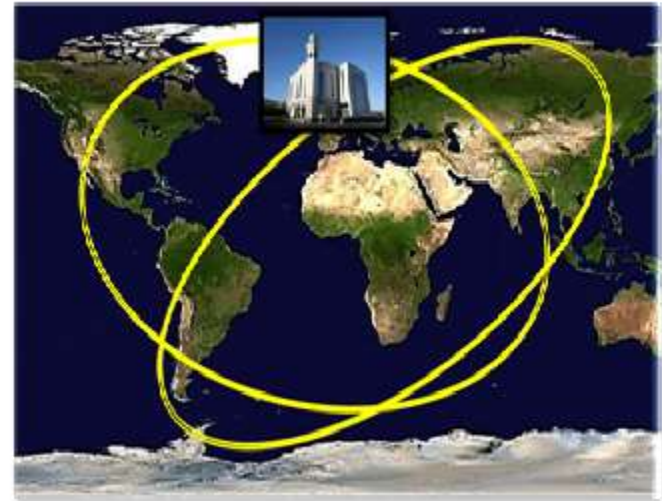


ESSENCE OF OBEDIENCE AND SUBMISSION



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




RELAYED LIVE ALL ACROSS THE
GLOBE


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ESSENCE OF OBEDIENCE AND SUBMISSION


SUMMARY




It is mandatory for true believers to show total obedience to God, His Messenger or of those in authority.



It is a favour of God that we have the system of Khilafat, therefore only Ahmadis can portray real obedience and can establish the dignity of Muslims.



True obedience requires one to crush self-centredness and its reward is that one's heart is enlightened one's soul finds bliss and light.



The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said give up your differences and obey one person, that is the Imam of the age, and then experience how everything you do will be blessed.

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يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا
الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِي الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنْ
تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ
وَالرَّسُولِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ
الْآخِرِ ۗ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا ۝٤٠

‘O ye who believe! obey Allah, and obey *His* Messenger and those who are in authority over you. And if you differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to Allah and *His* Messenger if you are believers in Allah and the Last Day. That is best and most commendable in the end.’(4:60)

This verse cites a principle for true believers to follow. That is, they have to stress upon being obedient and have to excel at it, be it obedience of God, His Messenger or of those in authority.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said

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The Holy Qur'an commands: '...obey Allah, and obey *His* Messenger and those who are in authority over you...'.
2

Here it is clearly commanded to obey those in authority and it would be definitely incorrect for someone to say that the government is not included in 'those in authority over you'.
2

'Whatever the government says in line with Shariah includes it in 'those in authority over you'. Whoever does not oppose us is among us. It is manifestly proven from the Holy Qur'an that the government should be obeyed and whatever it says should be accepted.'
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The Arbiter (حاكم) and Judge (عدل) of the age has clearly stated that with the exception of something contrary to the commandment of God, law of the land should be completely obeyed.

A long extract from the writings of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) was presented which covered the points:



- What should be the standards of obedience, the significance of obedience, harm in not being obedient and the role obedience played in the spread of Islam.



- In this current age only Ahmadis can portray real obedience and can demonstrate to the world how dignity of Muslims can be established



- **However, first and foremost we have to raise our own standard of obedience.**

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote

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'That is, obey Allah and His Messenger and your rulers. If obedience is adopted with sincerity the heart finds luminosity and the soul finds bliss and light.

Spiritual exercises are not needed as much as obedience is needed, though obedience has to be sincere and that is the difficult aspect.

It becomes necessary to crush your self-centredness in obedience because it is not possible to be obedient without this. of Allah be on him).

It is true that a community cannot be a community and cannot have the spirit of nationhood and concord unless it adopts the principles of obedience.

... If difference of opinion is abandoned and only one person is obeyed, whose obedience is commanded by Allah the Exalted, success is achieved in everything. The hand of Allah the Exalted is on the community; therein lies the secret.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote

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Allah the Exalted likes oneness and unity cannot be established unless obedience is practiced. In the time of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) the Companions were assertive individuals who held strong opinions. However, in the presence of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) they considered naught all their opinions and discernment.

Whatever the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said they deemed it worthy of practice. So devoted were they in his obedience that they sought blessing in the leftover water of his ablution and considered his blessed mouth venerable. If they did not have this spirit of obedience ... they would not have attained high status.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote

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Imprudent opponents say that Islam was spread with force but I say this is not correct. Fact is that their hearts were drenched with the spirit of obedience and it was a result of their obedience and unity that they won over hearts. My belief is that they only drew sword in self-defence. Even if they had not drawn sword they would have won over the world with their speech!.

