

God's Help is Needed to Attain Righteousness

Full Transcript of the Friday Sermon delivered by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad(aba), Khalifatul Masih V, Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community – 28th October 2011

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Key for Abbreviations:

(saw) means SallAllaho alaihe wassalam= Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him

(as) means Alaihe Salam = upon whom be peace

(ra) means either RaziAllaho Taala unho/unha meaning Allah be pleased with him/her OR

(ra*) means Rahmullah alaih= Allah's Mercy be upon him

(aba) means Ayyadullaho benasril Azeez =

After reciting Tashahhud, Ta'awwudh and Surah Fatihah, Hudhur (aba) said:

“The community that God Almighty initiated through the Promised Messiah (as) and which was granted the distinction and honour that they were joined with the earlier people; this is no ordinary distinction and this is no ordinary Jama'at. Hundreds of thousands of righteous natured Muslims departed this world in desire and hope of finding this era. Therefore, every single one of us who associates him or herself with the Jama'at of the Promised Messiah(as), he or she needs to reflect over those matters that the earlier people acted upon. They established a connection of *Bai'at* (pledge of allegiance) with the Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw) and they joined his *Ummah* (community) and under the influence of the Prophet Muhammad(saw)'s *Tarbiyyat*, (moral training), they fostered such a strong and firm relationship with God Almighty, that God Almighty says regarding

these people: *Of the men there is he who would sell himself to seek the pleasure of Allah.* (Ch.2:V.208).

Therefore, in order to acquire the pleasure of God Almighty, they acted upon the commands of God and put their lives in difficulty in the process and they cared not a jot along the way. Their only purpose was to attain the pleasure and happiness of God and then, God Almighty in return gave them countless and profuse blessings and rewards.

The blessed Companions made endeavours to act on the commands entailed within the Holy Qur'an. In fact, they had such zeal to acquire the pleasure of God Almighty that they would question the Holy Prophet (saw) that how can we perform virtuous acts. Some would ask questions to the degree that Allah Almighty halted them, that when a *Shariah* (law) is being revealed to not ask questions, because some of your questions could lead to commands being revealed and could place you into difficulty.

Thus, Allah the Almighty is the most Kind and Gracious. He is exceptionally Compassionate about all His people and He keeps His Benevolent eye on His servants. And this saves a person from difficulty, such persons who for the sake of acquiring the pleasure of Allah are ready to face every hardship and every difficulty and is ready and prepared to act upon all the commands of God.

So Allah Almighty displays His exceptional Kindness and Grace upon such a person. Those people who establish a firm connection with God Almighty in their surrounding society and environment, they become a reflection of the Attributes of God Almighty. They strive to fulfil and implement all those commands of God the Almighty, which He has commanded us to act upon. Such persons also display kindness towards the creation of God and fulfil all their rights.

In short, this is the true Islam that forms a connection between man and God Almighty and draws attention to the rights due to mankind. It is this real and true Islam that the Companions of the Holy Prophet (saw) ascertained; they learnt and they displayed practically. And the Promised Messiah (as) came to teach us this, to inform us of this and to allow us to tread on those very paths. Thus, to achieve this we need to self-reflect and analyse our own selves.

At this time, in this light I will present before you some extracts of the Promised Messiah (as). These extracts draw our attention towards our

condition, state and also to self-reflection. In the first extract that I have selected, the Promised Messiah (as) has drawn a picture of this current era and he has also elucidated how the Jama'at should be. The Promised Messiah (as) speaking regarding the general '*Ulema*, those Muslim scholars of the time who had not accepted him says:

“At this time I observe that the state of the '*Ulema* (the Muslim scholars) is virtually that of what is said in the Holy Qur'an that '*why do you say what you do not do?*'” (Ch.61:V.3).

This is practically the state of the '*Ulema* today.

The Promised Messiah (as) states:

“This verse is applicable to them. The majority or a large proportion testify to this verse. Belief in the Holy Qur'an remains by name only. Otherwise, people have completely departed from the commands of the Holy Qur'an. From the *Ahadith*, it has been foretold that a time would arrive when the Holy Qur'an would ascend to the heavens. I know most certainly that this is that very time. True purity and *Taqwa* (righteousness and the fear of God), which is born out of following the commands of the Holy Qur'an; where can that be found today? If this condition as depicted had not formed, then why would God the Almighty form this movement or this community? Our opponents cannot comprehend or discern this. However, finally and ultimately they will observe that our truthfulness will manifest itself like the bright day.”

