

Friday Sermon, December 18, 2009

Delivered at the Nur Mosque in Frankfurt, Germany

After conveying his Salams and making the customary recitations, Hazur (aba) recited the following two verses:

[7:30] قُلْ أَمَرَ رَبِّي بِالْقِسْطِ^{قف} وَأَقِيمُوا وُجُوهَكُمْ عِندَ كُلِّ مَسْجِدٍ وَادْعُوهُ مُخْلِصِينَ
لَهُ الدِّينَ كَمَا بَدَأَكُمْ تَعُودُونَ^ط

[9:112] التَّائِبُونَ الْعَبْدُونَ الْحَامِدُونَ السَّائِحُونَ الرَّاكِعُونَ السَّاجِدُونَ الْآمِنُونَ
بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَالنَّاهُونَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَالْحَافِظُونَ لِحُدُودِ اللَّهِ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ^ط

Today I am delivering this first khutba from the Nur mosque in Frankfurt, Germany.

Those here in Germany know that I am doing this because it has been 50 years since this mosque was built. This is a small mosque and not big enough to fulfill the needs of even the local Jama'at so very few people were allowed to come here to offer the Jumma.

Historically, this is the 2nd mosque that was built in Germany by the Jama'at, the first was built in Hamburg which celebrated its 50th year in 2007. I did not participate in any function for that occasion but the German Jama'at wanted to hold a function here to mark this occasion and they have invited high ranking guests, so Ameer Sahib Germany asked that I also join this occasion.

I agreed to this and I thought that I will get a chance to say something to these dignitaries who have been invited directly about the relevant and appropriate Islamic teachings myself.

Our mosques are built, and many such old mosques of the Jama'at are spread in the world which have completed 50, 75 or 100 years, but the importance of mosques is not to do with their 50 or 100 year age.

Their importance and beauty is to do with the level of righteousness of those who populate these mosques and decorate the mosques with their holy presence at all the five daily prayers.

The importance and status of mosques is mentioned in the Holy Quran and the Sayings of the Holy Prophet(sa). It is the duty and station of an Ahmadi to recognize and always keep in mind this importance and dignity and high level accorded to a mosque by Islam.

But before I talk about this I want to say something with reference to this Mosque. This is the Nur Mosque. Coincidentally, for the last two Khutbas, I have been talking about the attribute of God known as, Nur.

This and all our mosques are built to establish that Nur in our hearts and in the world no matter what name is given to any mosque. It is to ensure that the Nur which God caused to descend on the Holy Prophet (sa), and through the Holy Quran, and which He conveyed to us in this age through the Promised Messiah (as), it is that Nur which we want to ensure keeps on spreading in all directions. So this is the purpose of our mosques – to disseminate that Nur into the world.

It is most unfortunate for the Government of Switzerland, that on the basis of actions of some people hostile to Islam, and making a referendum the basis of their action, they have decided to ban that all mosques built in future in Switzerland not be allowed to have minarets. According to some reports, only 32% of the people really voted in favor of the ban so the majority of the population was either against this or not happy and uninvolved in this whole affair.

It is today also the work of the Jama'at of the true lover of Muhammad (sa) to defend the rights and interests of the Muslims.. while all the sects of Islam were asleep and even the ones who were reminded that they ought to do something, some among them said what is the need for taking on the opposition of these people...only the Ahmadiyya Jama'at met with people in public and also the politicians and raised the voice against this most irrational law. Indeed some political parties have told us that this is an unwise thing and they also are against it..in Zurich our neighbors came out in the streets in favor of us and said this is wrong to play with the religious sentiments of the people..

Indeed when a national leader of a political party, seeing that other politicians were gaining popularity on this type of an issue, when he started saying that now we must start talking about banning the hijab and other things...but ..the people of their federal branch, started to complain vigorously and wrote to him so much so that in the end that leader came and apologized to the people...then the leader of their federal party wrote to our Ameer saying that their leader had gone awry but that now he is back on track..

So we are the ones who will defend the interests and rights of the Muslims and there are kind and morally upright people everywhere who raise their voices...

