

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السَّلَامُ عَلَیْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللّٰهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

On 12th July 2013, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

After reciting verse 184 of surah Al-Baqarah, which is translated as follows:

O ye who believe! fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may become righteous. (2:184)

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: By the grace of Allāh we have entered a new month of Ramadān. We are grateful to Allāh for granting us another Ramadān in our lives. In this verse, Allāh stresses the importance and obligatory nature of fasting. He says that fasting was also made obligatory upon the people of the past, and it is essential for spiritual development. In this context, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited the various kinds of fasts that are practiced in other faiths, and compared them with the teaching of Islām, whereby one has to desist from all food and drink from morning till evening, solely for the sake of God. It is the beauty of Islām and the Holy Qur’ān that it not only commands us to keep fast, but also explains its objective and promises reward in return.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In the light of the Holy Qur’ān, the Promised Messiah عليه السلام exhorted us to walk the fine and subtle paths of *Taqwa*, and to understand the true spirit of fasting. He says, “It is human nature that the less one eats, the more one’s spirit is purified, and the more one’s capacity for experiencing visions increases. God desires to decrease one kind of sustenance and to increase the other. Those who fast should always be mindful that they are not required merely to go without food. On the contrary, they should remain engaged in remembrance of God so that they are estranged from their worldly desires and pleasures, and become wholly devoted to God.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In this Ramadān we should pray that Allāh may enable us to perform virtues that bring us closer to Him. Worldly riches and prestige should not be our motivation. We should pray that Allāh may purify us of all worldly contamination and this Ramadān should inspire us with the true spirit of *Taqwa*. Along with our fasting, we should also pray that God may keep us under His protection, and that we may be able to undergo pure transformation as a result of our fasting. We should praise and eulogize God in such a way that we become completely engrossed in Him. Let us distance ourselves from the frivolities of this world. Let us turn to God’s worship and fulfil our obligations to His creatures. The aim of fasting should not be to go without food, but rather to seek piety. Our fasting should save us

from all evil, open the doors to goodness, and it should be adorned with *Tahajjud* and Nawafil.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: A Ramadān that is spent for the sake of acquiring piety becomes the means of creating a harmonious society. It teaches us to make sacrifices for others. It draws our attention to the plight of the less fortunate. We have before us the example of the Holy Prophet ﷺ who in the month of Ramadān would become charitable like a strong wind. We are obligated to follow in his footsteps. The Holy Prophet ﷺ also taught the fasting believers that when they are confronted with aggression, they should desist and say, "I am fasting." In order to fulfil the objective of fasting, one has to shun quarrels, backbiting and falsehood.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that in this Ramadān we should utilize all our energy to gain nearness to God. In this month let us try to enter paradise by means of worship, purifying ourselves, and fulfilling our obligations to others. May Allāh enable us to accomplish all this in the month of Ramadān.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jama'at of the sad demise of Irfana Shakoor Sahiba wife of Dr. Abdul Shakoor Sahib; and Maliha Anjum Sahiba daughter of Naseer Ahmad Anjum Sahib, who died aged 5 years; and Maulana Abdul Karim Sharma Sahib son of Hazrat Sheikh Abdur Rahim Sharma Sahib a Companion of the Promised Messiah ﷺ.

Please convey these guidelines given by Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) to members of your Jama'at.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan,

Dated: 18 July, 2013