

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Every Aḥmadī should gain nearness to Allāh and rouse His mercy through prayers, *Sadaqah*, and *Istighfar*.

The state of the world today is inviting God’s wrath, hence *Istighfar*, *Sadaqah*, and prayers are the need of the time.

The difficulties that come about as a result of man’s own actions can be averted through *Istighfar* and penitence, provided that our repentance and giving *Sadaqah* is in keeping with God’s injunctions.

On 24th February 2017, Ḥazrat *Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V* (May Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūḥ Mosque, London.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that everyone is aware of the state of the world today and how there is chaos and turmoil everywhere. Anti-Islām elements blame Islām for this situation. It is true that some Muslim groups are committing barbaric acts in Muslim and non-Muslim countries, and these acts have nothing at all to do with Islām, but it is also true that such conditions are being deliberately created for the Muslims. Islām for the most part has been harmed by selfish Muslims or hypocrites who, for their own vested interests, become a tool of other powers. In any case, the world overall is in a chaotic state, and even we Aḥmadī Muslims become a target because of it, even though those who know us are aware that Aḥmadiyyat teaches and practises nothing other than love, peace and fraternity.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said rightist groups are gaining power in Eastern Germany, Holland and other parts of Europe, and the situation in USA is known to all. Thus Aḥmadīs are facing hardships not only as Muslims in non-Muslim countries, but also as Aḥmadīs in Muslim countries. And all this is because we accepted the one who came in accordance with God’s promise. In Pakistan the mullahs enjoy a free reign on account of the tyrannical laws, and even the courts are forced to abandon justice for fear of the mullahs. The same attitude is now being adopted by courts in Algeria where Aḥmadīs have been sent to prison on false accusations under the pressure of the mullahs. At the moment at least 16 Aḥmadīs are jail in Algeria just for the sake of Aḥmadiyyat.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: What should Aḥmadīs do in such a situation when we neither have worldly power, nor wealth, nor oil-money? There is only one thing that Aḥmadīs all over the world should do, and it is to gain Allāh’s nearness through prayers, *Sadaqah* and *Istighfar*, for these are the things that rouse God’s mercy and bring man under God’s refuge.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that man is full of shortcomings and at times we do not attend to our prayers or giving *Sadaqah* or offering *Istighfar* as we should. But if we are to invite Allāh’s blessings and rouse His mercy and to

thwart the schemes of our opponents, then we must pay full attention to these matters which will win us Allāh's pleasure and approbation. Allāh says that I accept your repentance and *Istighfar*, which means that if you do these things He will remove your difficulties and anxieties, draw you closer to Him, forgive your past sins, and enable you to become His true servants.

Regarding the importance of prayer and *Sadaqah*, the Promised Messiah (a.s) says that *Sadaqah* is derived from the word “*Sidq*” (or sincerity), because when man gives *Sadaqah* in the way of Allāh he demonstrates his sincerity to God. And prayer produces anguish and humility. And when prayer and sincerity come together, they are a potent remedy. *Istighfar* (seeking forgiveness for one's sins) is also a form of prayer, and when man prays to God keeping in mind his own shortcomings, this creates a fervour and anguish in the heart.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that when man pledges to avoid sins in future, he invites Divine mercy, and to such people Allāh has given glad tiding through the Holy Prophet ﷺ wherein He says, “Tell my servants that if they take one step towards me, I shall come forward two steps, and if they come walking, I shall come running.” The Holy Prophet ﷺ says, “God is magnanimous and gracious, so that when a person raises his hands towards Him in supplication, He hesitates to return him empty-handed.”

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said, it is possible that the results may not be as man might expect them to be, or may not transpire at that time, but God sometimes manifests them in other ways, but at times they are manifested at once. In any case, we should have firm faith that God does accept our prayers.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Remember that God knows what is in our hearts, therefore merely superficial actions are not accepted by Him. The Holy Prophet ﷺ says that Allāh does not leave any action unrewarded. The Holy Prophet ﷺ also said that if a person does not have the means to give *Sadaqah*, Allāh accepts his good deeds as *Sadaqah* on his behalf. He also said that God will accept whatever you do to avoid sins and shortcomings and save you from hardship and tribulation. In short, the only way to get out of these difficult conditions is that we submit humbly towards God. We should offer *Istighfar* and give charity both on a Jamā'at level and an individual level.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) says, “These are fearful times, there you should busy yourself in *Istighfar* and penitence and keep scrutinizing yourself. People of every religion believe that punishment can be averted through *Sadaqah*, but this is before the tribulation arrives and not afterwards. Busy yourselves in *Istighfar* so that your turn does never come.”

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The hardships we are witnessing are minor, but the way people have become heedless and are inviting God's wrath, the world seems to be going towards destruction that will be caused by man's own hands. In this age, it is the duty of those who believe in the Promised Messiah (a.s) that while they should repent and offer *Istighfar* for their own protection, they should pray generally for that world that God may bring people to their senses.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that the episode of Ḥazrat Yunus (a.s) shows us that penitence and supplication can avert even that which has been decreed. All religions and all 124,000 Prophets agree that tribulations can be averted through prayer and *Sadaqah*. The Holy Prophet ﷺ once said that man's

crying and supplication and *Sadaqah* cool down God's wrath and avert an evil death. The Holy Prophet ﷺ says, "Save yourself from fire, even if it is by giving away half a date."

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said, *Istighfar* from the bottom of one's heart protects against future sin and invites God's mercy and brings one closer to Him. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said, "For whoever of you the door of prayer is opened, for him is opened the door of mercy." Of all the things we seek from Allāh, the most cherished is seeking His refuge. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said that prayer is beneficial against tribulations that have come or are yet to come.

Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: May Allāh enable us to understand the essence of prayer, and to bow down before Him and seek His forgiveness and offer *Sadaqah* that avert all tribulations. May the prayers of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and the Promised Messiah (a.s) be accepted in our favour.

At the end of the sermon, Ḥuzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of *Sa'dah Bartawi Şāhibā* of Damascus, and led her funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 1 March 2017