

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 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019 from at Baitul Ata Mosque, Trie Chateaux, France, on the occasion of Jalsa Sālāna Jamā'at Ahmadiyya France.**

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: By the grace of Allāh, Jalsa Sālāna France is beginning today. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) has described this Jalsa as a purely religious gathering, hence, it should be clear to everyone that we are gathered here for our religious, intellectual and spiritual betterment. Today the world is forgetting God, moving away from religion and denying the very existence of God. Even looking at the Muslims, we find that they are Muslims in name only and are dominated by materialism. In these circumstances, if we—who proclaim to believe in the Imām of the age that was sent by God in keeping with the prophecy of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) to revive the faith, and have made a pledge to fulfil his mission—do not strive to improve our condition, then proclaiming to be in the *Bai'at* of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) is just a verbal claim without any essence, and our *Bai'at* is only a nominal pledge that we are not fulfilling, and our gathering here is like a worldly event. Thus, this should be of great concern for every Ahmadi. We have to do some serious soul searching. If we keep in mind the objectives of the Jalsa described by the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him), we will be able to fulfil the purpose of these three days and partake of the prayers that the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) offered for the participants of the Jalsa.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) describing the aims of Jalsa Sālāna said: The purpose of organizing Jalsa is that, by becoming part of this atmosphere, they may become mindful of the hereafter, inculcate the fear of God in one's heart, acquire righteousness and compassion, foster mutual love and brotherhood, and cultivate humility, meekness and truthfulness, and be prepared to serve the faith. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Therefore, this is also the aim of our gathering here. We can only be mindful of the Hereafter when we have firm faith in God and know that this is a transitory existence that will be followed by eternal life. Wise is the one who sacrifices the transient for the eternal. A believer has the fear of God in his heart and His love for God overweighs every other love. When man loves God with such passion, only then can he truly strive to follow His commandments and his every action takes the Hereafter into account. He is convinced that he has a God Who bestows on him all blessings and that if he continues

to fulfil his obligations to his Lord and remains subservient to Him, knowing Him to be the Possessor of all power, he will continue to partake of Divine blessings. He knows if he continues to lead his life in keeping with God's injunctions and prohibitions, he will inherit God's grace. The righteous are those who are humble and remain always steadfast upon the truth and know that only truth can lead to God and falsehood leads to idolatry. When one fears God and knows the reality of righteousness, then, being a believer, how can one utter falsehood?

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We need to understand the essence of what the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) expects of us, which is that we should not just adopt an outer shell but acquire the true essence and spirit. Keeping this in mind, let us reflect on ourselves as to whether or not we are attending this Jalsa with the intention of achieving these objectives. If in the past we were lax in this regard due to our human frailty, do we now make a pledge to abide by them and sustain them in the future to the best of our ability? Do we make a pledge to be more mindful of the hereafter than of this world, and to give precedence to the fear and love of Allāh above all things? Will we show exemplary motivation in serving the faith and spread the message of Allāh in our surroundings with even greater vigour and tell people about the truth of Islām? If we abide by this pledge and lead our lives accordingly, then we will indeed have fulfilled our pledge of *Bai'at*. Today let us formulate a plan to bring this about.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: One who is mindful of the hereafter and fears Allāh is first of all concerned with safeguarding his prayers and remembering the purpose of his life. Allāh says:

وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) has translated this verse as follows:

*"I have created the Jinn and the men so that they may recognize Me and worship Me."* (51:57)

According to this verse, the real purpose of man's life is to worship Allāh and to recognize Him and to become completely devoted to Him. To achieve this purpose, Allāh has taught us the way to worship Him, and it is the five-time daily prayers. Allāh says:

إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ كَانَتْ عَلَى الْمُؤْمِنِينَ كِتَابًا مَّوْقُوتًا

*"Verily prayer is enjoined on the believers to be performed at prescribed times."* (4:104)

It is important for prayers to be offered at their time, but in this day and age we find that people ignore this injunction at the smallest excuse. Not only do they not offer their prayers on time, but sometimes they don't pray altogether. Instead of the five daily prayers, they offer only three or four, whereas Allāh has commanded the believers to guard over their prayers. He says:

