The Amīr/National President Jamāʿat Ahmadiyya,

Dear Brother,

السلام عليكم ورحمة اللهوير كاته

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Hadrat Khalīfatul-Masīh* V (May Allāh be his Helper) on 14th October 2022 at Baitul Rahman Mosque, Silver Spring, Maryland, USA.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is a great favour of Allāh that He has enabled you to move to this developed country. Due to the severe persecution in Pakistan, these developed countries have allowed many oppressed Pakistani Ahmadīs to live here, and you should be grateful to these governments. However, the greatest blessing of Allah is that He has allowed us to accept the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), the true servant of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). We cannot thank Allāh enough for this. We can show our true gratitude by following His commandments and by striving to fulfil our obligations to Him and to His creation. Only then would it be possible for us to live up to our Bai'at to the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him). To become true Muslims, we will have to look towards the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) and adapt our lives to his teachings.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: Think for yourself and decide in your heart that you have pledged Bai'at at my hand and have accepted me as the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) and as the *Hakam* (Arbiter) and 'Adal (Judge). Now, if you still feel hurt or bitter about any of my decisions or actions, then you should worry about your faith, for one who has accepted me and still criticizes me is indeed unfortunate, for he has turned blind after seeing.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) and the Messenger of God before him gave us the good news of Khilāfat after the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him). When pledging the Bai'at, every Aḥmadī vows to remain devoted to and obey Khilāfat Aḥmadiyya. It is thus the duty of every Aḥmadī to fulfil the pledge of allegiance to Khilafat, otherwise the Bai'at is incomplete.

Drawing attention to the careful study of the Holy Qur'an, the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: I repeatedly advise those who associate themselves with me that God has established this movement to reveal the truth. I want the excellences of Islam to be revealed to the world through the practical manifestation of the truth, and this is what God has raised me for. Therefore, read the Holy Qur'ān regularly, and do not read it as a story, rather read it as a philosophy.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: The truth is that today you have drawn closer to the fountain that God has created for eternal life. However, you are still to drink from it, therefore, seek the grace and blessings of God that He may satiate you, for nothing can happen other than through God. I know for a fact that whoever drinks from this fountain will not perish because this is the water that brings life. The way to be satiated by this fountain is to fulfil the two obligations that are: your obligations towards God and your obligations towards the creation.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: When a person fulfils his obligations to the creation, as God enjoins us to do, he becomes a true believer and does justice to his Bai'at. The

Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says to his Jamā'at: It is of no use if you continue to live like worldly people. Repentance at my hand requires a death so that you may receive a new life. If you do not gain spiritual life, then this Bai'at is useless. Through my Bai'at, God desires that you accept me with a true and pure heart. When someone accepts me with a true heart and repents of his sins, God forgives him and he becomes as pure as a child that has come out of its mother's womb. Even if there is just one righteous man in a village, Allāh protects the whole village for his sake. He somehow saves His servants from any harm because it is His practice that if there is even one righteous person present, the others are saved on his account. Allāh listens to the prayers of His holy servants and accepts their good deeds.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Our worship should be purely for the sake of Allāh, and our actions should be purely to gain His pleasure. Seeing the situation of the world today, we find that the clouds of destruction are gathering and that this destruction could spell the end of the world. Those who have migrated here should not think that they are safe. When the leaders of great powers lose their heads, they do not care about the consequences of their actions. Aḥmadīs must make use of prayer because the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that Allāh saves others on account of the righteous ones.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that good deeds are those that are performed beforehand, for if you do them after calamity strikes, they are of no avail. Everyone cries when a boat is sinking but it is of no avail because it is natural for people to cry at that time. Supplications only benefit in times of peace. This is the secret to finding God, that a person should wake up beforehand as if lightning is about to strike him. He who cries out when he sees the lightning is not afraid of God but of the lightning.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today it is only the faith of the Aḥmadīs and their prayers and their connection with Allāh that can save the world from annihilation. Cultivate compassion for the people of the world and pray for them. If we do not pay attention to the rights of Allāh and the rights of the creation, then this world can turn into desolation. Every Aḥmadī should fulfil his duties bearing this in mind. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: When you work hard to prepare the field, you can hope for the harvest. The days of peace are for hard work. If you remember God now, you will reap the benefits. If you pray now, the Merciful God will bless you. Pray while standing and bowing and prostrating that God may take away this calamity and save us. He who prays is never deprived. It is not possible for one who prays to be destroyed. If this were not so, God would never be recognized. Therefore, cultivate true sincerity in yourselves.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that it is a different thing if a person has openly left the religion of Islām and is insolent; however, in cases where there is laxity, forgiveness should be practised and relationships should not be severed. In other words, if someone does not oppose Islām, then you should have good relations with him, but if he is openly disrespectful towards Islām and the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), then you should uphold the honour of your religion. Likewise, every Aḥmadī should also be mindful of the honour of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) and not be friends with those who are wilfully insolent towards him. Such an attitude is and should be intolerable for an Aḥmadī.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: Mutual love and brotherhood should be the hallmark of Aḥmadīs. Our Jamā'at will not flourish until our members show true compassion to one another. Love the weak with all your might. It is wrong that If someone knows about a

fault of another, and treats him with hatred and revulsion instead of kindness. A Jamā'at becomes a Jamā'at when people cover each other's faults and treat one another like brothers. The Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) loved each other and became a Jamā'at.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) wants us, too, to become brothers like the Companions. He said: I very much hope from God that the same kind of love and brotherhood will be born here. To care for the feelings of others is a high moral attribute. If this comes about, then we can fulfil the expectations of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) and inherit the rewards that Allāh has promised to him.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that you are like brothers even though you have different fathers because you all have one spiritual father and you are all branches of the same tree.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Regardless of which country we belong to, by joining the Aḥmadiyya Jamā'at, we have become the children of one spiritual father and no one has any superiority over another.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says that Allāh wants to make this an exemplary Jamā'at. Can this come about by mere superficial talk and without any deep process? This requires a great jihad and great effort, which we must undertake. While raising the standards of our worship and improving our moral condition and establishing love and brotherhood among ourselves, we should reflect on whether we are becoming that exemplary Jamā'at.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: Allāh loves the righteous. Remember the greatness of Allāh and fear Him. Remember that everyone is God's creation, therefore, do not oppress anyone nor look down upon them. One evil person can corrupt many others. The great values and morals come about with righteousness (Taqwa).

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The members of our Jamā'at are associated with one who has been sent by God; hence, our greatest concern should be whether we have developed piety and righteousness. If we are to do justice to our Bai'at and be grateful to Allāh for His favours, then we need to self-reflect at all times.

May Allāh enable us to mould our lives according to the desire of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), may we be the ones who give preference to faith over worldly matters, may we become those who fear Allāh, may we become true believers in ..., $\tilde{\chi}$, and may we be counted among the Jamā'at whose glad tiding was given by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him). *Amīn*.

Jazākumullāh. Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr ISLĀMABAD (UK) Dated: 20 October 2022