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Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at





لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

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## Pearls of Wisdom

Selection from the Holy Qur'ān and Aḥādīth 2

So Said the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> 3

## Guidance from Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V<sup>aa</sup>

Summary of Friday Sermons 4

## Articles

Guidelines for Jalsa Sālāna 10

Jalsa Sālāna and Our Responsibilities 11

Should Islām be Feared? 13

Pakistanis Have A Moral Responsibility To Stand By Aḥmadī Muslims 16

Media Relations Report 17

MASQ Report 20

Press Releases 26

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# Pearls of Wisdom



## THE HOLY QUR'AN

And keep thyself attached to those who call on their Lord, morning and evening, seeking His pleasure; and let not thy eyes pass beyond them, seeking the adornment of the life of the world; and obey not him whose heart We have made heedless of Our remembrance and who follows his evil inclinations, and his case exceeds all bounds. (18:29)

وَاصْبِرْ نَفْسَكَ مَعَ الَّذِينَ يَدْعُونَ رَبَّهُمْ  
بِالْغَدْوَةِ وَالْعَشيِّ يَرِيدُونَ وَجْهَهُ وَلَا تَعْدُ  
عَيْنُكَ عَنْهُمْ تُرِيدُ زِينَةَ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَلَا  
تَطِعْ مَنْ أَغْفَلْنَا قَلْبَهُ عَن ذِكْرِنَا وَاتَّبَعَ  
هُوَاهُ وَكَانَ أَمْرُهُ فُرُطًا ﴿٢٩﴾

## HADĪTH OF THE HOLY PROPHET MUHAMMAD<sup>SA</sup>

Hazrat Abū Hurairah<sup>ra</sup> narrates that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> said, Allāh has squads of Angels, who have no other work but to find assemblies wherein Allāh is being remembered. When they find such assemblies, they sit in them. Some Angels start surrounding people with their wings till the entire space between them and the sky is full; when the Angels disperse, they elevate to the Heavens; Allāh, the Exalted and Glorious, asks them, although He knows everything: Where have you come from? They say: We come from Thy servants upon the Earth who had been glorifying Thee, uttering Thy Greatness and uttering Thy Oneness and praising Thee and begging of Thee. He would say: What do they beg of Me? They would say: They beg of Thee the Paradise of Thine. God would say: Have they seen My Paradise? They say: No, our Lord. He would say: What would it be like if they were to see My Paradise? They would say: They seek Thy protection. He would say: Against what do they seek protection of Mine? They would say: Our Lord, from the Hell-Fire. He would say: Have they seen My Fire? They would say: No. He would say: What it would be like if they were to see My Fire? They would say: They beg of Thy forgiveness. He would say: I grant them pardon, and confer upon them what they ask for and grant them protection against which they seek protection. They would again say: Our Lord, there is one such among them, a simple servant, who happened to pass by [that assembly] and sat there along with the them. He would say: I also grant him pardon; for they are a people whose companions are in no way unfortunate. (*Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim, Kitābud-Dhikr*)

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ عَنِ النَّبِيِّ ﷺ قَالَ إِنَّ لِلَّهِ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى  
مَلَائِكَةَ سَيَّارَةَ فَضَلًا يَتَّبِعُونَ مَجَالِسَ الذِّكْرِ فَإِذَا وَجَدُوا  
مَجْلِسًا فِيهِ ذِكْرٌ قَعَدُوا مَعَهُمْ وَحَفَّتْ بَعْضُهُمْ بَعْضًا  
بِأَجْنِحَتِهِمْ حَتَّى يَمَلُؤُوا مَا بَيْنَهُمْ وَبَيْنَ السَّمَاءِ الدُّنْيَا فَإِذَا  
تَفَرَّقُوا عَرَجُوا وَصَعِدُوا إِلَى السَّمَاءِ قَالَ فَيَسْأَلُهُمُ اللَّهُ عَزَّ  
وَجَلَّ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِهِمْ مِنْ أَيْنَ جِئْتُمْ فَيَقُولُونَ جِئْنَا مِنْ عِنْدِ  
عِبَادِكَ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَسْجُونَكَ وَيُكَبِّرُونَكَ وَيُهَلِّلُونَكَ  
وَيُحَمِّدُونَكَ وَيَسْتَلُونَكَ، قَالَ وَمَاذَا يَسْأَلُونِي؟ قَالُوا  
يَسْأَلُونَكَ جَنَّتِكَ قَالَ وَهَلْ رَأَوْا جَنَّتِي؟ قَالُوا لَا أَيْ رَبِّ،  
قَالَ: فَكَيْفَ لَوْ رَأَوْا جَنَّتِي، قَالُوا: وَيَسْتَجِيرُونَكَ:

قَالَ: وَمِمَّا يَسْتَجِيرُونَنِي: قَالُوا: مِنْ نَارِكَ يَا رَبِّ، قَالَ: وَهَلْ  
رَأَوْا نَارِي؟ قَالُوا: لَا، قَالَ: فَكَيْفَ لَوْ رَأَوْا نَارِي؟

قَالُوا: وَيَسْتَغْفِرُونَكَ: قَالَ: فَيَقُولُ قَدْ غَفَرْتُ لَهُمْ  
فَاعْطَيْتُهُمْ مَا سَأَلُوا وَأَجْرْتُهُمْ مِمَّا اسْتَجَارُوا قَالَ فَيَقُولُونَ  
رَبِّ فِيهِمْ فَلَانٌ عَبْدٌ خَطَاءٌ أَنَّمَا مَرَّ فَجَلَسَ مَعَهُمْ، قَالَ:  
فَيَقُولُ: وَلَهُ غَفَرْتُ هُمُ الْقَوْمُ لَا يَشْقَى بِهِمْ جَلِيسُهُمْ -

# So Said the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>



## Blessings of Jalsa Sālāna

### Elevation of Faith and Spiritual Understanding

“Such truths and spiritual insights will be discussed in this Jalsa, which are essential to elevate faith, belief and spirituality” (*Āsmānī Faisla, Rūhānī Khazā'in* Vol. 4, p. 352).

“ . . . so that every sincere individual will have an opportunity to take religious benefits, broaden their knowledge and elevate their spiritual understanding with the Grace and Blessings of God” (*Majmū`a Ishtihārāt* Vol. 1, p. 340).

### Spiritual Benefits and Rewards

“It is essential, for all those who can afford to undertake the journey, to attend this convention, which embodies many blessed objectives . . . They should disregard minor inconveniences for the sake of Allāh and His Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. And Allāh yields reward to sincere people at every step of their way, and no labour and hardship, undertaken in His way, ever goes to waste” (*Majmū`ah Ishtihārāt* Vol. 1, p. 341).

“This spiritual convention will have many other spiritual benefits, which will become manifest from time to time” (*Āsmānī Faisla, Rūhānī Khazā'in* Vol. 4, p. 352).

### Attainment of High Morals and Passion for Religious Work

“The main purpose and intent for this Jalsa was that, through regular meetings, members should undergo an inner transformation that completely draws their hearts towards the Next Life; and that they cultivate fear of God; and that they become a model for others in piety, in righteousness, in love of God, in being tender-hearted, and in mutual love and brotherhood; that they develop humility, modesty and truthfulness in themselves and adapt passion for religious works” (*Shahādatul Qur`ān, Rūhānī Khazā'in* Vol. 6, p. 394).

### Company of the Righteous

“ . . . The purpose [of this Jalsa] is to ignite your hearts with love of God and His Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, while extinguishing worldly love. For this, it is important to remain in [my] company and spend a portion of your life for this purpose. You must see me occasionally; for after taking the *Baī`at*, not wanting to meet me will void this *Baī`at* of blessings and would be mere sanctimony” (*Āsmānī Faisla, Rūhānī Khazā'in* Vol. 4, p. 351).

### **Making Plans Out of Religious Love**

“Another responsibility of this Jalsa is to present plans for Europe and America, out of religious love for them. For it has been established that the righteous people of Europe and America are prepared to accept Islām” (*Majmū‘ah Ishtihārāt* Vol. 1, pp. 340-341).

### **Meeting New Members**

“An additional benefit of these gatherings will be for new members to see other members, and become acquainted. And these meetings will result in strengthening bonds of mutual love and affection” (*Āsmānī Faisla, Rūhānī Khazā’in* Vol. 4, p. 352).

### **A Means to Remove Rancour and Estrangement**

“In order to unite all brothers in spirit, and to remove traces of estrangement, rancour and differences amongst them, prayers shall be rendered at the threshold of God Almighty” (*Āsmānī Faisla, Rūhānī Khazā’in* Vol. 4, p. 352).

### **Collective Prayer for the Deceased**

“Prayers of Forgiveness will be offered for brothers who have passed away in the period since” (*Āsmānī Faisla, Rūhānī Khazā’in* Vol. 4, p. 352).

### **Baī‘at and Jalsa Sālāna**

“All sincere souls who have entered the community of this humble one, through the *Baī‘at*, should understand that the purpose of the *Baī‘at* is to extinguish worldly love and ignite the heart with love of God and His Prophet<sup>sa</sup>; and develop worldly detachment so that the journey to the next life is not undesirous. But in order to achieve this, it is necessary to stay in my company and to spend a portion of one’s life in this cause, so that—if God Almighty so wills—through witnessing some definitive signs, any weakness of faith, may be overcome and perfect faith may be born, resulting in fervour and passionate ardour. One should always strive to achieve this goal and pray that God may grant this opportunity. Until this happens, it is essential to meet me now and then. *Baī‘at* is devoid of all blessings and is a mere formality if one does not care to meet me. Since—due to physical inability, lack of resources, and long distances—it is not possible for everyone to stay in my company or to visit me a few times every year, and most hearts are not yet endowed with such ardent desire that they should bear the greatest troubles and hardships for the meeting, it seems appropriate, therefore, that three days of every year should be fixed for a gathering in which all my devoted followers should—God willing—be present, with the condition of health, time and absence of strong impediments” (*Āsmānī Faisla, Rūhānī Khazā’in* Vol. 4, p. 351).

### **Prayers of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> for Those Who Attend Jalsa Sālāna**

“O Allāh! O Sublime One, Bestower of bounties! For every person who makes a journey to attend this convention for Your sake, pray be with them, grant them a great reward, have mercy on them, and ease for them their circumstances of hardship and anxiety, and eliminate their anguish and grief! Pray grant them freedom from every hardship and lay open for them the ways of [achieving] their desired goals, and raise them up on the Day of Judgment among those of His servants who are the recipients of His blessings and Mercy! Pray be their Guardian in their entire journey! O Allāh! O Sublime One and Bestower of bounties, Ever Merciful and One Who Resolves all problems! Do accept all these prayers, and grant us victory over our opponents with scintillating signs, because You alone have all the might and power! Āmīn! Āmīn!” (*Majmū‘a Ishtihārāt* Vol. I, p. 342).

# Guidance from Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V<sup>aa</sup>

The following summaries of Friday Sermons have been provided by Wakālat ‘Ulyā’, Tahrik Jadid Anjuman Ahmadiyya

## The Essence of Trials and Tribulations

Friday Sermon Delivered on October 2, 2015

**Exhortation to observe patience on the loss at Baitul Futūh, and a pledge to rebuild it even more beautiful than before.**

**Those who show patience in the face of trials and tribulations are deserving of Divine reward.**

**Pray and offer Istighfār. The management should take note of its shortcomings. Because of this incident, the Jamā‘at’s introduction has reached a wide population.**

On October 2, 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V<sup>aa</sup> delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London, UK.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> recited verses 156 and 157 of Sūrah Al-Baqarah, which are translated as follows:

“And We will try you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of wealth and lives, and fruits; but give glad tidings to the patient, who, when a misfortune overtakes them, say, ‘Surely, to Allāh we belong and to Him shall we return.’” (2:156-157)

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that these verses speak of the qualities of the believers that they manifest in the face of any kind of trial, tribulation, or loss. Whenever believers suffer a loss, whether it is personal or communal, they come out of it successful and winning God’s pleasure.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> cited some writings of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, and said that always remember that when trials and tribulations befall God’s chosen ones and their followers, they are only meant as a trial after which God promises to reward them. But when such tribulations come upon the enemies of God’s chosen ones,

they come as their doom and destroy them. Those who persevere in the face of hardships are entitled to immeasurable Divine rewards. While we should to a degree express grief at such tribulations, at the same time it is important to strive with a greater zeal to progress even further.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that only those who show patience know the true meaning of prayer. A believer ought to be resigned to God’s Will no matter what the circumstances and should never complain. This is the true meaning of *ṣabr*, or patience. Speaking of *taubah*, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has said that seeking forgiveness for our shortcomings is essential for our success, and for emerging triumphant out of trials and tribulations. Along with good deeds, believers should also be mindful of *taubah*. This means that upon every hardship and difficulty we should turn to God, confess our shortcomings, and strive to continue our good deeds. Believers are never permanently beset by tribulations; the tribulations come and go.