So this is the work that Jama'at Ahmadiyya is doing in defense of Islam everywhere and it was because of our efforts that the politicians also rose up and started to raise their voices against this law and these so-called self-appointed guardians of Islam whose job seems only to be to abuse each other or play with the lives of innocent people did naught.

Then despite this, still they say what is the need of the coming of the Promised Messiah(as), we have need now of no spiritual leader, because we have the last Messenger Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (sa) and in shape of the CLEAR BOOK we have this Nur ..

This is all indeed true and we say this and believe in this more than them but to benefit from this Nur we say that it was to happen in accord with the prophecies of the Holy Prophet that in this age someone should come and absorb this Nur and become the one through whom this Nur should spread forth...so this spreading of the Nur of Islam is the determined duty of Jama'at Ahmadiyya alone.

Not only in Switzerland but in Spain also a big television channel gave the photo of our Pedroabad mosque and all said that these types of laws are senseless. From this mosque rises the voice of peace and love. Indeed one of the people said, 'you talk of hatred and terrorists, I say these are the real peace lovers and we should be like them.'

This is the revolution brought into being by followers of the Promised Messiah (as) having received guidance from him. In a country where it was difficult to talk about Islam just a few decades ago and now they say that if you want to learn about peace you have to go to these people..these are the people who are the symbols of peace.

So this is a very highly irrational law that minarets should not be allowed to be built on new mosques. Even if we assume for argument's sake that all Muslims are terrorists, would banning minarets stop terrorism? These are childish thoughts.

The word minaret also comes from 'nur' and the purpose of minarets was to call people to the worship of One God. When they did not have electricity and loudspeakers, this is how the call to prayer was delivered. Now minarets are just symbols, although in Muslim countries, they put speakers on these minarets, but such permissions are not present in these countries.

But, at least minarets have some purpose, but what purpose do the spires etc of churches serve? One can ask this critically, but we make no such inquiry or criticism.

What is azan, the call to prayer?

In it God's greatness and unity is proclaimed, and the prophethood of the Holy Prophet is announced and the people are called to God's worship. Why? Because this is purpose of man's creation and in this lies success for man, so come to this and in this way both worlds of yours, here and hereafter, will be set right...what a beautiful and solid message is this that is delivered from the tops of these minarets!

But despite the fact that we can criticize with regard to churches, but that is not our intent because we do not think people should play with the religious sentiments of people. We respect everyone's place of worship, whether it be a temple or a church. Indeed the Holy

Quran teaches that we should not only respect other places of worship but also protect them so that an atmosphere of love reigns supreme in the world.

Fifty years ago the newspapers of Germany said beautiful things about the minarets of this mosque and their words recorded in history reflect the respectful attitude of those journalists and people of that time.

One wrote that in Frankfurt a beautiful White mosque with High and beautiful minarets has been built, another said that now in Frankfurt there is a house of Allah. Another said that in the past Muhammad's followers reached France with weapons but now this is being done by spiritual weapons. One sect that has especially built mosques in several places is the one that was started by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian.

Look, when we had a few Ahmadis living in Germany, see how they presented with respect and honor, the message and name of Islam and the Holy Prophet (sa) and the Promised Messiah (as). This is a reflection of their honorable and respectful attitudes but also of the efforts of the few Ahmadis who were here in those days. Now when there are so many Ahmadis you need to try and take the message of true Islam to the people.

The minarets that were beautiful in those days are just as beautiful in appearance today. However, nowadays some leaders and people of the west have lost their sight of justice. The crimes committed by a few are ascribed to the whole Muslim peoples and a definite attempt is made to give a bad name to Islam and the Muslims in general and some press and media are deliberately playing this wrong role.

Yesterday in the news on television, there was a story about a British Muslim who had killed his 15 year old daughter. They presented this story by introducing this man first as a Muslim, whereas this and much more heinous things are done by others, but never in those cases is it said that such and such a Christian did this or such and such a Jew did this or the follower of another faith was guilty of such a heinous crime. But when a Muslim does this it is definitely presented as the evil deed of a Muslim. These things tell us that there is a campaign being waged against Islam in the West.

