

AHMADIYYA SERVICES IN

SIERRA LEONE

(Friday Sermon delivered on 29/01/1988 at Bo, Sierra leone)

After tashahud, ta'awaadh and recitation of Sura Al-Fatihah Hadur said few words in Urdu and then delivered sermon in English to facilitate the translation in local languages:

I was saying that with the grace of Allah and entirely because of His special mercy my tour of Sierra leone, which is coming to a conclusion very soon, has been a success in every regard and I am so happy and so satisfied so far and I hope انشاء الله in future the remaining two or three days also Allah will make this tour a great success.

I must express my heart felt gratitude to the Government of Sierra leone and the people of Siraleon particularly to the eminent president His Excelency Joseph Momoh for his very special interest in making my tour successful and for an extreme kindness and the cooperation that he extended All this has gone a long way to make this tour successful.

Those the political leaders the ministers and members of parliament, The mayors of the towns I visited and also the beaurocracy; the Government officials at every level and particularly the police all over the country has been extremely kind and caring and they did what ever they could to keep us comfortable, well received and well looked after.

Now this expression of nobility and this gesture of Kindness and hospitality is expressive on the one hand of your president's nobility and his government's nobility and on the other it is expressive of the services which Jama'at Ahmadiyya has rendered to this country.

The selfless service and the dedicated service which Jama'at Ahmadiyya Sierra Leone, in particular, and the Jama'at Ahmadiyya worldwide in general has been rendering to this country for over 50 years has paid its dividends today. People everywhere are conscious of these services and they are very grateful. So الحمد لله with the grace of Allah the work that Jama'at Ahmadiyya started 50 years ago against great odds and great dangers is coming to a wonderful conclusion today.

Three sections of Ahmadiyya Jama'at in Sierra Leone have played a very special role in all the progress of the community in every direction that we observe today.

No.1: The missionaries with the grace of Allah has been discharging their duties with very special dedication and total selflessness. They may have some difficulties to find communion with the people because of lack of understanding of languages but they are trying very hard to overcome these difficulties. Some of them particularly have acquired a proficiency in the local languages which is amazing. Some others are lacking I realise but I hope انشاء الله from now on they'll pay special attention to learn the local languages as they are spoken in the country with such proficiency that they should appear to be one of them in language, otherwise they always in one of them in spirit and in love.

I am particularly Impressed by the quality of service of the local missionaries who have not being trained in Jamia Ahmadiyya, who are not fortunate to be trained in Jamia Ahmadiyya but what they lack in Knowledge they possess in spirit and will to serve. They are highly charge missionaries, totally dedicated and they are so proficient in their local languages and such great orators with the grace of Allah that when ever I hear them speak to the people in their own language although I can't understand what they say directly but the message is some how conveyed to me direct to my heart, The way they express themselves it is so charged with sincerity, with

dedication, with love, with a will to convey themselves to others and the mastery of the language is so apparent that I can see the influence on the people's faces who hear them. So I'm very happy with grace of Allah that although they seem to be a second string the system of preaching but they in reality in essence they are never string less then the first string of preaching.

In appreciation and recognition of their services I have decided to establish a full-fledge Jamia Ahmadia in Sierra leone. With the grace of Allah the land for this purpose has been offered by a paramount chief in his area. He was so deeply impressed by the services of the Ahmadiyya Community that he did not demand a secular school a secular college but he said I know if your community can be assisted here to flourish and spread faster and further then in itself that will be a great service to the country. So in view of that he offered a large piece of land and every assistance possible to establish a Jamia Ahmadiyya, the full scale Jamia Ahmadiyya, here in Sierra leone.

The second section of society whith whose services I'm deeply impressed is the staff employed in Ahmadiyya Schools. Many of them are with the grace of Allah are devoted Ahmadies but there are many more who are not even Ahmadies but their such loyalty to the institution they serve that they are serving with the spirit of an Ahmadi. What ever their religion be I've even found Christians serving in Ahmadiyya schools totally dedicated to the Ahmadiyya message and having no reservations to cooperate with the system of Ahmadiat and to promote the spirit of Ahmadiat among the children. So this is very special quality of the people of Sierra leone to be loyal to the cause they are serving. Having no regard for their own personal preferences and personal religions. And the Ahmadi devotees of life who came here from abroad they have been rendering these services with such patience and with such determination and will to serve at great cost of personal comfort and that of their families. Many of them have been serving here for the last 24 years, many of them have lost their dear ones back in home and could not pay a visit to them during their illness or even after their death to meet the family members and to condole them. So this is a great immense sacrifice which the Ahmadia Community is offering here in silence, with patience only to please Allah and only to

serve the Allah's creation; the mankind.

