

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/ National President  
Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

On 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ V ایده اللہ تعالیٰ delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ recited verse 7 of Sūrah *Al-Nisā'*, which is translated as follows:

“And test *the understanding* of the orphans until they attain *the age of* marriage; then, if you find in them sound judgment, deliver to them their property; and devour it not in extravagance and haste against their growing up. And whoso is rich, let him abstain; and whoso is poor, let him eat *thereof* with equity. And when you deliver to them their property, then call witnesses in their presence. And Allāh is sufficient as a Reckoner.” (4:7)

Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: In this verse Allāh has given us an important injunction in order to help us fulfil our obligations to God's creatures and to remove causes of hatred and discord. This injunction is about the care and upbringing of orphans. In this context, Allāh refers to His attribute of *Al-Ḥasīb* (the Reckoner) and warns that He shall hold us accountable if we fail to uphold these injunctions.

Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: In no other revealed book do we find such detailed teachings regarding the orphans as we do in the Holy Qur'ān. In this verse we have been given seven basic guidelines concerning orphans. (1) We should test their understanding and pay attention to their education, training and proper upbringing and welfare. (2) We should continue to monitor them until they have reached the age of maturity. (3) We should return their property to them as soon as they become capable of looking after their affairs. (4) The inheritance of the orphans should only be spent for their betterment, not for our own use. (5) Those who are well-off should not use the orphan's inheritance to meet the orphan's expenditures. (6) If a poor man is made guardian to an orphan, he may spend part of the orphan's inheritance for orphan's expenditure, but this should be done with great care. (7) When we return to the orphan his or her inheritance, this should be done in the presence of witnesses so that there is no room for suspicion or misunderstanding in future.

Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: At the end of the verse, Allāh says that He is ever-watchful over us and knows of our deepest intentions. Therefore, if you do not hold yourself accountable in these matters, then remember that on the day of reckoning you shall be made accountable for every penny.

Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: In many places, the Holy Qur'ān has exhorted us to be kind to orphans and to safeguard their inheritance. In Sūrah *Banī Isrā'īl*, Sūrah *Al-Nisā'*

Allāh exhorts us to fulfil our covenant with regard to orphans, for a covenant is a responsibility which we will be questioned about. In Sūrah Al- *Nisā'*, it says:

“And give to the orphans their property and exchange not the bad for the good, and devour not their property with your own. Surely, it is a great sin.” (4:3)

“Surely, they who devour the property of orphans unjustly, only swallow fire into their bellies, and they shall burn in a blazing fire.” (4:11)

Ḥuḍūr أيده الله تعالى said: At times orphans fall prey to inferiority complex which causes their faculties to be wasted. It is important to bring them up in a manner that makes them useful members of society. They should be treated neither too harshly nor too leniently, but we should treat them as we treat our own children. Like every child, an orphan has the right to live under the care of loving parents.

With reference to Sūrah *Al-Baqarah*, Ḥuḍūr أيده الله تعالى said: These injunctions are not only meant for orphans who have an inheritance but also for those who are poor and helpless. The Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم says: He who places a hand of affection on an orphan's head shall be deemed to have done as many virtues as the number of hair on the orphan's head which he touches. And he who is kind to an orphan under his protection shall be as close to me in paradise as this, and here the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم showed his two fingers touching one another.

Ḥuḍūr أيده الله تعالى said: By the grace of Allāh, Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya is doing a lot of work for the welfare of orphans. In Rabwah, Pakistan, we have a special committee for this purpose by the name of *Yak Ṣad Yatāmā* (100 Orphans) Scheme. Its work has expanded tremendously in the past few years and more funds are urgently required. Today I wish to appeal to Pakistani Aḥmadīs living in UK, USA, Canada and in European countries to make contributions for this scheme. If they can spare even seven to ten pounds per family member once every year, this will go a long way in helping the orphans under the *Yak Ṣad Yatāmā* Scheme in Pakistan. Those who can afford to make greater contributions are welcome to do so. I urge the well-off Aḥmadīs in Pakistan to participate in this scheme as well. May Allāh enable us to fulfil our obligations regarding this deprived section of society and be able to win His pleasure. *Āmīn*.

Please convey these guidelines given by Ḥuḍūr أيده الله تعالى to the members of your Jamā'at.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan,

Dated: 24 May. 10