

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya,

Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 12th May 2023 at *Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād*, Tilford, UK.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) recited following verse of the Holy Qur’ān:

فَبِمَا رَحْمَةٍ مِّنَ اللّٰهِ لِنْتَ لَهُمْ ؕ وَلَوْ كُنْتَ فَظًّا غَلِيظَ الْقَلْبِ لَانْفَضُّوا مِنْ حَوْلِكَ ؕ فَاعْفُ عَنْهُمْ وَاسْتَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ وَشَاوِرْهُمْ فِي الْاَمْرِ فَاِذَا عَزَمْتَ

فَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللّٰهِ ۗ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُتَوَكِّلِيْنَ

“And it is by the great mercy of Allāh that thou art kind towards them, and if thou hadst been rough and hard-hearted, they would surely have dispersed from around thee. So pardon them and ask forgiveness for them, and consult them in matters of administration; and when thou art determined, then put thy trust in Allāh. Surely, Allāh loves those who put their trust in Him.” (3:160)

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: These days, *Majālis Shūrā* are being held in different countries. I have previously emphasized the significance of *Shūrā* and the responsibilities of the members. But it is appropriate to revisit this topic in light of Allāh's commandments, the Holy Prophet's example, and the traditions and practices of the Jamā‘at. Members in countries where *Shūrā* has already been held can also benefit from these instructions since their responsibilities begin only after the *Khalīfa* has approved the recommendations. Every *Shūrā* member has to implement and embody these recommendations.

The verse I have recited affirms that by the grace of Allāh, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) had a very soft heart for his people. It also emphasizes that those entrusted with carrying forward the work of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and fulfilling the mission of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), should do so with love and kindness. Allāh commands forgiveness, penitence, and consultation, and warns that those who show harshness or anger will estrange themselves from God and others. *Majlis Shūrā*, as the name suggests, is a council for consultation, not a council of decision-making. Thus Allāh admonishes the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) that once you have made a decision after the consultations then act upon it and put your trust in Allāh.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) serves as the ultimate example of having trust in Allāh. While he received direct guidance from Allāh in many matters, he would seek advice from others in situations where there was no clear Divine instruction. This action, along with Allāh's command, highlights the importance of mutual consultation and teaches how office-bearers of the Jamā‘at should behave towards the members. The Aḥmadīyya Jamā‘at has been blessed with the blessing of *Khilāfat* from Allāh, and the *Khalīfa* seeks advice from Jamā‘ats all over the world according to their unique situations. It is important to note that if Allāh had so willed, He would have guided the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) in every matter; however, by commanding him to seek advice in some matters, He intended to guide us on the right path and to promote unity through mutual consultation. The establishment of the *Shūrā* system within the Aḥmadīyya Jamā‘at is a

special favour from Allāh, and every member should be grateful for the means of growth and guidance that it provides.

There were generally three ways in which the Holy Prophet used to seek advice, and these were continued by his *Khulafā* and by the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) as well. The first was that when a matter required consultation, people were told to gather, and the decision would be made by the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) based on the opinions or advice given. The second was that only those whom the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) considered eligible for consultation would be invited, and their advice would be sought. The third was that when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) thought that even two people should not be consulted together, he would call them separately and seek their advice. Ḥaḍrat *Abu Hurairah* (May Allāh be pleased with him) said that he did not know of anyone who sought advice from his companions more than the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). All this shows that if the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) who received direct guidance from Allāh considered it necessary to consult others, it is all the more important for us to do so.

During the Battle of *Badr*, when the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) consulted the *Ṣahāba*, they not only gave him counsel rather they sacrificed their lives in acting upon his decision in the battle. The members of our *Shūrā* should also be ready to make any sacrifice necessary to implement the recommendations after they have been approved. As members of *Majlis Shūrā*, it is essential to remember that any advice given should be rooted in good intentions and the highest standards of piety. If the members present their opinion while seeking the help of Allāh and praying, and keep the interests of the Jamā'at foremost, they will be deserving of Allāh's blessings.

The *Khalīfa* expects that when people have appointed the members as their representatives in accordance with Allāh's command, these members should fulfil their responsibilities accordingly. If they fail to fulfil their responsibilities, they not only undermine the trust of the members of the Jamā'at but also betray the trust of the *Khalīfa*.

The role of representation in the *Shūrā* is for the whole year during which the members are expected to cooperate with the administration, act upon the decisions made, and encourage others to do the same. They should ensure that the Jamā'at is operating in accordance with the decisions of the *Khalīfa*. Sometimes the decisions of the *Shūrā* may be neglected due to the laxity of office-bearers, which can undermine the trust of the members. In such a situation, the members of the *Shūrā* should bring the matter to the attention of the relevant office-bearers and the *Markaz*. Some members only inform the *Markaz* when they have a dispute with an official, which is not appropriate.

Some Jamā'ats, after a year or two send same proposals to me for approval, this implies that these proposals were not implemented properly. Such Jamā'ats and office-bearers need to reflect on whether this is consistent with true righteousness (*Taqwa*), fulfilling their duties, obeying the *Khalīfa* and honouring their commitments.

Moreover, it is not appropriate for the National Jamā'at to send such proposals with the recommendation that they should not be presented in the *Shūrā* as they had already been presented a few years ago. Instead, the National Jamā'at should express its regret in writing that they were unable to implement the proposals in the past and make a pledge that they will be acted upon this year, and that failing to act on them will make them guilty and liable to be included among those who are not fulfilling their duties. They must seek forgiveness and then request that the specific proposals may not be presented this year. This will, at the very least,

make the administration and representatives aware of their responsibility in failing to honour the *Khalīfa's* trust.

Along with this general accountability, members of the *Shūrā* and office-bearers should also hold themselves accountable individually, seek forgiveness, and identify reasons for not being able to implement the decisions. Only then can we steer the Jamā'at on the right path.

The purpose of holding *Shūrā* is twofold: firstly, to devise plans to improve our practical lives spiritually, and secondly, to spread the message of Allāh and gather the world under the banner of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) in a way that brings about a true revolution. In order to carry out these tasks, funds are also necessary, and so it is important that we strive to obtain maximum benefit with minimum expenses. This can only happen when we fulfil our duties and tread upon the path of *Taqwā*, and realize that it is Allāh's favour upon us that He has given us the opportunity to serve.

In accordance with the guidance of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) emphasized on the importance of fulfilling our responsibilities while striving for piety.

At the end of his sermon Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) prayed that may Allāh, out of His mercy, continue to forgive our mistakes, shortcomings, and weaknesses, and shower upon us His blessings. *Āmīn*.

Jazākumullāh

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 16 May 2023