No doubt heart-felt words
move the heart!
The Companions accepted the
truth with sincerity of heart
and without any pretence.
Their truth alone became the
source of their success. It is right
that a truthful person only uses
the force of his truthfulness.
The blessed countenance of the
Holy Prophet (peace and
blessings of Allah be on him)
effused the light of trust in God
with both beauty and glory.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote

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.. In short there is a need now for the condition and unity of the Companions to be replicated. Because Allah the Exalted has joined the community which is being trained by the hands of the Promised Messiah to the community which was trained by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him).

A community's success is borne of examples of such people alone, therefore those of you who are known as the community of the Promised Messiah and wish to be joined with the community of the Companions, instil the tenor of the Companions. Emulate their obedience; emulate their mutual love and unity. In short, adopt the ways of the Companions in every form.'

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We need to show obedience to God, His Messenger, our ruler and government.

This includes the administration of the government as well as the administration of the Jama'at.

Obedience of Khilafat precedes these two because Khilafat establishes the commandments of God.

Obedience of Khilafat comes before obedience of government.

However, there should be no misunderstanding in this regard because Khalifa of the time is foremost in obeying the law of the land himself and in ensuring that others do too.

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The Promised
Messiah (on
whom be peace)
said in another
place: 'In worldly
terms '*ulul amr*'
[who are in
authority] means
the king, and in
spiritual terms it
means the Imam
of the age.'

Within the framework of worldly system of government a spiritual system can and does function.

Fortunate are we to be part of this spiritual system.

Khilafat endeavours to establish kingdom of God and His Messenger in hearts and minds.

It is a favour of God that we have the system of Khilafat among us.

Ahmadis could not be grateful enough for this and this gratefulness can be expressed by showing complete obedience to Khilafat.

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**'If
obedience
is adopted
with
sincerity
the heart
finds
luminosity
and the
soul finds
bliss and
light.'**

Certainly
here a
yardstick is
set to assess
one's
individual
level of
obedience.

Reflect over
your own
standard of
obedience and
assess it
yourself as to
how much
obedience do
you have for
God, His
Messenger and
the Khilafat
established by
the Promised
Messiah.

Obedience of
government
brings peace
and
tranquillity
and
obedience of
spiritual
system brings
peace and
bliss.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) also said: **‘Spiritual exercise is not needed as much as obedience is need...’** without it one cannot experience spiritual bliss and luminosity or peace in one’s life.

People who feel very assured about their Salat and worship of God but do not practice obedience cannot be the recipients of God’s blessings.

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'It becomes necessary to crush your self-centredness in obedience...'. One has to bring one's wishes in line with what God and His Messenger said in order to be obedient.

One has to be willing and accepting the directions of the Imam over and above one's wishes to attain a level of obedience.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that the Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) only attained high standards of worship of God after practicing obedience.