So it is responsibility of Muslims to change their own condition and stand ready to defend Islam and present the true picture of Islam..but no one else can do this..it is not in the power of everyone to be able to discharge this role. Only Ahmadis can do this, only those who are in the Jama'at of the true lover of Muhammad (sa), who have done his baiat. This has been decreed. Let Ahmadis understand their responsibility, and from the minarets of their mosques have the Nur of Islam, the Nur of Allah, reach to all the people of Europe and the West, and become ready to do this. I have drawn your attention to this in the Jalsa also.

This will happen when, , and being united with the mosque, becoming righteous and seeking Allah's help you will try to discharge this duty. Understand the status of mosque and keep this in your mind always.

The verses I recited gives guidance regarding this.

[7:30] 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.'

What a beautiful teaching. They criticize that mosques are centers of terrorism. The first command in this verse given by Allah is that establish yourselves on justice. Then to discharge the right of a mosque will your attention turn towards Allah.

Or to reach Allah you will have to become totally just and empty your hearts of all injustice. Attention has been drawn to this at other places in the Holy Quran also:

[4:59] إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَأْمُرُكُمْ أَنْ تُؤَدُّوا الْأَمَانَاتِ إِلَىٰ أَهْلِهَا وَإِذَا حَكَمْتُمْ بَيْنَ النَّاسِ أَنْ تَحْكُمُوا بِالْعَدْلِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ نِعِمَّا يَعِظُكُمْ بِهِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ كَانَ سَمِيعًا بَصِيرًا

[4:59] Verily, Allah commands you to make over the trusts to those entitled to them, and that, **when you judge between men, you judge with justice**. And surely excellent is that with which Allah admonishes you! Allah is All-Hearing, All-Seeing.

This is the beautiful teaching; it does not say do justice just between Muslims, no, for all mankind. The teaching that was sent down upon the Benefactor of Mankind, the Holy Prophet was universal and for the benefit of all. At another place it is said:

[5:9] يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا كُونُوا قَوَامِينَ لِلَّهِ شُهَدَاءَ بِالْقِسْطِ وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَاةُ قَوْمٍ عَلَىٰ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا اعْدِلُوا هُوَ أَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوَىٰ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

[5:9] O ye who believe! be steadfast in the cause of Allah, bearing witness in equity; and **let not a people's enmity incite you to act otherwise than with justice**. Be *always* just, that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah. Surely, Allah is aware of what you do.

And the mosque made to sow discord and dissention, Allah Himself gave the command to destroy it.

The mosque is place where, staying righteous, fulfilling the requirements of justice, then one comes in the presence of Allah to gain more blessing from Him by prostrating in front of Him. The word masjid comes from sajda, which means the extreme of humility, and obedience, so a mosque is for developing high moral qualities. In this verse this is what we are commanded. Where, when the time for prayers comes, people unite and humble themselves and recognizing our own weakness and helplessness, and prostrating in front of Him, pray and ask for His help, saying, You are the One Who can guide us on the Straight path, You are one who can develop true humility in us and can give us ability to follow religion sincerely and follow its dictates fully, and You alone can make us fulfill the requirements of justice..

So, O Allah! You alone can guide us how to discharge the duties we owe to You and the obligations we owe to man.

So we are in front of You today in prostration asking for Your help so we can do these righteous deeds.

A momin who believes in the Day of Judgment, believes that he will have to present himself before God after death, can not do any thing that will make him undeserving of reward on the Day of Judgment. Every action leads to an improvement in one's nearness to God. So if we are not inclined to reaching God every moment then cannot make progress.. So it cannot be that a momin comes to a mosque with these thoughts being sincere, and at the same time the mosque should be the cause of spreading discord and hatred.

Mosques are for reminding people to discharge their duties to God and man.. and minarets are for reminding people of this message standing on which people are called to this light so man, understanding his reason for being, should brighten his world here and hereafter.

It is our duty today as Ahmadis to tell world what is the reality of Islam and that of mosques. The betterment of the world and its safety and security is also in this, that they look for the light of Allah. And this Nur, if it can be seen anywhere in this world, it can be seen in the person of the Holy Prophet (sa) or in the sharia sent down on the Holy Prophet (sa) in form of the last law bearing Book, the Holy Quran.