The Promised Messiah (as) states:

“God the Almighty Himself is Preparing such a Jama'at (a community) which will believe in the Holy and Noble Qur'an.”

This is an immense responsibility that has been placed upon the Jama'at. This is an expectation of the Promised Messiah (as) from the Jama'at that they will accept the Holy Qur'an. To accept and believe in the Holy Qur'an does not entail just believing in the book of the Holy Qur'an, but it relates to believing and following what is entailed within it.

Then the Promised Messiah (as) says: “Every worldly adulteration will be removed.”

We need to self-analyse and self-assess ourselves that every contamination, that is worldly contamination will be removed from within “and a pure body will be formed and this is that very Jama’at. This is why I enjoin and inculcate you that you need to fully abide by all the commands of God Almighty and bring about such a revolution and transformation within your own lives as was brought about by the *Sahaba* (the Companions) of the Holy Prophet (saw). Let not anyone stumble by observing your misdeeds.”

Every single Ahmadi needs to be a role model.

The Promised Messiah (as) says that: “Indeed, I also say that it is the duty of every single person that he separates himself from maliciousness and falsehood. So observe this, that dispensation that is on the precepts of Prophethood.” That Community or movement that is on the precepts of Prophethood, that Prophethood wants to further, tread on that path.

The Promised Messiah (as) says: “I am aware that when the Grace and Blessings of Allah shower upon the Earth then where beneficial and also useful plants and weed grow, there also toxic plants and weed emerge.”

Regarding this the Promised Messiah (as) elucidated: “such people will rise who will make false claims.”

Anyhow, further the Promised Messiah (as) states: “it is the obligation of every single person that currently they should pray to God for the achievement of our aims.”

That is, the mission should be fulfilled. The purpose for which the Promised Messiah (as) came could successfully be completed.

So he says: “go on praying for this. The foundation of this movement is upon the definitive words of the Holy Qur'an and the Hadith. For the support and succour and also verification and endorsement of this movement Allah the Almighty has sent signs from the heavens and the earth as a completion.”

These signs of the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah (as) which are heavenly and earthly signs, they are like a stamp. Such a stamp has been provided that seals the argument completely upon the people and testifies to the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah (as).

He states: “know most surely that that person who has been commissioned by God Almighty is given a stamp. And that is the stamp of Muhammad (saw) which short-sighted and indiscriminate opponents cannot comprehend.”

Now in the current age, whoever comes after the Holy Prophet (saw) sent by God Almighty, he will come in subordination and complete obedience to the Holy Prophet (saw) and he will only operate through the stamp of the Holy Prophet(saw), but people do not comprehend this. But the Promised Messiah (as) says that “you establish your own example so that the world can comprehend that this movement has been established which has a special connection with God Almighty.”

Then the Promised Messiah (as) states” “O my Jama’at. May God Almighty be with all of you. May that Mighty Benefactor prepare you for the journey to the hereafter in the same manner in which the Companions of the Holy Prophet (saw) were prepared. Bear fully in mind that this world is nothing. Cursed is that life which is only for this world. Unfortunate is that person whose grief and all sorrows are only for this world. If such a person exists within my Jama’at, it is vain that he considers himself to be in my Jama’at because he is like a dry branch which will bear no fruit.”

Then the Promised Messiah (as), expounding the correct manner of steadfastness and also reformation states: “In accordance with me, this is the best manner of purifying oneself. It is impossible that you can find any better route than this, that a person should not be arrogant or proud in any way. It should neither be arrogance of knowledge, arrogance of family or arrogance relating to wealth.”

These types of arrogance are normally found in people. Somebody is proud upon his knowledge, somebody is proud upon his family lineage and somebody is proud upon his wealth.

The Promised Messiah (as) says: “you should shun all types of arrogance. When God the Almighty provides somebody with insight, then He is able to see that every single type of light that can save a person from this darkness descends from the heavens. A person is always in need of this heavenly light. Just as a physical eye cannot see until there is sunlight from the heavens, in the same way, the inner light that removes all kinds of darkness and replaces it with the light of purity and also *Taqwa* also descends from the heavens. I say most truly that man's *Taqwa*, faith, worship, purity; everything comes from the heavens and also is dependent on God's

Blessings and Grace. If Allah so wills, He can maintain that and if Allah so wills, He can remove that.”

