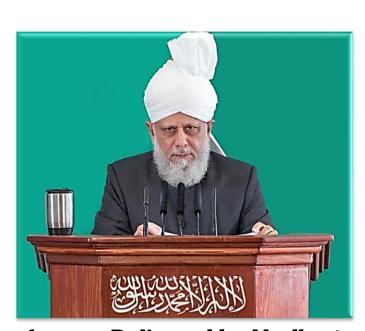
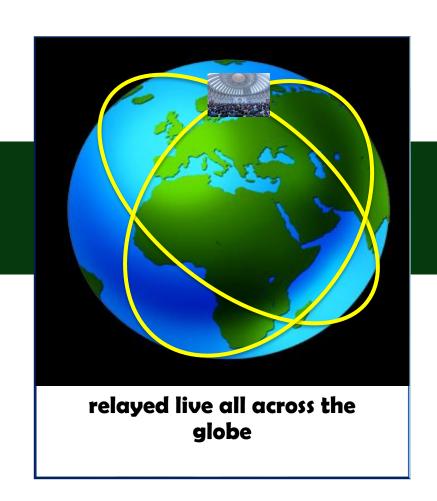
Men of Excellence



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



Summary Men of Excellence

Hazoor (aba) narrated the final accounts relating to the life of Hazrat Sa'd bin Ubadah (ra). After the demise of the Holy Prophet (sa), Ansars (the migrants) wished Hazrat Sa'd bin Ubadah (ra) to become the Khalifah, as he was the leader of his community. When Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was elected as the Khalifah, this made Hazrat Sa'd bin Ubadah (ra) hesitant and he declined to take Bai'at After the demise of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), Hazrat Umar was elected as the Khalifah and Hazrat Sa'd bin Übadah (ra) declined to take his Bai'at as well and migrated to Syria. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud (ra) has eloquently described why it is important to pledge allegiance to Khilafat, what is the status of Khilafat and what is the significance of this action of Hazrat Sa'd's?

I will narrate the final accounts relating to the life of Hazrat Sa'd bin Ubadah (ra).

Men of Excellence

After the demise of the Holy Prophet (sa), Ansars (the migrants) wished Hazrat Sa'd bin Ubadah (ra) to become the Khalifah, as he was the leader of his community.

When Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) was elected as the Khalifah, this made Hazrat Sa'd bin Ubadah (ra) hesitant. After he was elected as the Khalifa, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) sent a message to Hazrat Sa'd bin Ubadah (ra) inviting him to take Bai'at, which he declined. His community had taken the oath of allegiance, but Hazrat Sa'd bin Ubadah (ra) refused to do so. After consultation with his advisors, Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) decided to leave him alone

After the demise of Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra), Hazrat Umar was elected as the Khalifah and Hazrat Sa'd bin Ubadah (ra) declined to take his Bai'at as well and migrated to Syria.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud (ra) has eloquently described why it is important to pledge allegiance to Khilafat, what is the status of Khilafat and what is the significance of this action of Hazrat Sa'd's?

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Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud (ra) explained that perhaps Hazrat Sa'd bin Ubadah (ra) considered that he was insulted by not being elected as the Khalifah, he did not appreciate the Muslims were to elect a Khalifah by consensus, and refused to take the oath of allegiance.

Hazrat Umar (ra) stated about Hazrat Sa'd bin Ubadah (ra):

"Qatal [means to kill in Urdu] Sa'd", which also refers to severing one's ties.

However, Hazrat Umar (ra) did not kill him, nor did anyone else. Thus, one interpretation of the phrase 'Kill Sa'd', is to sever ties with him and for everyone to disassociate with him. According to some narrations, Hazrat Sa'd remained alive even after the Caliphate of Hazrat Umar (ra) and no companion lifted a finger against him..

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud (ra) says: "The status of Khilafat is such that disconnecting from Khilafat does not make one deserving of any honour."

