KHILAFAT AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN CONTEMPORARY HUMAN SOCIETY

Respected dear Ameer and Missionary in Charge, Ghana, ladies and gentlemen the topic of my speech is

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Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih II, Mirza Bashirud-Din Mahmud Ahmad (رضى الله عنه) in his address at Jalsa Salana Qadian 1914 said that "The word Khalifah means someone who succeeds another and continues the work of his predecessor. To understand the function of a successor, one has to look at the function of the predecessor. God has explained the work of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, as following:

That is, he should

- 1. Recite the verses of God to the people,
- 2. Purify them,
- 3. Teach them the book and
- 4. Impart wisdom to them

These four tasks of the Prophet cannot be performed by any 'Anjuman'. They can be performed only by the person whom God Himself appoints after the Prophet, and who is entitled as *Khalifah*".

The purpose of the institution of Khilafat is to bring people closer to Allah. Allah sends prophets to remind people that Allah is the ultimate reality and everyone should completely devote oneself towards this ultimate reality. After the prophets complete their mission, the challenge is to maintain the unity of the community and to keep the community on the right path. This task requires a leader who has a strong faith and a high level of righteousness. Khalifa is such a leader, who is elected by people but chosen by Allah.

Hazrat Masih Maud^(as) says:

According to the Holy Quran, till the end of time, you will continue to be blessed with spiritual life and material vision from God and the people of other religions and nations will receive this light from you. This spiritual life and material vision will empower you to invite others towards Islam. And such ability in you, in other words, is called Khilafat". (Tafseer Surah Maryam to Surah Ankabut by Hazrat Masih Maud^(as) (Page 291)

Hence Khilafat is the source of **Tabligh**, **Talim and Tarbiyyat** in the community.

The most basic function of Khalifa is to carry the message of the Prophet into the future without losing the spirit of the message. This task is best accomplished when the community is united and strong. And the community cannot be united and strong without the Institution of Khilafat.

In order to know how significant Khilafat is, in this contemporary Human society, we need to know how the world is moving today. We are in the world where atheism is on its pinnacle, we are in the world where people disregard religion, and we are in the world where people think religion is a hindrance to the progress of humanity and think that being religious is tantamount to retrogression in life.

If that is the case, as a religious body our conscience automatically tells us that there is a need of someone sent by God to manage the affairs of humanity. The only person who can manage the affairs of humanity in our contemporary age is the Khalifah who has been appointed by Allah the Almighty.

All unbiased people who can see the orderly and God-fearing functioning of the Ahmadiyya Khilafat, will bear witness that this religious and social system perfectly reflects the Promise of God Almighty given in the Surah "Al Nur", where Allah says:

Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as he made Successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that he will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear... (Ch.24:V.56)

The Promised Messiahas writes:

Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad (ra) states:

"God Almighty does everything through wisdom and foresight, and there is always a good reason and logic behind it. According to nature's physical laws, man has only a limited life span, but the task of reformation and training of society requires an eternity. This is why Allah has established the system of Khilafat after the system of Prophethood. The Khalifa continues and carries on the task of the Prophet. The seed sown by the Prophet is protected and nurtured by the Khalifa till it becomes a strong and sturdy tree. It shows that in fact, Khilafat is an offshoot or branch of the system of Prophethood, that is why the Holy Prophet (sa) says that after every Prophet, the system of Khilafat is established" (Taken from "Welcome to Ahmadiyyat the True Islam," by Karimullah Zirvi, Islam International Publication, Ltd., 2005, Page 295).

So, the immensely important feature and property of the Khilafat Ahmadiyya is not of an earthly, but of heavenly and Divine nature! Its utmost importance is that it is established on the precepts of Prophethood, as warranted by the Holy Prophet(saw), fourteen hundred years ago, and as proved and confirmed by the Promised Messiah and Mahdi(as) Both eras of the true Khilafat are thus built on the منہاج النوة precepts of Prophethood, and, therefore, the supreme religious authority of all Khalifas in Ahmadiyyat firmly rest upon the well-known instruction of the Holy Prophet(saw), who is reported to have said:

"Follow in my footsteps and in the footsteps of Khulafah-e-Rashideen who are fully guided."