Therefore, seek Allāh’s blessings through patience, prayer and good deeds, and when you face trials and hardship, say *إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ* (“Surely, to Allāh we belong and to Him shall we return”). This means that since we belong to Allāh, He will never destroy us, and that if some tribulation has come upon us it may be that Allāh wishes to reward us more than before. And then we submit before God, and pray that we may not be a hurdle to the greater rewards that He has promised to us in the future. We say that we submit before You, and seek those rewards, and

we are ever in need of Your Grace.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that our opponents cannot harm us if we have an abiding relationship with God. Recently, there was a fire in two halls of Baitul Futūh which caused a lot of damage. Our opponents rejoiced over this while many others expressed sympathy. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that the way this news was covered by the media served as a mean of introducing the Jamā‘at on a wider scale. Although, we felt sorrow over this incident, and we showed patience and recited *إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ* God caused people to stand by the Jamā‘at in this time of trial and thus showed the world that He is with us.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that whatever the cause of the fire, this incident points to some failure on the part of the workers or the management at Baitul Futūh. They need to seek Allāh’s forgiveness. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that though we feel sorrow for our loss, we do not let it overwhelm us. Today, Allāh has blessed the Jamā‘at with abundant provisions and, *Inshā‘Allāh*, this loss will be rectified in a befitting manner. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that regardless of the cause, it is now upon us to bring the building back to its beautiful form. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that for the time being he does not need to appeal to the Jamā‘at for financial support in this regard, but that many people have started sending in donations on their own.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> spoke in particular about financial sacrifices being made by children.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> spoke about the damage to the two halls, and the areas that remained safe from the fire. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that, by the Grace of Allāh, there were no

casualties and that one person was miraculously saved from the fire.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> exhorted the Jamā'at to pray and pointed out some prayers to offer in particular. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said we need to

offer a great deal of *Istighfār*. May Allāh enable us to fulfill our responsibilities adequately! *Āmīn!*

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of

Chaudhary Mahmood Aḥmad Mubashir Ṣāḥib, a *Derwaish* of Qādiān; and of Khalid Saleem Abbas Ṣāḥib of Syria and another Aḥmadī brother from Syria. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> led their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayers.

## The Essence of Being a True Aḥmadī Muslim

### Friday Sermon Delivered on October 9, 2015

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**It is essential for spiritual training that we read the writings and sayings of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> thoughtfully and act upon them.**

**We should always remember our pledge to obey and love with the utmost sincerity, and abide by this pledge.**

**In order to strengthen the institution of Khilāfat it is essential to listen to the Sermons, reflect upon ourselves, and teach our kids to do likewise.**

On October 9, 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V<sup>aa</sup> delivered the Friday Sermon at Masjid Nūr, Nunspeet, Holland.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that most Aḥmadīs in Holland are either born Aḥmadīs, or those whose parents accepted Aḥmadiyyat while they were still young, and they have been allowed to stay in this country because of the adverse condition in Pakistan. This has brought about a positive change in their circumstances. Since all of this is due to the blessing of the Jamā'at, they should be cognizant of this favour and realize their responsibilities in this regard. In order to do so, it is essential to carefully read the writings and sayings of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and to act upon them. Likewise, it is essential to learn about the life and holy character of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. As gratitude for the positive change in their circumstances, they should try to bring about extraordinary transformation in their lives and teach their children to do the same.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that old Aḥmadīs should also present a good example so that they do not become the means to mislead others, and so that new Aḥmadīs should not complain about the character of old Aḥmadīs. They should keep themselves attached to the teachings of Aḥmadiyyat and to the pledge of *Baī'at*, become strongly attached to the Jamā'at, and have a sincere and devotional relationship

with Khilāfat.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that those who have believed in the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> with full conviction are demonstrating lofty examples. They have reflected on the pledge and the conditions of *Baī'at*, and write fervent letters to Huzoor<sup>aa</sup>. We should all reflect over our conditions and try to understand the meaning of *Baī'at*, and try to act upon it.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that he will present some extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. The tenth condition of the *Baī'at* reads:

That he/she shall enter into a bond of brotherhood with this humble servant of God, pledging obedience to me in everything good for the sake of God, and remain faithful to it until the day of his/her death. That he/she shall exert such a high devotion in the observance of this bond as is not to be found in any other worldly relationship and connection that demand devoted dutifulness.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that in these words the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has described the way to love for the sake of God, and has required obedience in *ma'rūf*. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that all the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> injunctions fell under the purview of *ma'rūf*. These words make us responsible to establish a relationship of devotion, sincerity and fidelity and take it to higher and higher levels. One can only truly obey if one has knowledge. Therefore we should strive to read the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> writings and sayings and then act upon them. And we must establish such a relationship with Him as has no equal in this world.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that in view of the gratitude we owe to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> for the great zeal he had for our spiritual training, and for all the means he used to bring this about, we ought to obey him and also establish a

relationship of sincerity and love with Khilāfat. Let us not rest content with verbal professions, but strive to bring about inner transformation. Let us strive for inner purity. Let us offer prayers and supplicate and give in charity. Let us employ all these means in a powerful effort to establish a relationship with God. Let us employ our reason and make full effort to find God. But for this to happen, it is essential to have a true and sincere relationship with the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and Khilāfat. We should watch MTA, listen to the sermons, and teach our children of their importance.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has said that in order to establish a relationship with God it is essential to gain knowledge and to spread this message. When we spread this message, we will also become mindful of reforming ourselves. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that recently when he made a speech at the inauguration of a mosque, a lady guest said that what the Khalīfa has said is very good, but it remains to be seen whether his followers act upon them or not. Hence people's eyes are on us. Let us bring about an inner transformation. Let us become one with Khilāfat. We are fortunate that in this age God has brought about innovations that have made the task of *Da'wat Ilallāh* very easy. Let us make use of TV and internet. One means of the unity of Aḥmadiyyat is through association with MTA. May Allāh enable every Aḥmadī in every household to make full use of it! *Āmīn!*

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Ḥāfiẓ Muḥammad Iqbal Aḥmad Warraich Ṣāḥib, missionary and secretary of the *Yaksad Yatām* Committee. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> led his funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> also appealed to the Jamā'at to pray for the early release of his brother Tāhir Mahdī Imtiaz Aḥmad Warraich Ṣāḥib and other Aḥmadīs who are imprisoned in Pakistan.



# Islām Aḥmadiyya - Success and Rapid Progress

Friday Sermon Delivered on October 16, 2015

**Progress of the Jamā'at at the global level, and faith-inspiring examples of people being guided through dreams.**

**The more you grow in certainty in your faith, the more enlightened your heart will become. Strengthen your relationship with God.**

**Read the Holy Qur'ān carefully and offer the daily prayers attentively. Supplication is the essence and spirit of prayer.**

On October 16, 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V<sup>aa</sup> delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Afiat, Frankfurt, Germany.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that recently while he was in Holland a journalist asked him whether Aḥmadiyyat was the fastest growing Jamā'at in the world. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that when viewed at a global level,

promised, and this Jamā'at will triumph over all others. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that today we are passing through a phase where the Jamā'at is spreading and the world is witnessing our gradual growth. Although we are also facing trials and tribulations, God manifests the signs of His support even more abundantly after every trial.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has said that people these days frequently have true dreams through which God wishes to apprise them of the truth of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said finding guidance through dreams has a major part in opening people's hearts. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> cited several examples whereby people were apprised of the truth of Aḥmadiyyat through dreams.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> says with regard

would have vanquished it. The fact that the Jamā'at is growing and progressing, amidst all the opposition, is a proof that it is from God. The more you grow in conviction, the more enlightened your heart will become.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that some of those who pledge *Baī'at* write to him saying that they have gone through a complete spiritual transformation and there is now peace and harmony in their households. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that looking at the transformation that these converts are undergoing, we too should strive to bring about similar transformation in ourselves.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has said to read the Holy Qur'ān and do not despair of God. Our God has total power over all

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that some of those who pledge *Baī'at* write to him saying that they have gone through a complete spiritual transformation and there is now peace and harmony in their households. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that looking at the transformation that these converts are undergoing, we too should strive to bring about similar transformation in ourselves.

Aḥmadiyyat is indeed the fastest growing Jamā'at. The voice that rose from a small village in India can now be heard in every town and village. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that a time will come when the Jamā'at will be known all over the world and its spread will be a sign of Divine support. God has willed that this Jamā'at will flourish. He will gradually cause it to grow and triumph over all other faiths. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that all the trials and tribulations we are facing today will also disappear. The speed with which the Jamā'at is growing is a sign from God and indeed a miracle.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that every Aḥmadī is firmly rooted upon the belief that just as Allāh has caused the voice that rose from a small village 125 years ago to spread all over the world, and has established Jamā'ats of believers everywhere, so will He, by His Grace, usher in the time when the tribulations will vanish, as

to those who convert to Aḥmadiyyat that they come from among our opponents, and that those who pledge *Baī'at* every day are from among them. But how could they have left our opponents if they did not have perception of truth and purity of heart? The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has said that he received many letters from people confessing that they used to curse him, but had now repented and requested forgiveness.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that even today there are many people who were formerly our opponents but after pledging *Baī'at* are now growing in their devotion and sincerity. These are the signs being manifested by God that the Jamā'at is witnessing, and they further strengthen our faith.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has said that if this had been a human endeavour human schemes and human opposition

things. Offer your prayers with care and attention, and understand the meanings of the words. When you offer *ṣalāt*, pray in your own tongue along with reciting the prescribed prayers. Prayer is the essence and spirit of *ṣalāt*. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> recited *Sūrah Al-Fātiḥah*, and explained its meaning. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that the rest of the *ṣalāt* should also be offered with understanding.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that we should offer *ṣalāt* with the proper attention; the mere uttering of words is of no use. The belief that God has no partner should also manifest itself in our actions.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> prayed that may Allāh enable us to strengthen our relationship with Him, that we may realize the purpose of the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> coming and become a firm and active part of the Jamā'at, and that we spread the message of Islām to the whole world! *Āmīn!*

# Proclaim the Bounties of Allāh: Tour of Holland & Germany 2015

Friday Sermon Delivered on October 23, 2015

**An account of Huzoor's<sup>aa</sup> tour of Holland and Germany, mention of the Jamā'ats progress, Allāh's immense blessings, and of the favourable view of people regarding the Jamā'at.**

**Huzoor's<sup>aa</sup> address in the Dutch Parliament and the wide coverage given to the message of Islām.**

**Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya is destined to grow and flourish, and this is God's favour to the Jamā'at that we witness everywhere.**

On October 23, 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V<sup>aa</sup> delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that Allāh, by his Grace, shows signs of His help and support during every tour. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that

religions were most appropriate. They said that Huzoor's<sup>aa</sup> discourse regarding tolerance, freedom of religion and brotherhood in the light of the teachings of the Holy Qur'ān touched their hearts because these values are vital for maintaining interreligious harmony. The teachings of Islām are indeed very potent in terms of establishing world peace. If all people sincerely followed these teachings, the world would become an abode of peace. Audience members at the Dutch Parliament said that the words of the Imām of Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya have shown that it is essential to have Aḥmadiyya representation in our programs relating to inter-faith harmony.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that in other programs held in Holland, several newspaper, radio, and television journalists interviewed

which include the Mayor, judges, doctors, architects, religious leaders and people from other walks of life. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> spoke about the positive feedback given by the dignitaries regarding the Jamā'at.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> then laid the foundation stone of two mosques in Germany, and these events were also attended by the intelligentsia, and helped to spread the message of Aḥmadiyyat to a wide audience. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> cited some of the comments given by the guests after these events. These events were also given wide coverage by television, newspapers and radio, and thus the message was broadcast to millions.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that this year the first batch of students successfully completed their program at Jāmi'a Aḥmadiyya

**The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has said that this Jamā'at was established by God, and it is by His Grace that it is growing and flourishing. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that in keeping with Allāh's promise to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, this Jamā'at is destined to grow and flourish, and this is what we see happening all over the world.**

recently he was on a tour of Holland and Germany. In Holland Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> attended a reception at the Dutch Parliament that was attended by 89 dignitaries, including MPs from several countries, ambassadors and government representatives. In his address Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> spoke about the teachings of Islām and its application in the context of current world affairs, and this had a very positive impact on the audience. Some of the comments were that the Jamā'at had extended its message in a very effective manner, and that the Dutch people had the right to be shown the peaceful face of Islām as well. This is a message that they needed and that it would enable them to see the true face of Islām. Some commented that the answers given to the questions of the parliamentary committee were sufficient to open anyone's eyes. They said that the answers given by the Imām of Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya to questions about freedom of speech, tolerance and respect for other

him. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that he had long discussions with them, in which he apprised them of the status and the claim of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, the teachings of Islām, world peace, and Khilāfat. This resulted in introducing the Jamā'at to a wide population. Several Dutch and Norwegian newspapers published news articles and reports regarding this tour. Our message reached about three million people through newspapers. Likewise about half a million people received the message through radio coverage. The national television also gave coverage to the events. About five million people received the message through television. In total about eight million people were reached through the media.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that he also had the opportunity to lay the foundation stone of the second mosque in Holland. 102 dignitaries attended the ceremony,

Germany after seven years of study. Sixteen new missionaries have been trained, and their convocation was held. It was also the main purpose of Huzoor's<sup>aa</sup> visit to Germany. This was a very successful event. May Allāh enable the new missionaries to serve the faith in the best possible manner!

