

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Extracts from the Friday Sermon delivered by *Hadrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 2 November 2018 at *Baitur Rahman Mosque, Maryland, USA.*

Our Imām, *Hadrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) said:

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) has laid down some conditions of *Bai'at*. It is not enough to change one's belief; in order to become a practical Aḥmadī one has to abide by these conditions with one's full power and ability. *Bai'at* means to sell one's life to God. One who pledges *Bai'at* has to adopt humility and has to part with his self and his ego. *Bai'at* means to do everything in keeping with God's commandments. If someone does so, then God does not allow such a person to perish and protects him in every way.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: Examine your faith and your deeds and become pure like the Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) who emerged out of their ignorance, became godly people, repented of past idolatry and strove to stay away even from the subtle forms of idolatry. The true *Tauhid* that God requires of us is simply not to accept anyone to be worthy of worship except Allāh. Whether it be an idol or a man, or the sun or the moon, or one's own self and machinations. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that if anyone thinks to the contrary due to his imperfect training, he should clear his mind about it.

The second condition after *Tauhid* is to shun falsehood and other immoral activities. The Holy Qur'ān describes falsehood as a great evil and an abomination and has declared it to be equal to idolatry. Just as there is no substance in an idol, in the same way there is nothing beneath the embellishment of falsehood. One who puts his faith in falsehood ceases to put his trust in God. Thus by telling lies one loses God. If you claim to be true believers, you have to remove falsehood from within you. It does not behove a believer to resort to falsehood even in minor things. There are many cases where people resort to falsehood in settling their mutual disputes and get verdicts in their own favour. Falsehood leads to sin and transgression, and sin and transgression lead to hell. So we always need to practice introspection.

Another teaching of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) to his followers was to protect themselves from adultery. This means not even to go near things that might cause such thoughts to be born in your mind, nor to adopt ways that might lead to this sin. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) specifically reminded both children and adults to avoid the wrongful use of the TV and the internet.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: If you claim to follow me, then let not even thought of mischief or injustice enter your minds. To

deprive someone of what rightfully belongs to him is a great wrong and a sin. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We tell other people about the excellences of Islām, but if we do not ourselves practice them, then we belie ourselves. Every Aḥmadī should think deeply about this. If our actions match our teachings, then our preaching will bear good fruit. Let us not even entertain the thought of injustice, let alone act in such a way.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Worship of God is a prerequisite for becoming a believer and it is the purpose of man's creation. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: O ye people who consider yourselves to be my Jamā'at, in heaven you will be considered my Jamā'at only if you truly follow the ways of *Taqwa*. Therefore, offer five daily prayers with such awe and concentration as if you were beholding God. A religion is not a religion if it has no prayer. What is prayer? It is to present one's shortcomings and limitations before God with humility and to seek from God their alleviation. Prayer means that a person's heart remains engrossed in the fear and remembrance of God. And this is true faith.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I have said time and again that people who live far from the mosque or prayer centre should arrange to pray together at one place with others who live nearby. In this way while they will merit the reward of prayer, they will be reminded of the importance of prayer, their children will become mindful of its observance, and it will be a means of their proper upbringing. I have said again and again that if all the office-bearers of the Jamā'at and of the auxiliary organisations give their full attention to prayers at every level, the attendance can increase manifold. May Allāh enable every Aḥmadī to fulfil this obligation. This obligation will not be fulfilled by only offering the obligatory prayers, rather it also requires that we also offer *Nawafil* and *Tahajjud*.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: An Aḥmadī should constantly seek forgiveness for his sins from Allāh. Man is weak, and sometimes he commits errors even when he tries not to. *Istighfaar* is the means for avoiding the repetition of these errors in future.

Another important condition laid down by the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) is our obligation to be kind towards human beings. Do not demean anyone. Do not hold anyone as your enemy. These are the traits that should be demonstrated most of all by Aḥmadīs. Arrogance is also a great sin. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said that if someone has arrogance even as little as a grain of mustard seed, he will not enter paradise.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: In my view the best way to become purified is that one should not show any kind of arrogance or pride, neither on account of his intellect, nor his family, nor his wealth. I admonish my Jamā'at against pride. No white person has any superiority over a coloured one. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In the outside world there is a lot of discrimination against black people, and some even claim that white people have greater intellect than black people. This is a state of arrogance, and Aḥmadīs should keep away from it.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I also want to draw attention towards financial sacrifices. By the grace of Allāh, the worldwide Jamā'at is making progress in terms of making financial sacrifices. The Jamā'at has an established

financial system. After having a look at the statistics here, it seems that there is not sufficient attention being given to it. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that a poor person can ask for his *Chandah* to be reduced or wavered, but those who are earning well should ask themselves whether they are paying *Chandah* according to their correct income. If everyone was to pay according to their correct income, there would be no need to make separate appeals for building mosques and other projects. Sacrifice means to put oneself in difficulty in order to fulfil the requirements of Allāh's religion. Therefore, I remind those who do not pay chanda according to their correct incomes to start doing so, so that they can reap Allāh's blessings.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The last thing I want to speak about today is obedience. Obedience to Allāh and His Prophet (May Allah's Blessings be upon him) is stressed upon in countless places. In the Conditions of *Bai'at*, the word '*Maroof*' appears alongside obedience, and in pledges of the auxiliary organisations consists the line that "I shall abide by every *Maroof* decision of the Khalīfa of the time." Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that some people who have a negative bent of mind come up with various explanations of the word *Maroof*. This has to be discouraged. If people start to come up with their own explanation, then unity cannot be upheld. People will then start quarrelling over what *Maroof* means or does not mean. As long as true Khilāfat is in place — and by the grace of Allāh it will continue to remain — the Khalīfa will never make a decision that contradicts Allāh and His Messenger. Therefore, it is incumbent upon everyone to obey the instructions of the Khalīfa with regard to Jamā'at.

Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) says that even if the Khalīfa happens to make a wrong decision, Allāh will save the Jamā'at from its harmful effects. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This is the only way to preserve the unity of the Jamā'at, and this will lead to more and more people becoming sincere and faithful Aḥmadīs. We can only benefit from being Aḥmadīs if we follow this injunction. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: One who does not offer full obedience tarnishes the name of the Jamā'at.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed: May Allāh enable us all to fulfill the obligations that the *Bai'at* of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) lays upon us. May we remain faithfully attached to Khilāfat and accept his every *Maroof* decision and act upon it with full obedience. May Allāh enable us all to do so. *Amīn*.

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 08 November 2018