The beautiful teaching of the Holy Quran is the only means for the safety of the world. The beautiful teaching of which alone, show us the ways of discharging the obligations due to God and to man. And the beautiful teachings contained in which are the only means of assuring the peace, safety and security of the world. The picture that the Holy Quran paints of those who follow these teachings is:

[9:112] *They are the ones who turn to God in repentance, who worship Him, who praise Him, who go about in the land serving Him, who bow down to God, who prostrate themselves in prayer, who enjoin good and forbid evil, and who watch the limits set by Allah. And give glad tidings to those who believe.*

These are the qualities of true momin who tries to achieve God's pleasure by following the paths of righteousness.

First is mentioned that these are those who repent. What is repentance? It means to cut off oneself from evil. The Promised Messiah (as) has clarified this, he says at one place:

"If man decides to repent, he should repent sincerely. By, 'taubah,' repentance, is meant turning to Allah. God has not said that you should go around saying by your tongues, 'I repent', 'I repent'. Rather He has said, 'Turn to Allah in the way that one truly should turn to Allah. Because when, from a number of opposing directions available for one to take, one abandons a certain direction and turns to another, then one begins to distance himself from the original direction and draws closer to the direction he has turned to. This is what taubah means, thus when man turns to Allah and walks towards Him daily then in the end, the result is that he moves away from Satan and draws close to God."

Then God says in this verse, that the second quality of a believer is that they are those who worship Allah. Clearly, those whose steps are advancing in the direction of God, will, becoming sincere, be drawn to His worship, and this is what the Holy Quran says is the purpose of man's creation. A momin who believes in Allah fully tries that he should discharge the obligation of worship perfectly. He realizes that without worship my life is not full. And about worship Allah says you have to discharge the duty properly.

And how can this be done, it can be done by establishing prayer, go to the mosque and offer prayer in congregation, this is what the demand of worship is.

Now, I have been told that people do not come for the five daily prayers at this mosque, the newspapers say that this mosque is only used for the Friday Prayers.

It is the responsibility of the area to offer five daily prayers in the mosque. Once you discharge this duty then you can call yourself a true momin.

Outsiders ask why you are building a mosque? The straightforward answer is to say to offer Prayers in congregation, which is of great importance in Islam. We are commanded to establish Prayer. This is why we build mosques. It is Prayer which draws our attention to the discharge of our responsibilities to Allah and to man. Those who offer prayers forgetful of this, it is about them that the Holy Quran says:

لَا
فَوَيْلٌ لِلْمُصَلِّينَ [107:5]

For these worshippers is destruction who offer the postures of the Prayer but forget the real purpose which is to obey fully all of Allah's commandments. So the Holy Quran at

every step draws attention and thus shows the path to a true Muslim of how he can attain the highest ranks of a true believer.

Then is mentioned the quality of a true Muslim, namely that he Praises Allah. Only such a one can do this properly who thinks Him to be the possessor of all the Noblest attributes and one who thinks Him to be such, would obey and follow all his commands, such a one would never do anything that would take him away from God. The Promised Messiah (as) says in one place concerning Praise that all forms of Praise, of every type, belong to Allah Alone.

So such people, who think these things about Allah – when these people prostrate in front of Allah these are the ones who, even when they leave their home, they do so to win Allah's pleasure, these are the ones who spread virtue, stop evil and protect Allah's boundaries.

What are Allah's boundaries? Allah's boundaries are all those commands that Allah has given to the believers in the Holy Quran. A righteous person's duty is to remain inside of that circle; these are those whom Allah gives the good news: These noises and oppositions cannot harm you.

I want to say with this reference here that Allah says that those who travel in the way of Allah also have the good news. In them are those who for Allah's sake go out for jihad to spread His message, do preaching or tabligh; this is also God's command.