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has said that this Jamā'at was established by God, and it is by His Grace that it is growing and flourishing. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that in keeping with Allāh's promise to the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, this Jamā'at is destined to grow and flourish, and this is what we see happening all over the world.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Ṣāhibzada Mirzā Azhar Aḥmad Ṣāhib, son of Hazrat Muṣleḥ Mau'ūd<sup>ra</sup>, and led his funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayers.

# Khalīfatul Masīh II<sup>ra</sup>: Pearls of Wisdom

Friday Sermon Delivered on October 30, 2015

**Saying and narratives of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in the words of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd<sup>ra</sup>. Every one of these sayings and narratives has a moral lesson.**

**Excel one another in virtue. Set higher examples in truthfulness and honesty.**

**Prayer means to accept death. Only that person can beseech God who considers himself as good as dead before Him.**

On October 30, 2015, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh V<sup>aa</sup> delivered the Friday Sermon at Baitul Futūh Mosque, London, UK.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> related some sayings and accounts of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> as reported by Hazrat Muşleḥ Mau'ūd<sup>ra</sup>.

future. The history of Aḥmadiyyat bears testimony that trials and tribulations for us are always a precursor to even greater progress.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that evil thoughts can impact others even through proximity. If we spend time with an evil person his evil thoughts will unconsciously affect us, and if we keep company with good people we will be positively influenced by them. The youth in particular should see to it that their friendships and acquaintances should not revolve around those who could negatively influence them. Likewise, we should avoid watching inappropriate programs on TV, and keep our children from doing so as well. We should keep our environment pure and clean.

attention on God's Grace and put all our trust in Him. And we should pray that God may grant the Jamā'at such people who will grow in sincerity, and devotion and make progress in faith.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> cited some accounts which show the anguish the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> felt for saving the world from misguidance and for its reformation. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> also cited Hazrat Muşleḥ Mau'ūd<sup>ra</sup>'s<sup>ra</sup> exhortation that every Aḥmadī should learn a trade and work hard. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> also cited Hazrat Muşleḥ Mau'ūd<sup>ra</sup>'s<sup>ra</sup> accounts relating to a proof of the existence of God, the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> heartfelt feelings regarding Divine support for him.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that every Aḥmadī should

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that while asking someone to pray for you, it is important to establish a relationship with them. Allāh the Almighty commands us to excel one another in virtue. Instead of trying to compete with one another in worldly things we should strive to excel in virtue and truthfulness. This will not only be good for our own spiritual nourishment and earn us the reward of the hereafter, but also help in the proper upbringing of our children and lead to the progress of the Jamā'at.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that each of these sayings and episodes contains a lesson. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that those who have religious knowledge should also keep in touch with current affairs and history. Missionaries in particular should be mindful of this. Citing an account related by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>, Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that the lesson we learn from it is that if a person deviates from the truth and tries to falsely adorn the garb of sagacity and intellect, he will end up being humiliated.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that we should hold on to the principle that we must not curse anyone. Rather, we should pray even for our enemies. When believers face trials and tribulation, difficulty and danger, God provides the best outcome for them. Today, the true believers are only those who are firmly attached to the Imām of the age. If we are facing hardships today, they will be followed by good times in

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that while asking someone to pray for you, it is important to establish a relationship with them. Allāh the Almighty commands us to excel one another in virtue. Instead of trying to compete with one another in worldly things we should strive to excel in virtue and truthfulness. This will not only be good for our own spiritual nourishment and earn us the reward of the hereafter, but also help in the proper upbringing of our children and lead to the progress of the Jamā'at.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that only Allāh the Almighty can guide someone, and our duty is only to spread the guidance and convey the message. We should undertake this task to the best of our abilities, and God will then cause it to bear results. It is wrong to think that if such and such person became Aḥmadī the Jamā'at will progress. Instead we should focus our

hold on to the highest moral standards. In this regard Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> cited the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> example and his exhortation to avoid causing mischief, as related by Hazrat Muşleḥ Mau'ūd<sup>ra</sup>. Hazrat Muşleḥ Mau'ūd<sup>ra</sup> has said that the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> used to say that if someone is unable to experience emotion and fervour in worship, he should try to cry artificially, and when he does so he will begin to feel true fervour. He said that to pray means to die. Only he can truly seek favour from God who considers himself before God as if he were dead and completely helpless. Only he who does this is successful in the eyes of God and his prayers are accepted.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> prayed that Allāh may enable us to acquire the highest standards in morals and in our worship and that He may enable us to offer prayers that are accepted by Him!

# Guidelines for Jalsa Sālāna

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad, Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V<sup>aa</sup>



The following is a summary of the Friday sermon delivered on August 12, 2016, at the inauguration of Jalsa Sālāna UK. It contains very important instructions and guidelines regarding hospitality and other management issues related to Jalsa Sālāna. It also highlights how participants of the Jalsa should keep their attention focused on seeking religious knowledge and spiritual growth. Guests should be grateful to the volunteers who work day and night to serve them.

On August 12, 2016, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V<sup>aa</sup> delivered the Friday sermon at Hadīqatul Mahdī, UK.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that by the Grace of Allāh, Jalsa Sālāna UK is starting from today. May Allāh enable all the participants to live up to the expectations of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and may He accept the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> prayers in their favour. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has said that participating in the Jalsa is not like attending a worldly gathering; those who participate in the Jalsa should focus all their attention towards religious knowledge and spiritual growth.

After explaining how the subjects for the various speeches are selected, Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that the speakers spend many days preparing their speeches and present them in a limited time so that the participants receive the best material available for their religious and intellectual progress. Participants should make sure that they attend all the programs in the Jalsa Gah.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> then addressed some complaints that come from men and more often women.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that infants should be taken to the children's marquee. It is wrong to sit in groups and talk in the main mar-

quees. He said that if the audience pays attention even to 50% of what is said, this can raise their intellectual, religious and spiritual standards manifold. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> said to listen carefully, for this is a matter of faith. Laxity and inattentiveness results in undesirable outcomes.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> instructed those who sit at the back of the marquees not to make noise during the programs. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said to listen to the speeches not just for temporary pleasure, but to benefit from them permanently. Do not listen only to the speakers you like. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that worldly speakers only crave applause and the listeners too do not come with any sincerity. Sincerity creates positive results. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has drawn our attention even to minor things so that the weakness in a few may not affect the thoughts of the majority.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that if the Jalsa does not enhance us intellectually and spiritually, we should feel concerned. May Allāh bless the words of the speakers so that they become embedded in the minds of the listeners. Every participant should forget all worldly affairs during these three days and focus on raising their spiritual levels.

Addressing the participants, Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> asked them to be mindful of the feelings of the volunteers and to keep their emotions in check, while the volunteers should also show patience and forbearance. Wrong attitudes can discourage people from attending in the future. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that the participants should not seek to live like guests; rather, if they have to face some difficulty, they should accept it openheartedly. There are bound to be difficulties in providing temporary

amenities. Some arrangements cannot be made on a permanent basis. Be grateful to the volunteers who work day and night and strive to do full justice to your hospitality.

Spend the three days thinking about how you can please Allāh. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> taught us to say this prayer when we come to temporary dwellings: "I seek refuge in all the Divine words, from every evil."

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> spoke about the difficulty faced by some guests the previous night and instructed the organizers to quickly make provisions. Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that there are people who bear hardships just to be able to benefit from the atmosphere of the Jalsa and also to train their children to be resilient.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> said that participants should make sure they offer the five daily prayers punctually. Both the guests and the Tarbiyat department should make sure of this.

Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> spoke about the improved mobile phone services and asked participants to turn off their mobiles or at least keep them silent during the Jalsa programs. Participants should cooperate with the transport and scanning departments. He said to remain vigilant, especially in the parking and scanning areas, and in the food marquees, and to watch for any unusual behaviour. Participants should also benefit from the exhibitions set up by the history department and the *Review of Religions*.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> urged the participants to spend their time in prayers, *ṣalāt*, *nawāfil*, remembrance of Allāh and *Durūd*. May Allāh bless this Jalsa and protect us from all evil! Āmīn!

# Jalsa Sālāna Canada and Our Responsibilities

Respected Lal Khan Malik Şāhib, Amīr, Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Canada



By the Grace of Allāh, the 40<sup>th</sup> Jalsa Sālāna Canada is being held on October 7-9, 2016, at the International Centre in Mississauga, *Inshā'Allāh!* And, by the Grace of Allāh, all Aḥmadīs - men, women and children - participate in large numbers from far and wide parts of Canada.

This system of Jalsa Sālāna established by the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> in a very simple yet elegant manner has, by the Grace of Allāh, spread to all parts of the world; Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, and the Americas - there is no part of the world in which the Jalsa Sālāna is not being held. And as a result of the sheer Grace, Mercy and unlimited Bounties of Allāh, the very purposes for which the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> established the Jalsa are being fulfilled with the utmost glory.

Members of the Jamā'at look forward to the Jalsa for an entire year, participate in it with complete enthusiasm, try to benefit fully from it, and become the recipients of the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> prayers, *Al-Ḥamdu lillāh!*

A distinction of this year's Jalsa is that our beloved *Imām*, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V<sup>aa</sup>, is gracing the occasion with his blessed presence. While this is a tremendous honour for us to be able to witness our beloved *Imām* and take blessings from his beautiful presence and his spiritually charged sermons, it also elevates our responsibilities. I would like to draw the attention of Jamā'at members towards these responsibilities, which fall upon them during this Jalsa Sālāna and the Canadian tour of Huzoor<sup>aa</sup>.

## Guidelines Regarding Jalsa Sālāna

Members of the Jamā'at should not forget the first and foremost purpose: attending

and participating in the Jalsa Sālāna. The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has established the institution of Jalsa Sālāna for the following reason:

"Such truths and spiritual insights will be discussed in this Jalsa, as are essential to elevate faith, belief and spirituality" (*Āsmānī Faisla*, *Rūhānī Khazāin* Vol. 4, p. 352).

Members of the Jamā'at should not forget these reasons of Jalsa, and should try their utmost to absorb the blessings and Mercy of Allāh in these days. The addresses of the *Khalīfa* of the time are the heart and soul of these Jalsas. To listen and obey them is the responsibility of every Aḥmadī man and woman. Also listen attentively and sincerely to other speeches to be presented on topics related to *Tauḥīd*, *Sīratun Nabī<sup>sa</sup>*, *Sīrat Masīḥ Ma'ūd<sup>as</sup>*, *Khilāfat*, etc. and implement the true teachings of Islām Aḥmadiyyat, which will be discussed in them.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has also stated that members should make the best efforts for this so that the Ever-Merciful God brings them closer to Himself, accepts them for Himself, and creates a drastic change among them."