When all rewards are from Allah, when they are dependent on Allah's Blessings and Grace; if Allah so wills He can sustain those and if Allah so desires He can make those come to an end, then how can anyone be proud or arrogant? Neither should anyone be arrogant upon his level of *Taqwa*, nor upon the state of his faith, nor upon his worship and nor upon his prayers. Neither upon his purity and similarly he should not be arrogant as I stated earlier upon worldly matters. Everything is from God Almighty. For this reason we should always submit before God the Almighty.

The Promised Messiah (as) says: “true spiritual knowledge and insight is this, that a person considers himself as completely worthless and nothing.”

In other words a person should consider his own existence as insignificant as he is absolutely worthless. So he says further: “a person should fall upon the threshold of the Divine with humbleness and humility and search for God’s Blessings and Grace and should beg for that spiritual insight that burns selfish desires, and which forms a light within that provides a capacity and also strength for piety and also righteousness. After, if a person gets a measure of God’s Grace and he receives conviction and satisfaction of the heart (that is the heart opens up and he receives acceptance of his prayers and becomes satisfied and be reassured that this as a result of Allah’s Grace) then a person should not feel arrogant about this, rather he should display even more humbleness and humility.”

When the Bounties of Allah open up, when the doors of Allah’s Grace become opened further and the person realises that Allah’s blessings are descending upon him and he should display more humbleness and humility, because “the more a person considers him or herself to be insignificant or worthless, the greater will the light and blessings of Allah descend on him or her, which extend to that person light and also capacity and strength. If a person abides by this doctrine and creed then it is hoped that through Allah’s Grace his moral condition will become superior and excellent. To consider yourself anything in this world is arrogance. This state of arrogance leads a person to treating others with contempt and he believes others are insignificant in comparison to him.”

When arrogance is adopted then a person believes that others have no value in comparison to him. This is why I said that every single person

needs to analyse his own self that are they striving to tread on that excellent path expounded by the Promised Messiah (as)?

Then the Promised Messiah (as) states in one place: "O fortunate and blessed people! With great fervour follow that teaching that has been given to me for the salvation of all of you. Consider God to be One and without partner. Do not associate anything else with Allah, either in the heavens or in the earth. God the Almighty does not forbid you from using worldly provisions and means. However, that person who leaves God aside and relies and depends only on worldly means and provision is a *Mushrik* (an idolater). God has been stating from time immemorial that unless one purifies one's heart there is no salvation. Therefore, purify your heart and free yourself of rancour and anger."

Rancour and anger devour a person entirely. His morality becomes ravaged and destroyed. Therefore, the Promised Messiah (as) says "remove yourself entirely from rancour and anger. Within the *Nafse Ammara* (the self that incites to evil) in a person, there are many types of impurities, but arrogance is the greatest form of impurity."

Arrogance is the worst type of filth and also sin." The Promised Messiah (as) says "if arrogance did not exist, no one would remain a disbeliever. Therefore, be meek of heart and in general be sympathetic to mankind when you preach to them to seek paradise."

Now we have our religious scholars. There are our *Daa'een* (those who invite people to Allah). They offer themselves and are rendering great services. However, sometimes some issues rise to the fore when it relates to personal matter, then they forget. At times arrogance and also egotism emerge.

The Promised Messiah (as) says that "this voice that emanates from you to call people towards this paradise, how can this voice possibly be true if you wish ill for others in this temporal world."

That is when it relates to your own personal matters, you do not desire good for others but you desire bad, so the Promised Messiah (as) says that "fulfil God's obligations with fear of the heart because you will be held to account for this."

The duties that have been bestowed by God upon you; you will be questioned for this. Develop a fear in your heart regarding them. The

Promised Messiah (as) says “pray profusely in your prayers so that God can draw you to Himself and so that He can cleanse and purify your heart, because man is weak. Every evil and ill that is removed, that is removed through God’s Strength. Until a person does not acquire strength from God he cannot overcome any evil and ill and remove it. Islam does not only entail that you consider yourself as those who customarily recite the *Kalima* (the Muslim creed). In fact, the reality of Islam is that your soul fall upon the Divine Threshold and that you consider God and all His commands of greater precedence then the entire world and all other matters.”

