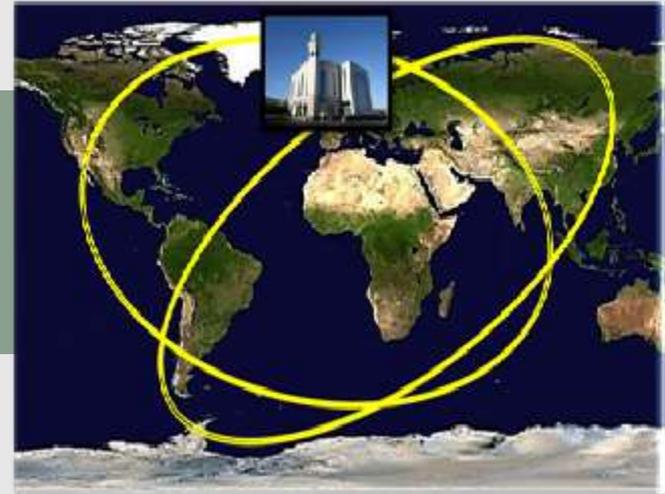


FAITH, SALAT AND STEADFASTNESS



SERMON DELIVERED BY HADHRAT
MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD (ABA);
HEAD OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM
COMMUNITY

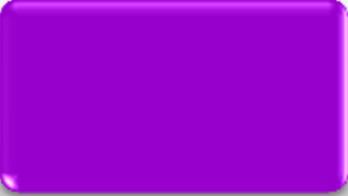


RELAYED LIVE ALL ACROSS THE
GLOBE

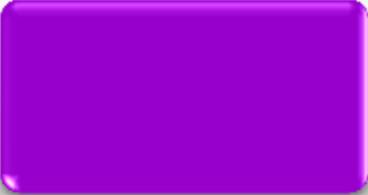
22nd November, 2013

NOTE: Al Islam Team takes full responsibility for any errors or miscommunication in this Synopsis of the Friday Sermon

Summary



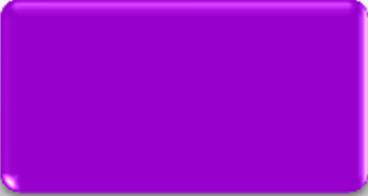
The Promised Messiah (as) has clearly explained the objectives of his mission , ...



... these are to revive and perfect the true faith of Islam, to establish the greatness of the Holy Prophet (pbuh), to enhance the moral status of the world and bring about a pure change in his followers.



By taking the Bai'at of the Promised Messiah (as), we are duty bound to assist in the success of this mission. '**...We are the helpers of Allah...**'.



However, a large section of humanity is not interested in religion and is not even prepared to listen?

Summary



So in the face of this public attitude and minimal resources, how can we possibly take this mission forward?



God states, when you are faced with such difficulties that to work out a solution appears impossible, seek help with patience and Prayer.



Heavenly signs will be shown to us only if we commit to sabr (patience) and Salat, if we completely and wholly devote ourselves in the cause of God,—



... we will experience that God Himself will come down to help us with all His powers.



Allah will turn the hearts of the people of the materialistic world and will bless our works so that the human beings will accept their true God and greatness of the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

The mission of the Promised Messiah (as)

Our responsibilities after Bai'at of the Promised Messiah (as)

State of the world and attitude to religion

? An apparently impossible task

Seek help with Sabr and Salat

Prayers

The Promised Messiah (as) has clearly explained the objectives of his advent in his books, writings and pronouncements.

As Ahmadis, we can only meet the obligations of taking the Bai'at of the Promised Messiah (as) if we keep these objectives in the fore of our deeds and actions.

Today Hazrat Khalifatul Masih presented a few of these objectives.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that God appointed him in this age to revive faith and had sent him so that people may enhance their strength of belief.

So that they have belief in the existence of God and belief that He listens to prayers, rewards virtues and also punishes evil.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) further said that unless faith is perfect man cannot fully do good deeds. With weak faith, one can not achieve one's full potential to do good deeds. Prophets of God come to generate perfect belief and this was indeed a big purpose of the advent of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace)

Reformation cannot be attained merely by taking Bai'at; one need to strive immensely hard to enhance one's condition.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said: 'Everything progresses in the world on a gradual basis and spiritual progress also takes place in this manner. Nothing can be availed without making endeavour and this endeavour should be for God alone. This is the task for which I have been appointed so that I may show the world how to reach Allah the Exalted.'

Expounding as to what sort of people we should become the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said: 'I do not want that a few words are uttered in parrot-like fashion at the time of Bai'at. There is no point in this. Attain knowledge of purifying the self for this is what is needed. Our task and our objective is that you generate a pure change in yourself and become a completely new person...'

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' It is essential that for this each one of you understands this secret and brings about such a change that he can say I am a different person.'

