahdi Mosque, Strasbourg, France.

Prior to the Sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) unveiled the plaque outside the mosque and led the participants in a silent prayer and thus formally inaugurated Mahdi mosque, Strasbourg.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) started the sermon with the recitation of the following verse of the Holy Qur'ān:

إِنَّمَا يَعْبُرُ مَسْجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ وَلَمْ يَجْشِ إِلَّا اللَّهَ فَفَعَسَىٰ أُولَٰئِكَ أَنْ يَكُونُوا 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 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: By the grace of Allāh, Jamā'at Ahmadiyya France has been able to build a new mosque after a long time. Here in Strasbourg, there are a large number of new converts and non-Pakistani Ahmadīs. In fact 75% of all members are not of Pakistani origin. By the grace of Allāh, they are all growing in sincerity and devotion. Now that Allāh has granted them a mosque, they can become even closer to the Jamā'at. May Allāh enable them to do so.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The verse I have recited tells us that those who build and populate mosques possess certain qualities. They believe in Allāh, that is to say, they have firm faith that Allāh is the Source of all power and that everyone else is of no consequence. In order to attain such conviction, it is essential to prostrate before Allāh and to worship Him. Allāh strengthens the faith of those who bow down before Him. Faith in the Hereafter also turns one's attention to Allāh's worship which is pure and sincere. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says, “Belief in the Hereafter is also beneficial in the sense that it leads to the knowledge of Allāh, and true knowledge of Allāh cannot be attained without true fear of Allāh. Remember, doubts about the Hereafter put one's faith in peril and curtail one's chances of meeting a blessed end. Thus, true worshippers and those who populate the mosques are never in doubt about the Hereafter and forever remain obedient to Allāh in order to attain a blessed end.

We should always keep praying and striving that Allāh may enable us to populate these mosques after we have built them and may Allāh count us among the guided ones. We should pray, O Allāh, guide us to the right path, keep our intentions pure, and enable us to fulfil our obligations to You and to spread Your message to the people of this land. Enable us to make this mosque the means of spreading the message of Islām in keeping with the instructions of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him). O Allāh, fulfil for us the promise given to us by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), that whoever builds a mosque for the sake of Allāh, Allāh will build for him a house in paradise. Every Ahmādī should strive to become punctual in the five-time daily prayers.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says, "All the faculties that Allāh has granted us such as hands, feet, eyes, tongue and everything else, were not given us to be wasted, rather they are developed through their balanced and lawful uses. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: They will be developed when they are used lawfully and not unlawfully. Islām does not teach that we should castrate ourselves or remove our eyes, rather it teaches us their lawful use. It is not correct to say that since the eyes will look at what is unlawful, they should be removed, or that men should castrate themselves, rather the correct thing is to use these faculties at their rightful place and time. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: Allāh has given us a Book that teaches righteousness (*Taqwa*), therefore our Jamā'at should be more worried about righteousness (*Taqwa*) than any worldly concern.

The Holy Qur'ān also teaches that the righteous are those who walk with humility and meekness and are not arrogant. They speak like a younger person talking to an elder. In our every circumstance we should do what will make us succeed. Allāh is not partial to anyone, He only requires righteousness (*Taqwa*), and whoever abides by righteousness (*Taqwa*) will attain to a higher station. We have been taught that if we want our prayers to be heard, we should offer *durood* upon the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), and that prayers without *durood* do not reach heaven. *Durood* is necessary for attaining Allāh's nearness and raising the standards of our worship, because one who offers *durood* will inevitably keep before him the example of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) who taught his ummah that:

قُرَّةُ عَيْنِي فِي الصَّلَاةِ

"The delight of my eyes is in prayer."

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) also set for us such examples for fulfilling our obligations to Allāh's creatures that the like of them is not to be found anywhere else. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: If we have nothing but verbal affirmations and claims, then know that they are of no avail. Righteousness (*Taqwa*) is essential if we are to be victorious. If you desire success, become pious, and true piety is that which makes us cognizant of Allāh and enables us to follow His commandments.

