

Ideal Spirit of Building and Populating Mosques

Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat Mirza
Masroor Ahmad (aba) Head of the
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community



Friday Sermon April 27th, 2012

SUMMARY

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih inaugurated Bait ul Amaan, a new mosque in the city of Manchester, UK and gave a discourse on the ideal spirit of building and populating mosques

The great sacrifice of the Prophet Ibrahim (on whom be peace) while making the house of God was followed by the expression of extreme humility and prayers for being good and for his progeny

About mosque building project in Europe, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih said that his message to Ahmadis of Europe was that our pride is not in building these mosques. Our objective will be met when the number of worshippers in these mosques will exceed their capacity

In terms of worship of God, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said we should offer our worship as if we can see God and He is watching us. We should repent profusely and purify ourselves.

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih inaugurated Bait ul Amaan, a new mosque in the city of Manchester, UK and gave a discourse on the ideal spirit of building and populating mosques

'And remember the time when Abraham and Ishmael raised the foundations of the House, praying, 'Our Lord, accept this from us; for Thou art All-Hearing, All-Knowing.



'Our Lord, make us submissive to Thee and make of our offspring a people submissive to Thee. And show us our ways of worship, and turn to us with mercy; for Thou art Oft-Returning with compassion and Merciful.



And, our Lord, raise up among them a Messenger from among themselves, who may recite to them Thy Signs and teach them the Book and Wisdom and may purify them; surely, Thou art the Mighty, the Wise'

(Surah Al Baqarah, verses 128 – 130)

These verses mention a great model which illustrates the high standards of humility, meekness, sacrifice, prayer for one's progeny to remain connected to God and prayer to become servant of God

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The first verse

The first verse depicts the great sacrifice of Hadhrat Ibrahim and Hadhrat Ishmael (peace be on them)

They had the conviction of belief that one day the House would become the centre of faith but they had no idea when that would be.

Despite this, they remained focussed on their sacrifice

Their great sacrifice was followed by the expression of the greatest of humility when they prayed to God and acknowledged that it was all due to His grace

They realised that for the mosque to be truly populated , God's grace is needed, so they prayed for the insight and vision which takes one to God.

The beauty of the mosques

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessing of Allah be on him) said there should be no decoration or embellishment in mosques

The beauty of mosques is in being attended purely to seek the pleasure of God

Building of mosques is to seek pleasure of God

We should be mindful that when we build mosques it should be to seek the pleasure of God

Rather than feel pride we should be grateful to God for any sacrifice that we are enabled to make for this

Certainly, in the materialistic world of today building mosques is a commendable act and people who do this have their reward from God

Yet, we should always remember not to display any sense of arrogance for this



The place where once the House of God was built was desolate and deprived of inhabitants



From a spiritual perspective the West is also a barren land and we have to make it spiritually verdant

Building of mosques is to seek spiritual progress

We should pray to be enabled to keep mosques well attended and pray that may people who advance in spirituality inhabit the area. May God accept our sacrifice and take us to the spiritual station of His nearness and make us the recipients of His Paradise

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said that on the Day of Judgement God will state that those gathered will know who the esteemed and the honoured will be. These will be people who held assemblies for remembrance of God in mosques.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said that a person who goes to the mosque each morning and night, God will prepare hospitality for him in Paradise.

May those who will populate our mosque too be those whom God likes and those who seek His pleasure.

Building of mosques is to seek paradise

Fortunate are those who build mosques with this intention and indeed come to mosques with this intention. Not only do they attain paradise in this world, they are also given Paradise in the Hereafter for they seek them both



Often on the inside of the domes of our mosques the Quranic verse ‘... **and whose hearts find comfort in the remembrance of Allah...**’ (13:29) is inscribed.

What greater paradise is there for those whose hearts are comforted?


Those who remember God, endure difficulties for the sake of God. They make these difficulties a source of seeking pleasure of God and in turn a source of inner peace.

People of God do not let worldly grief influence them. Each episode of grief inspires them towards love of God and they come in the lap of God where their hearts are comforted.

Building of mosques is to seek peace of mind

The Qur’an states: ‘**But for him who is awed by the lofty station of his Lord, there are two gardens.**’ (55:47) The garden/paradise of this world is granted for being an Abd e Rahman (servant of the Gracious God) which goes on to also make one a recipient of the Paradise of the Hereafter.

The second verse



The second verse recited at the start of the sermon is a prayer by Hadhrat Ibrahim and Hadhrat Ishmael (peace be on them) that may we become good people of God

The humility expressed here is noteworthy in that in spite of the sacrifice they made and in spite of being sent by God they still prayed to be good

Hadhrat Ibrahim (on whom be peace) had already demonstrated his extreme subservience and the ultimate sacrifice when he left his wife and child in a desolate land, still he prayed to God to be a submissive servant of His and the son too and to be completely obedient to Him

This is the station that a believer should try to attain

Mosques and our next generations

One should never be proud or consider sufficient any good one does.

One should always submit to God that without His grace one's deeds are naught and it is only with His blessing that one becomes a servant of the Gracious God.

