

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/ National President  
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

On 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ V ایده اللہ تعالیٰ delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

After reciting verse 187 of Sūrah Al-Baqarah, which is translated as follows:

“And when My servants ask thee about Me, *say*: ‘I am near. I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me. So they should hearken to Me and believe in Me, that they may follow the right way.’” (2:187)

Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: This verse was revealed in the context of the teachings regarding Ramaḍān. To become a true servant of Allāh and to experience the acceptance of one’s prayers requires great efforts. Fasting in the month of Ramaḍān is one such effort which a believer has to make. For one’s prayers to be heard, for one to be truly guided and to become a righteous believer, one must abide by God’s injunctions and fortify one’s faith. There is no other way of achieving this goal and of being rewarded the bounties of the Hereafter. The best example in this regard is to be found in the life of the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم.

Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: Those who followed in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم and showed true love for that noble Prophet became God’s true servants. They experienced the signs of God’s nearness, tasted the fruits of their prayers and heard their answers and saw signs of God’s help and succour. The God of the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم is as living today as He ever was and will always remain so. We have to keep following the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم so as to progress in righteousness.

Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: Ramaḍān is the time for the acceptance of one’s prayers and for coming closer to God through worship and overcoming sin and transgression and fulfilling our duty towards our fellow beings. In Ramaḍān, the Holy Prophet’s صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم good deeds would multiply. For example, he was always very generous, but in Ramaḍān he would become even more so.

Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: Allāh does not burden anyone beyond his capacity and he knows the capacity of every man. Our duty is to put in our best effort and leave the rest to God. Allāh says that by virtue of following the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم, we shall be rewarded according to the best of our abilities. A great struggle is required for attaining nearness to God, a struggle that leaves one tired and exhausted. But then God comes forward and embraces such a person.

Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: Following the example of the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم, his Companions also became fervent in their worship, which is the first and

foremost step if one wishes to come closer to God. We will truly submit to God if we continue to follow the example of the Holy Prophet ﷺ in worshipping Allāh even when this Ramaḍān and its special atmosphere is over. Let us remain ever close to God through prayer and worship and good deeds. In order to attain this we have to pray that we may be purged of our sins. According to the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, this prayer requires the greatest of effort.

Ḥuḍūr ايدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: The Holy Qur'ān teaches us to keep our pledges. But we find that in today's society pledges are broken for minor reasons and this leads to the deterioration of society. What is more, people even resort to falsehood which Allāh has declared to be at par with *shirk* or idolatry. The Holy Prophet ﷺ says that fasting remains a shield as long as one does not destroy it through backbiting and falsehood. In this Ramaḍān let us examine ourselves for our weaknesses and try to overcome them. We have also been taught to fulfil our obligations to our relatives and near of kin. If we do so, there will be no family disputes. Families are broken because of people's failure to give due respect to their kin. Let us try to practice the highest of morals in this Ramaḍān so that God may visit us with His grace and we may be among those who are close to Him.

Closing the sermon, Ḥuḍūr ايدہ اللہ تعالیٰ appealed to the Jamā'at to pray for Pakistan and for Aḥmadīs living there. May Allāh keep all Aḥmadīs under His protection. *Āmīn*

Please convey these guidelines given by Ḥuḍūr ايدہ اللہ تعالیٰ to the members of your Jamā'at.

Jazākumullāh.  
Wassalām,

(Ch. Shabbir Aḥmad)  
Acting Wakīl A'lā,  
Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan,  
Dated: 19 Aug. 2010