The principals and the heads of these educational institutions are specially to be thanked and congratulated for the excellent services they are rendering to the system of education. Not only to Ahmadiat itself but to the system of education. Where ever I've visited, where ever people belonging to various important offices in the government or other people of distinguished in the cities have met me, they've very specially expressed their gratitude for the high quality of discipline maintained in Ahmadiya Schools and Ahmadiyya colleges. And the order which is observed among the students studying in Ahmadiyya institutions is outstanding. So some of them expressed this directly to me; not only congratulations but also told me that although other institutions are available which apparently belong to a much high standard worldlywise, they are much better equipped but we prefer to send our children to Ahmadiyya institution because of this high standard of discipline of morality and of order. Among these things the standard of education itself is also very high. So all these things go together to pay a great complement to the heads of these institutions. Allah bless them and help them maintain these outstanding standards through out in future.

(برقی روجانے سے سہاؤ نڈ سسٹم معطل ہو گیا۔ بحال نہ ہونے پر حضور نے بغیر لاؤ ڈسپیکٹر کے خطبہ جاری رکھا)

For the last some time there has been a growing tendency in the Ahmadiya Schools for introducing new songs on religion. There is one famous song "Ahmadiyya song which is becoming very popular all over the country and all the students whatever their religion or creed be they join in this song with pride and it is becoming very popular after the national anthem. Also there are other wonderful charming songs being introduced in the schools. I propose that Hazrat Rasool-e-Karim's ﷺ love can be instilled in to the hearts through the songs because African people are a musical people. Through the instruments of music a lot can be achieved which cannot be achieved by ordinary addresses. Although we do not believe in instruments of music but we believe in using music as instrumental to the progress in spread of Islamic values. Music in the sense of rhythm of song etc. So these songs which I've heard every where although they

were played without the aid of musical instruments they seemed to lack nothing. In itself the quality of African voice is and so musical, so wonderful, and so charming that you never felt the absence of anything because the voice itself was enough and more over very soul is musical in nature so they put a lot of their soul there sentiments in to those songs. I was particularly impressed and deeply thrilled when I noticed that even the Christians joined the Ahmadi students willingly and lovingly in praise of the Holy Prophet of Allah and in sending blessings to him; peace and blessings of Allah be upon him. When Ahmadi children sang the praises and sent the blessings to the Holy prophet in the words:

صل على نبينا، صل على محمد، صل على شفيعنا، صل على محمد

all the audience not only the Christian students but all the audience join them in a natural out flowing course; joining them in the song of praise and love and showering of blessings upon the Holy prophet of Islam صلى الله عليه وسلم peace be upon him, and they all sang in one accord and uniform:

صل على نبينا صل على محمد، صل على شفيعنا صل على محمد،

صل على رسولنا صل على محمد، صل على حبيبنا صل على محمد

So I hope in future this tendency will be widely and intensely encouraged and Ahmadi songs should become the songs of the people of Sierra leone. Also I suggest that selection from Hazrat Masih-e-Maud's *عليه الصلوة والسلام* poems in love of Allah, in praise and love of the Holy prophet of Islam and in love of the human values should be translated in to simple local songs; Mende, Timne, Creole etc. and should be introduced to all the Ahmadi villages where they should make it a regular practice to sing those songs in the morning and in the evening, when they are at work or when they are resting. That will help educate and instruct the Ahmadis every where in the country in the best of manners.

Now I turn to the medical services rendered by the Ahmadiyya Community to this country. This country as you know well is very poor and deficient in many things which are essential for maintaining the high standard of health and hygiene.