If we truly realise the grand unseen property of the Ahmadiyya Khilafat is its foundation on the precepts of Prophethood, we also realise that the spiritual importance of Khilafat Ahmadiyya for the modern world is today even greater than its social example.

We can see with our own eyes and feel with our own hearts that the blessed Khilafat Ahmadiyya has indeed been established as the long-awaited example for Muslims and the entire humanity. Khilafat Ahmadiyya has established the true system of Islam on earth and has indeed given peace of heart and mind to all who have the honour and the privilege to belong to it. All holy martyrs of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at and those of our brothers and sisters who endure life and selflessly strive for Allah under grave persecution, find their peace and comfort in the Divinely-ordained institution of Khilafat – in the bond

of love and affection existing between them and their Khalifa. And those who are unlucky enough to leave, for any material reason, the fold of Ahmadiyyat, learn on their own unhappy experience the truth of Allah's warning, that it is only in the fold of Khilafat that;

.....Then whoso is ungrateful after that, they will be the rebellious. (Ch.24:V.56)

Khilafat as a Perfect System of Unity and Order

If one is asked to explain briefly what 'Islam' is, one may well say: "Islam is the sense of Unity?" Indeed, true Islam, as we see every moment in the fold of Ahmadiyyat, is the sense of unity and brotherhood among people – emerging from the unique and wonderful sense and realisation of *Tawhid*, the Unity of Allah. Alas, we see that in the so-called Muslim world beyond the fold of Ahmadiyyat, there is no unity in any, let alone this, grand sense of this word. Even brotherhood, where it can be seen, is being built more on materialistic and political, rather than spiritual and religious grounds.

In the absence of unity and any desire for unity, we see only disintegration, and nothing else. To the question, why it is so, the answer in Islam is as scientific, as it is religious – "because it is only unity (as a coordination of mutual links in a formal system) that begets orderliness". Speaking in scholarly terms of physics, disunity, in any formal system, is chaos, and chaos is death – death being the end of the

very purpose of existence for such a system. It is as true in the world of physics, as in any human society.

Some Muslim scholars and politicians, before and now, attempted to establish their own Khilafat of sorts. After the Khilafat movement of 1919-1924, there was Maulana Maudoodi, the Taliban, Hizb-ut-Tahrir, to name just a few. But is it not about them that Allah Almighty says in the Surah "Al Hashr":

Thou thinkest them to be united, but their hearts are divided. (Ch.59:V.15)

In Paigham-e-Sulh the Promised Messiahas writes:

Those who are outside my Community are all disunited in their ways and thoughts. They do not follow a leader whose obedience is incumbent upon them. (*Ruhani Khaza'in*, vol. 23, p. 455)

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad Khalifatul Masih V^(atba) said:

"Other Muslims desire to establish a Khilafat but they do so with worldly intentions, materialistic means and schemes and such ways will never be of use to them and Khilafat can never be established in that way. They can try all they like, however Khilafat will now continue to be established only in the way that Allah has decreed."

(Friday Sermon: 28 May 2021)

The importance of Khilafat – in its most obvious and tangible aspect – is in the task of maintaining religious and social bonds among true believers, to organise them for good deeds beneficial for all and to send out this bright example of unity to the entire humankind. It can be only done through Khilafat – the only structure in Islam able to support and maintain unity and brotherhood among believers and to help them strive together for the fulfilment of the purpose of human life. And what is this purpose if not a lifetime of attaining and preaching *Tawhid* – the awesome, magnificent and all-encompassing Unity of our God Almighty!