Our supplication should be to stay firm on good and be sincere, not just for ourselves but also for our next generation, as stated: '**and *make of our offspring a people submissive to Thee***'.

After building a house of God, we should pray that the spiritual beneficence is passed on and worshippers are born among our future generation.

About attendance of mosques, Hudhur (aba) said

Only the elderly and those with time on hand should not be the only one attending the mosque

Those who are busy should take time out of their engagements and attend

The enthusiasm for worship of God should be passed on to our youngsters and children

While practical endeavour is required in this regard, prayer is a tremendous source to attain it

God is aware of what is in our hearts and we should pray with the view that the seed of piety is passed on from generation to generation

If we are indolent about these matters, our next generation is also indolent.

About our children attending mosques, Hudhur (aba) said

The prayer of Hadhrat Ibrahim and Hadhrat Ishmael '**And show us our ways of worship, and turn to us with mercy;**' draws attention to our own reformation as well as that of our children, it signifies worship of God as well as all other commandments that should be carried out



And once these obligations are fulfilled one should not presume to have done something great, for the verse/prayer goes on to say: '**and turn to us with mercy**', that is, accept our repentance and forgive us our minor errors



The objective of building mosques is fulfilled when regular prayer is made in this vein. It also inspires to make effort to keep our children on this path.

Today, our greatest objective is to spread the message of Islam and silence its critics

To do this, we have to worship God and supplicate Him with utter tenderness and pathos so that we may absorb God's grace

We need to connect our children with the mosque, and only then will we fulfil the object of the building of the mosque and taking the Bai'at of the Imam of the age

About our children attending mosques, Hudhur (aba) said

The new mosque should bring about a revolutionary transformation in the local Jama'at



With the building of this mosque, those who are spiritually weak should modify/improve their ways; ways that lead to love of God.

Those who are drawn to worship of God should endeavour to attain higher levels.

It is reported that the Prayer hall of the new mosque accommodates 760 men and 560 women worshippers, although if required 2000 worshippers can offer Salat in the mosque.

The phrase that 2000 worshippers 'can offer' Salat here should be transformed into 'do offer' Salat here as soon as possible

The beauty of mosques is not in simply building them but is with worshippers.

May God enable to do so.

Bait ul Amaan Mosque, Manchester

The cost of building of Baitul Amaan was £1.2 million

The individual contributions of up to £84,000 have been made



Since 2003 when Baitul Futuh was inaugurated, the UK Jama'at is enabled to construct 14 purpose-built mosques, six of which have been built this year. There were 13 mosques in [mainland] Europe

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih said that his message to Ahmadis of Europe was that our pride is not in simply building these mosques. Our objective will be fulfilled when each of these mosques is so that the number of worshippers exceeds their capacity. May God enable us so

Next Hudhur (aba) related some incidents of the companions of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) illustrating their complete devotion to Prayer.

Hadhrat Jan Muhammad sahib (may Allah be pleased with him) recounted how he and others were totally absorbed in their Salat despite severe attempts at distraction by the neighbours partying nearby

Hadhrat Hakim Ali sahib (may Allah be pleased with him) recounted that he focussed on worship in a small mosque next to his house. His was rewarded with prompt reply to his prayers

Hadhrat Mir Mehdi Hussein sahib (may Allah be pleased with him) recounted how once he missed his evening meal to offer Salat on time although the next meal was not till next afternoon

Hadhrat Hafiz Nabi Bakhsh sahib (may Allah be pleased with him) was diligent in the Tarbiyyat of his children and would always make time to teach them about religious matters

Challenge for Ahmadis

In these [Western] countries people are becoming indifferent to religion and some of our children are also influenced by this trend



Therefore there is a great need to not only maintain our commitment to mosques but to enhance it



This is a challenge of Ahmadis living in these countries in particular and all over the world in general



Satan is exceeding all limits these days and we have to contend with this and this cannot be done without God's help and God's help can be sought through worship.

While some women excel men in offering Salat, at times women present excuses not to offer Salat on time

Once Hadhrat Ma'i Kako sahiba (may Allah be pleased with her) sought the advice of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) about the practice that sometimes women had to combine their Maghrib Salat with Isha because of domestic commitments

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) replied that he did not think if all effort were made, it would be necessary. However, if women had to combine the prayers, they should offer these at Maghrib time as angels descend at this time

However, those ladies reorganised their lives so that they would feed their children before Maghrib and offer Salats at their appointed time

Women and Salat

Hudhur (aba) said that in this, there is a great lesson for mothers today

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said

Next, a few extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) were read

- These illustrated that we can fulfil our great wishes by turning to God and supplicating. One who turns to God with true fervour and sincerity is never wasted. If a man undertakes something but sees no result, he should examine his practices and see what it is that is wrong.
- In terms of worship of God, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said we should offer our worship as if we can see God and He is watching us. We should repent profusely and purify ourselves.



May we be enabled to understand this message and may God enable us to worship Him in the true sense and make us those who seek His pleasure.