

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Hadrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 05th January 2024 at *Mubārak Mosque Islāmabād, Tilford, UK*

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) recited the following verses of Surah Al-Şaff:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا هَلْ أَدُلُّكُمْ عَلَىٰ تِجَارَةٍ تُنَجِّيكُمْ مِنْ عَذَابِ أَلِيمٍ ﴿١١﴾ تُوْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَتُجَاهِدُونَ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِأَمْوَالِكُمْ وَأَنْفُسِكُمْ ذُرِّيَّتُمْ حَيَّرْتُمْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿١٢﴾ يَعْفِرْ لَكُمْ ذُنُوبَكُمْ وَيُدْخِلْكُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي مِنْ تَحْتِهَا الْأَنْهَارُ وَمَسْكِنٍ طَيِّبَةٍ فِي جَنَّاتٍ عَدْنٍ ذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ ﴿١٣﴾

‘O ye who believe! Shall I point out to you a bargain that will save you from a painful punishment? That you believe in Allah and His Messenger, and strive in the cause of Allah with your wealth and your persons. That is better for you, if you did but know. He will forgive you your sins, and make you enter the Gardens through which streams flow, and pure and pleasant dwellings in Gardens of Eternity. That is the supreme triumph.’ (61:11-13)

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: I have been sent in the footsteps of the Messiah of the ummah of Moses. Just as Jesus taught mercy and forgiveness, I have been sent as the Messiah of the ummah of Muḥammad with the Islāmīc teachings of mercy, forgiveness, peace, and reconciliation. This is the age for the spreading of the teachings of the Holy Qur’an; there is now no room for Jihād by force. However, the Jihād of the pen and the Jihād of preaching will continue, and for this purpose, the sacrifice of life, wealth, and honour is required, just as they were at the beginning of Islām.

In this age, people are striving to achieve economic superiority. They have forgotten about religion and are wholly inclined towards worldly desires. In these circumstances, making sacrifices for the propagation of faith is the best means to attain nearness to Allāh and it is a most profitable trade. This is what Allāh says in the above verses.

In this era of the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him), financial Jihād is of the utmost importance. Allāh has emphasised financial sacrifice in many places, as He says:

وَمَا لَكُمْ أَلَّا تُنْفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ

And why is it that you spend not in the way of Allāh (57:11)

وَأَنْفِقُوا فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ وَلَا تُلْقُوا بِأَيْدِيكُمْ إِلَى التَّهْلُكَةِ

‘And spend for the cause of Allah, and cast not yourselves into ruin with your own hands.’ (2:196)

Allāh does not withhold anyone’s reward. He has informed us about a trade that leads to success in this world as well as the Hereafter. Allāh multiplies the sincere sacrifices made in His cause, as He says in the Holy Qur’an:

وَمَثَلُ الَّذِينَ يُنْفِقُونَ أَمْوَالَهُمْ ابْتِغَاءَ مَرْضَاتِ اللَّهِ وَتَشْبِيهًا مِمَّنْ أَنْفُسِهِمْ كَمَثَلِ جَنَّةٍ بِرَبْوَةٍ أَصَابَهَا وَابِلٌ فَاتَتْهَا كُفَيْتٌ فَإِنْ ظَنَّكُمْ لَمْ يُبْرِئْهَا

وَإِبِلٌ فَطَلٌّ ۗ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ ﴿٢٦٦﴾

‘And the case of those who spend their wealth to seek the pleasure of Allah and to strengthen their souls is like the case of a garden on elevated ground. Heavy rain falls on it so that it brings forth its fruit twofold. And if heavy rain does not fall on it, then light rain suffices. And Allah sees what you do.’ (2:266)

Today, by the grace of Allāh, it is only Aḥmadīs who understand the importance of making financial sacrifices for the sake of their faith. The Jamā‘at’s progress bears witness to how much Allāh blesses the humble sacrifices of the poor. I often cite such examples and will present some today. These examples should remind the affluent Aḥmadīs to look at their own standards of sacrifice.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, “Save yourself from the fire, even if by giving away half a date.” Similarly, he said, “Shun miserliness, for it is this that destroyed past nations.”

An Aḥmadī from the Central African Republic pledged Bai‘at just nine months ago. In 2016, he had purchased a plot of land but couldn't gather enough funds to build a house. When he was told about Chanda Waqf Jadīd, he made a contribution, Allāh rewarded him in this way: a friend promised to give him ten thousand bricks for his house and then delivered them. He was thus able to start the construction of his house which has now been completed.

