

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

The National Amīr/ President
Jamā‘at Aḥmadīyya,

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Dear Brother,

السلام علیکم ورحمة اللہ وبرکاتہ

Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered by *Ḥadrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V* (May Allāh be his Helper) on 18th August 2023 at *Masjid Mubārak*, Islamabad, Tilford, UK

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Allāh commands us in the Holy Qur’ān that we should entrust responsibilities to those who are worthy of them. In a *Ḥadīth*, the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, "Any responsibility or position that relates to the affairs of the people is a trust." Therefore, in our *Jamā‘at*, every responsibility or service should be taken as a trust. At every level in our *Jamā‘at*, the office-bearers are elected, and Allāh commands that whenever you elect someone for an office, choose such individuals who can fulfil the trust placed upon them. Kinship or self-interest should never be a consideration when voting.

At times, certain officeholders are selected either by *Markaz* or by the *Khalīfa*. In such cases, the intent is to choose the best person for the responsibility after careful consideration. However, sometimes people's attitudes change after they have been made office-bearers and they no longer show the same kind of dedication and humility as before. Nevertheless, we should strive to select the best individuals from within ourselves through prayer. Generally, the effort is made not to give responsibility to someone who promotes himself and desires a position of authority. Even if such a person's name is proposed and presented to the *Markaz* or *Khalīfa*, if they are aware of his circumstances, his approval is not granted. This approach is in accordance with the guidance of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him).

Once, two individuals came to the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) and said, 'O Messenger of Allāh, entrust this service to us; we are qualified for it.' The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, 'Whoever I entrust responsibility to, Allāh helps him with it. But if someone desires to take authority for himself, then Allāh does not aid him, and his work remains unblessed.' Therefore, one should never desire an office; the only desire should be to serve the faith.

At times, the *Markaz* or the *Khalīfa* does not approve the appointment of a person who has received the majority of votes. This is because the *Markaz* or the *Khalīfa* has some information or reports about the person that others are not aware of.

This year, elections are being held in some countries for the auxiliary organizations. All those who become members of the electoral council should use the trust placed in them with prayer and equity, as commanded by Allāh.

I also wish to emphasise the responsibilities and obligations of the officeholders. It's crucial for those in positions of authority to consistently bear in mind that they have been entrusted with their roles by Allāh for the purpose of serving. It is imperative that they transcend personal interests and prioritise their duties. There have been instances where a lack of humility has been observed among some office-bearers, to the extent that certain individuals in positions of responsibility do not even respond to greetings. Those exhibiting such behaviours should reform and humble themselves. You have been designated for the service of the *Jamā‘at*, not to instil fear like royal officials. Similarly, some individuals in positions of responsibility do not carry out their tasks diligently. They also need to rectify themselves, otherwise, they will be deprived of the opportunity to serve.

I also want to draw the attention of those in positions of responsibility towards some of their obligations. Firstly, you must cultivate humility within yourself and strive to fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to you. Set a personal example for others. Also, engage in a great deal of seeking forgiveness, praising Allāh, and introspection. If Secretary *Tarbiyat* doesn't offer obligatory prayers punctually, how can he urge others to do so? Likewise, if an office-holder does not pay *Chanda* at the proper rate, how can he convince others to make sacrifices? If the secretaries for *Tarbiyat* guide the *Jamā'at* with love and affection and show their own examples in this regard, they can bring about revolutionary change. Every individual in a position of responsibility should offer at least two *Nawafil* daily for the improvement of their department. If the *Tarbiyat* department becomes active, other departments will automatically improve by up to seventy percent.

Subsidiary organisations should also mobilise themselves at all levels. Occasional complaints emerge in some areas concerning the local *Lajna* presidents. Instead of involving new converts in activities, they are being discouraged. This is mostly because some people hold offices for very long periods. Members of *Lajna* should engage in introspection, supplication, and meticulous selection of those who will assume responsibilities, ensuring they are capable of upholding the entrusted roles.