To create this inner transformation, make special arrangements to be regular in the obligatory prayers during the Jalsa Sālāna, and recite *Durūd Sharīf* and other prayers, and keep reciting them so that each one of us can elevate ourselves in piety and can create a positive inner transformation.

Study carefully the guidelines given by the *Khulafā'* on Jalsas, and particularly those given by Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V<sup>aa</sup>, and try your utmost to act upon them.

The Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> has said:

"You must not consider this to be like other, ordinary, human assemblies" (*Majmū'a Ishihārāt* Vol. 1, p. 341).

Therefore, this is a very important opportunity for us to create a positive inner transformation. As such, it does not behove an Aḥmadī to waste time or engage in ordinary worldly talks rather than listening to Jalsa programs and speeches. I am certain that all of you will come to the Jalsa Sālāna in large numbers, keeping in view the true purpose behind it, and will take full benefit, *Inshā'Allāh!*

In terms of security, also, there are specific guidelines by the *Khalīfa* of the time:

"Keep a good eye on your right, left and on your friends and those you know. This will, itself, be a very big security for Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya."

Therefore, members of the Jamā'at should especially keep this in mind.

Similarly, bring your Jamā'at ID Cards along with you. Cooperate fully with the volunteers, even if you have to endure some difficulty. All these arrangements are made for your own safety and security, and can only be effective with your cooperation.

Then, also cooperate with volunteers of other departments. This is a great distinction of Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya that even if a child is on duty, everyone cooperates with him. This is the beauty of our system and also the secret of our success.

Such large arrangements at times leave shortcomings, weaknesses and mistakes. However, do not get angry or argue with the volunteers of Jalsa. This is not only the



Jalsa of volunteers and workers, rather it is the Jalsa of every member of Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya. To make it a success is the responsibility of all of us, collectively. If you can fix that shortcoming in an appropriate manner, then you should do it; otherwise, draw the attention of the related volunteers in an appropriate manner. If you have a good suggestion for the future, then please send it to me after the Jalsa.

We also have a large number of non-Aḥmadi guests at the Jalsa and they must take good impressions from us in every respect - our morals, our dress, our character, our attendance at Jalsa, our manner of walking, sitting - from every perspective we must demonstrate dignity and respect.

Women should fully observe *purdah*, keeping in view the Islāmic teachings and sayings of the Khulafā'.

#### **Arrival of the Khalīfa - Our Fortune - Our Responsibilities**

As I have stated above, this year we are being blessed with the presence of our beloved *Imām*, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V<sup>aa</sup>. We are extremely fortunate that we will be given the opportunity to observe prayers behind him, listen to his addresses directly, and to have the honour of seeing his blessed person.

However, along with it also comes a great responsibility; that we give the full rights of hospitality to our beloved master.

Offer fervent prayers are that this tour of Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> is successful in every respect. The success of Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya International, the success of Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Canada in every respect, spiritual progress among Jamā'at members, the success of all programs, and the pleasure of Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> is only possible with the Grace of Allāh Almighty, and supplication and *du'ā'* is the only means of absorbing the Grace of Allāh.

It is the most ardent desire of every Aḥmadi to have a personal *Mulāqāt* with Huzoor<sup>aa</sup>. Since members learned of Huzoor's<sup>aa</sup> visit, we have been getting scores of applications for *Mulāqāt*. Efforts are being made to arrange for as many *Mulāqāts* as possible. However, keeping in view the limited visit of Huzoor<sup>aa</sup>, it will not be possible to accommodate all applications. As such, the administration will try to prioritize those families who have never met a Khalīfa of the time or those who have never met Huzoor<sup>aa</sup>. Likewise, families of Martyrs, as well as those from Syria, will be given priority. For this reason, members who have met Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> in previous visits, or even in other countries, will have to demonstrate making a sacrifice for their brothers.

Certain programs of the Khalīfa of the time will be for a limited number of people. If inclusion in those programs is by invitation only, please do not feel bad but rather cooperate fully with the organizers.

#### **General Responsibilities**

During the visit of Huzoor<sup>aa</sup> and Jalsa Sālāna, the attendance of Jamā'at members increases very drastically for prayers and other programs. Therefore:

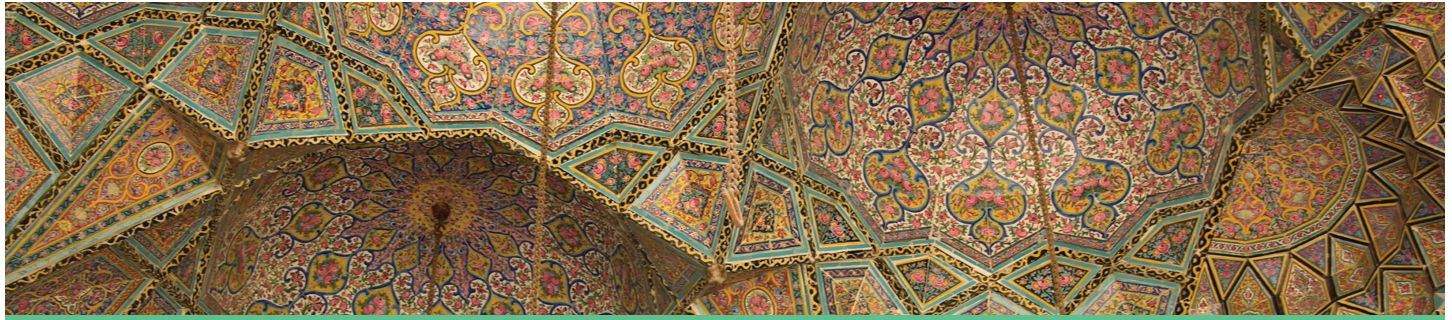
Do not create any difficulties for surrounding residents.

Obey the traffic laws. Park only in designated areas and do not become a source of difficulty for anyone.

Those who walk should also obey the traffic signals, and do not impede the traffic.

Take extra care of your own cleanliness; and if you see any garbage on the way, make sure to dispose it.

May Allāh enable all of us to fulfill our responsibilities in the best manner and render such services that are acceptable to Allāh! May our every action be for the sake of Allāh, and for the pleasure of His Khalīfa! And may Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Canada become a distinct Jamā'at that is a delight of the eyes for the Khalīfa of the time! *Āmin!*



# Should Islām Really Be Feared?

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad – Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V<sup>aa</sup>

The following address was delivered by His Holiness, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup>, Worldwide Head of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community, on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2016, at a special reception held in Copenhagen, Denmark, attended by politicians, academics, and community leaders. His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> spoke of the impending dangers of a Third World War, the refugee crisis, and the obligations of Muslims to those around them. The text of the address was published in the Review of Religions and is presented here for the benefit of our readers.

After reciting *Tashahhud*, *Ta'awwuz* and *Bismillāh*, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup>, Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V<sup>aa</sup>, Worldwide Head of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community said:

All distinguished guests, *Assalāmu Alaikum wa Rahmatullāhi wa Barakātohu*—peace and blessings of Allāh be upon you all.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our guests who have kindly accepted our invitation to today's reception. The Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community is a sect within Islām whose purpose and objectives are extremely clear; we seek to bring mankind towards its Creator – God Almighty. We seek to draw the attention of all people towards their responsibilities to their fellow man and the need to treat one another with love, compassion and respect. And we desire and seek to establish true and long-lasting peace in the world. We, Aḥmadī Muslims, believe the Founder of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community to be the Promised Messiah and Imām Mahdī as foretold by the Holy Qur'ān and the Prophet of Islām<sup>sa</sup>.

Both the Holy Qur'ān and the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> prophesied certain signs that would testify to the truth of the Promised

Messiah<sup>as</sup> and we believe that they have all been fulfilled in support of the claim of the Founder of our Community. Some of the signs related to the development of the world at the time of the Messiah and Mahdī. For example, it was foretold that he would be sent when modern technology and the means of communication had developed to such an extent that people in different parts of the world would be brought together and at a time when the press and media had been established.

Furthermore, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> prophesied of a great heavenly sign that would accompany the advent of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> and that was the eclipse of the sun and moon during certain prescribed days in the month of Ramaḍān. And following the claim of the Founder of the Aḥmadīyya Muslim Community this heavenly sign was gloriously fulfilled to the letter in the Eastern hemisphere in 1894 and in the Western hemisphere in 1895.

Thus, having observed how the signs and prophecies of the Holy Qur'ān and the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> were unequivocally fulfilled in his favour, we Aḥmadī Muslims believe our Founder, Hazrat Mirzā Ghulām Aḥmad of Qādiān<sup>as</sup>, to be the Promised Messiah and Imām Mahdī. We believe that he came as a beacon of truth to convey the true and resplendent teachings of Islām to the entire world. He implored the people of the world to live together in peace and inculcated within his followers human sympathy and compassion.

Indeed, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> once said:

“To love mankind and to show compassion to others is an immense form of worship of God Almighty and an outstanding means of attaining His pleasure and re-

wards.”

Therefore, according to our beliefs, Islām teaches that until a Muslim fulfills the rights of mankind he or she cannot fulfill the rights owed to God Almighty. Indeed, on certain occasions the rights owed to one's fellow human beings supersede and take priority even above and beyond the rights owed to Allah the Almighty.

In short, Islām stipulates that only when a person fulfills the rights of other people, irrespective of who they are or what they believe, can he or she be classed as a true Muslim. Following his demise in 1908, the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> was succeeded by the institution of Khilāfat (“Caliphate”), whose purpose was, and continues to be, to advance the Promised Messiah's<sup>as</sup> mission of propagating Islām's true teachings to all parts of the world. I shall now present some of Islām's true teachings and seek to clarify some common misconceptions about the religion.

Islām counsels mankind to discard all forms of hatred, enmity and malice and instead to unite under a banner of love and mutual respect. It advocates the establishment of peace and justice at all levels of society and between all people. Thus, in chapter 5, verse 9 of the Holy Qur'ān, Allāh the Almighty has said:

“O ye who believe! Be steadfast in the cause of equity; and let not a people's enmity incite you to act otherwise than with justice. Be always just, that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allāh. Surely Allāh is aware of what you do.”

In this verse, Allāh has commanded Muslims to treat all people, including even their enemies and opponents, with fairness and justice. Thus, Islām does not permit cruelty or wrongdoing under any

circumstances. Without doubt, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> of Islām established the very highest standards of religious freedom and tolerance in the world.

A prime example of this was the way in which the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> treated and respected the Jewish community and other non-Muslims after his migration to Madīnah following years of persecution in his hometown of Makkah. Most of the local people of Madīnah accepted Islām and so they welcomed the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and accepted him, not only as their religious leader, but they also elected him as the leader of the State.

Nonetheless, there remained a significant Jewish community in Madīnah and also of other non-Muslims. Thus, upon being chosen as the leader of the State, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> established a covenant of peace with the Jews and the other groups, based upon the principles of universal religious freedom and tolerance. According to the covenant, the religious freedoms of the Jews and the other non-Muslim communities were protected and guaranteed by the Holy Prophet of Islām.

History proves that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> never violated the terms of this treaty and that under his rule the religious rights and freedoms of the non-Muslims were always upheld. This is a clear refutation to those who allege that Islām permits anti-Semitism or any form of religious discrimination. Another example of the magnificent moral character of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> was displayed when he was visited by a delegation of Christians from the city of Najran. Upon learning that they wished to pray, he offered them his own mosque to worship, according to their Christian customs and beliefs.

Another charge that is often leveled at Islām is that it was spread violently by the sword. This allegation is completely unfounded and indeed nothing could be further from the truth. All of the wars fought during the life of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> and the four rightly guided Caliphs who succeeded him, were entirely defensive in nature, where war had been forced upon them. And even where war had been forced upon the Muslims, they still sought to protect and respect the revered places of other religions and their respected figures.

Yet sadly in today's world, we see that the blessed character of the Holy Proph-

et<sup>sa</sup> has been grievously assassinated. Even here in Denmark, some years ago, there were cartoons printed that sought to ridicule the Founder of Islām<sup>sa</sup> and to portray him, God forbid, as an imperialistic leader and belligerent warmonger.

This unjust portrayal of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> defies history and defies the truth.

