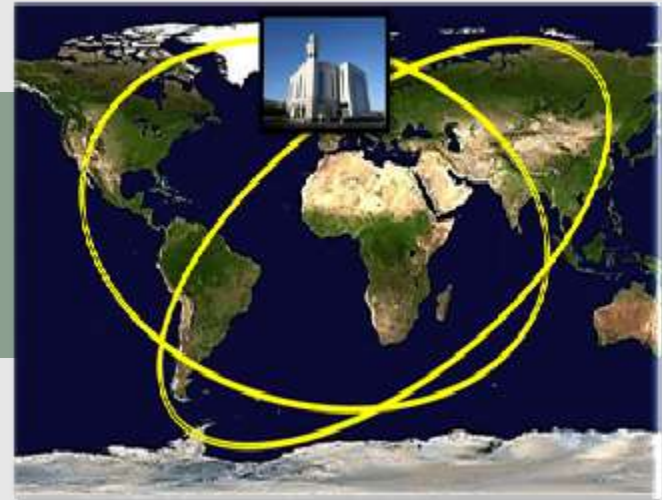


JALSA SALANA UK 2014 AND HOSPITALITY



SERMON DELIVERED BY HADHRAT
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HEAD OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM
COMMUNITY



RELAYED LIVE ALL ACROSS THE
GLOBE

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

Summary

With the grace of God UK Jalsa Salana begins next Friday.

Jalsa guests gather for the sake of God and to be a part of the system established by the Imam of the age

Every duty-holder worker, man and woman, is aware that these are our guests and we have to serve them and be courteous to them in every way.

There is no other example in the world of guests who travel solely for the sake of God and hosts who receive them solely for the sake of God

Everyone should pray that may God enable all arrangements of Jalsa to be completed on time and may all the facilities be available for the guests

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

With the grace of God UK Jalsa Salana begins next Friday.

Our Jalsa arrangements are carried out on voluntary basis and with reference to this a Hazrat Khalifatul Masih drew attention to the duty of hospitality to the Jalsa guests.

Hospitality matters are not only relevant for Jalsa volunteers but also for every person who is accommodating Jalsa guests in his home.

In fact a true believer should respect and regard guests in normal situations as well, but today the focus will be on Jalsa hospitality.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

Jalsa guests come purely for religious reasons as indeed attendance of Jalsa should be only for religious purposes.

People do not come to Jalsa for personal interests or for worldly.

Jalsa guests gather for the sake of God and to be a part of the system established by the Imam of the age.

Those travelling to the UK Jalsa, do so with specific focus, even face financial hardship so that they may attain its blessings

If anyone does so, they lose their spiritual reward.

Love of Khilafat motivates them about meeting the Khalifa of the time.

Huzoor said that love and commitment to the Khilafat as apparent from the eyes of Jalsa guests make him thank God because such love can only be instilled in people's heart by the God's grace and not by human efforts.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

This is merely by virtue of the advent of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) whom God sent to once again establish the true teaching of Islam.



To emphasise that peace of the world lies in true Islam alone.



This is why, many countries are represented at Jalsa to widely disseminate the message of the Khalifa of the time.

Fortunate are those who offer their services on a voluntary basis to serve guests at Jalsa Salana and thus seek God's pleasure.

A large majority of people come to the UK Jalsa specifically

1. To benefit from the spiritual atmosphere of Jalsa
2. To be recipients of the prayers of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace)
3. To meet the Khalifa of the time.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

The guests coming to UK Jalsa have a special significance.

Thus, those serving them also have an enhanced duty of hospitality.

Members of the Jama'at offer their services appreciating this significance.

High ranking people and high earners happily undertake the given tasks of cooking large pots of food and even cleaning of toilets...

Their service also becomes a source of Tabligh for people outside the Jama'at.

As it conveys message that we are not those who create disorder; we serve!

.. because they have understood that this service makes them the recipients of prayers

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

The Holy Qur'an states special significance of hospitality.