Seeing this steady growth of the Ahmadiyya Jama'at, one starts to realise why the Surah "Al-Nasr" enjoins the Khalifa and Imam of the Time to "glorify thy Lord with His praise". But also, when so many people of different backgrounds enter the fold of Ahmadiyyat, it must be ensured that all of them realise the preciousness and grandeur of Khilafat Ahmadiyya. From the very beginning of their new life in the Jama'at, they must adhere to the concept and practice of Khilafat with all their being. Khilafat is that mirror, in front of which they have to cleanse and beautify their souls, and it is because of this that we are admonished in Surah "Al-Nasr":

Glorify thy Lord with His praise and seek forgiveness of Him. Surely, He is oft-returning with mercy. (Ch.110:V.4)

Only through seeking forgiveness from Allah, can we hope to cleanse and purify ourselves as to be worthy of the spiritual jewel of Khilafat. Alhamdulillah, we are comforted and inspired by the Divine Promise that such forgiveness will indeed come, but only if we shall tread on the right path of Khilafat and treasure it more than our own lives. Khilafat is the life of the faith itself. If we, the Ahmadis, are the body of Ahmadiyyat, then Khilafat Ahmadiyya is its very soul, and the Khalifa of the time is its beating spiritual heart!

Khilafat Ahmadiyya is the most important and most magnificent blessing that could have come to a human being and any human community.

The Ahmadiyya Khilafat presents a valid alternative to any political or humanitarian structure for selflessly resolving the many problems of humanity. It establishes the existence of the living Prophetic tradition in Islam and, thorough the phenomenon of Prophethood, establishes and proclaims the very Existence of God, to which existence Khilafat Ahmadiyya – in its utterly sacrificial, completely selfless and, therefore, all but unbelievable existence with prophetic Divine foresight – is the most obvious, most trustworthy and most irrefutable proof.

Khilafat Ahmadiyya is, therefore, proof for the entire world of the Existence of God that humankind needs and craves for.

It is in this sense we should understand that Khilafat Ahmadiyya – is indeed the continuous and trustworthy Second Manifestation of His Divine Being. It is, true to the words of the Promised Messiah^(as),

"Qudrat-i-Thaniyya – the Second Manifestation of Divine Power, which is permanent and will last until the Day of Judgement".

May the entire world witness Khilafat Ahmadiyya with loving eyes! They will then see not only the true religious system uniting true believers by bonds of love and common striving for the good of humanity but also that this is, the only system that is uniting, in the present, both the past and the future, thus preserving for today and tomorrow, for all generations to come, the very essence of Prophethood as the living and inexhaustible channel of Divine revelation.

Need for Khilafat Today when Perfect Religion is Established

At this point, however, a question may arise as to why we do need a Khalifa to turn fear into peace, why do we need a Khalifa when religion has been perfected for us. We have the Holy Quran. We have Hadiths. We have the books of the Promised Messiah. Why do we need Khalifa to obtain right guidance? To answer this question, we need to understand the psychology of human nature. We believe that Allah has created us. Hence, He knows about the psychology of human nature more than anyone else.

Hazrat Masih Maud^(as) states in *Philosophy of Teachings of Islam*, and I summarize, that according to Allah, humans are born in the state of *Nafse Ammarah*. Now what is *Nafse Ammarah*? *Nafse Ammarah* is the state of mind. In this state, man is inclined towards evil and evil pulls the man away from the moral growth and perfection. The second state is *Nafse Lawwama*. We enter into *Nafse Lawwama* when we discard evil and educate ourselves with religious teachings. In this state, man tries

to run his life based on high moral principles but can't achieve complete success. The third state is *Nafse Mutmainnah*. In this state, the man is delivered from all weaknesses and is filled with spiritual powers and establishes a relationship with God Almighty.

All this discussion about three states boils down into this.

In simple words, some men live like animals. Some men, on the other hand, live like angels. Others are in the middle. They try to stay on the right path but often slip. Generally, it may be argued that most of us are in the middle. We know what is right and we know what is wrong but often due to moral weakness or worldly temptations we make wrong choices.

That is why Allah says in the Holy Quran

"continue to admonish, for admonition always help" (87:10)

So that when we are presented in the court of Allah on the Day of Judgment we can't say to Allah that you should have reminded us about what is right and what is wrong.

It is the job of Khalifa to constantly admonish us particularly through weekly Khutbas to keep us on the right track. After listening to Khutbas, how many times we feel that we were stepping away from God but Khutba reminded us what good life is and how we should live it.

