

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

The duties and responsibilities of Aḥmadī men in the light of the teachings of Islām. No religion safeguards the rights of women as forcefully as Islām.

Ḥadīth: The best among the believers in their morals is the one who is best towards his wife.

Be pious and set a virtuous example for your children, only then will the next generation become a source of peace and fulfilment for you.

On 19th May 2017, Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V* (may Allāh be his Helper) delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: Islām guides us in every respect, and if we act upon its teachings we can create a harmonious society. There are many commandments in the Holy Qur’ān, and God has summarised them in this one verse لَقَدْ كَانَ لَكُمْ فِي رَسُولِ اللَّهِ أُسْوَةٌ حَسَنَةٌ (Verily you have in the Prophet of Allāh an excellent model). All our success lies in following in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and adopting the moral standards he demonstrated in every aspect of life, and which his true servant, the Promised Messiah (a.s), expounded for us in this age.

Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: Today I will speak about the responsibilities of men. Often men do not pay attention to the upbringing of their children and are cruel to their wives. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that if, even after pledging Bai‘at to the Promised Messiah (a.s), we treat our wives the way ignorant people do, then our Bai‘at is of no use. Are men, who are responsible for fulfilling their obligations to God and for bringing about practical transformation, fulfilling their obligations? In spite of his busy life, the Holy Prophet ﷺ fulfilled his obligations to his family and taught them to uphold God’s Oneness and to worship Him. Ḥaḍrat Ayesha (r.a) relates that the Holy Prophet ﷺ would wake up for Tahajjud and would also wake her up. He would help in household chores and when it was time for prayer he would go to the mosque. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: This is the example we have to follow. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said to his companions: The best among you in morals is the one who is best towards his wife.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) says: We should tolerate everything from our wives other than indecency. We should show our gratitude for being men by being kind to women. Those who fight with their wives over trivial things should come to their senses and beware lest they lose their faith. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: In Western countries such cases sometimes involve the police and it causes embarrassment for the Jamā‘at. Those who speak ill of their wives should also reflect on their own condition. If a person is pious then his wife can also become pious. Counselling through action rather than words is more

effective. When a man wakes up to pray at night, the woman will learn to do the same. Women have an accepting nature, therefore the practical example of the husband is sufficient. A person should be so virtuous that his wife should not be able to lay a finger upon his character. In that case, even if a woman is not devout, she will start to change. Sometimes the women are more devout than the husbands and complain about them not being mindful of their faith. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: On the one hand we have the expectations the Promised Messiah (a.s) has of us, and on the other hand we hear of these complaints that men do not attend to their prayers, or that their religious knowledge is weak, or that they watch unsuitable programs on TV. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said when children go astray, it is more often because the man of the house is not virtuous. If we want the proper upbringing of our children, then our men must do some introspection. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that man is the master of the house, and if he is setting a negative example then this will spread into his progeny.

Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: When anger crosses the proper bounds, it is the harbinger of insanity. Those who become furious out of proportion are deprived of wisdom. A believer should never utter words of anger even when responding to an opponent. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said that the auxiliary organizations and Nazārat Iṣlāḥ-o-Irshād should teach members in these matters. Learning and Da‘wat Ilallāh is of no use if there is no harmony in our households. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: Women closely watch their husbands. There are many who do not leave Islām but get involved in wrongful activities in the name of freedom, and then their women follow the same path. But after some time when men try to bring them back, it results in quarrels, breaking up of homes, and destruction of children’s lives.

The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that no religion upholds the rights of women more forcefully than Islām. Just as women have obligations to men, so do men have obligations towards women. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that the relationship between man and wife should be like that of true friends. Every man should abide by the Ḥadīth, “The best among you is the one who is best towards his wife.”

Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: Men also have responsibilities as parents and they should not put all the burden for this on their wives. When boys reach the age of seven or eight they require the attention of their fathers, and the fathers need to lead them with their example. Fathers need to be watchful in order to protect their kids from the evils of society. If they keep close to their children they can soon overcome their weaknesses. It is also important to pray for the children. Proper upbringing comes only by the grace of God, but we need to do our best as well. The Promised Messiah (a.s) says that good upbringing is the work of God and it is a kind of idolatry to rebuke kids on every trivial matter. This is something our Jamā‘at should avoid. I pray for my children and generally guide them regarding rules and etiquette. Some people are worried about leaving wealth behind for their children, but they are not the least concerned about leaving pious progeny. Those who are only engrossed in acquiring wealth are perturbed on account of their children in their very lives. the tribulation one suffers on account of one’s children is very hard indeed. Ḥadīrat Dawood (a.s) says, “I was a child, then I became young, and now I am old, but I have never seen the progeny of a pious person short of food or begging.” Allāh cares for several generations of a righteous person.

Therefore, become righteous and leave a holy example for your progeny. Pray and strive that your children become pious and devout. Strive for it just as you strive for accumulating wealth.

Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: While Islām places obligations on parents, it also places obligations on the children. A man asked the Holy Prophet ﷺ that he wished to go for Jihad. The Holy Prophet ﷺ asked, are your parents alive? If so, go and look after them, this is your Jihad. The Holy Prophet ﷺ also said: One of the best acts of piety one can do is to be kind to the friends of one's parents and to pray for one's parents after they die and to fulfil the promises they have made. Whoever wishes for a long life should fulfil his obligations towards his parents. If a man wisely fulfils his obligations towards his parents and his wife, then there should be no domestic quarrels. Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) said: Even in the case of religious differences, children are obligated to look after their parents and pray that Allāh may guide them as well. In short, a man should fulfil his obligations as a husband, a father and a son. This will then guarantee harmony in society. May Allāh enable everyone to do so. *Amīn*.

Please convey these guidelines given by Huzoor (may Allāh be his Helper) to members of your Jamā'at.

Jazākumullāh.

Wassalām,

(Ch. Hameedullah)

Wakīl A'lā,

Tahrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya Pakistan.

Dated: 25 May 2017