Nowadays every single Ahmadi needs to adopt such a state so that we may attract the blessings of Allah to the maximum extent possible.

The Promised Messiah (as) states: “O my dear Jama’at! Believe firmly in the fact that now the time is approaching its end and a radical change has begun to appear. Therefore, do not deceive your souls and rapidly turn to attaining perfection in piety and righteousness.”

This is a most important factor that adopt honesty. There is honesty in the relationship with Allah. We need to in worship become pure while performing worship. Give attention to the the rights owed to mankind. There are two significant commands of Allah: *Haqooq Ullah*, the rights owed to Allah and *Haqooq-ul-Ibaad*, the rights owed to mankind. There should be honesty and righteousness within this. There are services that you offer to the Jama’at and there are mutual relationships. There should be righteousness and honesty within all of this.

The Promised Messiah (as) states “make the Holy Qur’an your true guide and in every single matter, acquire guiding light from the Holy Qur’an. Also do not discard the *Hadith* as something useless because they are extremely useful and they were collected and compiled with great effort and hardship. But when *Ahadith* appear to clash or contradict the Holy Qur’an disregard such a *Hadith* so that you may not go astray. God has conveyed to you the Holy Qur’an in its pristine purity safeguarding it with great effort. Therefore, give great regard and great honour to this Holy Word of God. Do not give precedence to anything else over the Holy Qur’an because all truth and all righteousness are entailed and based on the Holy Qur’an.”

Truth and treading on the truth can only be acted upon by implementing the teachings of the Holy Qur’an.

“People regard and have faith in the expectations of men, according to the measure of that person’s piety, *Taqwa* and also spiritual insight.”

Therefore, when spiritual insight and *Taqwa* increase through Allah’s Grace then our words will also have greater impact.

The Promised Messiah (as) discoursing on the firm belief in the promises of God says: “know most certainly that in accordance with Allah the Almighty, those people are not beloved to God who wear rich clothes, who are very wealthy and who eat very lavish food. In fact, to God, those people are beloved who give precedence to their faith over the world and they immerse themselves and give themselves up entirely for God. Hence, give attention towards the latter issue rather than the former.”

In other words, do not incline to the world and materialism, rather give precedence to the faith over the world.

At the time of the Promised Messiah, (as) although the condition and the state of the Jama’at was such that there were great pious transformations occurring, yet the Promised Messiah (as) says: “if I observe the current state of my Jama’at then I become extremely sorrowed that currently it is extremely weak, and there are many stages and junctures yet to be surpassed. However, when I reflect upon the promises of Allah, which He has made to me, then my sorrows transform into hope and expectation. One of the promises from the promises of Allah the Almighty is “*and I will place those who follow you above those who reject you until the Day of Resurrection.*”

If at that time the Promised Messiah (as) had this concern and he reminded his followers regarding this, then now, after a period of time has passed, we should be even more concerned about this. That the more we move away in time from that era, let not our state corrupt even more. Therefore, we need to deeply reflect upon this and undertake a revolutionary self-analysis and self assessment.

The Promised Messiah (as) says “it is entirely true that Allah will give triumph to my followers who over my opponents and those disbelieve in me, but what should be reflected upon is that everyone who follows me cannot be included as a follower just by performing the *Ba’ait* (the pledge of allegiance) at my hands until he does not develop that state of obedience he cannot be considered a true follower. Until he does not truly and completely follow me in such a way that he has effaced himself entirely in

my obedience and he follows my path the word obedience will not apply to that person. From this it can be deciphered that God the Almighty decreed such a Jama'at for me that would immerse itself completely in obedience and following to me. From this I gained reassurance and my sorrows transformed into hope....I have the promises of Allah in view and it is Allah who gives me reassurance and tranquility of heart. In a state where the Jama'at and community is weak and where it is need of great *Tarbiyyat* (moral training) in such a condition it is essential that I remind you that foster a true connection and relationship with God Almighty and give precedence to Him. For yourself consider the Community of the Holy Prophet (saw) your model, follow their path and their way.”