A local Aḥmadī in Kazakhstan received a message that his wife was paying very little Chanda Waqf Jadīd. She was expecting an operation and an operation was due, but they still chose to participate in the financial sacrifice and paid the Chanda. Just twenty minutes later, he was informed that since he supported an orphan and had many children, the government had decided to pay him a hundred thousand in the local currency.

A sincere Aḥmadī from Kyrgyzstan felt that inflation had risen significantly worldwide and that there would naturally be an increase in the Jamā‘at's expenditure. He therefore increased his Chanda Waqf Jadīd by 40%. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that these are the standards of seeking Allāh's pleasure.

The President of the Khuddāmul Aḥmadīyya in the Philippines had paid his full Chanda Waqf Jadīd according to his commitment. However, as the end of the year approached, he felt that he needed to make further sacrifices. Consequently, he made payments on behalf of his parents and in-laws. Despite working on a contract for four years and repeatedly requesting permanent employment, it was not granted to him. However, after this sacrifice, Allāh blessed him and he obtained permanent employment.

A poor Aḥmadī from Cameroon says that he started paying a small amount of Chanda, and since then his life has grown easier and he has found more peace and contentment.

A 37-year-old Aḥmadī from Tanzania who works as a farmer says that he immediately sold his crop to the government so that he could pay Chanda Waqf Jadīd. The government officials said that most people withheld their crops, waiting for the prices to rise, but he had not done so. Therefore, as a reward for his honesty, they paid him a higher price than the current official rate.

An Aḥmadī woman from Togo didn't have money to pay Chanda Waqf Jadīd. Therefore, she grew some vegetables at home, sold them, and paid her Chanda. Similarly, another Aḥmadī household sold their chickens to contribute to the Chanda.

Another Aḥmadī from Indonesia says, "Ever since I started giving Chanda for Waqf Jadīd, I have felt a significant transformation within myself. I feel closer to Allāh."

An Aḥmadī from Melbourne, Australia, had contributed \$4,000 as Chanda Waqf Jadīd. At the year's end, affluent members were urged to pay an additional \$5,000. He says that he didn't have that money but had a strong desire to make this sacrifice. He prayed for this, and Allāh miraculously provided the means.

Another newly converted Aḥmadī says, "When I was Christian, I used to give money to the church, but it didn't bring any change in me. But since I became Aḥmadī and started making financial sacrifices, Allāh Himself takes care of all my affairs."

After narrating similar faith-inspiring instances of financial sacrifices from around the world, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: What a beautiful community of people that Allāh has bestowed upon the Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him). It is a lengthy list, and it was difficult for me to decide which to narrate and which to leave out. Those whose incidents I couldn't narrate are not any less sincere and loyal. They also have made these sacrifices for the sake of Allāh's pleasure.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) says: My beloved friends! I assure you that Allāh the Almighty has instilled in me a sincere passion for your well-being and has bestowed upon me true knowledge to fortify your faith and comprehension. This knowledge holds immense importance for your generation and those to come. Therefore, I urge you to generously contribute your wealth to support religious endeavours. Let none hold back to the extent of their ability. Do not prioritise your wealth over Allāh and His Messenger. With this support, my aim is to disseminate the knowledge and blessings bestowed upon me by Allāh across Asia and Europe through publications, to the best of my ability.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) then announced the start of the sixty-seventh year of Waqf Jadīd and shared some statistics from the previous year. By the grace of Allāh, the Aḥmadīyya Community worldwide presented a financial sacrifice amounting to £1,29,41,000 in the year. This

signifies an increase of £718,000 compared to the previous year's total. The total number of contributors stands at 15,50,000.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) once again appealed for prayers for the oppressed Muslims of Palestine and said: In our own circles, everyone should speak up in favour of the Palestinians. It does not seem like Israel is going to desist from their unjust ways. It is also said that there is a threat of the war spreading throughout the region, which could then lead to a world war. They have started bombardment around Beirut and it has been increasing, despite the fact that the USA has been advising them to scale back their attack. However, these too seem to be mere words and futile voices. It seems as if their real purpose is to eradicate Palestinians from Gaza and then take over that land. May Allāh the Almighty have mercy on the Palestinians and also grant reason and understanding to the Muslims.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 10 January 2024