If, while bringing about positive change in ourselves we do not make ourselves different from the rest of the world, then according to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) we will not be availing of our Bai'at.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said: 'This humble one has merely been sent to take this message to mankind that from all the current-day religions, the true religion which is in accordance with the will of God Almighty is the one brought by the Holy Qur'an. And the doorway to the abode of salvation is 'There is none worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger'. Our real objective and purpose is to demonstrate the majesty of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) and to establish his greatness. ...'

We have taken Bai'at to fulfil this purpose. In order to accomplish it we need to follow the teaching of the Holy Qur'an and spread these teachings in the world for the salvation of the world.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said about the purpose of his coming:

'Allah the Exalted has willed at this time to make Islam triumph over all nations. He has sent me for this reason and has sent me in the way earlier commissioned ones came.'

Regarding his mission he said: 'He has sent me so that I demonstrate Islam's supremacy over all nations and religions through illuminating arguments and proofs.'

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Regarding the purpose of his coming, he also said: 'I want to instil belief in God Almighty.

One who believes in God Almighty is saved from the toxin of sin and a change comes about in his nature. He is given a new life after experiencing a sort of death and rather than feeling pleasure from sin, his heart is repulsed by it. One who attains this condition can say that he has recognised God...'

'I say truly that by believing in God man becomes an angel, in fact angels prostrate to him and he becomes a being filled with spiritual light.'

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'In short when there is no understanding of God and there is widespread destruction and all manner of wickedness, when fear of God vanishes and the rights of God are given to man, in such a state of affairs God grants the light of His knowledge to a person and commissions him. The person is cursed and is persecuted and aggrieved in every way. Ultimately the one commissioned by God is successful and he spreads the light of truth in the world.

Similarly, God commissioned me in this age and granted me the light of His knowledge.'

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) also said: 'I have been commanded to discipline and teach moral strengths.'

He was once asked what would be the outcome of his claim. He said: '[It will] once again strengthen the weakened connection with God Almighty, which has caused love of the world to be dominant and has diminished purity, and strengthen the relationship between human devotion and Divinity. It will bring back long lost purity and love of world will become cold.' He said that thus pious revolution will be brought about through him.

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Indeed it is a very big objective and a big claim

- The world today is materialistic
- Belief in God and insight into religion is virtually non-existent.
- People claim to follow a religion, but generally it is for show and pomp only.

To bring people to God is indeed a big claim to be made in such a state of affairs but the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) had the belief and confidence in God that this mission will be achieved.

By virtue of taking the Bai'at of the Promised Messiah (as), we are duty bound to play our role in the success of this mission. '**...We are the helpers of Allah...**'.

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Prayers

The high objectives of the advent of the Promised Messiah (as) should become an integral part of our life.

As Ahmadis, it is our role to become helpers in accomplishing this mission.

For this we have to self-reflect, ponder, plan and seek help from God for success.

If we do not show commitment to promoting the mission of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) after accepting his Bai'at, then are evading our obligations and will be held accountable.

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Our task is to raise awareness about the existence of God, and the high status of the Holy Prophet (pbuh);

However, we have minimum resources and man power to do so.

The wealth and material possessions of people living in the developed world are taking them away from God. They say they do not have time to look for God.

These opinions of the people in the developed world, influence those living in the developing world.

We need to bring about this revolution in a world where 80% of the world population is not interested in religion.

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Thus, our task is to bring people to God, our resources are limited and people are not even prepared to listen,?

It all appears impossible; ..

... but the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) claimed with conviction that this mission is bound to be successful.
InshaAllah.

In the face of difficulties, we will not lose hope because ours is not a worldly mission.

On the contrary, God's help and succour assures us each step of the way.

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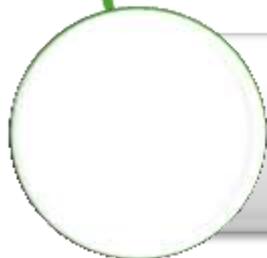
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Prayers



Given our resources and the enormity of the task ahead of us, talk of success appears like a crazy dream



In all continents of the world, we face powerful and frightening stumbling blocks to our efforts.



The situation of the world was not in our favour a few decades ago and it is not much better today.



However, to help people recognise their true God is a Divine mission and God's help will bring this to success.

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Ahmadis were not permitted to do Tabligh in the communist block in the past, Since, the fall of communism, Muslim states are under the influence of Mullah, obstruction our Tabligh efforts.

Japan has made amazing advances in technology. Majority of the country is embroiled in materialism and there is no time for God.



In the west, the worldliness is such that foul and indecent practices are given the protection of law.

In China, there is no interest in religion, China is a major economy of the world and is racing to get ahead in materialism.

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Prayers

So in the face of this public attitude to religions and our minimal resources, how can we possibly take our mission forward?

**The Holy Quran states: 'O ye who believe! seek help with
patience and Prayer; surely, Allah is with the steadfast.'
(2:154)**

God's help removes the greatest of impediments

He is All-Powerful and has the power to make every
impossible thing possible.

