

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 Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 5th July 2019 at Messe Karlsruhe, Germany.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: One of the greatest blessings and favours of Allāh that we have received after pledging allegiance to the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) is the institution Jalsa Sālāna, which provides us the means for our spiritual, moral and intellectual growth, and enables us to attain Allāh's nearness and to progress in piety. It also helps us to purify our own hearts, thus we are able to fulfil our obligations towards others and to fulfil the purpose for which the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) started the institution of Jalsa Sālāna. On this occasion, we should strive to turn our mutual grievances and alienation into harmony and shun all frivolity. Every person participating in the Jalsa should make sure that they are making efforts to win Allāh's pleasure, to grow in piety, to demonstrate high morals, and to fulfil their obligations to one another. If not, then coming to the Jalsa is of no use. The atmosphere of the Jalsa has a positive influence, but effort is required on the part of every individual to benefit from it. We should strive to achieve all these goals so that the prayers which the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) offered for the participants of the Jalsa are accepted in our favour as well.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) has disapproved of those people who come to the Jalsa and their words and actions are not alike. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: "I do not want to gather my followers in order to show off like the other so called divines of this day do, rather the ultimate aim for which I have invited this gathering is to reform mankind."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The purpose of the Jalsa is to learn to fulfil our obligations to Allāh and towards each other. Even if there are up to 40,000 participants, it is of no use, if having pledged allegiance to the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him), we are still enamoured with the world and the love of Allāh and His Prophet does not outweigh the love of the world in our hearts and that we are not living our lives in keeping with the commandments of Allāh and His Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: A few days ago, we went through Ramadān, a month of spiritual transformation and progress in which every believer had opportunities for worship, fasting, and remembrance of Allāh. Now we are blessed with this three-day camp where, in addition to making religious and intellectual progress, we also have an atmosphere suited to worship and remembrance of Allāh. We will truly profit from this atmosphere if the love of the world becomes cold in

comparison to the love of Allāh and of His Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). We have to go back to our worldly tasks after the Jalsa, but this Jalsa will only benefit us if we give priority to our faith above all worldly endeavours. During these three days in particular, the love of the world should grow cold in our hearts.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There are also some stalls set up for the Jalsa. Those who run these stalls and visitors should attentively listen to the Jalsa proceedings and only visit the stalls during the breaks. When walking around, say *Assalam-o-Alaikum* to one another and remain engrossed in the remembrance of Allāh.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: "The reason Allāh has desired to create this Jamā'at is that the true knowledge that had disappeared from the world and the true purity and piety that is not to be found in the world today should be re-established." He further says, "Fill your hearts with the realization of Divine magnificence, and do not acknowledge God's oneness only with your tongues but also exhibit it in your practical life so that God may also bestow His grace and favour on you." On another occasion the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) said, "True righteousness means to do all kinds of good deeds and to fulfil all our obligations towards Allāh and His creatures."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: While some people excel at work for the Jamā'at, their own wives and children are unhappy with them. Others are fulfilling their domestic obligations but do not pay any attention to Allāh and his worship. I keep receiving such complaints. Some are punctual in the formal worship, but usurp the rights of others in society. Some only do good deeds to show off and forget that Allāh knows of their intentions and keeps an eye on them at all times. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: In order to be a part of my Jamā'at and to attain God's love, it is important to reform one's practical condition in every way. The Jalsa is meant to remind us of these obligations. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says, "Remember, the perfect servants of Allāh are those regarding whom He says that neither trade nor commerce makes them oblivious of the remembrance of Allāh." Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: When a person establishes a relationship of sincere love with Allāh, then Allāh does not abandon him. And he does not forget Him in any state or situation. This is what the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) expects of us. Each one of us should make efforts and pray to Allāh that we may attain such a state. When we do so, Allāh will remember us, as He says, "Remember Allāh, and He will remember you." Lucky are those whom Allāh remembers and whom He blesses abundantly because they have not forgotten Him in the midst of their worldly tasks. All the guests who have come to the Jalsa as well as the volunteers on duty should keep themselves busy in the remembrance of Allāh and thus attain His nearness.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There are many people who have been rejected by their families after they pledged *Bai'at*. Many of you who have migrated to this country have done so because you have faced persecution at the hand of the enemies of Ahmadiyyat. Despite the restrictions imposed by law and other forms of persecution, many Ahmadīs in Pakistan and other countries are steadfastly facing these difficulties, and many of you have done so as well. Having faced all this, we should make sure that our practical shortcomings do not deprive us of being among the fortunate people whom Allāh remembers. This would be a poor bargain indeed.