حِفْظُوا عَلَى الصَّلَوَاتِ وَالصَّلَاةِ الْوُسْطَى

*"Watch over Prayers, and the middle Prayer."* (2:239)

And yet many people miss their *Zuhr* and *Asr* prayers because of their jobs and businesses, or miss the *Maghrib* and *Ishā'* prayers due TV programs or personal engagements, or miss the *Fajr* prayer because of sleep. Each one of us should look within and ask whether we are abiding by God's commandments. Stressing the importance of prayer, Allāh says:

إِنَّمَا يَعْزُرُ مَسْجِدَ اللَّهِ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ

“Verily, he alone is worthy of maintaining the Mosques of Allāh who believes in Allāh, and the Last Day.” (9:18)

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said: “When you see someone frequenting the mosque, you can then testify that he is a believer.” Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Even though we all call ourselves believers, in the eyes of Allāh and His Messenger believers are those who frequent Allāh's house because they believe in the Hereafter. When one comes to the mosque with this belief and with the fear of Allāh, one will not cause mischief and discord and will not be among the worshippers whose prayers are a source of damnation and, instead of winning God's pleasure, invite His wrath. Rather, their hearts are soft and compassionate and they are humble and truthful. This is why Allāh commands us to stand in prayer only in mosques that are founded on righteousness and not on mischief. Thus, those who are established on righteousness and frequent their mosques are able to fulfil their obligations to God as well as to His creatures.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In order to draw God's blessings, we have also been taught to offer *nawāfil*. A true believer is one who not only fulfils his obligations with the fear of God and in order to receive His grace, but also offers *nawāfil* in order to make up for any lapses in the obligations. We need to scrutinize ourselves in this regard as well. A true believer tries to adopt all virtues. If a person does not have feelings of true love for his brothers, he does not have true piety. One who doesn't have compassion should worry about himself. One whose wife and children are unhappy with him is devoid of righteousness. Women who do not fulfil their obligations to their husbands and children and make unjust demands are also devoid of righteousness. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: When we raise the slogan “Love for all, hatred for none,” we should start implementing it in our homes and in our own society, so that this message can reach the world in its true sense.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) gave us the following teachings for peace and harmony in society and for fostering mutual love and fraternity. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said: “A Muslim is the brother of a Muslim; he neither hurts him nor abandons him.” “Whoever strives to fulfil the need of his brother, Allāh fulfils his needs. And whoever removes the difficulties of another Muslim, Allāh will take away one of his difficulties on the day of judgment. And whoever covers a brother's weakness, Allāh will overlook his sins on the Day of Judgment.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: During these days let us focus our attention on fulfilling our obligations to Allāh and to His creatures. In keeping with our pledge of *Bai'at*, our hearts should also be full of love and compassion for mankind at large. We should be free of selfish passions.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: One of the conditions of the *Bai'at* is that we shall entirely give up pride and vanity and pass our lives in humility and meekness. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says, “All members of my Jamā'at who have entered this Community and have established a relationship of discipleship with me should listen carefully that the purpose of all this is that they should achieve a high degree of piety and righteousness, and no wrongdoing or mischief should ever come near them. They should offer the five daily Prayers regularly with congregation, and should not lie nor hurt anyone with their words. They should not be guilty of any kind of vice and not even a thought of mischief, wrongdoing or transgression pass through their minds. In short, they must shun every kind of sin, crime, selfish passions and misconduct. They should become pure-hearted, harmless and meek servants of God. Sympathy for all humankind should be their motto. Take care that no mischievous or vicious or ill-behaved one should ever stay in your company or dwell among you; for such a one will, sooner or later, cause you to stumble. Let there be no impurity or mockery or derision in your gatherings. Walk upon the earth with pure hearts and pure natures and pure thoughts. Do not attack anyone unjustly and keep your selfish passions under control. If you take part in a religious discussion, do so with gentleness and be courteous. If anyone behaves ignorantly, say “Peace” and withdraw from such company. God desires that you should become a community that sets an example of virtue and righteousness for the whole world. You will be known by your regular attendance at Prayer and by your high moral values.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: May Allāh enable us all to fulfill our pledge of *Bai'at* to the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him). May we live up to his teachings and his expectations and derive the full benefit from this Jalsa. May we strive for the good of this world and the hereafter and may these virtues remain with us forever. *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: 10 October 2019