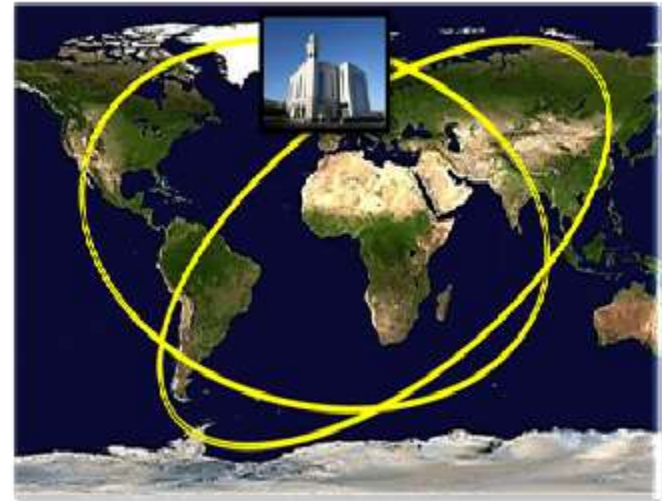


JALSA SALANA 2015: HOSPITALITY AND OUR RESPONSIBILITIES




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




relayed live all across the globe

Date August 14th , 2015


Summary




With the grace of God Jalsa Salana of Jama'at Ahmadiyya UK starts from next week.



Hospitality is a virtue mentioned in the Holy Quran in relation to Prophet Abraham (as) and Lot (as)



The obligations of the host are to take care of the comfort of the guest, provide for them the best possible food and accommodation and enhance their religious knowledge and education.



Providing spiritual sustenance is the task of the duty-holders and it should be undertaken in an excellent manner.

Date August 14th , 2015

With the grace of God Jalsa Salana of Jama'at Ahmadiyya UK starts from next week.

Volunteers have been busy for past several weeks at Hadiqatul Mahdi preparing for Jalsa.

It is no mean feat to make all the arrangements for a large international convention on what is essentially farmland.

It is a grace of God that He has instilled this passion in our volunteers who have taken the Bai'at of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace).

These volunteers are men, women, girls, boys, children and the elderly.

Thus is the extraordinary passion to serve the guests of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) which cannot be found anywhere other than the Jama'at of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace).

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It is highly commendable that these young men and women who are born and brought up in the West, where materialism is common, can find commitment for their religion.

We should pray for them that may God enable them to do their tasks in a most excellent manner and protect them from all evil and trouble.

There is no doubt that all volunteers serve with all due effort and attention but there are always some newcomers joining in and children serving for the first time and of course reminding those who have served before is also necessary.

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Hospitality is a virtue mentioned in the Holy Quran in relation to Prophet Abraham (as) and Lot (as)

The Holy Prophet (pbuh) was extremely hospitable and trained his companions in this quality.

- Islam enjoins respect and esteem of guests.

There are hundreds of examples in Holy Prophet's (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) blessed life where he exhibited most excellent manner of esteem and respect for guests.

- It was the practice of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) that when a lot of guests came he divided them among his Companions and took some guests for himself.

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Sometimes guests can create very awkward situations for their hosts which can be very challenging.

The lofty example of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) was such that once an overnight guest left in the morning leaving behind soiled bedding, perhaps due to an upset stomach or deliberately due to animosity.

Rather than complain, the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) proceeded to wash the soiled bedding himself.

Owing to such amazing acts the Companions also made huge sacrifices for their guests.

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) said a person who believes in God and the Day of Judgement should say something good or else stay quiet.

A person who believes in God and the Day of Judgement should respect his neighbour. A person who believes in God and the Day of Judgement should honour his guest.

The obligations of the host are to take care of the comfort of the guest, provide for them the best possible food and accommodation and enhance their religious knowledge and education.

People who are expecting Jalsa guests at their homes should not spend evenings in idle chatting but should have religious discussions and should impart religious knowledge.

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The whole emphasis of Jalsa duty is to withdraw from this world and focus on religious knowledge for the sake of God only.

Jalsa is a religious function and non-Ahmadis attending the Jalsa should be able to see for themselves that as Ahmadi duty holders we take our commitments to religion seriously.

The accommodation, management of the car parking and travel routes, catering, supplies and discipline are important components of hospitality; any breakdown in these services adversely impacts on the smooth running of the Jalsa programmes.

Providing spiritual sustenance is the task of the duty-holders and it should be undertaken in an excellent manner. Good word and deed of volunteers is also part and parcel of hospitality.

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In this age the true and ardent devotee of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him), the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) also established great models of hospitality.

He used to serve the guests personally, did not hesitate to take hot milk for his guest in cold rainy night.

Once guest were not served meals well because of administrative lapses, he reprimanded the whole team for this.

Today is 14 August, Independence Day of Pakistan. In this regard prayers should be made that God grants real independence to Pakistan and keeps it protected against self-centred leaders and clergy.

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Two funeral Prayers in absentia were announced.

Kamal Aftab Sahib of Huddersfield UK passed away of leukaemia on 7 August 2015 at a Leeds hospital at the age of 33. He was enabled to serve the Jama'at in various capacities. At the time of passing he was the regional qaid for Yorkshire as well as secretary tarbiyyat for Huddersfield South. During his illness he started a 'hospital marathon' from his hospital bed to raise £50,000 for Leukaemia research. He selflessly worked till his last breath on different projects to serve humanity and on Tabligh. He had a most sincere and loyal connection with Khilafat. In spite of his illness and weakness he arranged for an MTA connection in his hospital room to watch live broadcast of Huzoor's address to the last Khuddam Ijtimaa. National daily The Guardian awarded him Volunteer of the Year 2014.

He came to meet Hazrat Khalifatul Masih a few days before passing. Despite his illness he was most resilient and cheerful and did not show any sign of being in pain although he would have been in quite a lot of pain at the time. He always had a very sincere and loyal connection with Khilafat.

He was a person of countless qualities. May God elevate his station and grant steadfastness, patience and assuagement to his elderly parents and grant resilience to his brothers and near and dear ones.

Muhammad Naeem Awan Sahib 36, and his 12 year old son passed away by drowning in the River Rhine. Naeem Sahib was visiting family in Germany along with his wife and children.

He was swimming in River Rhine when high waves were created due to two passing ferries. They were engulfed by one of the high waves. A German rescued three family members but when Naeem Sahib went to rescue his 12 year old son who was in trouble both father and son were overcome by a huge wave. Naeem Sahib had moved to the UK from Germany in 2005 and was an active member of Khuddam here. He had performed Umrah in 2012. He was a very affable and friendly person. He leaves behind a widow and two daughters. Farooq Aftab Sahib writes he had known Naeem Sahib for many years. He was a pious person who helped others but never burdened anyone with his own matters. He used to take a month off work around Jalsa to carry out every kind of heavy duty work. May God elevate his station and Himself look after Naeem Sahib's daughters.