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Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra)
explained that Hazrat Khalifatul
Masih I (ra) has expounded that
by pondering over the Quran, it
becomes crystal clear that the
first enemy was Iblis. Allah the
Almighty made Adam the Khalifah
(successor) and his enemy was
Iblis. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih I (ra)
then said: "I am also a Khalifah,
and whoever is my enemy is (a
manifestation of) Iblis."

Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) explained that the Khalifah could be a 'Mamoor', (literal meaning "the commanded one") or a 'Non-Mamoor'. Hazrat Adam was a 'Mamoor' and a Khalifah. Every Prophet is a 'Mamoor' as well as being a Khalifah (vicegerent) of God. The commandment to show obedience to Khalifa, Mamoor or Non-Mamoor, is the same.

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Indeed, there is a clear distinction in the reason why one should show obedience to both;

- 1. One must show obedience to a prophet because he is the focal point of Divine revelation and purity
 - 2. A Khalifah should be obeyed because he is appointed to implement and propagate the revelation brought by the prophet.

This obedience is unconditional and cannot be forsaken for a personal mistake of the Khalifah.

One can never turn away from the obedience that Allah the Almighty has ordained cardinal.

The role of the Khalifah is to establish unity and thus his obedience is obligatory.

Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) explained that God allows prophets to make human errors to show the difference between Divinity and Prophethood. It is the Divine Way that the Prophets do have natural human weaknesses.

These human errors serve as source for moral training of the nation, for example, there is the Sajdah Sahav. Thus, this is such a mistake which even prophets can make. All the actions of Prophets are safeguarded by Allah the Almighty.

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For the Khalifahs, all their deeds are under divine protection that are related to the progress of the community. Even if the Khalifah ever commits an error, Allah the Almighty has made it His own responsibility to rectify it..



Therefore, it is said that Allah the Almighty appoints the Khalifah Himself. However, this does not mean that the Khalifah cannot make a mistake. What this signifies is that Allah the Almighty rectifies any mistakes through the person of the Khalifah.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud (ra) explains that in any case it is necessary in all circumstances to obey the Khalifah because this is necessary for the smooth running of the system 'Siyasat [i.e. politics] of the Jamaat. Some people will immediately be startled when hearing the words 'politics of the Jamaat' and would be curious as to what this infers.

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In general terminology, we refer to 'politics' in a negative connotation. In truth the lexicons describe the word 'politics' to mean properly operating a system, to employ reason when carrying out something, to ensure a system is in place to prevent evil, to use reason and wisdom to carry out something, and to have the ability to solve international matters in the correct manner.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud (ra) uses the word 'politics' for its positive connotations here. It signifies the wisdom, understanding, intelligence, acumen and capabilities required to properly operate a system.

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Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) further says: "... one of the foremost attributes of the Khulafa is that they uphold and implement the administration. That is why, it is obligatory to take their Bai'at.

Hazrat Sa'd bin Ubadah (ra) did not take Bai'at to the Khalifah, therefore the Companions (ra) no longer held him with same esteem and honour as they previously did and they were not happy with him.

Therefore, to claim that one can maintain their rank and status without performing the Bai'at of the Khalifa and adhering to the Nizam of Islam is completely contrary to the history and the teachings of Islam.

Hazrat Sa'd (ra) bin Ubadah passed away in Syria, Sa'd (ra) was sat answering the call of nature when he was killed and died straight away. Hazrat Sa'd (ra)'s grave is located in a village called Munaiha which is situated in the southern area close to Damascus.

Funeral prayers (in absentia)

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- 1. Respected Syed Muhammad Sarwar Shah Sahib, who was a member of the Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya Qadian. He passed away on 8th January at the age of 85.
- 2. Respected Shaukat Gohar Sahiba who was the wife of Dr Latif Quraishi Sahib of Rabwah and daughter of Maulana Abdul Malik Khan Sahib. She passed away in Rabwah on 5th January at the age of 77.

Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un
[To Allah do we belong and to Him do we return].