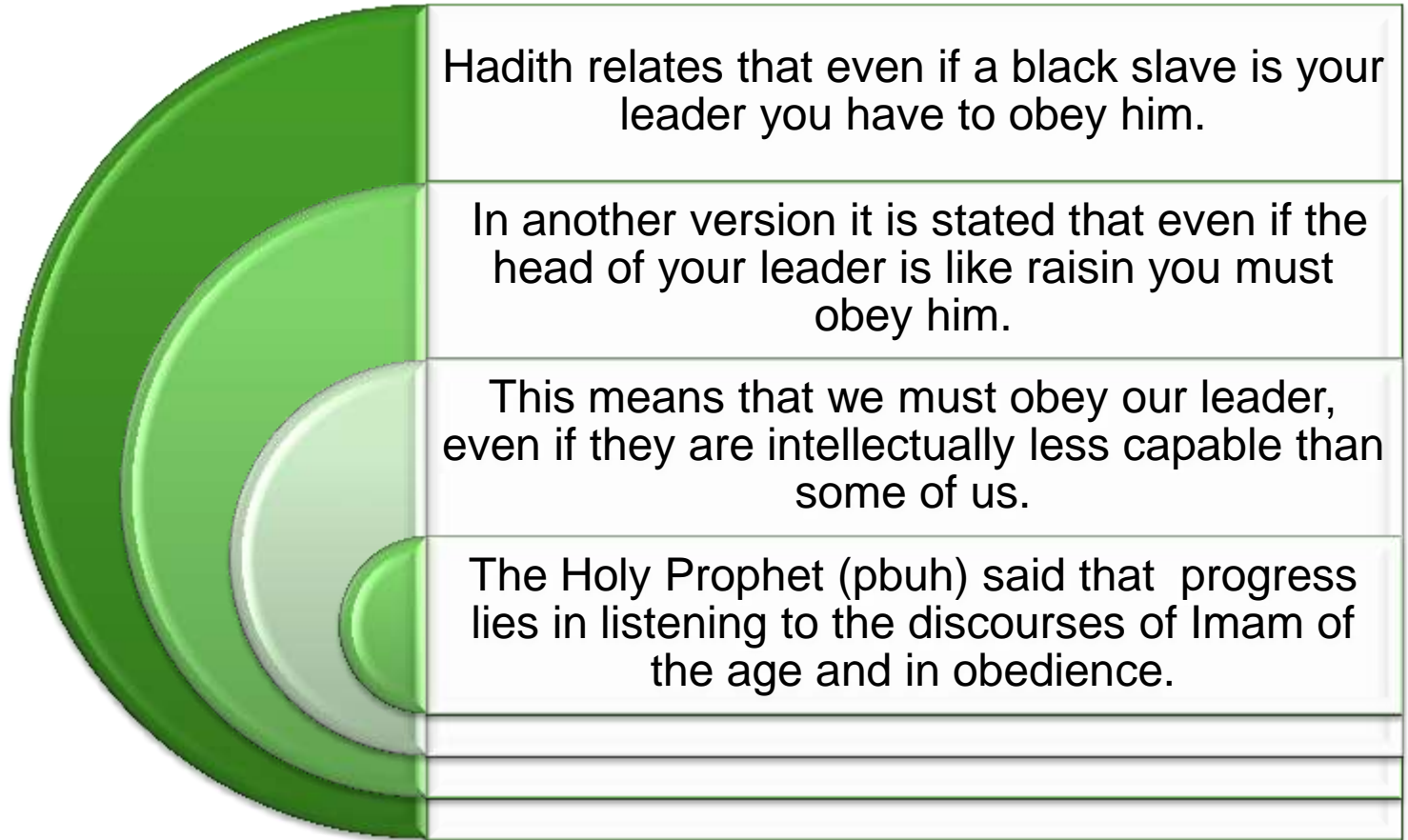
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We Ahmadis have to attain high standards of obedience.

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Obedience demonstrates amazing results even in worldly communities. We see in history that Napoleon took power in France when the country was in decline. The well-wishers of the country accepted his ethos and showed excellent obedience and compliance so much so that it is said it was a life-changing experience for Napoleon as well.

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Hazrat Musleh Maud (may Allah be pleased with him) cited Napoleon's return to power and said: 'Napoleon or other leaders like him did not have the Divine help that true faith has yet they brought about revolutions.'

In terms of obedience, the situation of those who take Bai'at is different. Indeed, the very meaning and purport of Bai'at is to completely devote oneself with obedience.

The concept: '**...obey Allah, and obey His Messenger and those who are in authority over you...**' is such that if a nation does not follow it, it cannot ever succeed.'

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We should always keep the words of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) in mind that without obedience nations inevitable decline and deteriorate.

The Holy Qur'an states in this regard: **'And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah and be not divided; and remember the favour of Allah which He bestowed upon you when you were enemies and He united your hearts in love, so that by His grace you became as brothers; and you were on the brink of a pit of fire and He saved you from it. Thus does Allah explain to you His commandments that you may be guided.'** (3:104)

It is most unfortunate that in spite of this clear Divine message Muslims have hit the lowest ebb of mutual discord . There has been decline since the time of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and now it has reached abysmal lows.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said give up your differences and obey one person, that is the Imam of the age, and then experience how everything you do will be blessed.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) also said: 'The hand of Allah the Exalted is on the community...' and without this success cannot be achieved and God cannot be found. God is found by those and only those have the correct insight and perception of Unity of God who have unity among them.

We should not be simply pleased that we have taken Bai'at. We need to attain the standard of Bai'at which is, as clearly understood from the meanings of the very word Bai'at, to sell oneself.

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What is needed is unity and especially the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) has asked his Jama'at to instil the model of the Companions .

This will come to pass when everyone of us will try and inculcate complete obedience and compliance.

With absolute obedience of God and His Messenger we can also partake of the light which was granted to the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him).

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Responsibility of Ahmadis

The responsibility on Ahmadis is very great, we have to demonstrate an example of '**...obey Allah, and obey *His* Messenger and those who are in authority over you...**' which will draw the world to us.

We have the commandments of the Holy Qur'an which are worthy of being practiced and obeyed. We have the blessed model of the Prophet and it is our obligation to obey it. And we also have the spiritual system of leadership, which constantly draws our attention to the commandments of God and His Messenger.

There is no reason we cannot generate a clear distinction between us and the others. May God enable all of us to do so and may we always fulfil the expectations of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace)!