The reality was that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> was forever enslaved by his determination to establish peace and the rights of humanity.

Indeed, when Allāh the Almighty first gave the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> permission to wage a defensive war against the Makkans, it was given in order to defend the institution of religion, rather than merely to defend Islām.

That is why in chapter 22, verses 40-41, of the Holy Qur'ān, Allāh proclaimed that if the aggressors were not stopped then they would not limit themselves to attacking the innocent Muslims but their ultimate aim was to destroy all forms of religion. Allāh very clearly states that if the Makkans were not forcefully repelled then no church, synagogue, temple, mosque or the place of worship of any religion would remain safe.

These verses make it categorically clear that when the Muslims were permitted to engage in a defensive war, it was granted in order to defend all religions and all beliefs, rather than for the sake of conquering lands or to spread cruelty. Given this, it is a means of extreme grief for a true Muslim to hear the opponents of Islām claim that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> was motivated by a thirst for power and a lust for empire building.

The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> neither sought power nor did he engage in any war in order to forcefully spread Islām or to compel others to become Muslim. His only motivation was to establish peace and universal religious freedom. Therefore, it is the duty of a true Muslim to forever protect and value all religions, whether it be Christianity, Judaism or any other. The Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> taught that during warfare only those people who were directly engaged in the war could be fought. He gave strict instructions that no innocent person was ever to be attacked. No woman, child or elderly person was ever to be targeted. He taught that no religious leader or priest could be attacked and nor could any place of worship. The Holy

Prophet<sup>sa</sup> further taught that no person could be compelled to convert to Islām.

Despite these noble teachings, it is a source of huge regret that in the wars being fought today, we regularly see incidents of indiscriminate firing or bombardment in which innocent and defenseless civilians – women, children and the elderly – are being mercilessly killed. The Muslims involved in such barbaric behaviour serve only to defame the name of their religion and are to be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

Nonetheless, such ignorance and evil amongst the Muslims was bound to occur because the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> foretold of this very state of affairs wherein the Muslims would completely forget the teachings of their religion. It was to be at such a time that Allāh would send the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> to revive Islām and to establish a righteous community who acted upon its true teachings.

Further, it cannot be said that the non-Muslim world remains entirely innocent or blameless. Certainly, there are also some non-Muslim powers that, in spite of claiming to be fighting for the sake of peace, have also been guilty of killing or maiming innocent civilians in different parts of the world through indiscriminate warfare. Anyway, the truth is that the Muslim governments of today are not governing according to the true Islāmic principles, which are of honesty, integrity and justice for all.

Wherever and whenever Islām's true teachings have actually been practiced their beauty and beneficence have been appreciated by all. For instance, during the era of Hazrat Umar<sup>ra</sup>, the second successor to the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, Islām spread to Syria and a Muslim government was formed. As part of its governance, a civic tax was collected from the Christian citizens of the nation, but later the Muslim government returned the tax because the Roman Empire had seized control and the Muslim rulers were no longer able to protect the members of the public or fulfill their rights.

The Muslim leaders had no option but to leave and this caused a great deal of distress to the non-Muslims who had lived under their rule. They became extremely emotional and pleaded for the Muslims to return and prayed fervently for this. Without any hesitation they proclaimed



their desire for the Muslims to rule them again and to protect them from the injustices of the Roman Empire.

Later, when the Muslims were able to return, the first to celebrate were the non-Muslims, who knew that their rights would be upheld once again. Certainly, the early Muslims were entirely just and fair in all matters. For example, once a case was submitted before Hazrat Umar<sup>ra</sup>, the second Caliph of Islām, in which one party was a Muslim and the other was a Jew. After listening to their respective cases, Hazrat Umar<sup>ra</sup> found in favour of the Jewish person and against the Muslim.

Islām also teaches that it is extremely important to care for the feelings and sentiments of others. Once during a conversation with a Jewish person, Hazrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup>, who was the closest confidant of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>, said that the status of the Prophet of Islām<sup>sa</sup> was greater than the status of the Prophet Moses<sup>as</sup>. Upon hearing this, the Jewish man complained to the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup>. Hearing this, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> rebuked Hazrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> and said he ought to have respected the feelings of the Jewish man. Even though what Hazrat Abu Bakr<sup>ra</sup> had said was in accordance with Islāmic belief, the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> instructed that a Muslim should not make such a claim in front of a Jewish person as it could cause them pain or offence. This teaching of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> was extremely profound and the basis for establishing peace between the people of different faiths and beliefs.

However today, we see that in the name of freedom of expression, prophets and saintly figures are routinely mocked and ridiculed, even though there are millions of people who follow their teachings and who cannot bear to see them derided in this manner. If we truly desire peace in the world, we need to think of the consequences of our words and deeds. We need to be respectful of the beliefs and values of others. This is the way to break down barriers and to knock down the walls of enmity and resentment that have been erected in so many parts of the world. Certainly establishing peace is the most critical and urgent need of the time. This should be our foremost ambition and objective. No one can deny that the hateful and wicked acts of certain Muslims have significantly contributed to many of the conflicts that are witnessed today.

However, it should be absolutely clear that the reason they are involved in such cruelties is because they have moved far away from the true teachings of Islām. Furthermore, there are certain non-Muslim worldly powers that are also fanning the flames of conflict through their unjust acts and policies. Anyway, if one reads the Holy Qur’ān and assesses the life of the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> through a lens of justice, rather than through a lens of prejudice, they will soon realize that Islām is a religion of peace. They will realize that the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> desired peace with every fiber of his being. They will realize that the Holy Qur’ān’s teachings are of love for all of humanity.

Today, we are living at a time of increasing instability and uncertainty and so every person, in every part of the world, needs to take individual responsibility towards establishing peace. Conflicts continue to ignite and burn throughout the world and so let us not be in any doubt that the shadow of a fateful war looms before us. Alliances and blocs are rapidly forming before our eyes and so it is my grave fear that we are charging madly towards a calamitous Third World War without pause for thought.

In fact, it would not be inaccurate to say that the roots of such a war have already taken hold. If we wish to save ourselves, and more importantly, if we wish to protect our children and future generations from the torment of war and its destructive consequences, then we must fulfill the rights of our Creator and the rights of one another. We must care for and respect each other, regardless of any differences of caste, creed or colour.

And we must value and respect the religious and national sentiments of one another. There is no doubt that the Muslim Governments of today have failed their people and have unjustly seized their rights and consequently extremist and terrorist groups have taken advantage and gained in strength. Those groups are now wreaking havoc and destruction, not only in the Muslim world, but have also spread their networks of terror to the West.

Thus, a fear of Islām and Muslims has taken root and continues to increase. Once again, I wish to make it clear that the horrific acts of such so-called Muslims do not represent the teachings of the religion itself but rather they have their

own vested interests. In light of what I have said, I would also urge and request the Western leaders and politicians to understand their responsibilities and instead of keeping good relations with the Muslim leaders for their own political or financial gains, they must utilize whatever influence they have to impartially guide and help the Muslim governments towards creating peace. Otherwise they would be equally held responsible for ruining world peace.

These days there is increasing fear and trepidation amongst the people of Europe due to the fact that so many refugees have entered this Continent over the past year. It should be kept in mind that the vast majority of the refugees have sought shelter in the West because of the desperate cruelties and devastation they have faced in their own countries. However, the truth is that no single country, and in fact no continent, has the capability to absorb the millions of people who are fleeing their war-torn countries. Thus the only solution is to formulate a genuine framework for peace in their countries of origin and to try and bring an end to the cruelty in their homelands.

Consequently, I once again ask all of the guests, and in particular the politicians and influential figures present, that they should not waste any opportunity in working for world peace because the alternative does not bear contemplating. As I have already said, a Third World War is swiftly approaching and if it is not stopped in its tracks its catastrophic effects will surely last for generations, because a world war today is more than likely to include the use of nuclear weapons. The effects of such a war are unimaginable and impossible to comprehend.

May Allāh grant sense and wisdom to the people of the world. May He, through His infinite Grace and Mercy, protect all of us and enable mankind to live together in peace and harmony and to fulfill each other’s rights at all times. May we soon emerge from the bitter conflicts of today to a better and brighter future in which all nations and all groups are able to live side by side and in which a spirit of love, compassion and humanity prevails.

With these words I would like to once again thank you all for joining us today. Thank you very much.



# Pakistanis Have A Moral Responsibility To Stand By Aḥmadī Muslims

*Junaid Jahangir, Assistant Professor - MacEwan University*

The following article was published on Huffingtonpost.ca on June 20, 2016. It is a very good article speaking in favour of Aḥmadīs, and discusses the historical phases and causes of the Aḥmadīyya persecution in Pakistan. Not only does he outright condemn these atrocities, but also raises some thought provoking points to contextualize this entire issue.

When a popular TV talk show host in Pakistan, Hamza Ali Abbasi, questioned the right of the state to brand a minority Muslim group as non-Muslim, social media went ablaze with calls for Abbasi's death. While Abbasi would get support from scholars like Abdullahi Naim, who argues that the Islāmic state cannot adjudicate on a person's beliefs, large segments of the Pakistani population are too indoctrinated to discern such wisdom.

Many Pakistani Muslims are taught that Aḥmadīs are *kafirs* (disbelievers) for they do not believe in the finality of Prophethood. Aḥmadīs argue that their Promised Messiah and Reformer confirmed the seal of Muhammad (upon whom be peace). It is this doctrinal difference that has stoked immense persecution of the Aḥmadīs of Pakistan.

In the 50s while the average Muslims were living in mutual co-existence, clerics instigated riots demanding the expulsion of Aḥmadīs from key positions of power. Some were involved for political purposes, others, including prominent Sunni Muslim scholars, acted out of the fear of dilution of their strongly held values. Instead of reasoning with dialogue, they resorted to riots.

They sought to marginalize the very community whose members were instrumental in the creation of Pakistan. Indeed, in

the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when clerics were embroiled in divisive politics, attacking Pakistan, the Aḥmadīyyah movement supported Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, to the hilt.

The love of the Aḥmadīs for Pakistan is noted through the contribution of several Aḥmadī generals in the Pakistani army, the first foreign minister Sir Zafarullah Khan and the Nobel Laureate Dr. Abdus Salam. However, the achievements of such Aḥmadīs, who served their country with pride, were eventually sidelined, obscured and diminished.

In the 70s, clerics once again instigated commotion for people who act out of fear can never rest unless they obliterate every semblance of the object of their fears. Eventually, the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment in the Pakistan constitution expelled Aḥmadīs from Islām. This however, did not allay the concerns of the clergy and so under a tyrannical dictator in the 80s, discrimination was institutionalized. The following decades brought forth immense persecution of the Aḥmadī community.

Year after year, religious groups hold conferences in Pakistan on the protection of the finality of Prophethood. Instead of solving real problems like poverty, illiteracy, shortages of electricity, they focus on spreading more hatred. The sole purpose of such groups is to inflict more persecution on an already persecuted community.

In a country with abysmally low literacy rates, clerics easily indoctrinate hatred of Aḥmadīs in the guise of "protecting" Islām. As a consequence, Aḥmadīs are refused service by shopkeepers, their mosques are attacked, their graves are defaced, Aḥmadī students are harassed

and above all, their identity is denied when they are forbidden to use any Islāmic symbol or greeting of peace.

Ordinary Muslims are told not to have Aḥmadīs as friends or to have any relations with them. But what are people to do who have experienced unconditional love from Aḥmadī teachers, students, co-workers and neighbours? Are we supposed to hurt human beings in the name of protecting an abstract doctrinal difference? Any person with an iota of humanity would not succumb to such callous raw hatred.

There are still Muslims who bypass hateful clerics to follow the verdict of the Qur'ān, which forbids believers from charging others, who offer a greeting of peace, with disbelief. The Prophet cemented this value by stopping Muslims from imputing disbelief to those who recite the Muslim testimonial -- there is no god but God and Muhammad is His Messenger. Indeed, the six articles of the Muslim faith are inclusive enough to not harp on doctrinal differences.

Aḥmadīs are our brothers and sisters. The same blood runs in their veins as it does in ours. They too love their neighbours as they love themselves. They too stand in prayer and spend helping others. They might be nearer to God than many of the so-called righteous we see around us. What right have we to malign and abuse them when Allāh Himself bestowed them with dignity? How dare we try to usurp their identity when it is not our place to do so?