As such this country needs much more a medical aid then it is offered to the country today. Although the Ahmadi doctors are doing wonderful work and amazing work. So much so they've impressed people from all walks of life to an extent that I've never seen any people so deeply impressed by the services of any medical core or medical departments then they are impressed by the Ahmadiyya Community's doctors and those others involved in there services. One of the members of parliament paid his tribute in public that the Ahmadi doctor the way he is serving is unbelievable and amazing. The operations he is carrying out with out the necessary facilities, with out the proper instruments and the number of patients he is managing to care for is mind boggling. One can't believe that a human being can do so much and in the end he said the most surprising thing is that not a single patient is lost in his hand. What strange miracle this is?

I told these people, I tell these people who say things like this that it is the miracle of Allah's blessing, of our education that we must pray to Allah for every thing we do. So every Ahmadi doctor does not only attend the patients with the scientific knowledge, he attains through medical colleges but also he helps them with a spiritual knowledge he has attained as being a member of the Ahmadiyya Community. So he prays for them. He begs Allah's for mercy and again his selfless service and total dedication to his patients becomes a type of silence prayer in the sight of Allah. This is something which I must emphasize. I want every Ahmadi to have this quality. If you love people, if you serve them with honesty and selflessness without any personal reward in mind or interior motives then the pure dedication for their cause of goodness is so loveable a quality in sight of Allah that even if you do not pray verbally along with the service your very service becomes a silence prayer, a begging for mercy to Allah. So this is that special thing which is added an extra quality to Ahmadi medical service which is lacking elsewhere, not only here but also in other countries of world.

Now I turn to the general body of Ahmadis in Sierraleone whom I had a good fortune to observe from very close.

Whereever I've travelled I've met large sections of

Ahmadia Community and observed them from close quarters also I sat long hours with them in question answers sessions. My observation is that with grace of Allah they highly charged people, dedicated Ahmadis, ready to offer any sacrifices for the sake of Islam and I've noticed that though they are poor generally but they are not poor in the quality of their faith and in the quality of head & heart. Where ever I've visited Ahmadis I've found both elderly and the young equally intelligent, brilliant, responsive and having such qualities as when given proper opportunity they could shine like stars. But most unfortunately they are people a deprived of necessary opportunities. So Ahmadiyya Community must extend her services in other region as well and try to help the country as a whole and try to give the poor people here a chance to show their inner qualities and bring out what is best in them and I assure you Allah has bestowed you with so may wonderful qualities that you in potentials you are a nation second to none in the world. But as far as the extention of services regarding Islamic instructions, Islamic teachings and training is concerned there is a lot left to be desired, to be improved and I feel that the mass contact with the people of all age particularly in the younger group is not satisfactory. I've found people asking me questions which were of elementary nature which they should have known much earlier. Also they have asked some very deep and interesting and intelligent questions as well. But generally I've found that we are lacking in the sphere of instructions and that is why the spread of Ahmadiyat here is not as fast as it could be. Whenever I answered them I could see smiles of satisfaction break out on their faces and I could see such brilliance in their eyes of satisfaction and content at what answers they had received that it assured me that if all the Ahmadis in Sierra leone; young and old are trained in the Islamic instructions and particularly in the regions where we hold different views about Islam from many other sects, of course based on the authority of the Holy Quran and on the authority of the Holy Prophet of Islam himself. But still there are regions of differences. In those regions they should be particularly instructed because they are harassed from all sides. Difficult embarrassing questions are asked of them from other people they meet, and if they are not well trained they will

feel lack of confidence and they will never turn out to be the out they will standing **داعيين الى الله** as I want them to be in future. So a special attention should be made in this region.

The answer to most of the questions they've asked me are already available in recorded form in various cassettes which has been sent to your headquarter in Sierra leone. There are hundreds of hours of my discourses on these subjects. And have not come across any question regarding these controversial issues asked of me which has not already been answered at great length from every angle, from every point of view. So I've already instructed the administration to appoint committees: one for translation in to Creole, the other for translation in to Temni and an other for translation in to Mende. These commities should select from those hundreds of hours are my answers to these questions such passages, such portions as a relevant and found more useful to be used in this country; for use in this country. So I hope **انشاء الله** in the near future cassettes will be available to you, everywhere in Sierra leone regarding any question which you may face coming from non-Ahmadis and I am quite certain with the quality of spirit and dedication which I've observed among ordinary every Ahmadi infact of Sierra leone that having been provided with this powerful instrument of preaching **انشاء الله** all of them will become active and successful **داعيين الى الله** and spread of Ahamdiat here in this country can increase by a factor of many hundreds. So **انشاء الله** with the blessing of Allah soon you will see that day and all of you will be provided with the necessary material and also I've instructed that if in a poor Jama'at in a poor village people can not afford to buy a cassetts recorder they should be provided free of cost the cassette recorder and also the running maintainance expenses. So **انشاء الله** poverty will not stand in the way of you being able to preach to your countrymen.