Stressing the importance of prayers, the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: Prayer is the essence of worship. There are some etiquette and conditions of prayer

that one must abide by. It is important in prayer to stand respectfully and humbly before Allāh with full attention in order to seek His grace. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: When one's prayers are devoted to worldly matters, it is not called *Salāt*. *Salāt* is when man seeks to meet Allāh, and has His pleasure in mind, and stands before Him with humility and propriety and full devotion, and seeks not his own things but seeks what Allāh wills. The essence is to seek Allāh's pleasure, and after that man can also pray for His worldly needs, which are only received through Allāh's grace.

On another occasion, the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) said: Remember, if you claim to be faithful, then it is essential to offer *Salāt*. If someone offers prayer three or four times only and still claims to be faithful, he is wrong, because prayer is the root of faith, and a tree without roots will soon come tumbling down to the ground with the slightest breeze. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: Just as when the weather becomes very hot, it causes clouds to gather in the sky and to rain, in the same way, man's prayers cause a spiritual heat and then he finally achieves his purpose. In prayer, a person stands before Allāh with reverence and humility and with an anguished heart. When a person becomes unmindful of Allāh, then Allāh, being Independent and Besought of all, also does not care about such a person. Some naïve people ask, 'What need does Allāh have of our prayers?' Allāh does not need your prayers, but you do need to pray to get His attention. With His attention, everything that is wrong is corrected. Therefore, we should fulfil our obligations to the Beneficent Allāh and come to the mosque five times for prayer and keep our mosques populated.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: Allāh desires to make all mankind like one being, this is called collective oneness in which many people as a whole become one being. The purpose of religion is also that people should become one like beads become one in a rosary. Our prayers that we offer with congregation are for this very purpose so that the worshippers are counted as one. This is why the worshippers are taught to stand close together so that the one who possesses greater spiritual light can pass it on to the lesser and empower him. In short, Allāh desires that we grow in mutual love.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says, "O ye people who consider yourselves members of my Jamā'at! You will only be counted as such in heaven when you truly tread upon the path of righteousness. Therefore, offer the five daily prayers in such fear and with such complete attention as if you are actually beholding Allāh. Observe your Fasts with full sincerity for the sake of Allāh. Let everyone for whom *Zakāt* is prescribed pay the *Zakāt*. Let him upon whom the Pilgrimage is obligatory, and there is no obstruction in his way, perform the Pilgrimage. Do good in a handsome way and discard vice with disgust. Bear well in mind that no deed which is void of righteousness can reach Allāh Almighty. Righteousness is the root of all goodness. No action that is rooted in righteousness will go in vain. Whenever harm befalls you, it will be through your own hands and not through your enemy. Even if you lose all honour on earth, Allāh will bestow eternal honour upon you in heaven. So do not abandon Him. You are the last Jamā'at of Allāh, so practice virtue at its best. Every one of you who becomes lax will be cast out of the Jamā'at like a foul thing and will

die in regret and will be able to do no harm to Allāh. Look, I happily give you the tiding that your Allāh truly exists. All are His creatures, and yet He chooses the one who chooses Him, and moves towards the one who moves towards Him, and bestows honour upon him who honours Him.”

With regard to the new mosque, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Jamā’at had been trying to build this mosque for a few years and then Allāh granted us this site which is 2640 square meters in size. It already had a three-storey building with fifteen rooms and one big hall. The mosque can accommodate 250 worshippers. There is a parking space for 50 cars. There is one office for the Jamā’at and an office for Lajna Imāillāh. There is library, and all other facilities for ablution, etc. The roofed parking hall can accommodate a further 125 worshippers in case of need. The previous structure has been renovated and is ready for use. This mosque is situated approximately 15 kilometres from Strasbourg city which means that people can easily come here to pray. The covered area for the mosque and halls is 303 square meters. There is also a house for the Missionary as well as a four-bedroom guest house. Permission was not granted for the construction of a minaret, nevertheless, we were permitted to build a dome at the height of 8 meters to the right side of the mosque and it looks beautiful. There is also a *mihrab*.

May Allāh bless this mosque in every respect. May Allāh bless the lives and properties of the Khuddam who made sacrifice for building this mosque. The members of Lajna Imāillāh and Ansārullāh Jamā’at Ahmadiyya France now should also collectively take responsibility to build a mosque. We should not stop at financial sacrifices, but rather understand the purpose of the mosque and raise the standards of worship. *Amīn*.

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A’lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 17 October 2019