

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/ National President  
Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya,

.....  
Dear Brother,

السَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

On 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ V ایده اللہ تعالیٰ delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

After reciting verse 256 of Sūrah Al-Baqarah, which is translated as follows:

“Allāh — there is no God but He, the Living, the Self-Subsisting and All-Sustaining. Slumber seizes Him not, nor sleep. To Him belongs whatsoever is in the heavens and whatsoever is in the earth. Who is he that will intercede with Him except by His permission? He knows what is before them and what is behind them; and they encompass nothing of His knowledge except what He pleases. His throne extends over the heavens and the earth; and the care of them burdens Him not; and He is the High, the Great.” (2:256)

Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: In this age there is a growing tendency towards worshipping saints and seeking favours by visiting their shrines. Some people believe that the dead saints can fulfil all their wishes and some even go to the extent of prostrating before their graves. Some women say their child was not given to them by God but by the blessings of such and such a saint. We, however, are fortunate for we have found the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام and he has guided us away from these superstitions and onto the right path.

Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ negated the Christian concept of salvation through Atonement and said: For a *Shafi'*, or intercessor, it is necessary that he should first establish a perfect relationship with God and absorb His favours before he can benefit mankind. One cannot be an intercessor until his relationship with God and with His creation reaches the pinnacle. In this sense, our Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم is a perfect example, for he saved the world from spiritual and physical inferno and dragged people out of sin and brought about a great transformation. He was the perfect intercessor who rid his people of idolatry and transgression and made them into a highly moral people.

Elaborating on the true philosophy of Intercession, according to the teachings of Islām, Ḥuḍūr ایده اللہ تعالیٰ said: The verse I have recited is known as the chief of all verses of the Holy Qur'ān, because it contains a very beautiful portrayal of Divine attributes. Allāh sends His blessings on those who gain awareness of His attributes and endeavour to purify

themselves, and such are the people who merit the Holy Prophet's ﷺ intercession. It is no use depending on intercession if one does not have full faith in God, does not offer prayers and pays no heed to Divine commandments. To put one's faith in saints is also a form of idolatry. In this verse, Allāh says that intercession can only work with His permission and requires much worship and prayer that is performed with utmost devotion.

Ḥuḍūr ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ said: We can only be loved by God if we follow His Messenger ﷺ. Unless we follow him, it is no use calling ourselves believers. In order to merit his intercession we must follow his example and place ourselves under the Qur'ānic injunctions. The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام says that true purpose of intercession is to cool down the passions of the self and to eradicate sin and disobedience and replace them with good deeds. In short, intercession does not negate the need for good actions—as is envisaged in the Christian doctrine of Atonement—on the contrary, it encourages virtue and righteousness.

The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام says, “Praying for someone can only be helpful if he tries to improve his condition and establishes direct communion with God. The intercession of a Prophet cannot be of use to one who does not reform himself. The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام has taught us to pray, “O Allāh, send down Your blessings upon the Intercessor ﷺ whose intercession is accepted by You and who is the saviour of mankind.

The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام says, “Now there is no Prophet and no Intercessor for mankind other than the Holy Prophet ﷺ. So do your utmost to love this glorious Prophet ﷺ.” Again he says, “Who has attained salvation? Only he who believes truly in God and in the Holy Prophet ﷺ as the intercessor between God and mankind. There is no Prophet like him under the heavens nor is there a book like the Holy Qur'ān.”

Ḥuḍūr ایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ prayed that may Allāh enable us to be among those who receive Allāh's favours and merit His blessings. *Āmīn*.

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Taḥrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan,

Dated: 12 May 2011