

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 27th September 2019 from Nunspeet, Holland.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: By the grace of Allāh, the National Jalsa Sālāna of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya the Netherlands is commencing today. With the blessings of Allāh, I am also able to attend this Jalsa here today. Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Netherlands has grown in numbers over the last few years. Like other countries, this Jamā'at is also progressing in keeping with its resources. There is improvement in the distribution of books and literature. New centre has been acquired and a new mosque has been built which will be inaugurated next week, *Insha'Allāh*.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Remember that the building of mosques and mission houses is beneficial only if we fulfil the objectives for which they are built. All Ahmadīs living here should look within themselves and see whether they live up to the objectives of their Bai'at to the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him). Many Ahmadīs have migrated to this country during the last few years, particularly from Pakistan where Ahmadīs do not have religious freedom and are persecuted and deprived of their rights in their own country. Because of these adverse conditions, many Ahmadīs from Pakistan have migrated to other countries as well where they can enjoy religious freedom. Ahmadīs who are leading new lives free of those restrictions should be grateful to Allāh and strive to fulfil the purpose of their pledge of Bai'at to the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him), and try to grow in term of spirituality, knowledge and moral values. We should not just be content that we are free and that there are no restrictions barring us from acting on our religion. If our actions are not in keeping with God's commandments, if we are not trying to bring about a holy transformation in ourselves, and are not expressing our love for Allāh and His Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) more than before, then of what use is such freedom? And what use is it to participate in these Jalsas? We will only truly benefit from this freedom when we do justice to our pledge of Bai'at. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) initiated the Jalsa after receiving guidance from Allāh and said that its purpose is to bring about holy transformations, to enable us to give preference to our faith over material things, to inculcate the love of Allāh and His Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) in our hearts, to grow in spirituality, morality and intellect, and to strive towards these objectives in every possible way.

Addressing the participants of the Jalsa and those who had pledged the Bai'at, the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) said: "It should be evident to all the sincere ones who have entered the Bai'at of this humble one that the purpose of this Bai'at is that the love of the world should grow cold in their hearts and the love of

their Gracious Lord and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) should become dominant, and that they should become so estranged from the world that the journey of the hereafter should not seem unpleasant to them."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This is a very clear statement that the Bai'at should not be just a verbal pledge, rather one should show true sincerity, and this can only happen when one's love for Allāh and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) exceeds every other love. This is why the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) has placed the following condition for the Bai'at:

"In everything that he does, he will abide by the Word of Allāh and the word of the Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him)."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This can only result from true love. These Jalsas are held to remind us again and again of the purpose of our Bai'at. It is not a small matter for the love of the world to grow cold and the love of Allāh and His Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) to become dominant, and it requires great effort. But, having made the pledge of Bai'at, we have to strive to achieve these objectives. We will have to make sacrifice of our worldly businesses for worship and forego our worldly engagements in order to fulfil our obligations to Allāh. We will have to turn away from everything that bars us from attaining Allāh's nearness. If our jobs and businesses are hindrance in fulfilling our obligations to Allāh, then we will have to save ourselves from such evils and remove these barriers.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The next thing the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) reminds us of is to foster love for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). He makes it clear that our love for him should exceed our love for all other human beings, because Allāh can only be known through His Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). Only by following his commandments and walking on his path can one reach God. He is the means through which prayers are accepted and one meets a successful end.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: To become the beloved of God, the only path is through obedience to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). There is no other path that leads man to God. Man's objective should be to search the One God Who has no partner. We should shun idolatry and false innovations. We should not become subservient to customs and selfish desires. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: I say again that, aside from the true path of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), man cannot succeed. If you wish to remain in my Bai'at, then you must love the one I love. Cultivate an aloofness from the world that will separate you from its lustre and glitter. Your every action should be in conformity with the commandments of Allāh and His Messenger. Surely it is not forbidden to earn the things of this world and engage in business and trade, for God commands us to do so. Even the Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) engaged in business and trade and some of them had business worth millions. They made transactions and owned properties of great value. And yet the love of Allāh and His Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) remained foremost in their minds and they were always mindful of fulfilling their obligations to Allāh and obeying the commandments of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be

upon him). Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: These days in my sermons I am speaking about the Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) and we come across countless examples of their obedience and their love for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). Their only fear was lest they should be guilty of something that would displease their beloved. This is what we too should bear in our minds. Regardless of all our worldly engagements, we should not allow them to diminish our love for Allāh and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) and should strive to obey their commandments to the best of our ability.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The reason for our gathering here for three days is to benefit from this spiritual atmosphere and undergo a practical transformation, free ourselves of ill-deeds, and remain engrossed in the remembrance of Allāh through prayers and *Istighfār*. If this is not our intent, then coming to the Jalsa is a futile exercise. Let us consider these three days to be training camp through which we can overcome any lapses in our deeds and practices.

