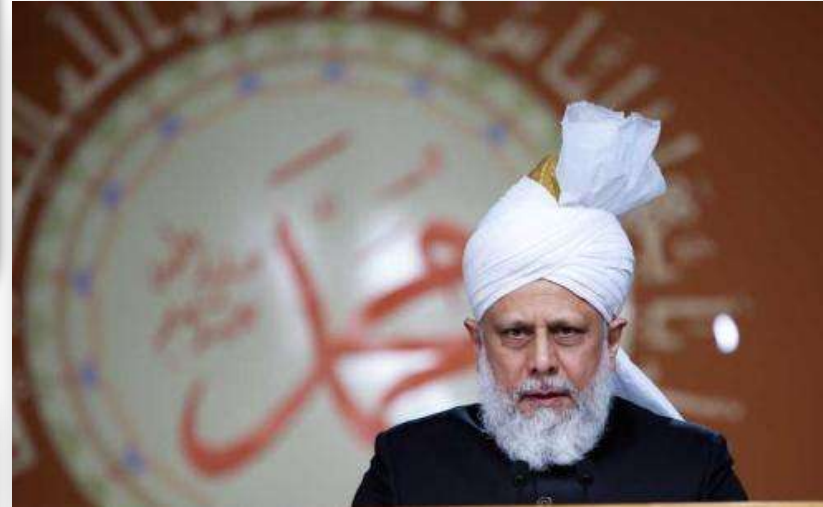


Jalsa Salana, an opportunity for moral, educational and spiritual improvement



Friday Sermon
July 22nd 2011



SUMMARY

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Hudhur (aba) delivered the Friday sermon at Hadeeqatul-Mahdi, and reminded every duty holder that the Jalsa Salana is a blessed occasion to display their etiquettes of hospitality, no matter which department they are executing their duty in



Hudhur (aba) gave directions regarding accommodation, food, conduct, behaviour, meetings and worship



Women should specifically remember that this is not a worldly festival, therefore every effort should be made to raise spiritual and moral standards. This is not an occasion to flaunt outfits and jewellery. Women should wear decent outfits which conceals their beauty rather than puts it on display



In the end Hudhur (aba) emphasized the importance of engaging in prayers and supplications throughout the Jalsa Salana. May Allah Almighty enable us to do so, Ameen.

Hudhur (aba), delivered the Friday sermon at Hadeeqatul-Mahdi, and reminded every duty holder that the Jalsa Salana is a blessed occasion, where they can express their etiquettes of hospitality, no matter which department they are executing their duty in

Hudhur (aba) said that in the sermon today, he would like to

1. Re-emphasize the responsibilities of hosts and duty-holders

2. Provide some guidelines to the guests of the Jalsa Salana

3. Give organisational instructions

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Jalsa Salana UK

Hudhur (aba) said that when members of this Jamaat are given instructions and guidelines, they should try their best to follow these because if they do not follow, then what is the distinction between members of the Jamaat and the rest

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Hudhur (aba) stated the following hadith: "Whoever believes in God and the Last Day should be kind to his neighbour; and whoever believes in God and the Last Day should be generous with his gift to his guest. Someone asked the Prophet what gift was that. He said: A gift sufficient for one day and one night. Hospitality lasts for three days. If it goes longer than that, then it is a charity to the guest. Whoever believes in God and the Last Day should either say something good or remain silent."

In light of this hadith, Hudhur (aba) said that indeed it is the right of a guest to enjoy the hospitality and accommodation provided by his generous host, but he should remember what his limits are

An upright Momin would never accept charity, therefore he should remember that staying over 3 nights counts as charity

Hospitality is a moral quality which should result in inculcating mutual respect between the guest and the host and developing a bond of love between them, but extending one's stay can actually produce the contrary effect

Islam's beautiful teachings address the most minor issues and provide guidelines on how to conduct oneself in these circumstances

One of the objectives of holding Jalsa Salana as described by the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) is to establish brotherhood among the participants and form a loving community

This beautiful bond of brotherhood and unity can only be established by practicing complete obedience to God Almighty and to the Holy Prophet (pbuh)

Therefore, every guest must raise his standards of obedience to take steps forward rather than backwards.