By the Grace of Allah, Ahmadi Muslims are already being guided by a "voice of reason"! For the past 1400 years, Islam through our beloved Master, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) has given us the guiding principles on how to achieve: personal peace, social peace, political peace and world peace. For the past 133 years, starting with the advent of the Imam of the Age, the Promised Messiah (as), we are being constantly reminded on how to achieve this everlasting peace on all levels of society regardless of what is going on around us. And in these unsettling times, there is still only one Divine solution that can guide the world out of this darkness and into the light. That of course is Khilafat!

For the past 19 years since his election, our beloved Huzoor, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Al Khamis (may Allah strengthen his hand) has been working tirelessly day in and day out to continue the reformation and moral training of the world, a task that was seeded by the Holy Prophet (pbuh) and cultivated by the Promised Messiah (pbuh). This is a trust given to the Khalifa of the Time by Allah the Almighty, and one that the Khalifa spends his entire life working to fulfill.

Just as every mother has an innate responsibility and deep anguish in her heart for the upbringing of her children; imagine then the burden on the shoulders of Khalifatul Masih! Not only is Hazrat Khalifatul Masih (may Allah strengthen his hand) concerned with the spiritual well-being of every Ahmadi but he has been made responsible for every person and every nation in the world!

What other leader is there in the world that is praying for every member of his community so personally? In his Friday sermon of June 6th 2014, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Al Khamis (may Allah strengthen his hand) said;

"It is only the Khalifa of the time who is anxious for Ahmadi children to seek education and is anxious for them to have good health. There is no problem, be it of the Jama'at or of someone's private life regarding which the Khalifa of the time is not aware, for which he does not make practical efforts and does not turn to God to pray!"

Is there any other leader in the world who is praying for every country in the world? The so called "super powers" may be concerned with the progress of their own nation and their own people, but is there any leader who is concerned with the progress and well-being of every nation and every individual like Hazrat Khalifatul Masih is? Our beloved Huzoor (may Allah strengthen his hand) said:

"There is no country in the world that I do not go to in my mind before falling asleep and for whom I do not pray while sleeping and while waking. I am not saying this to count favors, no, this is my duty and may Allah the Exalted make me perform my duty more than ever."

Hazrat Mirza Bashirud-Din Mahmud Ahmad states in Barakat-e-Khilafat, Blessings of Khilafat (page 6-7)

"You have someone who has true sympathy for you; who truly loves you; who considers your pain and sufferings to be his own; and who is always praying to Allah for you...You have someone who is always anxious for your well-being, who puts himself into trouble for your sake, and who prays restlessly before his Lord for the sake

of your comfort and peace." (Barakat-e-Khilafat, Blessings of Khilafat pg 6-7)

The principal function of Khalifa, therefore, is to look after the spiritual, moral, social and intellectual welfare of the people.

Khalifa Sani^(ra) says under the Islamic system of government Khalifat is separate from state. Under Islamic system, there will be a Head of State who will take care of political, social and economic matters. The system of Khilafat will be a parallel structure whose sole job will be the spiritual welfare of people and the guidance to state.

Thus we can say that Khalifa serves a crucial function in the affairs of society and state by constantly guiding us and admonishing us about moral and spiritual matters.

On a societal level, every year our beloved Huzoor, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (may Allah strengthen his hand) works tirelessly delivering sermons, lectures, writing books and holding personal meetings all for the purpose of promoting peace and harmony for the benefit of mankind. On an international level, he visits the halls of parliament throughout the world emphasizing the role of peace, unity and justice amongst nations.

From addressing an individual's request for prayers at a mulaqat, to addressing kings and heads of state who shape the countries we live in, no person is too big or small – each one is affected by the love and care that the Khalifa shares for Humanity.

On Huzoor's trip to Germany in 2016, Huzoor laid the foundation stone for a new mosque in a small town near Frankfurt. After laying the foundation stone, Huzoor addressed an audience of local guests as is often his tradition. During the address our beloved Huzoor presented the true teachings of Islam to the local people, and expressed that it is the "mission and purpose of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to serve humanity."