While outlining the benefits of attending the Jalsa, the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: All brothers should come here on these dates to listen to Divine discourses and to partake in prayer. In the Jalsa we will be able to hear truth and verities that are essential for strengthening our faith and conviction. This Jalsa is not like worldly fairs where people come together and create a lot of noise and demonstrate their strength of numbers. Everyone who comes to this Jalsa, whether a man or a woman, young or old, should focus on the goal of making progress in faith and conviction and to grow in love for Allāh and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). We should not think that we have come together to make merry and to waste time in frivolous talk. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: We should only do good deeds with the aim of pleasing God, regardless of whether they merit us reward or not. This is the philosophy of true love. Allāh's love demands that we obey His injunctions without the thought of a reward in return. It is true that Allāh never leaves a good deed unrewarded, but true faith demands that we only do good because God commands us to do them and not because we will get something in return. Faith can only be perfect when considerations of reward or no reward are removed. True virtue is that which is done without the desire for a reward. The same principle should be applied in dealing with our brothers and we should treat them with kindness only because it is what Allāh commands us to do. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) commands us to fulfil our obligations to one another and to demonstrate lofty morals. Whether someone rewards us or not, Allāh will most certainly reward us. When Allāh is so kind to us, it becomes all the more important for us to seek His pleasure by following His commandments and shun all the evils that He prohibits us from.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is important to keep watch over ourselves in these countries where people indulge in all kinds of frivolities in the name of freedom. Sometimes affluence becomes a hindrance in the path of virtue. As soon as a person becomes affluent he forgets his past. Sometimes we imagine that if do not do such and such a things we will suffer a loss, but Allāh says that He alone is the true Provider. It is often seen in worldly people that they are more conscious of suffering a worldly loss than of fulfilling the obligations towards Allāh, and unfortunately some of us are among those who forsake their prayers for the sake of worldly gains. Sometimes when prayer coincides with other activities, people abandon the prayer. Sometime they join the

prayer with the next one, and at times forget to pray altogether because they choose not to leave their worldly activities. We should try to avoid such situations. If we are to fulfil our obligations as people who have pledged Bai'at to the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him), we have to observe worship as it ought to be observed.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: Righteousness is the principle of acquiring affluence. I believe that if a person is truly godly and virtuous, God blesses his progeny up to seven generations and protects them, unless some of them do deeds that deprive them of Allāh's blessings. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: Become such that God's grace and His blessings descend upon you. A long life cannot benefit a person who only wishes for the pleasures of this transitory existence, for he is not a man of God and is not His worshipper, whereas God has made His worship the ultimate objective of human existence.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: I have been sent to strengthen people's faith and to prove God's existence to them, because the spiritual status of every nation has declined and the Hereafter is only seen as a fictitious tale. Every person's actions speak out that they do not have such faith in God and the Hereafter as they have in this world and its statuses and its provisions. Tongues may utter different words, but the hearts are dominated by the love of this world. I have therefore been sent so that the age of faith should come back and the hearts should be filled with piety.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today we are bound by our Bai'at to grow in our love for Allāh and to attain firm conviction in His Oneness. Let us push aside the world and its comforts when they clash with our love for Allāh and His Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). And let us strive to bring the people of this land closer to God by first undergoing a holy transformation ourselves. People are denying the existence of God, but by fostering the love of Allāh in our own hearts we can make them aware of His existence. We should also strive to inculcate the love of Allāh and His Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) among our children and future generations. Having made the pledge of Bai'at to the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him), we have to carry his mission forward.

May Allāh enable us to do so. May the days of the Jalsa help us to raise the standards of our worship and permanently stick to them. May the love of Allāh and His Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) continue to grow in our hearts and may the desires of this world never dominate our minds. All this is not possible without Allāh's grace, and in order to attract His grace it is essential to give full attention to prayers. May Allāh enable us to do so. *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: 3 October 2019