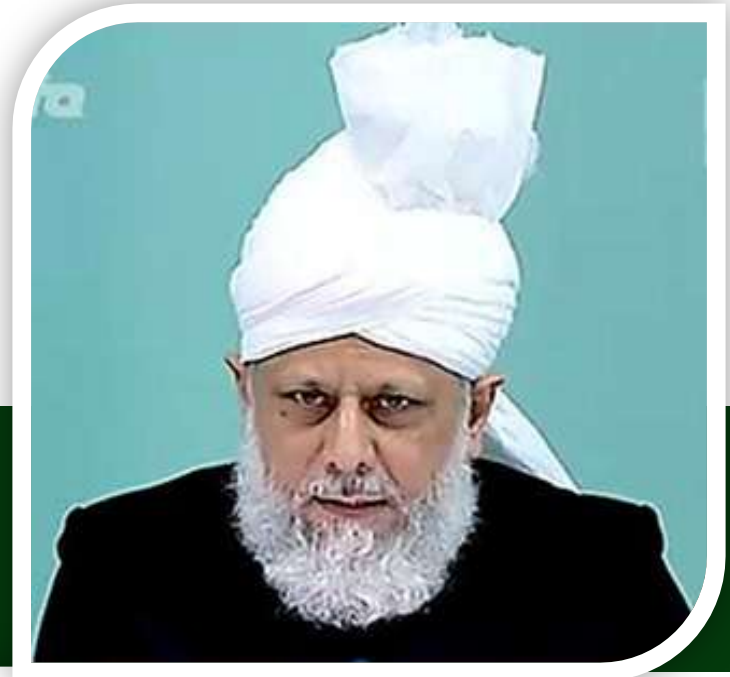


# HOSPITALITY OF THE GUESTS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH<sup>AS</sup>

Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat Mirza  
Masroor Ahmad (aba) Head of the  
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community



**Friday Sermon August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012**

# SUMMARY

With the grace of God UK Jalsa Salana is approaching and will InshaAllah begin next Friday

Indeed, some of the preparatory work is contracted out but 75% of the work is carried out by the young, the old, women and children volunteers

In order to be helpers of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) in every sense, we should perform the task of hospitality which is entrusted to us in a most excellent way

**Khalifa of the time puts his trust in the workers and each worker should honour this trust.**

Hospitality of the guests of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) in particular should be considered Divine grace and should be executed with heightened fervour

- **Jalsa Salana UK is approaching**
- The UK Jalsa is the central Jalsa
- Greater responsibility of the workers
- Advice on hospitality
- Jalsa guests are the guests of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>
- Security
- Prayers

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With the grace of God, workers of various departments are giving a lot of their time to their tasks and are working hard



Indeed, some of the preparatory work is contracted out but 75% of the work is carried out by the young, the old, women and children volunteering themselves



It is a great privilege for them and they do it year in and year out in an excellent manner.

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih drew attention of the workers to their Jalsa tasks in today's sermon and said that this kind of reminder further draws one to the task at hand and at times a particular advise generates new vigour and enthusiasm

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The UK Jalsa workers have the distinction that they are particularly addressed on the significance of serving Jalsa guests.

This is because the significance of the UK Jalsa is greater than any other Jalsa in the world

For the past 27 to 28 years the UK Jalsa has taken the form of international Jalsa

The UK Jalsa is not simply UK Jalsa anymore, rather it is the central Jalsa because the Khalifa of the time resides here

Although the UK Jama'at pays for most of the Jalsa expenses, at times the centre has to pay 30% or so towards it. This is being mentioned because at times certain people spread anxiety about this the cost of Jalsa to the UK Jama'at

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The responsibilities of the workers of this Jalsa greatly increase due to it being a central Jalsa

- Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih is concerned to draw attention of the workers prior to the Jalsa to be mindful that the eyes of the guests, including dignitaries will be on the organisation and the workers

Men, women and children should try their very best

- It should be the aim of the workers that their standards do not slip; rather they should get better for a believer always treads towards progress.

