

THE ROLE OF SALAAT IN THE SPIRITUAL REVIVAL OF ISLAM- THE TIMELESS GUIDANCE OF HAZRAT MUSLEH MAUD

بِيَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَآمَنُوا بِرَسُولِهِ يُؤْتُكُمْ كَفَيْنِ مِنْ رَحْمَتِهِ وَيَجْعَلُ لَكُمْ نُورًا تَمْشُونَ بِهِ
وَيَغْفِرُ لَكُمْ وَاللَّهُ غَفُورٌ رَّحِيمٌ

O ye who believe! fear Allah and believe in His Messenger; He will give you a double share of His mercy, and will provide for you a light wherein you will walk, and will grant you forgiveness - and verily Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful

On a night just like this & a time similar to this time under this same sky, 1410 years ago a man stood in the Kaaba, pouring his devoted, and trembling soul into Tahajjud. His prayer was so intense and so consuming that people feared it might claim his life.

And in that same darkness, another man approached with a sword in his hand, determined to end the life of the praying saint.

As the saint finished, he sensed the presence behind him "Who is it?" he asked. "It is Umar."

With great sorrow the saint replied: "O Umar...you give me no peace by day, nor harmony by night."

This saint sorrowed, with tear flowing from his eyes prayers to Allah

""O Allah, strengthen Islam through Umar." And that night, the heavens answered his prayers.

The saint was the Holy Prophet . The other person was Umar, Hazrat Umar Farooq, the second Khalifa of Islam

The news of Umar's conversion ripped through Mecca like lightning A city that mocked Muslims now trembled for Umar was fearless lion, all feared

Standing beside the Prophet this fearless lion of Allah declared: "From today, we shall pray openly in the Kaaba let the whole world try to stop us!"

And for the very first time in history, the Muslims stood together in one row in the Kaaba Their voices rose in a mighty wave of Allahu Akbar, rolling through the valleys of Mecca.

And thus, Umar till eternity will be the man through whom congregational prayers started in Kaaba

But history, dear brethren, was destined to repeat itself

Fourteen centuries later, beneath the same vast sky, another saint stood in silent prayer. His heart carried the same burden, the same deep concerns as Holy

Prophet (sa). Besides him stood a young child, his eyes filled with wonder as he gazed upon the heavens. With innocent sincerity, this child insisted: "Take me to the stars."

Only Allah knows what prayers were whispered that night by that saint. But just as before, the heavens listened

That child did not merely reach for the stars he became one of them, the best of them and brightest of them. A guiding light, a beacon of leadership, It was prophesied about him that he would bear the qualities of Hazrat Umar.

That saint was the Promised Messiah (AS), and that child was Hazrat Musleh Maud (RA).

Just as congregational prayer in the history of Islam was led by the unwavering resolve of Hazrat Umar (RA), in the final great battle between Islam and Dajjal, which we are witnessing today, the same echo rose once more. But this time through Fazl-e-Umar, Hazrat Musleh Maud.

There is a special connection between Hazrat Umar, Hazrat Musleh Maud and congregational prayer

It was in his blessed era that the Azan reached lands where it had never been heard before. From the distant shores of Fiji to the vast landscapes of North America, from the heart of Africa to the shores of Europe, mosques were built, congregations were formed, and the Jamaat flourished

But these were not just structures of brick and stone. These were fortresses of faith, nurtured by his tears, strengthened through his prayers, and built upon the foundation of his relentless supplications to Allah the Almighty.

Hazrat Musleh Maud granted the Jamaat the secret recipe of progress, which is his timeless guidance.

"The Jamaat will continue to flourish as long as congregational prayers are upheld. But if we falter in our prayers, progress will come to a standstill, and no one will be able to revive it.""

Hazrat Musleh Maud further says;

" Ahmadies should never slacken in the fulfilment of the obligation of the five daily prayers. As soon as they slacken, that would be the onset of dissension and destruction Even if an Ahmadi is alone in a village, he should pray that Allah grants him a companion so as to enable him say his prayers in congregation."

He continues to say; If this slackness takes over the Jama'at than the journey towards destruction will start. May Allah protect us against such an outcome....Remember that if you forget this advice of mine, you will never prosper

Huzoor futhur says:

The truth is that a Jama'at can never be established unless it pays due attention to offering prayers in congregation. Should someone fail to find a companion to accompany him for congregation, he can arrange for congregation at home leading the prayers while his wife and children stand behind him. This will at least keep the habit of offering prayers in congregation alive.

Once with great passion Hazrat Musleh Maud addressed the Jamaat in the following words;

"Not once, not twice, but countless times, I have emphasized through sermons, discourses, and speeches that prayers must be offered in congregation at the mosque. Yet, despite repeated guidance, negligence persists. Now, the only remaining course of action is to separate such hypocrites from our Jamaat. Beyond this, I see no other solution."

Dear brotheren, these are the words of Hazrat Musleh Maud. One might be stunned on why such people were called hypocrites;

I quote in the words of Hazrat Musleh Maud: " Despite the merciful character of the Holy Prophet, he was extremely devoted to ensuring no one missed the congregational prayers. His concern was so great that he expressed a desire to appoint someone to lead the prayer in his place so he could personally go with some companions carrying firewood to burn the houses of those who repeatedly neglected congregational prayers.,

In another speech, Hazrat Musleh Maud says

"I wish to draw the attention of all my brethren that if they truly seek to partake in the blessings of the Jamaat or rather, if they desire salvation in the hereafter, they must be steadfast in offering their prayers. It is a grave misconception to believe that merely accepting the Promised Messiah (AS) and paying Chanda guarantees entry into heaven. No, paradise is not attained so easily

Just as one must taste death to enter the next world, let you inner self die five times a day, let your excuses and justifications of your heart die five times a day, and go to mosques for congregational prayers and thus will you inherit the everlasting paradise of your Lord."