The Promised Messiah (as) speaking on giving precedence to the faith of the world says that: “remember, the person who gives precedence to the world and is included in this Jama'at, in the eyes of God he is not a part of this Jama'at. In the eyes of God only that person is included within the Jama'at who is free from this world. Nobody should assume that I would be diminished or destroyed out of such a perception. This perception will take one away from God. Such a person who effaces himself completely in God, God will never lets him go to waste. In fact, God the Almighty provides for such a person Himself. Allah Almighty is *Kareem* (Noble); a person who loses something in the way of God attains its equivalent. I say most truly that God loves only those and God the Almighty only gives blessings to the progeny of he who obeys the commands of Allah Almighty. It has never happened and it will never occur that a person who is truly obedient to God can ever be destroyed nor can His progeny ever be destroyed. The world of only those people is destroyed who leave God the Almighty and submit and are inclined to the world. Is it not true that the reigns of every single matter are in the hand of God the Almighty? Without this no objective can be accomplished, no success can be attained and no comfort, no ease and no tranquility can be acquired. A person may possess wealth, but who can claim that after that person passes away, his wife and children will definitely benefit from that wealth? So reflect deeply on these matters and forge a new transformation within yourselves.”

The Promised Messiah (as) states, especially counseling his Jama'at: “therefore, those of you who have an association, a bond with me should remember that to every single person without distinction, whichever religion he may belong to, be compassionate, be righteous and be sincere to everybody because this is the teaching of the Holy Quran: *and they feed for love of Him, the poor, the orphan and the prisoner*. The prisoners who would come at the beginning of Islam, they were mainly disbelievers. Look at the

measure and degree of compassion in Islam. In my view, this teaching of perfect morality has only been given to Islam and has not been given to anyone else.”

Then the Promised Messiah (as) said: “when I return to good health (because at the time he was in bad health), I will write a book and this would be regarding morality.” Anyhow further on the Promised Messiah (as) said: “I desire that whatever is my mission and my objective should be fulfilled and that for my Jama’at should be a perfect teaching and the path of obtaining the pleasure of Allah should be demonstrated therein. I become extremely sorrowful and sad when I hear such and such has committed this mistake or this and this person has performed this error. I am not happy at all when I hear this. I look at the Jama’at as a child who takes one step forward and two steps back, however I have firm belief that God Almighty would perfect this Community. Therefore, you also make efforts, stay engaged in planning, spiritual exercise and prayer so that Allah the Exalted Blesses you, because without the Blessings of Allah the Almighty nothing can be achieved. When Allah’s Grace exists then He opens up all doors, all paths.”

In some respects through the prayers and attention and reminding of the Promised Messiah (as), in the era of the Promised Messiah (as) Allah bestowed His Grace and he saw the pious examples of his Companions. In this time as well, Allah Almighty is demonstrating that the Jama’at in some respects has become mature, but with the passage of time many ills and many evils have taken root; for example arrogance and selfishness and mutual discord as was mentioned earlier. In some places these have become very visible and noticeable; cases launched against one another, mutual rancour and animosities have all increased greatly. We need to pay heed and attention towards these matters.

Therefore, if we want to be deserving of being counted as true members of this Jama’at then we need to keep an eye out on our condition and state at all times and at every single moment. What use would our knowledge be if it were not demonstrated at the opportune time?

As the Promised Messiah (as) said that “people perform *Tabligh* (preaching) and advise others, but when the time comes that is not demonstrated in your own lives and condition.” Thus knowledge is only useful and beneficial when reflected in ones’ own life and personality. The demonstration and expression of mutual relationships and connections

when internally and externally they become one, until that point our knowledge would be useless.

Today, when opposition against the Jama'at has reached its climax, and has intensified to the highest level, at every level we need to push behind our personal interests and vested desires and present an exemplary model of unity. As the Promised Messiah (as) has said: "Allah the Almighty desires for this community (Jama'at) to tread on the model of the Companions." May Allah enable us to achieve this.

In the previous weeks' Friday sermon, because of a rather long bout of coughing, many people became extremely concerned and anxious. They sent in many letters and faxes including from Arab countries and other places that we are very restless. Alongside this, quite a large number of people sent prescriptions to me in large numbers. If I start utilising these prescriptions perhaps I will fall further ill! Regardless, people sent these in and expressed their pious and righteous sentiments. May Allah reward them all. These contagious ailments run their own course. I am treating myself with homeopathy but also the doctors are treating me to some degree. May Allah Almighty bestow His Grace; please just remember me in your prayers."