

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 7th October 2022 at *Baitul- Ikrām Mosque Allen, Texas, USA*

After reciting verses 30-32 of *Ṣūrah Al-A‘rāf*, which are translated as follows:

“Say, ‘My Lord has enjoined justice. And fix your attention aright at every time and place of worship, and call upon Him, making yourselves sincere towards Him in religion. As He brought you into being, so shall you return.’ Some has He guided, and as for others error has become their desert. They have taken evil ones for friends to the exclusion of Allāh, and they think that they are rightly guided. O children of Adam! look to your adornment at every time and place of worship, and eat and drink but exceed not the bounds; surely, He does not love those who exceed the bounds.” (7:30-32)

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The construction of this mosque was completed some time ago but today we are holding its formal inauguration. We pray for all those who took part in the building of this mosque that they may be able to meet the obligations that it places on them. I hope that this mosque has been built to win the pleasure of Allāh, which can only be achieved when we follow His commandments and fulfil our obligations to Him and to His creatures.

We should always remember that pledging *Bai‘at* to the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) places a great responsibility on us. It is among our duties to keep this mosque full of worshippers, to live together in love and harmony, and to promote tolerance and brotherhood. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) has said that you should build a mosque wherever you want Islām to be introduced. Thus, with the opening of this mosque, Islām will be introduced in this area and new avenues of propagation of Islām will be opened, and, at the same time, every Aḥmadī will have to become an example of Islāmic teaching and values.

In the verses that I have recited, Allāh has outlined the responsibilities of those who are associated with mosques. First, He says that justice should be established. Those who come to the mosques should fulfil their obligations towards their fellow human beings, and the first and foremost aspect of this is to uphold justice. If a person is not kind to his wife and children at home, then his communal work and worship will be of no use. No one should be proud of the fact that they are devout worshippers or that they take part in the *Jamā‘at*’s activities. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) said that those who do not fulfil the rights of their fellow beings do not fulfil the rights of Allāh.

Allāh goes on to say that if you do not follow His commandments, if you do not try to transform yourself sincerely for His sake, then satan will become dominant over you. This point requires great attention in today’s materialistic environment. The Muslims started to decline when they turned their backs on justice and when the worship of Allāh became a mere ritual. They emphasised the outward appearance of their mosques while forgetting the true spirit of worship. In Pakistan nowadays, efforts are being made to demolish Aḥmadiyya mosques and to bring down their minarets and arches.

In a *ḥadīth* narrated by Hazrat ‘Alī (May Allāh be pleased with him), the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s blessings be upon him) says,

'A time will come when nothing of Islām but only its name will remain, and only the written form of Qurān will remain. Their mosques will be full of worshipers but devoid of guidance, their clerics will be the worst creature under the sky, every mischief will originate from them and return to them.' (Mishkātul- Maṣābīh)

This is what we are seeing today. These people are full of nothing but mischief. Their condition should serve as a lesson for us on how we should fulfil our obligations towards mosques and towards Allāh's creatures.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is now upon us to restore Islām to its lost glory. We must tell those who despise Islām and Muslims that the survival of the world rests on the teachings of Islām. We must accomplish the task of guiding the world with full confidence while following the commands of Allāh because we are the followers of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) who has been sent to resuscitate the world and to spread the teachings of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). Salvation lies alone in following these teachings. If we go to the Hereafter empty-handed, we will have to face the displeasure of Allāh and only He knows what He will do to us.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We should remember that when we convey these teachings to the world, our own word and conduct should also conform to the teachings. The standards of our worship and of our service to our fellow creatures should be very high. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says; Today Islām is not what it was meant to be. The loftier morals have degenerated, and loyalty and love for Allāh have been lost. Allāh has, therefore, willed to give this religion a new life.

We are linked with the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) in an endeavour to uphold Islām under these circumstances. Unfortunately, the Muslims themselves are somewhat responsible for the way non-Muslims and enemies of Islām attack and despise this great religion. If they had not become corrupted, the enemy would never have dared to say such things. Today, it is up to us Aḥmadīs to show complete faith and loyalty to Allāh.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that now is the age in which hypocrisy, egotism, arrogance, etc., have become rampant, while the loftier morals have disappeared. *Tawakkul* (trust in Allāh) and *Tadbīr* (striving towards Him) have become non-existent. Allāh now wishes for these qualities to be revived. Allāh does not allow the efforts of His servants go in vain. It is now His will that virtue should progress, and evil should come to an end. It is up to us to examine whether we are doing our best to fulfil the mission of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) by adopting righteousness and attaining the highest standards of worship. If we are not making efforts to receive the blessings of Allāh that come from worship, then our efforts are in vain. It is necessary to look deeply within ourselves, seek Allāh's forgiveness, and constantly act in accordance with His will. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that sincerity is the precondition for actions and is the hallmark of *Abdāl* (saints). Remember, when a person becomes Allāh's, Allāh becomes his. This is the principle we need to adopt.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Those who abandon the true and natural purpose of their life and think that it is enough to eat and drink and sleep like animals, such people become estranged from Allāh. The responsible life is one in which one makes the worship of Allāh one's ultimate purpose and desire. No one knows when death might knock at the door. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) asks us to remember that worship is our purpose, and that the world should not be our sole objective. Islām does not allow us to abandon our means of material subsistence or to leave our wives and children. Islām does not teach celibacy. Its purpose is that the will of Allāh should be our objective in everything we do. This is a point to ponder very seriously. Do not forget the purpose of your life. If we forget these teachings then our *Bai'at* will be of no avail.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In today's world, excuses are given for not being able to offer the five daily prayers. Such excuses are a transgression, and they lead away from Allāh. With such thinking, our claims to be an Aḥmadī Muslim will be mere verbal claims devoid of any practical significance. A true believer gives his faith priority over the world and Allāh opens the doors of sustenance for him. Those who do not do so are consumed by the fire of worldly desires that is never satiated. Allāh's mosques are inhabited by those who believe in Him and in the Hereafter and eagerly look forward to the next prayer. It is thus that mosques are populated, and this is the proper means for the upbringing of our children and for protecting ourselves from negative influences.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: More avenues of propagation of Islām will open with the inauguration of this mosque. You must make full use of these opportunities and invite people to Islām to populate this mosque. As the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says, where a mosque is built, the foundation is laid for the spreading of Islām. Now that the mosque has been built, let us strive to fill it with true worshippers. Mosques are not populated by the mere presence of people but by the presence of those who pray sincerely and faithfully.

At the end of the Friday sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: May Allāh enable those who have built this mosque to populate it in the true sense and thus adorn their lives in this world and the hereafter. *Āmīn*.

Jazākumullāh
Wassalām,

Akhlaq Aḥmad Anjum
Office Incharge Additional Wakalat Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
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