

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The Amīr/National President
Jamā‘at Ahmadiyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Extracts from the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 26 October 2018 at Baitul Samī‘, Huston, Texas, USA.

Our Imām, *Ḥaḍrat Khalīfa-tul-Masīh V* (May Allāh be his Helper) said:

It is God’s great favour upon us that he enabled us to accept the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him). His words are a beacon and a source of guidance for us at every step. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) guided his followers with great fervour to fulfil their obligations of *Bai‘at* and to become true believers. His sayings are the means of spiritual development, understanding of faith, finding nearness to God, learning the hidden insights of the Holy Qur’ān, recognizing the status of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh’s Blessings be upon him), correcting our beliefs and improving our practical condition. It will be unfortunate for us indeed if, in the presence of this treasure, we still fail to benefit from it. It is the duty of all members of the Jamā‘at to read and listen to these words and to act upon them so as to attain the standards that the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) expected of us. Today I will cite some sayings of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him), and in their light everyone can do some introspection and see where he stands and where he should be, and realize what *Taqwa* is and what it requires, and what our responsibilities are.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: In order to attain the true *Taqwa* that pleases God, Allāh repeatedly commands: “O believers, fear Allāh.” And He says that He is with those who adopt *Taqwa*. *Muhsenīn* are not those who merely abstain from evil, rather they perform good deeds in a befitting and appropriate way. We can only attain God’s nearness and receive His help when *Taqwa* is accompanied by good deeds. It is no great feat to merely abstain from evil, nor is it anything to be proud of. Until one shuns evil and adopts piety, one cannot survive in the spiritual realm. There are major sins such as falsehood, adultery, dishonesty, giving false testimony, usurping people’s rights, etc. But there are other more subtle sins that people are not even aware of, such as bearing grievances and grudges, expressing displeasure at minor things, speaking against people behind their backs. Most people take these things to be very minor, whereas the Holy Qur’ān describes them as great sins. The same is the case with miserliness and anger; all these are evil traits. Man should shun these and avoid all other sins, whether they relate to the eyes, the ears, the hands, the feet or any other organ. Do not unduly follow that which you do not know, for the ear, the eye, the heart, and every other organ shall be brought to account. Do not give place in your heart to anything that you do not know for certain. This is meant to do away with thinking ill of others. Unless one has witnessed and truly judged something, one should not give it a place in one’s

heart or bring it to one's tongue. There are many who will be held answerable for their tongues. If we can get rid of the habit of thinking ill of others, half of the discord and quarrels in our society would disappear and unity will prevail. So it is imperative that you do not think ill of others and instead entertain positive thoughts about them. And if you hear something, investigate it. If you merely have a thought, you will not be held accountable for it, but if you act upon it, such as tax evasion and thus causing loss to the government, or hiding true income and promising *Chandah* less than merited by your income, then God will hold you answerable. These are the sins that are not given much attention to but they can lead to a person's ruin.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: The first step for man is to adopt *Taqwa*. Allāh does not desire that you create disorder on earth. He wants to spread Oneness, but the person who hurts his brother and acts with injustice and dishonesty is the enemy of oneness, for such acts cannot produce love or brotherhood. Until such evil thoughts are discarded, true unity cannot come about. This is why this has been declared as the first stage. The blessing of being a Jamā'at lies in having unity, and it is for this purpose that the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) came and gathered people on one hand. The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: Read the Holy Qur'ān again and again and note down the evil deeds outlined in it and then strive to avoid them with God's help and grace. To avoid evil deeds is the first step of *Taqwa*. When you strive in this manner, Allāh will grant you the camphoric elixir that will make your desire for sin to grow cold. Thereafter you can only do good deeds. What is the use of prayer and fasting if after offering prayer you start criticising and complaining. The sign of worship and prayer is that we should start shedding the major and minor evils, have a greater desire to do virtuous deeds and move towards the truth. If this is not happening, then our prayers are mere actions in haste. If we want proper upbringing of our children, the elders and particularly the office-bearers need to inculcate *Taqwa* in themselves.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: I again strongly remind my Jamā'at that if you progress in *Taqwa*, God will be with you. Do not rest content and be arrogant that you have pledged *Bai'at*, for until you have fully entered into it you will not be saved. Mere belief will not help you until you become one in word and deed. The real thing, for which we should strive, are our deeds. It is not enough to be called an Aḥmadī; it is essential to mould ourselves according to God's commandments and to become a true believer.

Referring to the Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him), the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: They were ready to lay down their lives in the path of God. And they fulfilled their obligations when they were commanded to sacrifice their lives and did not incline towards the world. It is important therefore to give preference to faith over the world.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: These days I am relating accounts of the Companions of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) so that we are reminded of the examples of those people regarding whom the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's Blessings be upon him) said that each one of them is a star and whomever of them you follow, you will be guided aright. Thus they are a holy example for us.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: In the eyes of Allāh only those people are part of this Jamā'at who have given up the world. Allāh only loves those and only their progeny is blessed who follow Allāh's commandments. The world becomes the ruin of those who leave God and incline towards the world. Remember that in the eyes of Allāh only that person is considered a true believer who after pledging *Bai'at* gives preference to the faith over worldly affairs. Until man's deeds are not reformed, mere words avail nothing; they are mere verbosity. True faith is that which enters the heart and all the deeds take on its colour. Blessed are those who give preference to the faith over the world; whereas those who prefer the world will never see the face of true success like a carrion.

The Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him) says: Be steadfast in obedience to God. Be steadfast in observing the pledge you have made during the *Bai'at*. Do not hurt God's creatures. Read the Holy Qur'ān with care and act upon it. Avoid all ridicule and frivolity and idolatrous gatherings. Observe the obligatory five-time prayers. Keep your body clean and cleanse your heart of all malice and jealousy. This is what God requires of you.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: May Allāh enable us to bring about this holy transformation in ourselves. May we give preference to our faith over the world, fulfil our pledge, and follow the guidance of the Promised Messiah (May peace be upon him). *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: 01 November 2018