Therefore, pray during these days that we may not be among those with whom God is not pleased, rather that we be among those He remembers. May we establish a true relationship with Allāh and free ourselves of the darkness in our hearts. During the proceedings of the Jalsa, in the breaks, and at night, remember that we have come to attend this Jalsa of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) purely for Allāh's sake and seeking His pleasure and to attain His love. Grant us, O Lord, all the blessings associated with this Jalsa and bring about in us all the pure transformation that You desire and for which You sent the true servant of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) in this age so that we may be among his true followers.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: One of the aims of the Jalsa Sālāna described by the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) is that it will serve to enhance mutual love and introduction. While new converts will establish new bonds on account of their new identity, it is also important to strengthen old relationships. Allāh blesses abundantly those who love someone for His sake. Let us use these days to do away with all mutual resentments. Those who have grievances should extend the hand of reconciliation and create an atmosphere where, instead of burning in the fire of hatred and jealousy, we should foster love and harmony. We should always bear the words of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) in mind that a Muslim is one whose hands and tongue do not hurt another Muslim. We should see whether or not we live up to this injunction. I am sorry to have to say that some people who come to the Jalsa bring their old rivalries with them and sometimes start quarrelling, so much so that at times the police have to be called. This is contrary to the dignity of a believer. Is this the character of those who profess to be a part of the Promised Messiah's (May peace be upon him) Jamā'at? No. Whether the Jamā'at expels such people or not, they are already outside the Jamā'at in the eyes of Allāh. In the words of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him), they are not considered part of this Jamā'at in heaven. Let us deeply study our person and make sure that there is no duality in us. Such people should cleanse their hearts of malice and instead adopt forgiveness and reconciliation for the sake of Allāh.

Everyone who comes to the Jalsa is a guest, the office-bearers and volunteers should serve everyone selflessly without consideration of personal grievances. The office-bearers in particular should demonstrate a lot of patience and forbearance. The office-bearers should consider themselves to be servants, and those attending the Jalsa should see the office-bearers as the representatives of the Jamā'at. Thus the environment can be made harmonious and mutual grievances can be removed.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says, "O fortunate ones, strictly adopt with all your might the teaching that have been given to me for your salvation. Consider God to be One and without partner, and do not equate anything with Him, either in heaven or on earth. God does not forbid you the use of the worldly means, but when a person turns away from God and puts all his faith in the means, he becomes an idolater. From time immemorial, God has said that salvation cannot come about except through a pure heart. So, become pure of heart and free yourselves from your carnal passions and mutual displeasures. The ego has created many evils in man, and the worst of them is arrogance. If there was no arrogance, no one would disbelieve. Instead become meek of heart and have sympathy with mankind. You preach to them and invite them to paradise, but how can your words be effective if you think ill of them in this world that

lasts but for a few days. Fulfil God's obligations with a fearful heart, for you shall be answerable for them. Supplicate a lot in your payers so that God may draw you towards Himself and cleanse your hearts, for man is weak. One can get rid of evil only through the power of God. Until man receives such power from God, he is incapable of becoming free of sin. Islām does not mean to merely profess the *Kalimah*, rather the reality of Islām is that your souls should prostrate before the Divine threshold, and that you give priority to His commandments, in all respects, over the world."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Allāh does not forbid worldly endeavours, indeed they are essential, but Allāh forbids us to give priority to the world over the faith. The faith should always come first. Remember, behind the face of every Ahmadī is the face of Ahmadiyyat, the face of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him), and the face of Islām. It is the duty of every Ahmadī to protect all these. The responsibility is all the greater upon those whom Allāh has blessed with the opportunity to serve the faith. Always remember the words of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him), "Do not bring me a bad name after pledging allegiance to me." No one should think that these teachings are only for office-bearers and do not apply to the rest. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) has addressed everyone who has pledged allegiance at his hands, therefore there should be no contradiction between our words and deeds, otherwise our claims that we have entered into allegiance, are hollow and our participation in the Jalsa is mere ostentation.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I will now quote a prayer of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) which shows the anguish he felt for his followers. He says, "I pray, and will continue to pray as long as I live, that Allāh may cleanse the hearts of my Jamā'at, and extend the hand of His mercy towards them, and turn their hearts towards Himself. May He remove all mischief and malice from them and grant them mutual love. I am certain that this prayer will be accepted and that God will not let it be wasted."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We should pray for these prayers to be accepted in our favour and in favour of our children and our progeny till the day of judgment. Also pray for the success of the Jalsa and for protection against all kinds of mischief. It is also important to remain vigilant during these days and keep our eyes open. May Allāh save us from the evil of mischief-mongers and from the jealousy of the envious. *Amīn*.

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

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 11 July 2019