

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadīyya,

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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 10th April 2020 from Mubarak Mosque Islāmabad, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The coronavirus pandemic has caused a great deal of anxiety and worry among people. People are worried about their loved ones who are ill, and some Ahmadīs have also been affected by the virus. In short, the world is facing a lot of anxiety and uncertainty. One of our missionaries wrote and expressed wonder at what is happening. The truth is that no one really knows what is happening. However, Allāh had already foretold about the current age in the Holy Qur’ān as follows:

وَقَالَ الْإِنْسَانُ مَا لَهَا

“And man says, ‘What is the matter with her?’” [99:4]

In 1920, a century ago, Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau‘ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) explained that the world has always been visited by epidemics and pestilences, but in this age the floodgates of calamities have opened up.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I have been saying for many years that ever since the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) came and warned the world about of heavenly calamities, the instances of storms, earthquakes and pestilences has increased manifold. These calamities are generally a warning that people need to fulfil their obligations to their Creator and to their fellow human beings. In these circumstances we, therefore, need to prostrate before Allāh and also warn the world.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Whenever diseases or pestilences or storms visit the earth, they naturally affect everyone. It is wrong to say that Divine Jamā‘ats are completely immune to them, for this is against Divine wisdom. However, a believer goes through such tribulations prostrating before Allāh and seeking His mercy and blessings. Some people say that this pandemic is a sign from Allāh and that they don’t need to take any precautions. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We do not know whether or not this is specifically a sign, but to compare it to the plague that occurred in the time of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) or to imply that Ahmadīs who have succumbed to this virus were weak of faith is completely wrong and no one has the right to say such a thing. The Plague came as a sign for the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) and he had published specific announcements regarding it. Therefore, that Plague was a different thing altogether. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) also announced through newspapers that he prayed for his followers to be saved from the Plague, but when a Divine chastisement visits the earth, the righteous are also impacted by it, and that in the end all will be judged according to their deeds. The wars that were fought in the time of the Holy

Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him) and after him under the Khulafā-e-Rashidīn were a sign for the truth of Islām, and yet some Muslims were killed in every war. And all those who were killed were called martyrs. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) said: Similarly, the Plague is a sign of my truth and it is quite possible that some of us may be martyred in the course of it.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: Fulfil your obligations to Allāh and keep your heart and mind pure, and then fulfil your obligations to Allāh’s creatures. Have true faith in Allāh and pray to Him fervently. Not a day should pass when you have not prayed and supplicated before Allāh. Then do whatever physically needs to be done. That is to say, take all the necessary precautions. If one of you falls ill due to the plague, show compassion and sympathy to his family and help them in every way and leave no stone unturned in seeking a treatment. Remember, that to care for the patient does not mean exposing oneself to his noxious breath or clothes. It is always important to protect oneself.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is important to observe all the precautions such as wearing masks and avoiding visiting people’s homes. Help people while taking all precautions and avoid unnecessary risks. Do not put yourself in harm’s way.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that anyone who dies of this pestilence—God forbid—will be considered a *shaheed* (martyr) and it is not necessary for his body to be washed. Such a person can be buried in his own clothes. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: These days the government permits the washing of the body and covering it with a shroud, but in the time of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) the circumstances did not allow even for this. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) also instructed that we keep our houses and our clothes clean, and also keep the drains clean. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) said that, above all else, we need to cleanse our hearts and make amends with God.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There are many people in the world, including Ahmadīs, who do not have all the provisions necessary to protect themselves. Some do not have access to medical care or even to food. May Allāh have mercy on them and on all of us. As a Jamā‘at we try to provide help to everyone, and even to non-Ahmadīs, and we do so selflessly and without any ulterior motives. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I stress that we need to concentrate on prayers and more prayers. May Allāh protect every Ahmadī and the Jamā‘at as a whole. May Allāh also enable me to pray for you and enable all of you to offer prayers that find acceptance with Allāh.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Ahmadīs who run businesses should not try to make unnecessary profits at this time. They should try to sell essential commodities such as food with the minimum profit. This is the service to humanity that the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) teaches us. These are the days of fulfilling our obligations to Allāh’s creatures and to find nearness to Allāh.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā‘at about the sad demise of a devoted worker of the Jamā‘at Nasir Ahmad Saeed Sahib who passed away on 5th April 2020. In 1973 he was appointed in Nazārat Umūr ’Āma as a member of the Hifāzat Khās. After the migration of Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul Masih IV (May Allāh shower His mercy upon him) to London, Nasir Saeed Sahib was also transferred to UK in 1985. He officially retired in October 2010 but continued to fulfil his duties.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Nasir Saeed Sahib had many excellent qualities. He was honest and upright in the performance of his duties. He was very kind towards his family and friends and tried to quietly help those in need. He was totally obedient to Khilāfat and his whole life revolved around Khilāfat. He always arrived on duty ahead of time. If a message was given through him that required secrecy, he would always keep it to himself and taught his colleagues to do the same. He was free from worldly interests and service of the faith was his only mission. He always desired to die while serving Khilāfat and his desire was fulfilled. Nasir Saeed Sahib was very caring towards his guests and was respectful towards old and young. He respected his seniors, never uttered a word of complaint and followed all directions given to him. He always won the hearts of those he met.

One of his outstanding qualities was respecting the guests, and this was most evident during the days of the Jalsa. He was very soft-spoken and was always alert on his duty. He would fulfil his responsibilities with total commitment and dedication. A colleague once asked what advice he could give him considering that he had served with three Khulafā' over a span of 48 years. Nasir Saeed Sahib said to him, "Keep your eyes and ears open, and your mouth closed, and always keep praying." Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: This advice applies to every life-devotee and every worker and office-bearer of the Jamā'at.

May Allāh have mercy on the deceased and raise his spiritual status. May Allāh grant health and patience to his wife, and may his son and future progeny forever remain connected with the Jamā'at and Khilāfat.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: I knew Nasir Saeed Sahib from the time that he came to serve the Jamā'at and there is no doubt that he was selfless and devoted in his service. He has passed away in the current circumstances where not many people could participate in his funeral. He was suffering a heart condition for some time. He recently had a severe heart attack and was then also affected by the virus. He passed away after remaining in hospital for a few days. Since his body could not be brought here due to the current restrictions, I will lead his funeral prayer in absentia later some time. In this respect he can be counted among the martyrs as described by the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him). May Allāh have mercy on him and on other Ahmadīs who have died because of this disease. *Amīn.*

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Ahmadīyya Pakistan.

Dated: 15 April 2020