God states, there is no need to be concerned, when you are
faced with such difficulties that to work out a solution appears
impossible, seek help with patience and Prayer.

Seek help with sincerity and your task will be accomplished.

**It is God's promise that Islam will triumph but we are required to
be patient and to Pray.**

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The Arabic word sabr (patience) has many meanings

For example
Sabr is to
avoid evil with
resolve and
effort.

Sabr also
means to
remain
steadfast on
piety and not
let greed and
temptations
distract one.

Sabr means to
focus on
*Aamila
Sahihaa* (good
deeds at the
right time with
true
intentions)

Sabr is also
putting faith in
God, to turn to
Him in every
difficulty and
every trouble.

If we do this, God's help will be with us, our spirituality will develop.

The spiritual benefit that is achieved by a single pound, dollar or Rupee of a true believer will be more than that can be achieved by tens of millions of worldly wealth; this will astonish the world.

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Along with sabr, Salat (Prayer) is also needed. A true believer seeks help from God through Salat; Salat with due attention increases the great results of sabr.

- One meaning of Salat is of course Prayer.
- Salat also means seeking God's mercy, to do Istaghfar (seeking God's forgiveness).
- Salat also means to show compassion to mankind, to invoke salutations and blessings (Durud) on the Holy Prophet (pbuh) in order to seek God's help.

When one excels in sabr and Salat, then one will be granted God's succour, things will fall into place and success will be achieved.

However, if the dues of sabr and Salat are not paid then one cannot be the recipient of God's blessings.

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As mentioned
earlier one
meaning of
sabr is to avoid
evil.

Repentance
and Istaghfar
are needed for
this.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) once said that three aspects constitute real repentance. Firstly, to take all the thoughts and imaginations out of one's heart which are causing chaos in the heart, which incite one to badness and to instil repulsion against whatever bad thoughts there may be.

Secondly, to express regret and mortification over badness and to express this so much in one's heart that one is embarrassed.

Thirdly, to resolve firmly and staunchly not to do the badness again.

If this is adopted and full efforts are made to attain high levels of sabr and Salat, then God's extraordinary succour will come one's way and we will also witness the promises God made to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace).

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We can not expect to bring the world under the banner of Islam and fulfil the objective of the advent of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) if we

do not make concerted efforts to avoid evil

do not make every efforts to follow virtues

do not understand the spirit of the mission of the Promised Messiah (as)

do not turn to God for anything and everything

do not fulfil the rights of mankind

do not regularly invoke Durud on the Holy Prophet (pbuh) to seek the blessing of nearness to God

do not observe our Salat

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Hazrat Khalifatul Masih said that regretfully we do not have the attention that need to have as regards our Salat, our worship of God and instilling a connection with God.

Huzoor (aba) mentioned with extreme sadness that it has been brought to his attention that the attendance for Salat to the Fazl Mosque dropped, when he was away on his tour.

Similarly, after his tour of Australia, the attendance of mosques in Australia has dropped.

**It is a great cause for concern and
attention should be drawn to it**

Whether it is Australia or the UK or any other country in the world, it should be remembered that if we are to bring a revolutionary change and achieve the mission of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace), then we need to fill the mosques with worshippers all the time.

8th March, 2013

22nd November, 2013

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[Heavenly] signs will be shown to us only if we pay the dues of sabr and Salat, if we completely and wholly devote ourselves in the cause of God,—

... we will then experience that God Himself will come down to help us with all His powers and all the manifestations of His beauty.

He will turn the hearts of the people of the materialistic world and will bless our works and will make the world recognise the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

The Unity of God will be established and those who do not believe in His existence will turn to God's worship.

May God make it so that we pay our dues so that we may experience this!

Next Huzoor announced that he would later lead a funeral Prayer in absentia. Dr Bashir ud Din Usama Sahib passed away on 2 November at the age of 82 in USA. He had accepted Ahmadiyyat in 1955 and was among the early African-American Ahmadis. He was very regular in his Salat and was a loyal and sincere Ahmadi. He was an honourable man with great love for Khilafat. He was prayerful and passionate yet very humble and meek of nature. He had the honour to visit Rabwah and meet Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II (may Allah be pleased with him) and Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III (may Allah have mercy on him). He met Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (may Allah have mercy on him) many times and had great love for him. Huzoor also had a special connection with him. He had performed Hajj with his wife and had served as the naib sadr of Cleveland for the past 20 years. He had great fervour for Khidmat e Khalq (social welfare) and in particular took great care of African-American brothers. In 1950 he wrote a booklet on the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him). He was a dentist by profession. His wife Fatima Usama Sahiba had also served as sadr Lajna in Cleveland. He is survived by two sons who have a deep connection with the Jama'at. May God elevate the station of the deceased and always keep his family connected to the Jama'at.