*Continued on page 19...*

# Media Relations Report (July 2016)

Safwan Choudhry, Media Relations, Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada



## Key Activities

### Media Coverage in Canada:

**1,484,000** Canadians reached with the message of Islām Aḥmadiyyat across Canada

**18 Newspaper Articles | 4 Television Interviews | 3 press releases**

By the Grace and Mercy of Allāh the Almighty; in the month of July a total of 18 newspapers published positive news stories about Islām Aḥmadiyyat, and 4 television stations, cumulatively reaching the message of Islām to over 1,484,000 Canadians across the country.

The Jamā'at was blessed with many opportunities to spread the peaceful and true message of Islām and Aḥmadiyyat as a result of various independent and unique opportunities and activities that led to subsequent media coverage. The media coverage included the condemnation of unfortunate terror attacks, and other tragedies. Vast majority of the media coverage was generated as a result of the Nationwide campaign titled 'Mobile Muslims', a mobile exhibition driven coast-to-coast with stops at various cities to spread the true, peaceful teachings of Islām and remove misconceptions about the religion.

### Detailed Media Report

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Metro News – End of Ramadan as tough as its beginning

Breaking of the Fast: Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada will start its celebration at 10 a.m. at the International Centre in Mississauga.

<http://www.metronews.ca/news/toronto/2016/07/06/end-of-ramadan-as-tough-as-its-beginning.html>

Read by over 300,000 people in Toronto,

## Ontario

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – 660 News – Calgary Muslims mark Ramadan's end with motto for love

A huge crowd came together for prayer at Calgary's Aḥmadiyya Muslim mosque in the northeast.

<http://www.660news.com/2016/07/06/calgary-muslims-mark-ramadans-end-with-motto-for-love/>

Read by over 25,000 people in Calgary, Alberta

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – CBC News – Calgary Muslims mark Eid with contrast of joy, sombre reflection on Middle East attacks

Sultan Mahmood, a spokesperson for the Aḥmadiyya Muslims of Calgary, said this year's Eid is a chance for the whole community to come together and publicly condemn the attacks that go against the true teachings of Islām. "The Qur'an tells us that we, as Muslims, have to safeguard not only mosques, we have to safeguard the church, we have to safeguard the synagogues, we have to safeguard any place of worship," he said.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-muslims-eid-ramadan-end-2016-1.3667464>

Read by over 100,000 people in Calgary, Alberta

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Toronto Star Newspaper – Canada Day darts, laurels

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at had Canada Day events integrating Syrian refugees all across the country – truly a remarkable initiative!

[https://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters\\_to\\_the\\_editors/2016/07/07/canada-day-darts-laurels.html](https://www.thestar.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editors/2016/07/07/canada-day-darts-laurels.html)

Read by over 357,000 people in Toronto,

## Ontario

**\*\*\*July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Press Release: Canadian Muslim Community Launches Nationwide Campaign Titled #MobileMuslims**

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada has launched a nationwide campaign called #MobileMuslims, in which a mobile exhibition will be driven coast-to-coast to spread the true, peaceful teachings of Islām and remove misconceptions about the religion by stopping at various cities along the way. In a world where unjust extremism is rampant, it is essential for Muslims to speak out and take the message of "Love for All, Hatred for None" across the country. Through this mobile-exhibition we wish to celebrate all the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy as Canadian Muslims. The mobile exhibition will depart St. John's, Newfoundland and travel across Canada to finish its journey in Vancouver, British Columbia. The journey is expected to last about 40 days and an exhibition will be set up in more than 25 Canadian towns and cities.

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – The Mississauga News – #MobileMuslims crisscrosses Canada with message of peace

Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada has started a nationwide mobile exhibition to spread the message of peace. The nationwide campaign called #MobileMuslims was launched Monday to remove misconceptions about the religion and spread the peaceful teachings of Islām.

The mobile exhibition departed St. John's, Newfoundland and is expected to finish in Vancouver, British Columbia in 40 days.

<http://www.mississauga.com/>

[community-story/6765177--mobilemuslims-crisscrosses-canada-with-message-of-peace/](http://www.thewhig.com/2016/07/15/little-religious-freedom-in-pakistan)

Read by over 20,000 people in Mississauga, Ontario

*\*\*\*July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Press Release: Canadian Muslim Community Condemns Nice, France Terrorist Attack.*

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada is shocked and saddened to hear of the senseless killings that took place in Nice, France and expresses its deepest condolences to the victims and families affected. It is reported that dozens of innocent people have been killed. The community urges for calm and patience as authorities work swiftly to restore security and order.

July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – The Kingston Whig-Standard Newspaper – Little religious freedom in Pakistan

Similarly, Ahmadi Muslims, who are considered to be heretics by Pakistan's Sunni Muslim majority, are victims of societal and governmental persecution. "The Aḥmadiyya community is also routinely targeted with religiously motivated violence," Kankhwende said. "These attacks are senseless and ongoing on a particularly vulnerable community due to Pakistan's anti-Ahmadi legislation."

<http://www.thewhig.com/2016/07/15/little-religious-freedom-in-pakistan>

Read by over 10,000 people in Kingston, Ontario

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 –The Hamilton Spectator Newspaper– All lives should be equal as His Holiness, Mirza Masroor Ahmad (the fifth caliph and leader of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community), a global ambassador of peace stated: "Anyone who preaches or propagates any form of extremism acts completely against the true teachings of Islām and is to be condemned."

<http://www.thespec.com/opinion-story/6771258-all-lives-should-be-equal/>

Read by over 102,000 people in Hamilton, Ontario

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – The Chronicle Herald Newspaper – Nova Scotian returns home with true message of Islām unlike other branches of Islām, Aḥmadiyya Muslims believe that the long-awaited messiah came in the person of Mirza Ghulam

Ahmad, whose goal was to end religious wars, condemn bloodshed, and re-institute morality, justice and peace.

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1381206-nova-scotian-returns-home-with-true-message-of-islam>

Read by over 25,000 people in Halifax, Nova Scotia

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – The Brampton Guardian Newspaper – Aḥmadiyya community to build its first ever mosque in Brampton. The Aḥmadiyya community of the Greater Toronto Area is set to build its first ever mosque in Brampton. A large number of community members, politicians and dignitaries attended the ceremony, which was chaired by the Jamā'at national president Lal Khan Malik.

<http://www.bramptonguardian.com/news-story/6771874-Aḥmadiyya-community-to-build-its-first-ever-mosque-in-brampton/>

Read by over 80,000 people in Brampton, Ontario

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Can-India Newspaper – First-ever Aḥmadiyya mosque to be built in Brampton

<http://www.canindia.com/first-ever-Aḥmadiyya-mosque-to-be-built-in-brampton/>

Read by over 10,000 people in Greater Toronto Area

July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Moose Jaw Times-Herald Newspaper – Local Muslim association condemns Nice attack

Munib Waqas Ahmad, member of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Moose Jaw, spoke against the recent attacks in Nice, France.

<http://www.mjtimes.sk.ca/News/Local/2016-07-18/article-4591456/Local-Muslim-association-condemns-Nice-attack/1>

Read by over 5,000 people in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan

July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – CBC News – #MobileMuslims campaign rolls into P.E.I.

The goal is also to remove misconceptions about the religion, according to James Sinclair, a spokesperson and a missionary in training with Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/prince-edward-island/mobile-muslims-campaign-canada-tour-1.3685644>

Read by over 25,000 people in Prince Edward Island

July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 – Bradford Times Newspaper – Run for Bradford

The Run for Bradford (BWG) organized by the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamaat is returning to Bradford on Sunday, July 31 – a fundraiser for Recreation, Culture, Heritage and Family Health services in Bradford West Gwillimbury.

<http://www.bradfordtimes.ca/2016/07/23/run-for-bradford>

Read by over 15,000 people in Bradford, Ontario

July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – CBC News – Muslims go on cross-country tour to thank Canadians, dispel myths

The roving band of faithful, part of the Aḥmadiyya branch of Islām, are in Montreal July 24 and 25 with their campaign called #MobileMuslims."What we're trying to teach people is that Islām is completely removed from violence and terror," spokesperson James Sinclair told CBC News.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/mobile-muslims-canada-1.3693256>

Read by over 250,000 people in Montréal, Québec

July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – CBC News Calgary – Calgary news, weather and traffic for July 25

Hundreds in the Aḥmadiyya Muslim community are trying to support a Calgary family whose 11-year-old son disappeared on the weekend. Behzad Ahmad fell into the Yoho River in Yoho National Park on Friday evening.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-news-traffic-weather-july25-1.3693504>

Read by over 100,000 people in Calgary, Alberta

July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Meridian Booster Newspaper – Social Media meets Religion

Grace United Church met with the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community on Wednesday night in order to discuss the dangers of social media and how it can directly effect religious stereotypes, as well as hatred.

<http://www.meridianbooster.com/2016/07/25/social-media-meets-religion>

Read by over 10,000 people in Lloydminster, Alberta

**\*\*July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Press Release: Canadian Muslim Community Shocked and Devastated by France Church Attack**

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada has been left devastated by the murder of Father Jacques Hamel in a church in Normandy, France. We consider this to be an outrageous and evil attack that can never be justified in any way or under any circumstances. The teachings of the Holy Quran and of the Founder of Islām, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), are of peace, tolerance and love for humanity.

July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Cornwall Free News - Cornwall Stop for Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Mobile Campaign JULY 28, 2016

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Canada has launched a nationwide campaign called #MobileMuslims, in which a mobile exhibition will be driven coast-to-coast to spread the true, peaceful teachings of Islām and remove misconceptions about the religion by stopping at various cities along the way.

<http://cornwallfreenews.com/2016/07/27/cornwall-stop-for-Aḥmadiyya-muslim-jama-mobile-campaign-july-28-2016/>

Read by over 10,000 people in Cornwall,

Ontario

July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - The Seeker Newspaper - #MOBILEMUSLIMS CAMPAIGN VISITS

CORNWALL

<http://theseeker.ca/Aḥmadiyya-muslim-jamaat-travels-across-canada-mobile-exhibition-present-true-teachings-Islām/22326/>

July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Bradford Times Newspaper - Teaching Youth the value of service

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim community welcomed young people between the ages of 15 and 40 to a 3-day National Islāmīc Youth Camp, or Ijtima, at their property on 10 Sideroad, north of the 11th Line.

<http://www.bradfordtimes.ca/2016/07/28/teaching-youth-the-value-of-service>

Read by over 10,000 people in Bradford, Ontario

July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Battlefords News-Optimist Newspaper - Terrorists attack freedom of faith

Here, as a member of Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, I would like to openly condemn the attack in France, and mention Islāmīc teachings regarding freedom of faith, inclusive of all religions.

<http://www.newsoptimist.ca/opinion/letters/terrorists-attack-freedom-of-faith-1.2312030>

Read by over 10,000 people in North Battleford, Saskatchewan

July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Cornwall Standard Free Holder Newspaper - Islāmīc group's message of peace during Cornwall visit

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at of Canada parked its #MobileMuslim travelling exhibition outside the Cornwall Civic Complex from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering literature, refreshments and conversation to answer visitors' questions about the religion.

<http://www.standard-freeholder.com/2016/07/28/Islāmīc-groups-message-of-peace-during-cornwall-visit>

Read by over 10,000 people in Cornwall, Ontario

July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Cornwall Seaway Newspaper - Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at comes to spread love to Cornwall

Love for all. Hatred for none. That was the message the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Community was conveying on Thursday, July 28 as their Mobile Muslim Thanksgiving Exhibition Trailer passed through Cornwall on its tour across Canada.

<http://www.cornwallseawaynews.com/News/2016-07-28/article-4601011/Aḥmadiyya-Muslim-Jamaat-comes-to-spread-love-to-Cornwall/1>

Read by over 10,000 people in Cornwall, Ontario

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*Continued from page 16...*

To undo decades of persecution will require sustained and concerted long-term efforts to undo the effect of hate that generations of Pakistanis have been indoctrinated with. While such efforts may be risky in Pakistan, as noted through the death threats experienced by even popular celebrities, it behooves upon Pakistanis in countries with religious freedom to express solidarity with their Aḥmadī brothers and sisters. This is not an option or any favour to Aḥmadīs but a collective responsibility and obligation to our fellow Muslims.