Also included in these are those whose conditions in their own country were so straitened that they had to leave their homes. This is also by the command of Allah. In you are many such, and the German Government has been kind and, understanding your situation, they gave you permission to stay here. So always keep in mind that if you want the pleasure of Allah, if you like to be known as a true Ahmadi, if you want to get Allah's rewards here and hereafter, and want to see these blessings descending on you and on your families, then become among those believers who discharge the duties of true worship and show full obedience, and make virtue rule over, you and spread these virtues in society also and save yourselves and the society also from evils, and become those who obey all of Allah's commandment and try to act on all His commandments and also make your children knowledgeable of these. If these are not there then the opponents of Islam, its enemies will be right in saying that we do not know what your religion teaches, what we see are your actions and we are making your religion and you targets because of these things. So like an Ahmadi who has jealous regard for his faith, do not at any time, by your actions, cause your religion to fall into disrepute. The Promised Messiah (as) has said he had this pain...and he said: ***After becoming associated with me do not cause ill reputation to fall on us***; so every Ahmadi must always think that coming to this country and making my life better than before, and spending life in freedom, Allah gave me by virtue of Ahmadiyyat, so I, becoming grateful, will spend my life in such way as will make me win Allah's pleasure and make me such as will cause the enemies of Islam to shut their mouths.

Promoting virtue should become my distinguishing mark, and prohibiting evil should become what you should be recognized for.

Muslims have been given a very high status by Allah, and the Ahmadi Muslims, by having done baiat, have committed themselves, that they will try to get this status and will do their level best to attain this status..and protect it.

The status given by Allah is: you are the best people raised for the benefit of people; you are the people who have been raised for the benefit of the whole of mankind. Not just for your own benefit, rather for the benefit of all.

Forgetting who belongs to which religion, today the welfare of mankind is in your hands. This is such a great honor, and it has not been given for no reason at all.

You have been given this station because you call to good and prohibit evil.

If you have these virtues and in Ahmadi circle we see these virtues which Allah has told us of in the Holy Quran, then others will benefit from us, then we will get this honor, otherwise what will others learn from us. So every Ahmadi must remember that by coming into the baiat of the Promised Messiah (as) a big responsibility falls upon him.

The walls of hatred that are being raised against Islam in the world, make them fall by spreading virtue, by mending your evil ways, by raising the levels of your worship, by frequenting the mosques more and more, by prostrating before God, by becoming grateful servants of God, that He, in this age, gave you the ability to recognize and believe in the Reformer of this age. And thanking Him that when the land was straitened on you, Allah gave you this blessing to spread into the world – so worship Allah with even more attention because of this. You did not deserve to go into the world due to some merit of your own. It was the mercy of God and it was also so that when because of the actions of some Muslims, when the walls of hate and prejudice would be raised against Islam, then at that time Ahmadi should be there, so at that time with the teachings of the Promised Messiah you should defend Islam. Show the world the reality of mosques and come see what minarets are really for, come see what high moral qualities are, come let us show you how virtue is spread and evils removed, come let us show you how to establish peace in the world. This is big responsibility which falls on Ahmadi today. We have to tell the world that this is the real true Islam which Jama'at Ahmadiyya is presenting and it is to spread this true Islam that every Ahmadi, man, woman, old, young, has taken an oath to sacrifice his and her all for.

If we do not make ourselves distinct from other Muslim we will not be able to defend Islam at all.

The Promised Messiah (as) says: I have said this repeatedly that apparently there is no difference between us and the other Muslims. You are Muslims and they are also called Muslims. You ascribe yourself to the Kalima and they also; you claim to follow the Holy Quran and they also..So in so far as claims are concerned there is no difference. But

Allah is not content with claims only, so long as there is no reality along with the claims and there is not presented evidence of a practical transformation that goes with the claims.

So to become *the best of people* and to be able to present the true teachings to the world we will have to present practical proofs, our changed for the better exemplary lives, we will have to raise our levels of worship and will have to raise the levels of our high moral qualities, establish, love among ourselves and then spread these in the society. May Allah enable us to so do.

Second also, I want to say, that from now on, mosques, even if small, will not host receptions etc by putting mats inside the main actual halls of the Mosques. Everyone should make a note of this from now. Arrangements should be made outside. The inside halls of the actual mosques shall not any longer be used for such purposes.