

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥadrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 28th July 2023 at *Ḥadīqatul Mahdī*, Hampshire, UK .

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: By the grace of Allāh the annual Jalsa of Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya UK is beginning today. This gathering has been taking place in the presence of Khilāfat for almost four decades. In the beginning, extensive training was needed due to the arrangements required. *Ḥadrat Khalīfatul Masīḥ IV* (May Allāh shower His mercy upon him) personally provided guidance and instructions and even invited members from Rabwah for assistance. The late *Chaudhry Hamīdullah Ṣāhib* was among them and played a significant role.

The first proper Jalsa that took place in the UK in the presence of Khilāfat was in 1985 and was attended by five thousand people. The organisers at that time were understandably concerned about how to manage such a large gathering. However, the situation has changed since then. Even the *Ijtimā‘āt* of the auxiliary organisations now have much higher attendance, and the organisers are able to handle the arrangements quite efficiently. The UK Jamā‘at has gained considerable experience over the years. Now that the full Jalsa is being held after a gap of three to four years, the organisers are understandably a lot concerned about how to take proper care of an expected attendance of over forty thousand. Nevertheless, I have faith that by the grace of Allāh, the workers here will be able to manage all the arrangements proficiently. It's worth noting that even those who were born and brought up here have grown to maturity and are at an age where they can handle responsibilities efficiently.

Last Sunday, I inspected the progress of the work, and by the grace of Allāh, I found the volunteers in every department diligent and experienced. Allāh will always keep worries away from us, as long as we remain open to His blessings. Our achievements are not a result of our own wisdom or experience, but rather are solely due to His grace. In a previous sermon, I mentioned that workers and supervisors should be diligent in carrying out their duties while also exhibiting high morals and observing prayers. It's important to remember that, in addition to their duties, they should also prioritize their prayers and strive for personal purification.

I would also like to point out a few things for the guests who have come to attend the Jalsa. First and foremost, all participants should remember that this gathering is not a worldly festival. Our objective in attending this Jalsa is to improve ourselves spiritually, morally, and to develop love for Allāh and His Messenger. When we focus on these aspects, we won't be concerned about minor shortcomings in the arrangements.

Every attendee should make sure that, instead of wandering here and there, they should actively participate in the proceedings of jalsa and listen to them attentively. During break times, consider visiting the bookstalls to enhance your knowledge of religion and history, instead of wandering around.

It's understandable that with such a large and temporary setup, there may be some hiccups along the way. For instance, the food arrangements may not be perfect and there could be some other issues. If this happens, it's important to accept the apologies of the organisers and move on. If the bread is a bit undercooked or burnt, it could still be eaten. Additionally, there may be complaints about traffic management, but it's important for everyone to cooperate with the organisers.

Displaying excellent manners, showing kindness, greeting each other with a smile, and making sacrifices are not only the responsibilities of the workers but also of the guests. Without good morals, nothing is of any use. I previously referred to a *Ḥadīth* that smiling is also a part of the faith and an act of charity.

I will now present some of the instructions that the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) gave to those attending the Jalsa. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) said that one cannot be a true believer unless one has compassion in one's heart, consider oneself lesser than others, and eliminate all kinds of discord. Being gentle and humble with the poor is a Divine attribute. Responding to evil with goodness is the mark of true felicity, and suppressing anger and bitterness is the mark of great courage.

By prioritizing others over ourselves, we can gradually develop habits that lead to a more compassionate and humble society. It may require great effort, but it is a crucial step towards building a pure community. The advice of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) is both profound and beautiful. He said that if someone speaks harshly to you and you respond in the same manner, your state is pitiable. What you should instead do is pray for him. Such is the pure society that Islām seeks to establish.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: As followers of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), we should strive to embody the type of character he wishes to see in us. It's important to remember that these teachings are not solely for the benefit of others, but also for our own personal growth and improvement. One area that we should focus on is eliminating any sense of arrogance within ourselves. This applies equally to both hosts and guests and is crucial for creating an atmosphere of harmony. We must learn to overlook each other's shortcomings. Violence and aggression have no place at the Jalsa, and individuals who are unable to control themselves should consider staying away.

There are often complaints with regard to traffic. Everyone needs to cooperate with those on traffic duty. If you are asked to park at some other spot, you should comply. To avoid this, you should try to arrive on time. The duty officials should explain matters politely. May this year's event unfold flawlessly and without any mishaps. May Allāh grant the guests the ability not to involve any staff member in any difficulty, and instead to help boost the morale of the workers.

As we gather together during these special days, let us not just focus on the outward expressions of love and affection. Let us also cultivate a deeper sense of empathy and compassion towards one another, as this truly makes a harmonious society. The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) has always taught us the importance of having a pure and righteous mindset, especially during these times. Let us all strive to remember this and take it to heart.

It is not always possible to meet all the demands of every guest. Two days ago, a family arrived who had informed the organisers well in advance, but due to some misunderstanding, accommodation could not be arranged for them. Therefore, they went to stay with some friends which was not ideal for them. However, they were remarkably cooperative, and they didn't bring up their inconvenience until I inquired about it. There are people who I imagine would not be able to live in collective accommodation, and yet they are able to adjust to it. If participants spend these days for the sake of Allāh and bear such inconveniences happily, Allāh will reward them in other ways.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) has taught a beautiful principle that could lead to a society based on peace and security. To create an atmosphere of peace and safety in society, one should feed the needy and offer greetings of peace to everyone, whether you know them or not. The world is plagued by discord, and much of it stems from the fact that the poor are becoming poorer. There are millions who can't afford even a loaf of bread. This situation exists

even in affluent countries, where thousands of people and children are on the street. Islām commands us to feed the hungry, and if only Muslim nations would understand this principle and make efforts to alleviate this condition, much could be accomplished. The greeting of *Salām* is also an essential part of creating peace and security. *Salām* is not just something verbal, rather when one says *Salām* from the heart, one also tries to extend peace to others, wishes them well, and tries to alleviate their troubles.

During these three days, every Aḥmadī should strive to convey message of peace, promote the culture of *Salām*, and maintain goodwill for one another. True peace can only be achieved when we dispel the discords within our hearts and offer sincere prayers for each other. Let us continuously spread the greeting of *Salām*, so that the atmosphere of the Jalsa is filled with peace and harmony. Let us make it our goal to fulfil the rights of our fellow human beings and make it an integral part of our lives.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said during these days, it is important to focus on Allāh's remembrance and offering *Durood*, especially since it is *Muḥarram*. The spiritual and physical descendants of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) have been persecuted in the name of Allāh. Now, the same injustices are being committed against his spiritual descendants, the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) and his Jamā'at. The opponents claim to act out of love for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him), but our faith is based on love for him, his status as the Seal of the Prophets, and our adherence to the Divine law brought by him. We accepted the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) in adherence to the command of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him). The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) has written innumerable times that whatever he has attained, he has attained it through his love for the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him).

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) advised that participants should remain vigilant in terms of security and follow the guidelines. May Allāh protect everyone from all harm and continue to shower His grace and mercy upon us.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 01 August 2023