Officeholders are not meant to merely occupy positions on the stage; rather, every person with responsibility should actively engage as a participant and fulfil their obligations. Let us recall the directive of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) that the leader of a people is, in fact, their servant.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said, "Each of you is a shepherd, and each of you will be questioned regarding your subjects." By subjects, it doesn't mean those who are governed by authority; rather, it refers to those whose service and well-being have been entrusted to you.

Those entrusted with responsibilities must bear in mind that participating in meetings and expressing their opinions is only part of their duty. It is essential to move beyond this and engage in thorough planning for the advancement of the *Jamā'at*, followed by effective implementation. Utilising available resources, it's important to consider the genuine needs of the people with the utmost practical wisdom.

At present, the *Rishta Nāṭa* department faces great challenges. This underscores the necessity for comprehensive planning involving both the community system and subsidiary organizations. In this context, it becomes imperative to invigorate the *Tarbiyat* department. If our youth are trained properly, they will always remember the teachings of the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) that when seeking to marry, we should prioritise faith over wealth, family position, or physical appearance.

Equally vital is the role of the *Umūre 'Āma* department. It is commonly thought that the work of this department is to impose penalties or give warnings and reprimands. Those working in this department should know this is only a part of their work. Giving severe reprimands is not their job; it is only necessary in extreme cases. If the *Tarbiyat* department is active, many of the issues related to disputes within the *Jamā'at* can be resolved automatically. Making judgements in matters related to *Qaḍā* is not the task of *Umūre 'Āma*. However, implementing the decisions of the *Qaḍā* is their responsibility. If any party refuses to abide by the decisions of *Qaḍā*, it is the duty of *Umūre 'Āma* to talk to them politely and make them see reason. The work of *Umūre 'Āma* is not to impose penalties on people but to save them from penalties, and they should make every effort to this end.

Sometimes, the attitudes of individuals in positions of responsibility create misgivings about the system of the *Jamā'at*. Let me assure the *Jamā'at* members that every letter that reaches the office of the *Khalīfa* is opened, read, and acted upon. If there is any delay, it is on account of the concerned *Jamā'at*, and thus those in positions of responsibility create distances between the *Jamā'at* members and the *Khalīfa*.

Those entrusted with responsibilities, particularly those responsible for assisting needy individuals, should always remember not to procrastinate in fulfilling their duties. The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) said that whoever is in a position of authority and closes his door on the destitute and deserving, Allāh closes the doors of the heavens for his needs. Therefore, if any responsible person or their office staff has such a mindset, they should fear Allāh and expedite the fulfilment of people's needs. If there is a need for information to be conveyed to the centre, provide a prompt report so that the centre can assess and take appropriate action. Holding onto requests and delaying action for extended periods is a serious offence.

The Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) has said, "Wherever you find yourself, abide by *Taqwa*. If you happen to commit a misdeed, follow it with good action, for it will erase the wrong. Interact with people in a manner that is gracious and kind." When the Holy Prophet (May Allāh's blessings be upon him) dispatched Ḥaḍrat *Abū Mūsa* (May Allāh be pleased with him) and Ḥaḍrat *Mu'āz bin Jabal* (May Allāh be pleased with him) to different parts of Yemen, he urged them to create ease for people instead of hardship, to spread love and joy, and not to let hatred take root. Every office-bearer should keep this golden principle in mind.

The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) said, "Believers are those who uphold their trusts and commitments. This means they do not leave any room for uncertainty or negligence when it comes to fulfilling entrusted responsibilities and keeping their promises." The Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him) further says, "There are two types of beauty in a person's creation. One is the beauty of conduct, which is to fulfil all of Allāh's trusts and commitments in such a way that no action remains neglected to the best of one's ability. It is equally essential that a person fulfil his obligations towards his fellow beings. This means, observing both the rights of Allāh and the rights of His creations, and this is the beauty of conduct, or spiritual beauty.

Therefore, every person in a position of responsibility should remember that we have been entrusted with nurturing this spiritual beauty within ourselves. May Allāh Almighty grant us all the capability to do so.

Wassalām,

Abdul Majid Tahir
Additional Wakīlut Tabshīr
ISLĀMABAD (UK)
Dated: 23 August 2023