Hudhur (aba) also reminded the guests that accommodation provided by the Jamaat is on a temporary basis. The guests who made a commitment of staying for 2 or 3 weeks should honour their promises and if they wish to stay in the country for longer than this period, then they should make alternate arrangements and abide by the rules laid out by Nizam-e-Jamaat

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Hudhur (aba) Huzur (aba) stated another hadith: It is not permissible for the guest to stay on until he becomes a source of sin for him (i.e. his host).

How is that possible? How can a guest become a source of sin for his hosts?

1. If the host has borrowed money to make the stay of his guest comfortable and guests stay for an extended period of time, and hence the host is unable to pay the money back, then he becomes sinful.
2. Again, if a guest overstays his welcome, the host may become angry or frustrated and start complaining about his guests, again becoming sinful.

Therefore, a guest should try to understand this situation and must not contribute in making the host sinful.

Jalsa Guests

If both the guest and the host fulfil their respective responsibilities, then no one will become sinful.

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Instructions regarding Langar Khana

All guests are served the same meals, except for occasional special dietary requirements or those who do not have the taste for Pakistani food due to their own cultural background. However, organizers should not cook special meals for their own consumption.



Hudhur (aba) reminded all duty holders to respect their guests and not to hurt their sentiments in any way, even if it is intended as a joke. Guests must be served as many times as they wish to serve themselves



Guests should not waste food



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It is really the attitudes of the guests and the hosts that will make the atmosphere beautiful for all to enjoy.

Hudhur (aba) then reminded that the main objective of the Jalsa Salana is to inculcate a deeper relationship with Allah Almighty

Prayers

Thus, all duty holders and all guests must pay special attention to safeguard their prayers and pay special attention to offering Nawafil prayers and offering supplications and prayers

Worship

This is because the solution to all our hardships, especially in face of persecution, lies in these acts of worship.

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General behaviour during Jalsa

Hudhur (aba) said that it should be remembered that people should refrain from engaging in inappropriate discussions

Remember the purpose of this time is to create a spiritual environment

Hudhur (aba) again reminded, especially the women, that the only break times during Jalsa Salana should be used for developing new relationship

This is not an occasion to flaunt outfits and jewellery.

All late night sittings should be avoided.

Women should wear decent outfits which conceal their beauty rather than puts it on display

Women should specifically remember that this is not a worldly festival, therefore every effort should be made to raise spiritual and moral standards.

Men and women should lower their gaze to meet the spiritual standards befitting to this occasion of Jalsa Salana.

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Hudhur (aba) stated that security this year is rather strict, so please be patient, comply to security rules willingly and refrain from complaining



Hudhur (aba) also directed the duty holders to carry out their security checks without any undue delays so that the Jalsa proceedings can be started on time



The boundaries of the Jalsa gah should be guarded by security



All those who are present at the Jalsa Salana should keep an eye on their surroundings for any suspicious activity

Security during Jalsa

This year, arrangements have been made for elderly and mothers with children to reserve separate entrances and scanners for them so that there is no delay for them to enter the Jalsa gah. However, patience is still required, as at times, the entrances can be bogged down with traffic.

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General directions during Jalsa

Hudhur (aba) directed that slogans should not be chanted too frequently; in fact the specific department for chanting slogans should solely be responsible for this task. However, when a slogan is raised, the response should be united and strong



Hudhur (aba) reminded all participants to remain in the Jalsa gah during the speeches and listen to them as they are for our own benefit



Hudhur (aba) said that special care should be given to maintenance of cleanliness, especially in the toilets. With rainy conditions, the toilets can get muddy. Workers are on duty to help with the cleanliness, but guests should also be mindful of playing their part



Hudhur (aba) instructed that those who arrive in the Jalsa gah first should fill the spaces in the front so that the late-comers have room to sit. Late comers should not leap over others to get to an empty spot. In fact, people should ensure that no empty spots are left in the jalsa gah



In the end Huzur (aba) emphasized the importance of engaging in prayers and supplications throughout the Jalsa Salana. May Allah Almighty enable us to do so, Ameen.

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