

## **JALSA SALANA IN THE WORDS AND WRITINGS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH (AS)**

### STRUCTURE:

- *Brief Historical Perspective of Jalsa Salana*
- *Savings and Finances Towards Jalsa Salana*
- *Aims and Objectives of Jalsa Salana*
- *Prayer for Attendees by The Promised Messiah [AS]*

### **BRIEF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF JALSA**

The world hosts many conventions of all kinds, where people gather for various reasons. These conventions vary from political gatherings, musical concerts, sporting events and everything in between. People benefit in various manners from each of these, be it merely entertainment, health benefits or even strengthening their political standing.

However, Jalsa Salana is not solely limited to worldly benefit. The spiritual rewards and benefits one can gain from the Jalsa may even be beyond human comprehension.

With its humble beginnings in 1891, in the remote village of Qadian, and which was attended by merely 75 members of the community, it has expanded substantially. The Jalsa conventions are now held in dozens, on national and on international scale. The Promised Messiah<sup>(AS)</sup> announced at the end of his book, ‘**the heavenly decree**’ that;

*EVERY YEAR, JAMA 'AT MEMBERS SHOULD UNITE IN [QADIAN] AND SPEND SOME TIME IN HIS COMPANY. **THREE DAYS OF EVERY YEAR SHOULD BE FIXED** ..... ‘ALL OUR FRIENDS [AHMADIS] SHOULD, TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITY, COME AND LISTEN TO DIVINE WORDS AND TO JOIN IN SUPPLICATION FOR THE SAKE OF ALLAH.’*

This has called for our gathering here today.

### **SAVINGS AND FINANCES TOWARDS JALSA**

In the same announcement, ‘the heavenly decree’ the Promised Messiah<sup>(AS)</sup> also advised jama’at members to plan their finances and to put aside some money each day or monthly to easily travel to the Jalsa, for the Promised Messiah, on whom be peace, himself funded the Jalsa through whatever means possible. His passion was such that he even asked Hazrat Aman Jan<sup>(RA)</sup> to sell jewelry in order to cover expenses; she did so happily.

*[Sources: Majmua-Ishteharat, Volume 1, Pp. 302-304, Tarikh-E Ahmadiyyat Pp. 442, The Heavenly Decree Pp. 73-75]*

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF JALSA SALANA**

The Promised Messiah<sup>(AS)</sup>, in the same announcement, articulated the following aims and objectives for all those attending the Jalsa Salana:

- 1. The visit will be solely for the sake of Allah, to listen to heavenly discourses and to participate in prayer to their utmost ability.*
- 2. The voicing of such truths and verities will be the occupation of this Jalsa, which are important for the progress of belief, certainty and enlightenment.*
- 3. Friends that join this jama'at in each new year shall, by attending on the appointed dates, get to meet their brethren, and as a result become friends.*
- 4. Also, anybody who passes away during the year, a prayer for their forgiveness shall be made at this Jalsa.*
- 5. It shall be endeavored to spiritually unite all brethren and to remove disassociation, unfamiliarity and hypocrisy from among them.*
- 6. And those present had the opportunity to shake the blessed hands of the promised Messiah<sup>(AS)</sup> and benefit from his company.*

There is more to the annual convention [Jalsa Salana] than meets the eye. He (peace be upon him) presented four main purposes of this convention:

- 1. To increase one's communion with Allah the Almighty*
- 2. To pray for those brothers who have passed away*
- 3. To meet new members and increase in brotherhood*
- 4. To gain and increase in knowledge*

These four principal purposes presented by the Promised Messiah<sup>(AS)</sup> are being fulfilled in every aspect of the annual convention [Jalsa Salana]

“The primary purpose of this convention is to enable every sincere individual to personally experience religious benefits; they may enhance their knowledge and – due to their being blessed and enabled by Allah, the exalted – their perception [of Allah] may progress. Among its secondary benefits is that this congregational meeting together will promote mutual introduction among all brothers, and it will strengthen the fraternal ties within this community.”

*[Ishtihar 7 Dec. 1892, Majmoo`Ah Ishtiharat Vol. I, Page 340]*

“It is essential for all those who can afford to undertake the journey, that they must come to attend this convention which embodies many blessed objectives. They should disregard minor inconveniences in the cause of Allah and his prophet (peace be upon him.). Allah yields reward to the sincere persons at every step of their way, and no labour and hardship, undertaken in his way, ever goes to waste. I re-emphasize that you must not rank this convention in the same

league as other, ordinary, human assemblies. This is a phenomenon that is based purely on the divine help, for propagation of Islam.”

*[Ishtihar 7 Dec. 1892, Majmoo`Ah Ishtiharat Vol. I, Page 341]*

Hence, it is imperative to remember the true purposes of the annual convention [Jalsa Salana] laid down by the Promised Messiah<sup>(AS)</sup> whilst attending these, because the spiritual reward and benefit is what distinguishes this gathering from other worldly conventions.

*[Daniyal Kahlon, The Review of Religions.]*

“I conclude with the prayer that everyone who travels for [attending] this convention that is for the sake of Allah: may Allah, the exalted, be with him, reward him in abundant measure, have mercy on him, ease up for him his circumstances of hardship and anxiety and eliminate his anguish and grief. May He grant him freedom from every single hardship and lay open for him the ways of [achieving] his cherished goals, and raise him up, on the day of judgment, among those of His servants who are the recipients of His blessings and mercy. May He be their guardian in their absence until after their journey comes to an end. O Allah! O sublime one and bestower of bounties, the ever merciful and one who resolves all problems, do grant all these prayers, and grant us victory over our opponents with scintillating signs, because you alone have all the prowess and power. Aameen! Aameen!!”

*[Ishtihar 7 Dec. 1892, Majmoo`Ah Ishtiharat Vol. I, Page 342]*