It mentions the hospitality of Hazrat Ibrahim (on whom be peace) where it mentions his station and qualities.



Hosts who selflessly and promptly serve their guests have a high status in the eyes of God because they have understood that by serving guests they will seek God's pleasure.



There is no other example in the world of guests who travel solely for the sake of God and hosts who receive them solely for the sake of God other than at Jalsa.

We do so because we have accepted the Imam of the age in accordance with the saying of God and His Messenger (pbuh) and they are united under the auspices of Khilafat and try to fulfil their pledge!

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

Experience of every year tells us that every young and old, man and woman volunteer serves at Jalsa Salana with a special fervour.



New Volunteers and new converts have joined to carry out Jalsa Duty; they should be adequately guided and supported.



Huzoor said he always says that it is not possible for someone who calls himself an Ahmadi not to turn up to help, is the need of their participation is explained properly.

Proper guidance is our task and this is why God enjoins us to guide and often remind.

It is commanded in the Holy Quran, '**And keep on exhorting; for verily, exhortation benefits those who would believe.**' (51:56).

This reminding should not be considered as unnecessary repetition. This helps to focus attention and helps to consolidate good practice.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

A sixth of the guests at UK Jalsa Salana come from other countries, including the Far East, Pakistan, India, America, Africa, South America etc. and half of them come from other cities of the UK.



They are guests as well as travellers.



In fact for some infirm elderly people even travel from London to Hadiqatul Mahdi is an arduous journey.

Every duty-holder worker, man and woman, is aware that these are our guests and we have to serve them and be courteous to them in every way.

At times some guests are unfair but we must always do our duty with steadfastness.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) who understood and practised Divine commandments more than anyone else.

He has guided us that we have obligation to serve our guests.

Many a times, he would receive many guests, so he would distribute the guests among his Companions and also take the responsibility to serve some himself.

A tradition relates that once some guest arrived, upon asking Hazrat 'Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) informed him that the only food and drink at home was for him to break his fast; He readily shared this small amount of food.

He tasted the food a little and then offered it to the guests. Certainly he only tasted the food so that it was be blessed and thus his guests were satiated by the meagre amount of food.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) also trained his Companions to selflessly serve guests.

Anyone without problems, living in comfort and with helpers can serve guests; real hospitality is that which is undertaken by putting oneself through difficulty.

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) established the rights of guests and enjoined true believers to abide by them.

It was due to his spiritual and moral training of his Companions that they too followed his blessed model and left example of hospitality that pleased God.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

According to Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him), a traveller came to the Prophet; there was nothing to eat at the home of the Holy Prophet (pbuh). The Prophet asked his Companions who would look after the traveller.

A Companion said he would. Then he led this man to his home and asked his wife to serve the guest of the Messenger of God. She replied, 'We have nothing except our children's supper.' 'Oh, well,' he replied, 'get the meal ready, light the lamp, and put the child to bed on some pretext.' So the woman prepared the meal, lit the lamp, put the children to bed, then, getting up as if to trim the lamp, she extinguished it. The Companion and his wife then made as if to eat, but in fact they spent the night with empty stomachs.

The next day when the Companion went to find the Messenger of God, who smiled and told him that God had liked his planning of the previous night. **'...but prefer others to themselves even though poverty be their own lot. And whoso is rid of the covetousness of his own soul – it is these who will be successful.'** (59:10)

The Companion and his wife did this to serve a guest as serving guests is a commandment, moreover, this was a guest of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), so they really excelled good hospitality.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

This model should be kept in view even today as regards the guests of Jalsa who are the guests of the true and ardent devotee of the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and who travel for religious purpose.

Their motive to travel is the same but our circumstances are different.

We are not asked to take guests to our homes to serve.

We also do not face same financial hardship as faced by the Companions.

To serve the guests, we and our children do not have to go hungry.