After the reception Press Secretary Abid Khan Sahib had the opportunity to meet some of the local guests and gage their reactions to what they heard from Khalifatul Masih. A local politician Mr. Gerhard said regarding Huzoor:

"I thought it was amazing that His Holiness takes such interest in even small towns like ours. He is a world leader and yet the fact he came here and met us is testament to his humility. His words were like a charter for humanity or a code of peace for mankind."

A local lady, Mrs. Hildurn said:

"Just the presence and personality of your Khalifa had a big impact on me. He has a special attraction, authority and high status that you can feel."

Abid Khan Sahib also met a man names Mr. Gotz, a German lawyer who shared that he had abandoned his personal faith some years previously. Mr. Gotz said:

"I was previously a Christian but became disillusioned and became atheist but after listening to the address of the Khalifa I feel more hope. If I were to accept a religion again it would not be Christianity – rather the religion I would accept would be the Ahmadiyya

Community. I felt great peace listening to the Khalifa and seeing him."

After Huzoor's Saturday address at Jalsa Salana Germany in 2016, Press Secretary Abid Khan Sahib also gauged the reactions of some of the guests. Mr. Edward Milian was a guest who had travelled to Germany from Malta just to attend Jalsa Salana Germany. After listening to Huzoor's address, Edward said:

"Most people, when they hear the word 'Islam', they become scared - and so I just wish we could have fit the entire public of Europe into this hall so in one sitting all their fears and worries would have been removed." "I am extremely reassured by what I have heard. The Khalifa is fighting the demons that have attacked Islam - and the media should highlight this but sadly all they want to do is sell newspapers and so they prefer bad news."

Another guest Mr. David Weller said: "The Khalifa has an attraction like a magnet and when you see him you feel as though 'this is the person I was looking for'. It is a strange sensation. His words reach our hearts and you feel that every word has depth and meaning."

These personal testimonies run into the thousands! The testimonies that I have shared are only a drop in a vast ocean of personal accounts, and only Allah knows the full impact that Khalifatul Masih is having in the hearts of the people who meet him.

Wherever Hazrat Khalifatul Masih goes, the world is awakening and recognizing the teachings of Ahmadiyyat and the blessed status of Khilafat, and the tireless work that is being done by our beloved Huzoor. This is a great Divine sign for us too! It is a manifestation of Surah Al Nur, Verse 56 of the Holy Quran where Allah

The Almighty says "...He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors from among those who were before them." (24:56)

My dear brethren, Khilafat is undeniably the most important bounty to the members of the believers. The truth is that in the auspices of Khilafat, the Ahmadiyya Movement has attained such a global persona that today no area of this world is deprived of its blessings. It can be said in the literal sense of the word and without any fear of denial that the sun never sets on the world of Ahmadiyyat.

It is only by the Grace of Allah that we are among those who follow the Holy Prophet (saw) and who have accepted the Imam of the age (as). And while I am sure that every person in this Jalsa Gah will say they have a deep love of Khilafat in their hearts, do our words reflect our actions? Do we truly follow every instruction of Khalifatul Masih? As believers we need to put our egos and personal opinions aside and follow every instruction of Khalifatul Masih, as only then will we be become the recipients of Divine grace that is promised to the believers through the institution of Khilafat.

Khalifa tul Masih I^(ra) says:

Take the example of the solar system. All planets are revolving around the sun. The nature tells us that it is inevitable to have a central leadership for any organization. Look at the life of the companions of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). They all marched forward in spiritual and worldly matters due to the central leadership. Look

around today, we have the same Holy Quran. We have the translation and interpretation of the Holy Quran and above all, we have the Sunnah of Holy Prophet (PBUH). But despite all this Muslims are victims of all kinds of humiliation. This is all because of one reason and that is the lack of Ameer whom everyone must obey. (Hayat e Nur (First Edition, Page 643-644)

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

"Only those who profess utmost obedience to Khilafat can rightfully claim of having a loyal relationship with it. They safeguard Khilafat and Khilafat safeguards them. The prayers of the Khalifa of the time shall be with them. Their hardships shall draw the heart of the Khalifa of the time to pray for them. Those who truly act upon good deeds are the ones who have a relationship with Khilafat and Khilafat has a relationship with them – solely to attain the pleasure of God Almighty." (Friday Sermon: 28 May 2021)