Any change starts with a single step, the least of which is to let our Aḥmadī friends, co-workers and neighbours know that no matter what the clerics say, we choose to stand by them with a

simple hug, smile and kiss for that is the message of the Qur'an and the Prophet, which is nothing but the eternal message of love -- unconditional, relentless, radical, everlasting love.

This call for change is supported by:

- Dr. Mohammad Fadel, University of Toronto
- Dr. Laury Silvers, University of Toronto
- Dr. Emran El-Badawi, University of Houston
- Dr. Mahdi Tourage, King's University College at Western University
- Dr. Adis Duderija, University of Melbourne
- Dr. Junaid Jahangir, MacEwan University
- Farhat Rehman, Canadian Council of Muslim Women, Ottawa Chapter

- Shahla Khan Salter, Director, Universalist Muslims
- Ani Zonneveld, President, Muslims for Progressive Values
- Frank Parmir, Director, Muslims for Progressive Values, Columbus, Ohio
- Jamila Tharp, Coordinating Imam for Redwoods Unity Mosque Initiative
- Owais Siddiqui, Edmonton
- Aqsa Tariq, Edmonton
- Evelyn Hamdon, Edmonton
- Nazli Rehman, Mississauga
- Rameez Ahmed, Toronto
- Hadi Hussain, Pakistan
- Ayman Fadel, Georgia
- Omar Sarwar, PhD Candidate, Columbia University
- Shayma Johnson, Strathmore
- Griffin Downing, San Francisco
- Nakia Jackson, U.S.
- Sohail Ahmed, U.K.

# Report of MASQ



Majlis Anṣār Sulṭānūl Qalam (MASQ) was started by Hazrat Muṣleḥ Mau'ūd<sup>ra</sup> in 1922. The primary objective for MASQ, established under Majlis Khuddāmūl Aḥmadiyya Canada, is to defend and propagate the true message of Islām.

In 2011, Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V<sup>aa</sup> relayed the importance of MASQ when he stated, “at this time it is not enough that 200, 300, or even Aḥmadī have joined Majlis Anṣār Sulṭānūl Qalam, and entered into the arena of *Tablīgh*. Rather, all of Khuddāmūl Aḥmadiyya will need to partake in this, always keeping in mind the ordinance of Allāh to *vie* with one another in good work.”

## Canada Day Celebrations

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, *Al-Ḥamdu lillāh*, Canadians celebrated Canada Day. MASQ issued a rapid response and had Khuddām from all across the country submitting letters about our love for this great country. Members mentioned Canada Day celebrations, how celebrating Canada Day and fasting at the same time is a testimony to being a Canadian Muslim, and much more.

Some of the notable letters can be seen below:

“Glad to be in Canada” - *Winnipeg Sun*

Once again, this Canada Day, I had the opportunity to celebrate all that this beautiful country has done for my family and I. As an Aḥmadī Muslim, I'm grateful for all the liberties and freedoms Canada has to offer. It is during the celebration of these freedoms, that I am reminded of the difficult times my fellow Aḥmadī Muslims go through in countries like Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, etc. It is very upsetting

to know that they are not allowed to practise their faith openly. However, Canada has set an example for the whole world that pluralism and multicultural diversity is truly a strength of the nation. This notion has been recognized by the former head of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim community, Mirza Ṭāhir Aḥmad<sup>ra</sup>, when he beautifully said, “My prayer is that Canada becomes all the world, and all the world becomes Canada.” (*Fasih Malik, Calgary*)

## Toronto Star

This year's Canada Day was truly special. Every year, Canada Day for me goes by in the ambiguity of its celebration other than self-reflection about the great country we live in.

However, this year, I had the chance to celebrate Canada Day with a Syrian refugee family that arrived here last year in November. The children were ecstatic to further strengthen their ties within Canadian fabric. We sang O Canada and made fun of how much people thank one another, say excuse me, and apologize.

The Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jama'at had Canada Day events integrating Syrian refugees all across the country – truly a remarkable initiative!

Canada is a great country, and Canada Day is just a reminder of how thankful we should be on a daily basis. (*Jariullah Adnan, Toronto*)

## “Whoa, Canada!” - Edmonton Sun

“Loyalty to country is part faith.” This quote by Prophet Muhammad<sup>sa</sup> encapsulates the attitude and behaviour a Muslim should have towards his

homeland. As a Canadian-born Aḥmadī Muslim, I have grown to love this country greatly. Going about ones day it may be easy to forget how blessed and privileged we are to live here. There are people around the world consistently being persecuted simply because of the faith they choose to follow. Not only does Canada provide the people who were born here with religious freedoms, it is also a safe haven for those who have left their countries due to persecution. Canada is one of the greatest places in the entire world and those who are recipients of its benefits should try to not be quick in forgetting the blessing that it is. (*Osama Sobhi, Calgary*)

## Normandy, France Tragedy

Then on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, we witnessed the unfortunate attack by two extremists on a church in Normandy, France. These two terrorists who both pledged allegiance to ISIS, killed an 86-year-old reverend, and kept two nuns and two children hostage. This atrocious crime was absolutely condemnable, and not representative of true Islāmic teachings in any way.

MASQ Canada immediately released a CTA (Call-to-Action) and urged Khuddām to take up *Jihād bil Qalam* to prevent our religion of Islām from falling victim to any association with this attack. Within hours, Khuddām from across Canada submitted dozens of articles to various newspapers.

Below are some of the letters that deserve notable mention:

**“The Prophet and Christians” - The National Post**

Re: ISIL Terrorists Slit Priest’s Throat in Church, July 27.

Hearing about the Normandy, France attack was extremely sad. As a Canadian Muslim, I wholeheartedly condemn this gruesome act of violence and again say that these attacks have nothing to do with Islām. This one in particular reminds me of Prophet Muhammad’s<sup>sa</sup> promise to a Christian delegation from St. Catherine’s monastery on Mount Sinai when they requested protection from Muslims.

He granted them a charter of rights that set a new precedent for safeguarding all religious institutions: No compulsion is to be on them (Christians). Neither are their judges to be removed from their jobs nor their monks from their monasteries. No one is to destroy a house of their religion, to damage it, or to carry anything from it to the Muslims’ houses.

It is clear that the Islāmīc State of Iraq and the Levant contradicts the teachings of Islām and needs to be condemned. I pray for the swift restoration of peace in France especially with this attack happening only weeks after the attack in Nice. (Jariullah Adnan, Toronto)

**“Important for all to speak against atrocities” - Calgary Herald**

Re: ISIL terrorists slit priest’s throat in church, July 27

Once again, the barbarians of ISIS continue to wreak havoc as yet another senseless act has taken place, this time in Normandy, France. ISIS continues to hijack the religion of Islām for their nefarious gains. Any person who claims to follow Islām should know that the Qur’ān has instructed Muslims to protect

churches, synagogues, temples, Mosques and those in them.

ISIS continues to prove that they have nothing to do with any religion, let alone Islām. However, as an Aḥmadī Muslim, I will continue to raise my voice and condemn these actions because it is important to do so. (Fasih Malik, Calgary)

**Toronto Sun**

It was about a decade ago that I was in Nice, France, enjoying the beautiful French Riviera. One of the most beautiful places, I have experienced. I was distraught to hear about the attacks in Nice. There have been perpetual attacks of terror all over the world, and this sequence of events is becoming ever more frustrating. It is time for some real action. An attack occurs, we cross our fingers and pray it wasn’t a Muslim. ISIS claims it was, and then we start to write about how we as Muslims condemn such attacks as they are against the teachings of Islām.

Let me be very clear this is utterly un-Islāmīc, however I think it’s about time we did more as Muslims and became more vigilant within our communities to prevent this disease from coming into our country. In unison, we need to call for peace all across the world at all levels. Peace and justice are inseparable — you cannot have one without the other. We cannot expect peace when there is injustice between nations. These injustices have caused many countries to fall into disorder, and wherever disorder prevails, extremism will thrive. I, as a Canadian Muslim, completely condemn these attacks. (Bilal Malik, Vaughan)

**“ISIS NOT ISLĀM” - Calgary Sun**

Once again ISIS has claimed the life of an innocent, and once again I am sure Islām as a whole is going to be attacked as a result. The actions taken by ISIS are by no means justifiable and, as an Aḥmadī Muslim I completely condemn this

attack. Let me make it categorically clear, that ISIS by no means represents true Islām. I am writing this letter primarily so that none of us fall into this trap set by ISIS. The xenophobia that has developed in the west because of ISIS must be put to a stop, and this can start by not allowing ISIS to create a rift between us. (Osama Sobhi, Calgary)

**Break barriers - Winnipeg Sun**

The bombings in Istanbul stand as a gruesome reminder that ISIS is out to spread havoc in whatever country they can find. That being said, it is interesting, that a majority of ISIS victims have been Muslim, and yet Muslims are constantly criticized for not condemning such atrocities enough. As an Aḥmadī Muslim, I completely agree that condemnation of this evil organization is imperative, and I stand at the forefront of doing so, but we must remember, that our efforts to haul this group will only be successful, if we unite in doing so. It is at this point that I ask: how much longer will the world continue to fall into ISIS trap of creating barriers between Muslims and non-Muslims? All it will take to change this, is for the world to look a little bit into the peaceful teachings of not only Islām, but religion in general, after which it will become evident that we as Muslims are against terrorism as much as anyone else -- if not more. (Akbar Ali, Calgary)

Prayers are requested that may Allāh the Almighty continue to shower His blessings on Majlis Khuddāmūl Aḥmadīyya Canada and give us the strength to continue working for His cause! *Āmīn!*

...Continued from page 24

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> rejected the allegation that Islāmīc teaching promoted gender inequality. He explained that Islām took into account nature and so had allocated differing roles for men and women in some respects, however such differing roles did not undermine the principle of gender equality.

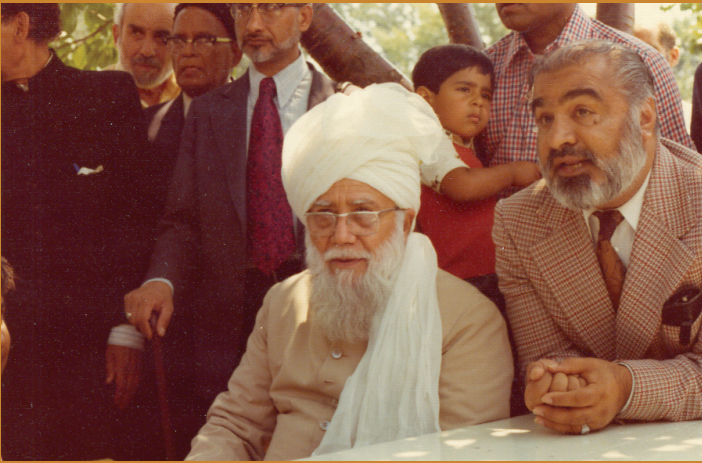
Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said: “Islām teaches that we should appreciate the fact that naturally there are certain differences between men and women and to disregard this fact entirely is ignorant and unwise.”

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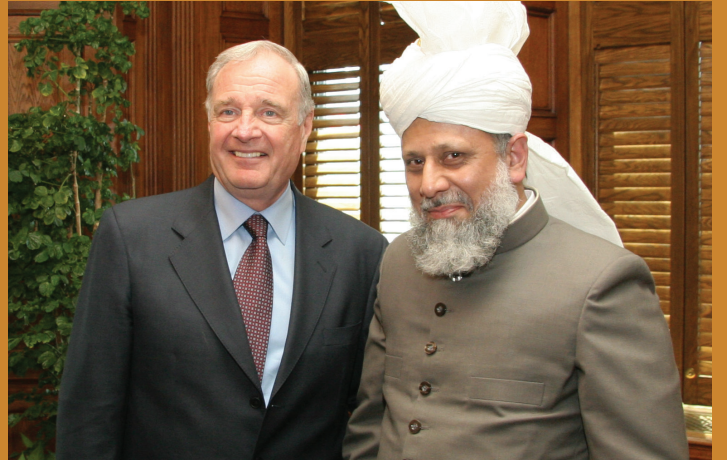
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# Aḥmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at Press Releases

Photography Courtesy of Makhzan-e-Tasaweer



## MORE THAN 584,000 PEOPLE JOIN THE AḤMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

50<sup>th</sup> Jalsa Sālāna UK concluded by Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup>

August 16, 2016 - The 50<sup>th</sup> Jalsa Sālāna (Annual Convention) of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community in the United Kingdom concluded on Sunday, August 14, 2016 with a powerful and faith-inspiring address by the World Head of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth *Khalīfa* (Caliph), His Holiness Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup>.