When Jalsa Salana was held in Rabwah, people of Rabwah used to sacrifice their own home comforts for the guests and took it upon themselves to cater for their guests.

Today all we have to do is offer our services and fortunate are those men, women and children who are appointed tasks to perform without any real difficulty.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

God informs us in the Holy Qur'an by giving the example of a Prophet, how to serve guests.



The greeting of a guest should be responded to with a warmer and heartier greeting and good wishes should be conveyed to him and he should be made to feel safe and secure and delight should be expressed to him.



Our guests are not only Ahmadis; others require greater attention. They observe how Ahmadis serve others at Jalsa overall.

It should always be kept in view that we have to serve the guests in a way that would be a source of delight to them in the real sense,

just as we would serve our own relatives.

Jalsa guests should be made to feel safe and secure as much as possible and all resources and conditions should be put to use to offer them the best possible hospitality.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

We see examples in the life of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) where in compliance with his master he also sacrificed his comfort for hospitality of others and spent winter nights without any warm bedding, used Hazrat Amaan Jaan's (may Allah be pleased with her) jewellery to obtain cash for food for guests.

This spirit of sacrifice can also be seen among his companions. Huzoor (aba) related an incidence of Sahibzada Pir Sirajul Haq Sahib.

He never would complain or mind and for years guests in Qadian would take his bedstead; he would sleep on the floor despite facing the danger of snake and scorpion bite.

He said that would not say anything to the guests as they needed to be looked after.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

Once during the event of 'Jang e Muqqadas' [a book of the Promised Messiah], the hostess forgot to serve food to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). After waiting for a long time, late at night the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) finally asked about food. Everyone was worried as it was late and shops had closed and there was no food available. When the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) was notified he simply asked to look into the *dastarkhwan* (cloth in which bread is kept or cloth on which food is served) and took one or two pieces of left over bread as his evening meal.

Therein is a lesson for our workers not to get distressed if sometimes there is any shortage of food and should sacrifice for the sake of guests

This incident may appear ordinary but it makes evident the amazingly simple and informal nature of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace), he did not wish to inconvenience anyone at the late hour. He did not reprimand anyone and did not show any disapproval. In fact most pleasantly and warmly he removed their worry!

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

With the grace of God large majority of our workers are very courteous, but some people still complain.



However, it is the responsibility of the officer of each department, to arrange food for their workers so that they can eat after their duty.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

'I am always mindful that no guest should be inconvenienced. In fact I always advise that as far as possible guests should be made comfortable. A guest's heart is delicate like glass and is broken at the slightest of knocks.

Earlier I had made arrangements to eat with the guests. However with the progression of my ailment I had to take dietary precautions, so the arrangement did not remain. Besides, the number of guests increased so much that there was not enough space. Therefore, out of necessity I had to eat separately.

I permit everyone that they may present their dietary requirements.

Separate food arrangements can be made for those who are not well.'

It should be borne in mind that sentiments of any guest should never be hurt and courtesy should be shown at every instance. If someone has a complaint they should not be dealt with indifferently, rather their problem should be alleviated.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

Huzoor said that with the grace of God workers of every Jalsa department are now well-trained and understand their work very well and overall do a good job.

However, at times over confidence weakens the system.

While confidence should be maintained, it should not cause to overlook and neglect minor details of the task in hand.

HOSPITALITY OF JALSA GUESTS

The security department especially needs to be active.

It should also be kept in mind that with all the deep scrutiny of the security department there should not be any slackening in courtesy.

Duty-holders on all the points where checks are made should be courteous and each point should not have just youngsters on duty and should also have mature people present.

Just as the Jama'at progresses and courageously refutes wrong practices of the extremists who bring Islam into disrepute, our opposition increases

All duty-holders should pray for their tasks to be accomplished in an excellent manner. All our tasks are accomplished through God's help and not merely through anyone's competence or efforts. Everyone should pray that may God enable all arrangements of Jalsa to be completed on time and may all the facilities be available for the guests!