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

"We should never forget the signs of His blessings that Allah the Almighty is manifesting upon us and the fact that He has blessed us with the favour of Khilafat. We must always fulfil our obligations towards it so that until the Day of Resurrection we may benefit from this blessing according to the prophecy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him)...We must bow down to Allah the Almighty as His grateful servants. Our every action and word must manifest [gratefulness for] the blessing of Khilafat. We must be ready to offer every sacrifice for fulfilling our pledge to remain obedient to Khilafat till our last breaths. Only then

will we be able to fulfil our obligation to make our children obedient to Khilafat till the Day of Judgement." (Friday Sermon: 28 May 2021)

we must treasure our Khilafat as the most sacred religious institution and in our daily efforts, always remember the New Centenary Pledge devised by our Khalifa, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, forever affirming that'

"we shall strive till the last breath to safeguard the institution of Khilafat and its stability and shall direct our progeny after progeny to always be bonded with Khilafat and be given the blessings of it, so that Khilafat Ahmadiyya continues to go on safe and sound and the propagation of Islam may go on through Ahmadiyyat till the Day of Judgement and the flag of the Holy Prophet Muhammad(saw), may fly higher and higher than all other flags in the world."

O Allah, grant us the capacity to fulfil this pledge. Ameen!

My dear brethren, in these latter days, there is only one rope that can save us, and that is the rope of Allah, which is Khilafat. If we grab hold of this blessed rope of Allah, and attach ourselves to Khilafat, not just in words but with true conviction; by following each and every guidance given to us by Khalifatul Masih and fostering an unbreakable bond with Khilafat, then Insha'Allah we will be saved from the serious challenges the world is facing. Not only will we be saved but also our future generations will also be safeguarded from going astray, for in these latter days it is only through Khilafat that progress and unity can be achieved.

As the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds are awakening to this "voice of reason" that is so badly needed in these times of despair, our only hope for peace and security is through Khilafat. May Allah enable us to heed the call of the Holy Prophet (saw) and the Promised Messiah (as) and live in perfect obedience to Khalifatul Masih, for verily all success lies in our attachment to Khilafat. We should regularly offer prayers for his health, security and long and blessed life. Ameen.

The prayers of a Khalifah are mostly accepted.

The acceptance of prayer is something Allah has honored to his prophets and their successors since time immemorial. The prayers of the prophets are always accepted more than any other person of their time. Since the Ahmadiyya Khilafat is based on the precepts of prophethood as mentioned by the Holy Prophet saw, then the level at which Allah accepted the prayers of the Holy Prophet saw would be transferred to the Promised Messiah as who was to be a devotee servant of the Holy Prophet saw.

To this effect Allah the Almighty revealed to the Promised Messiah as that المجيب كل دعاتك that I will accept most of your prayers. This is to say that, whoever Allah choses to be His successor, He blesses him with acceptance of most of his prayers. And that is also a sign for his truthfulness.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II^{ra} says;

"When Allah the Almighty choses someone with the position of Khilafat, his prayers are widely accepted by Allah, because if his prayers are not accepted, then it is an insult to His choice. Whichever dua I will offer will in shaa Allah be more powerful than the prayer of any other person's dua".

We are in the blessed era of fifth Khalifa of the Promised Messiah. We hear how people are benefitting from his prayers by writing letters to him for prayers. Why do we then deprive ourselves of this blessing and leave it to only few people of the Jama'at.

We heard in the recently held God Summit by the review of religions, occasions where people wrote letters to Huzur for prayers and through it they were relieved from their distress which increase their faith in living Allah and give them certainty in the truthfulness of Khilafat Ahmadiyya.

Let us all make it a point from today, that we would be regularly writing letters to Huzur at least once a month to also reap the blessings of Khilafat.

We should also pray for our own self to be always loyal to the institution of Khilafate Ahmadiyya.

'Our Lord, let not our hearts become perverse after Thou hast guided us; and bestow on us mercy from Thyself; surely, Thou alone art the Bestower. {3:9}