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Hospitality is not a trivial practice. It is mentioned in the Qur'an, and is one of the qualities of Prophets of God

When one is hospitable purely for the sake of God and most selflessly aims to attain the pleasure of God, certainly such hospitality earns twice as much merit with God

Hospitality is also a significant task among the tasks given to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). God revealed to him that people in their multitudes would come to see him and he should not be weary of them and he should not be tired of meeting them.

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The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) used to greet guests in most honourable manner, even when he was unwell

Today the guests who will come for the Jalsa will also arrive in accordance with the instruction of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) to attend a Tarbiyyati system initiated by him

In this sense they will be the guests of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and it is the privilege of each worker to fully serve them

*The Holy Prophet (pbuh) said that a guest should be given his or her rightful due and should be given the hospitality of a few days*



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Hadhrat Abu Huraira (may Allah be pleased with him) was impoverished and stayed as a guest of the Holy Prophet (pbuh)

Once, Hadhrat Abu Huraira was desperately hungry after days of starvation. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) took him home. A bowl of milk had arrived from somewhere as gift.

The Prophet (pbuh) asked Hadhrat Abu Huraira to fetch all those who were hungry and thirsty. They all sat in a circle and the bowl of milk was first given to the person sitting to the right. Hadhrat Abu Huraira felt that due to his acute hunger it was his right to drink the milk first and was anxious that the milk would run out by the time his turn came. However, the Holy Prophet (pbuh) had taken a sip of the milk himself and it was blessed and everyone drank it satisfactorily



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People will come to Jalsa to learn about religion and it is our duty to serve them



As well as being a commandment of God, it is also the Sunnah of the Prophet (pbuh) and God commands us to put Sunnah in practice



In order to be helpers of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) in every sense, we should perform the task of hospitality which is entrusted to us in a most excellent way



The features of the hospitality of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) are familiar but each time they are related a new aspect is highlighted

Hadhrat Khair uddin relates that he was invited to join in with the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace), when he was having a meal in his Gol Kamra (name of a room). He joined in. Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II was of young age at the time and was also eating with them. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) placed his plate in front of Khair uddin sahib. Soon after, another companion started clearing the plates and in haste picked up Khair uddin sahib's plate as well. When the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) saw this he reprimanded most harshly. **The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that unless he said so the dinner utensils should not be cleared.**

This incidence depicts that if a guest is eating he or she should be left to eat in peace

It should be announced how much time is left to Salat or Jalsa..

..but diners should not be rushed and plates should not be removed

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As regards hospitality, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said: 'I am always mindful that no guest should be inconvenienced and this is why I always give instructions that as much as it is possible, guests should be afforded comfort. The heart of a guest is fragile like glass and is broken by the slightest of knocks.'

There is advice in it for every Jalsa worker.

The first advice is to give as much comfort to the guest as possible.

Another matter that the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) has raised which is applicable to everyone is that the heart of a guest is like glass. It is very important to look after this fragile heart

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The number of Jama'at has increased further still and in representation of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) it is not possible for the Khalifa of the time to eat with guests and personally take care of everyone

This is why a system is in place so that each department can take maximum care of the needs of the guests and with full appreciation

**Khalifa of the time puts his trust in the workers and each worker should honour this trust.**

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The guests feel that the people working for Jalsa live closer to the Khalifa of the time and expect higher standards from them in every aspect. Indeed, their standards should be higher

These include standards of worship of God, piety and courtesy. Attention to Salat and worship is most important as is attention to other pieties and courtesy

All these attributes should manifest themselves further enhanced during Jalsa days

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**As mentioned earlier, due to the circumstances, security is of paramount important and no kind of compromise can be made in this regard**

However, it is also important to be mindful of the sentiments of others

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih wished to say it openly that due to the current situation in the world in general and that pertaining to the Jama'at in particular the mischievous element is very active

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Hospitality in general and hospitality of the guests of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) in particular should be considered Divine grace and for this, services should be offered and executed with heightened fervour

May God enable all workers to do so; most of all emphasis should be given to prayers

May God bless the Jalsa in every way and may all the tasks of the management be accomplished on time and may the workers serve in an excellent manner.