Many of us tend to blame Jamaat leadership (the ameer, missionaries, sadran) for a lack of progress. Hazrat Musleh Maud's words provide a direct response to this kind of criticism.

"Many ask me when will the Jamaat progress in leaps and bounds. The fact is that the Prophet of Allah has taught us that secret. The secret for our progress is Prayers in congregation. Thus those people who ask, as to why we are not progressing in leaps and bounds should hold themselves accountable. They should do away with slackness in prayers until every single member of my Jamaat makes it binding upon himself to offer every prayer in congregation, I cannot say that our Jamaat is truly progressing

Huzur says;

What is the meaning of **حَىْ عَلَى الْفَلَاح** it means come to success, come to prosperity. For verily success lies in prayers with congregation.

Huzur further explained and refuting the claim that prayer is compulsory but not congregational prayer. He saysthat the Quran repeatedly mentions

يَقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ، أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ which beacons the congregational prayer. This commentary is a reflection of the saying of the Holy Prophet

لَا صَلَاةَ لِجَارِ الْمَسْجِدِ إِلَّا فِي الْمَسْجِدِ

That is prayer of one who lives in the proximity of the mosque is only accepted if he comes to the mosque.

Hazrat Musleh Maud further says;

"Remember and remember very well that there is no Islam without Salat. Understand this with the depth of your heart: there is only one chain that binds a person to his Lord, and that sacred chain is Salat. Only those are truly saved, who cling to this chain with devotion and love.

But those who sometimes abandon their prayers remember that, in the sight of Allah, they are counted among the jews.

I say with certainty, those who leave prayers will never depart this world as true believers. Without doubt, before their final moment, something will befall them that will strip them from being counted among the faithful.

It is very peculiar to mention as well that among the greatests sins mentioned in the Holy Quran is the murder of your children as the Quran says

إِنَّ قَاتِلَهُمْ كَانَ خَطُّلًا كَبِيرًا

Hazrat Musleh Maud in this regard repeatedly admonished Ahmadi parents that;

Generally, Parents do not murder their children. So what this verse of the Holy Quran means is that and I quote " If the elders of a house do not pray, they are hypocrites and as for those who do not train their children for prayers in congregations are their murderers and killers of their own children.

On another occasion, he said that you should instill in your children the understanding that whenever they miss a prayer in congregation, they have lost something extremely precious in their lives something for which they should feel deep grief and sorrow.

Dear brethren! Let me give you a glance of how Hazrat Musleh Maud regarded us.

" Allah has placed in my hands, hearts so devoted that at a single call of mine, they would sacrifice everything! If I command them to leap into the depths of the ocean, they will not hesitate, If I tell them to throw themselves off the highest cliffs, they would do so without a second thought, And if I order them to rush into a raging furnaces, they would dive in without fear, without question!"

We are the inheritors of this sacred legacy! Let us rise today, not with mere words, but with hearts ablaze, with a passion that knows no limits, with a commitment that never wavers. Let us pledge, with every fiber of our being, that we will stand shoulder to shoulder in our mosques, that we will fill them with our prayers, that we will let no excuse come between us and the call of our Lord, For this is not just a duty-it is our honor, our identity, our proof of love, and the path of Islam's victory.

Let us along with our families on the call of the Khalifa turn to mosques, fill up the mosques with our presence and respond to the call of Allah, his prophet and his Khalifa.

Upon the passing of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Musleh Maud stood by the blessed dead body of the Promised Messiah and promised Allah saying:

"I will still carry forth the message You have revealed through the Promised Messiah (AS), I will take it to every land, every nation, every heart, until the ends of the earth have heard its call!"

And then, the world bore witness this was not the fleeting passion of a grieving son, nor the emotional promise of a child. It was a covenant written in the ink of sacrifice, sealed with the fire of devotion. His days and nights became a relentless pursuit of this mission. Every moment of his existence, every breath he took, was for this sacred cause. And history testifies-this was not just a pledge, it was a destiny fulfilled:

How fortunate are we here in Ghana, that the message of the Promised Messiah reached us as a result of this pledge of Hazrat Musleh Maud

Dear members of the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah, have the goodnews that Islam is soon going to be victorious, the flag of the Holy Prophet would soon be the flag of the world. Play your part in this victory as Hazrat Musleh Maud urged by offering prayers in congregations.

O you all, who are very beloved Messiah, keep this message and pass this message to your progenies that when you witness the victory of Islam , never ever forget to pray for those who laid the foundations of this victory,

O my Lord! Through Your boundless mercy and grace, purify the hearts of my people. Ignite within them the passion of the companions of the Holy Prophet (SAW). May they be ready to sacrifice everything for Your sake and for the sake of the Holy Prophet (SAW). Accept every prayer that the Promised Messiah (AS) made for them. May his teachings find a home in their purified hearts.

O my Lord! Protect my Jama'at from every trial, from every hardship. Raise among them the greatest of saints. Make them a nation chosen by You, beloved by You. May Your angels forever descend upon them, carrying Your divine blessings!"

O Allah! Make my Jama'at blessed in this world and the Hereafter. Bless them, bless them, bless them!"

Ameen!