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HEAD OF THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY
IN ISLAM

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
نَحْمَدُهٗ وَنُصَلِّیْ عَلٰی رَسُوْلِهِ الْکَرِیْمِ
وَعَلٰی عِبْدِهِ الْمَسِیْحِ الْمَوْعُوْدِ
خدا کے فضل اور رحم کے ساتھ
هوالتاصر

Dear Members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, New Zealand

Assalamo Alaikum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuhu!

I am very pleased that you are holding your 26th Jalsa Salana on 23rd, 24th and 25th January 2015. May Allah bless your Jalsa with great success and may all of you benefit greatly from the immense spiritual blessings of this sacred Gathering.

Remember, this is not an ordinary worldly event. The Promised Messiah *peace be upon him*, has stated:

'The major aim of the Gathering is that the sincere members of the Jama'at should be able to derive religious benefits and at the same time they should acquire more knowledge, and advance in their relationship with Allah. One advantage is that by meeting various friends, the circle of brotherhood will broaden and it will strengthen their mutual ties.' (Asmani Faisla)

As I mentioned in my Friday sermon on the occasion of Jalsa Salana UK last year, the gathering of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community provides an environment where pious men and women are in righteous company. This is a spiritual experience which motivates the participants into improving their individual standard of righteousness. We as Ahmadis have made a pledge to give precedence to faith above all worldly matters, and the Jalsa provides the perfect opportunity for identifying ways to fulfil this pledge in the best possible manner. This virtuous gathering enables us to engage on one hand in the greater remembrance of Allah, and on the other to truly appreciate our responsibilities towards our fellow human beings.

Therefore, it is very important that you accept that this Jalsa is a unique religious occasion. You should not indulge in talking about worldly or idle matters, but you should concentrate on the remembrance of Allah, on *Durood*, on *Istighfar* and on prayers. You should try to listen carefully to all the speeches by the various scholars and thereby increase your knowledge and understanding of the wonderful teachings of Islam./

I also direct your attention towards some of the high moral values which all of us must try to attain. It is absolutely essential to shun all ego and arrogance, and aim to achieve a high level of *Taqwa* (righteousness). During the Jalsa Salana, you should display an attitude of affection and self-sacrifice towards others, even at the cost of your own comfort. Similarly, one must avoid all display of pride, and adapt an attitude of humility. Truth and justice must prevail in all our actions, even if it means giving witness against a loved one. Forgiveness and patience are virtues that every Ahmadi must practice.

At this particular time, it is incumbent upon every Muslim to invoke salutations and blessings (*Durood*) on our Holy Prophet Muhammad ^{peace and blessings of Allah be on him} more than before, so that Allah continues to exalt his holy status. Remember that prayer without *Durood* does not gain acceptance and the real motive of invoking *Durood* should be the love, respect and honour in which we hold the Prophet ^{peace and blessings of Allah be on him}.

You should keep in mind that we have to show the real picture of Islam to the world and expound the beautiful aspects of the life and blessed character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ^{peace and blessings of Allah be on him}. Take any aspect of his life and blessed character, Allah the Exalted states that it is a blessed model for true Muslims. The Holy Prophet Muhammad ^{peace and blessings of Allah be on him} is a perfect exemplar for us in domestic matters, societal matters, matters dealing with neighbours or strangers, and matters pertaining to dealing with other nations and countries. When presenting his life and blessed character before other people, we also have to put into practice ourselves what he taught us and positively influence them with our pious behaviour and goodness. When presenting the noble title of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ^{peace and blessings of Allah be upon him} as a 'Mercy for the entire Worlds' to the people, we have to demonstrate in ourselves that we are also models of love and brotherhood. When presenting the true teaching of the Holy Qur'an to the world we have to explain to them that in order to appreciate the wonderful teachings of the Holy Qur'an, in this age Allah the Exalted has sent one appointed by Him, that is the Promised Messiah and Mahdi ^{peace be upon him} who was the true and ardent devotee of the Holy Prophet Muhammad ^{peace and blessings of Allah be on him}. Only if one is truly bonded to the Promised Messiah ^{peace be upon him}, who is the Imam of the Age can one fully comprehend the magnificent teachings of Islam.

I also wish to remind you of your responsibilities regarding preaching. Tabligh is essential for every Ahmadi and your own good example is essential in the success of our Tabligh efforts. So if our actions will be in accord with the teachings of Islam and our every word and deed will be in accord with the dictates of the Holy Quran, and will be in the shape and form that the Promised Messiah ^{peace be upon him} desires of us, then this will become a great means of conveying the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat to the people of New Zealand in particular and the world in general.

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I urge you to listen regularly to my Friday sermons and my addresses at other important functions and events. This will enable you to strengthen your attachment and loyalty to the blessed institution of Khilafat. You should also teach your children about the special blessings of Khilafat and encourage them to remain linked with, and be continually devoted to the Khalifa of the time. Today, the task of revival of Islam can only be performed by adhering to the system of Khilafat. Therefore, you should always strive to uphold this noble institution and ensure that you and your future generations always remain within the blessed guidance and shelter of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya. May Allah enable you to do so.

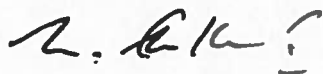
As the participants of the Jalsa, you are beneficiaries of the fervent prayers of the Promised Messiah *peace be upon him* who has prayed specially for all those people who attend the Jalsas as follows:

'I pray to Allah that He may be with all those who are coming to attend the Jalsa and that He may grant them great rewards and that He may show them mercy and His Grace. O Allah! O You Who are the greatest Benefactor, the Benevolent, the Merciful, and the Remover of hardships, do listen to all these prayers of mine and grant us victory over our opponents, with great Signs, for You have the power to do whatever You will. Ameen.' (Ishtihar 7 Dec 1891)

Finally, it my prayer may Allah bless your Jalsa Salana with every success and may all of you be infused with a new spirit of faith and *Taqwa* to enable you to go forth and serve the Jama'at and the cause of Islam and humanity with renewed spiritual fervour and energy. May Allah bless you all.

Wassalam

Yours sincerely



Mirza Masroor Ahmad
KHALIFAT UL MASIH V

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