During his concluding address, His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> called on Islām's critics to judge the religion on its true teachings, rather than focusing upon the hateful acts of a tiny minority of extremists. More than 38,000 people attended the *Jalsa Sālāna*, which took place at Hadiqatul Mahdī in Alton, Hampshire. Apart from the thousands of Aḥmadī Muslims who participated, many non-Aḥmadī and non-Muslim guests also attended. The entire event was also broadcast live on MTA International and streamed online.

One of the highlights of the three-day *Jalsa Sālāna* was the pledge of allegiance, known as *Ba'ī'at* that took place on Sunday afternoon, where the participants pledged allegiance to Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> as the Fifth *Khalīfa* (Caliph) of the Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>. The participants formed a human chain leading to the *Khalīfa* as they repeated the words of the pledge in unison.

Prior to the ceremony, His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> announced that more than 584,000 people had joined the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community during the past year from all around the world. He also announced that the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community was now established in 209 countries. In his concluding address, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said that critics of Islām continued to raise unjust and entirely unfounded allegations against the religion.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said that: "Today's disorder and terrorism is a result of the fact that people are distorting the teachings of religion and most certainly their hate filled and evil actions do not have any link to the true teachings of Islām."

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> also said that Islām laid the foundation for peace by promot-

ing true equality between peoples and nations. Islām taught that no nation or people held superiority over others.

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> said that Islām sought to create peace at every level of society and that the basis for peace in society lay in a person's home. He said that Islām laid particular emphasis on the rights of parents. In contrast, His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> said that those people in developed nations who routinely branded Islām as a cruel religion were themselves forgetting their fundamental obligation to their parents.

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

In the developed world many people claim that they do not even have the time to meet their parents regularly, let alone to serve them and care for them in old age. The more advanced they consider themselves the further away they move from fulfilling their basic responsibilities.

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> emphasized that true justice could not be established without creating a link with God Almighty.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

Without recognising and fulfilling the rights of the worship of God Almighty, justice cannot be established and one cannot pay attention towards kindness and humanity. Those who call themselves Muslims but continue to act against the teachings of Islām do so because they have not truly recognised God, nor are they fulfilling their obligations towards Him.

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> also referred to the responsibilities of parents to their children and referred to the verse of the Holy Qur'ān which states "and that you kill not your children for fear of poverty". His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> said that this verse also referred to those who failed to cater for the moral wellbeing of their children.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

A lack of care and moral training from parents is one reason that children can become vulnerable to extremism and towards committing atrocities in the name of Islām. Such parents are ignoring their duties towards their children in the vain pursuit of wealth and so their

children are left bereft of even a basic knowledge of their religion. This in essence is a means of destroying their children.

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> went on to quote chapter 49 verse 12 of the Holy Qur'ān, which prohibits Muslims from mocking the sentiments of others.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

In this day and age religion is also being routinely mocked and derided and Islām is especially being targeted in this regard. When people make derogatory remarks or produce offensive caricatures to mock Islām or the Holy Prophet<sup>sa</sup> it grieves Muslims worldwide. Of course any violent reaction is completely against the teachings of Islām but where is the wisdom in producing such materials that can threaten the peace of society?

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> continued, “Does the fact that certain groups or individuals are acting contrary to the teachings of Islām give non-Muslims the licence to provoke and hurt the sentiments of all Muslims including us Aḥmadī Muslims, who are at the forefront of promoting the peaceful teachings of Islām?”

Explaining Islām's teachings in relation to mutual respect and interfaith dialogue, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said: Islām teaches that disorder should be curbed, rather than encouraged or inflamed.

Speaking of the deteriorating state of the peace of the world, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

The conflicts that existed on a small scale are now developing into international conflicts. In the past, when I said that the injustice in the world was pushing us towards nuclear war many government officials, analysts and politicians said that this is a far-fetched claim and overly pessimistic. However now they are themselves saying that a nuclear is looming and anything is possible.

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> said that both Muslim nations and the major powers had played a role in undermining the world's peace. He quoted media reports asking why certain countries were selling weapons to nations that were engaged in wars where innocent people were being killed.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>as</sup> said:

On the one hand, Muslim nations have failed to act with justice, whilst on the other hand certain developed countries have prioritised the arms trade over and beyond establishing peace. If only they had acted with justice and integrity the dangerous situation that the world faces today would have been avoided. Sadly, vested interests have blinded both sides.”

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> concluded by saying:

“It is the task and responsibility of Aḥmadī Muslims to inform the world of the benefits of the true peaceful teachings of Islām. May Allah enable us to do so and grant sense to the world.”

The Jalsa Sālāna concluded with a silent prayer led by His Holiness<sup>aa</sup>.

## HEAD OF AḤMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY SPEAKS OF RISKS OF REFUGEE CRISIS AND THE RISE OF THE FAR-RIGHT IN EUROPE

September 4, 2016 - Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> addresses non-Aḥmadī guests and members of Lajna Imā'illāh on day 2 of Jalsa Sālāna Germany

On Saturday September 3, 2016, the World Head of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth *Khalīfa* (Caliph), His Holiness<sup>aa</sup>, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> addressed an audience of more than 1,000 non-Aḥmadī guests on the second day of the 41st Annual Convention (Jalsa Sālāna) of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community in Germany.

During his address, His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> quoted from the Holy Qur'ān and the practice of the Prophet of Islām<sup>sa</sup> to disprove allegations that Islām advocates extremism or violence of any kind.

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> spoke of the increasing instability in Europe in light of recent terror attacks and the continuing effects of the refugee crisis and the rise of far-right nationalist parties in Europe.

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> also referred to the humanitarian activities conducted by the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community in different parts of the world.

Speaking about increasing instabil-

ity in the world, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

As we join here today, it is an undeniable fact that the world's peace is teetering on a knife-edge. With each day that passes we witness increasing conflict and uncertainty across the globe. It is a strange and tragic paradox that even though we are more connected than ever before, we are actually growing ever more distant by the day.

Addressing recent terror attacks in Europe, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

Fresh in your mind will be the despicable attacks that have taken place in France and Belgium during the recent past. And above all you will have been enormously distressed and alarmed by the spate of attacks that have taken place here in Germany during the past few months in which innocent people have lost their lives or been badly injured.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> continued, “Naturally, such attacks have frightened members of the public and instilled a fear of Islām within the hearts and minds of the locals. It is a tragedy of the highest scale that these attacks are being associated with Islām because such atrocities are the polar opposite of what Islām stands for.”

Referring to the refugee crisis in Europe, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

As a result of the refugee crisis, Europe has instantly become a more dangerous and unstable place, as it has created an opportunity for terrorist groups to send their members to this Continent posing as refugees. Apart from any attacks they themselves are involved in, such extremists also seek to spread their networks of terror by radicalizing Muslims already living in this part of the world.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> continued, “Another negative consequence of the refugee crisis has been the hardening in attitude towards immigrants across Europe. In many countries we are seeing far-right nationalist parties gaining influence and popularity.”

Regarding a shift in attitude in Germany

towards immigrants, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

Here in Germany it is obvious that the compassion and warmth that the majority of this nation displayed a year ago towards the refugees has rapidly declined and been replaced by a combination of fear and hostility towards the immigrants. This shift in attitude is worrying, and in particular, the subsequent rise of nationalist parties is a cause of deep concern and a threat to the nation's peace and security.

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> called on both host nations and immigrants to fulfil their responsibilities towards each other. He said genuine refugees should be assisted and supported, whilst the immigrants should seek to contribute to the local society as soon as possible.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said:

The authorities should seek to help genuine immigrants settle here and to stand upon their own two feet. Immigrants should not simply take benefits from the country they migrate to, rather they should be encouraged to enter the labour force and actively

contribute to society as soon as possible. In my view, this would have an instantly positive effect and would lessen the perilous gulf that is opening up between existing citizens and immigrants.

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> quoted chapter 5, verse 9 of the Holy Qur'an which calls on Muslims to act with justice and fairness even with a one's enemies or opponents. His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> said that Prophet of Islām<sup>sa</sup> was the perfect manifestation of this teaching.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said: "When a matter came to the Holy Prophet Muḥammad<sup>sa</sup> for judgement he did not consider who was his follower and who was his opponent. Rather the Prophet of Islām<sup>sa</sup> looked only at what was right, what was fair and what was just."

His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> said that the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community sought to establish peace in the world in light of the teachings of Islām. Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said: "It is due only to the fact that we have understood the true meaning of the Holy Qur'an that we Aḥmadi Muslims seek to live our lives in this peaceful fashion. Everything we say and

do is inspired by what we have learned from the Holy Qur'an and from the practice of the Founder of Islām, the Holy Prophet Muḥammad<sup>sa</sup>."

Later in his address, His Holiness<sup>aa</sup> spoke about the humanitarian projects run by the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community in various parts of the world. He said that it had established hundreds of schools and dozens of hospitals providing education and healthcare to people living in the most deprived parts of the world, irrespective of social background or belief.

Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> said, "We do not desire any praise or recognition for our humanitarian efforts, as we are merely following what our religion has taught us. This is true Islām and I am sure you will agree that it is far removed from what is commonly portrayed by the media."

Earlier in the day, His Holiness<sup>aa</sup>, Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Aḥmad<sup>aa</sup> directly addressed the members of the Lajna Imāi'llāh (Ladies Auxiliary Organisation) regarding the teachings of Islām in relation to gender equality.

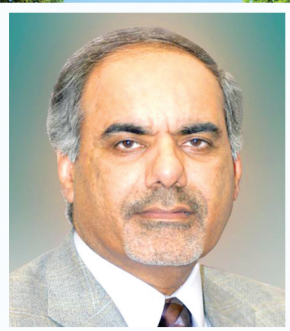
*Continued on page 21...*

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"And I feel that those who, having been informed of this Divine scheme, without hesitation plan anxiously to subscribe one tenth of their property in the way of Allah — rather show even greater fervour, are the ones who have really put a stamp on their faith!"



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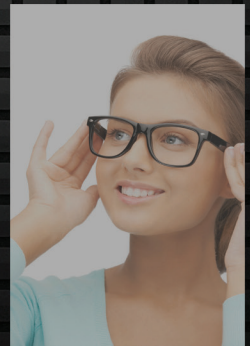
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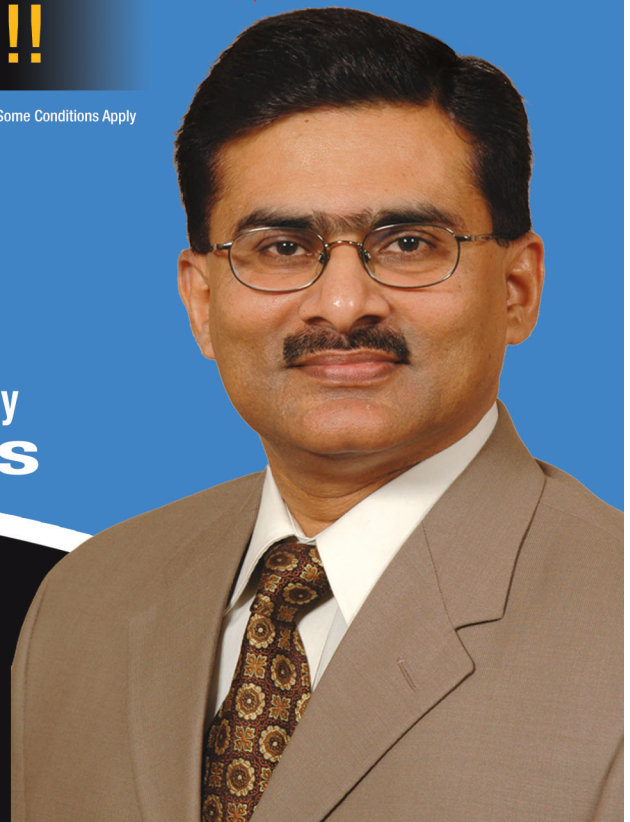


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