In the area of education and instruction of religious knowledge and religious practices I've particularly noticed the need for such aids as would enable our children to learn the prayer; the Arabic words with translation and increase the general knowledge regarding to the Muslim behaviour in day to day life. How to say prayer, what to do before, what not to do in the prayer and what to do in the prayer and after that. How you should model your daily life, what should you pray when you

wake up. How should you pray when you go for sleep and so on and so so forth These small every day life instructions are needed very much in this country.

And also there are many areas of Islamic Fiqah; Islamic jurisprudence of which the Ahmadies of Sierra Leone and many other African countries are not aware. So they do things in violation of Islamic principles and Islamic Shariah inadvertently not knowing what is Shariah and what is not Shariah. So one cannot declare them to be councious sinner. But sin is sin weather it is conscious or unconscious. So we need to instruct you much more and in a manner in a systematic manner that every straighta of Ahmadi life here in Sierra Leone is reached and no gaps are left out, no voids are left out. Women should be trained, into the women's conduct regarding every day life, men should be trained children should be trained and for that again we should put to use this great media of instruction through cassettes. انشاء الله The headquarter will also appoint certain committees to prepare cassettes regarding these instructions very soon.

You will very happy to learn that the translation of the Holy Quran into the two major languages of your country Mende and Timne is in progress and with the grace of Allah already we have succeeded in translating the selected verses of the Holy Quran. And the rest of the Holy Quran is also being translated with great attention and devotion. Although most of the people in the country cannot read or write but again through the help of cassettes we can start teaching the Holy Quran directly in their own languages through these translations. So انشاء الله cassettes will also be prepared to teach the Holy Quran. And those cassettes will teach not only the meaning of the Holy Quran but also how best it should be recited with out fault, with out mistake. So with the grace of Allah before the end of the year you will be very much enriched in the knowledge of Islam and instruction are how best you carry your self and conduct your self in Islamic way of life.

In the end I should like to express my deep gratitude to the executive of Sierra Leone and to all the Ahmadis each one of you for the love they have expressed, for the hospitality they've offered, for the services they've rendered to me and to my

entourage through out our tour of Sierra Leone. I assure you that I am deeply appreciative of all this and I have been praying through out for you and will always remember you in my prayers.

I am aware of all those who have been doing services in various ways. Some of you I know are poor they cannot offer any thing in terms of money but they've offered what God has offer them; given them. They are serving the cause of the community and attending to the needs of this tour with their precious time. There are some young boys and oldmen who have been with us through out the tour and where ever we visited local volunteers came forward to help us and I was deeply moved by the quality of their dedication and sacrifice. There were people who worked day and night with out tiring. Most unfortunately due to a lack of attention in the beginning they were not even providing the food. It is a shame on us of course that an Ahmadiyya Community which is so highly reputed for its great triditions of hospitality and arrangements and orderliness should lack in this very important region. But soon this was mended and this error was corrected. And with grace of Allah from, then on every thing went smoothly in a natural flow. So I am aware all these services. I am also aware of those who have quietly offered their money very generously and whatever God had provided them with, like cars, like other requirements of the tour they've personally sacrificed and although this is no forum for naming them but their names are imprinted on my heart and on the hearts of my entourage and انشاء الله تعالى we'll remember them in prayer with love and warmth Allah bless you.

انشاء الله we remember you in our prayers and I request that you also remember us in your prayers and do not forget to remember the Ahmadis of Pakistan in particular who are suffering for so long for the sake of their faith, for the honour of human dignity, for their love of Allah and Holy Prophet. May Allah improves things there and give them the freedom of human conscious and human expression and human dignity once again. May Allah revolutionize the things in the country in the manner that the country instead of benig enemical to the fundamental Islamic and human values becomes subservient to the cause of Islam and to the cause humanity. May Allah bless

them and may Allah bless you. With that I say farewell to you.

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته