

Jalsa Salana Gautemala 2010

Report

Friday November 26th 2010

Friday Sermon

Friday's session at Mezquita Baitul Awaal began at 1:30pm with Juma prayer. Guests began arriving from morning. There were approximately 27 men attendees and 7 ladies with 3 young children. Some Guatemalans traveled from various parts of 26th the country, including, Quetzaltenango (Xela), Puerto San Jose and Huehuetenango and a guest came from El Salvador.

Respected Imam Daud Hanif presided over the day's events and delivered the Juma khutba on the topic of Prayer and Achieving Nearness to God.

He began with the verses, "**And** I have not created the **Jinn and** the men but that they may **worship Me.**" (51:57)

Despite our free will and ability to choose, God tells us our main objective in life is to know and worship Him. If Allah introduced a way of life, we should learn it and adopt it. God introduced religion through prophets to act as exemplary role models for people. Holy Prophet Muhammad's character was the Quran. What it said he acted upon it. Worshipping God is not solely ritual prayer, but it is faith in practice, prayers, intentions, actions and regard for humanity.

Imam Daud then explained an important step to gain nearness to Allah, Salat - the ritual prayer offered 5 times a day. He cited examples from the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that highlighted the great importance and attention he paid to Salat.

Numerous Hadith (Traditions) related the Holy Prophet's dedication and tireless attention to prayer and his emphasis on prayer in congregation. Even as he neared the end of his life, or during an illness, he would make every effort to attend congregational prayer at the mosque. He took time to share some of these traditions and also describe the due importance the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) gave to time spent in each prayer position and ensuring Muslims did not rush through absent-mindedly.

Imam Daud concluded that Prayer is spiritual food. We cannot survive without regular nourishment, so we must resolve to worship God up until the last breath of our lives. May Allah enable us to follow the guidance of the Holy Quran, which has been acted upon by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Imam Daud Hanif led Jumma and Asr prayers and then the guests enjoyed another well prepared lunch. Local Lajna President Martamaria Gonzalez had been managing food for international guests splendidly and along with a small team managed the Jalsa meals as well.

First Session

After lunch, the First Session of the Jalsa began with recitation of the Holy Quran, Surah al-Hashr, Chapter 59, verses 23- 25) by Mirza Muzaffar Ahamd of Houston, Texas. The Spanish translation was read by Mr. Waseem Sayed.

Imam Daud Hanif Sahib officially opened the session by welcoming attendees to the 21st Jalsa Salana of Guatemala and read the Special Message [[EN](#) | [ES](#)] to Jama'at Guatemala from Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V (ab), addressed to the participants in the Jalsa.

4:30 pm - Imam Daud Hanif - Purpose of Jalsa Salana

After relaying the official message from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V, Imam Daud Hanif Sahib began his speech about the importance of Jalsa Salana.

He reminded guests that during this Jalsa weekend participants should be engrossed in the worship of God, whether in the formal prayer or simply sitting and remembering God, these Jalsa days should be spent in worship. Imam Daud went on to illustrate the uniqueness of the Holy Quran explaining that such a revelation is not found anywhere in the world. Allah Almighty has sent the Quran as guidance for all time to come and for all nations to embrace. About this book, Allah Himself calls it perfect, without error or contradiction. God promises He would protect it's text for all time to come.

He closed by reminding guests that this book contains the ultimate message for every human being, and by following and honoring the guidance of the Holy Quran, you too will be honored.

He closed encouraging attendees to be obedient to the Holy Quran in order to find all manner of spiritual and worldly success and prayed that Allah may enable everyone to live lives in accordance with the beautiful teachings of the Holy Quran.

The Character (Life) of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) - by Imam Zafrullah Hanjra of Houston Texas

Imam Hanjra Sahib began his speech by relaying the Quranic verse:

O ye who believe! respond to Allah, and the Messenger when he calls you that he may give you life, and know that Allah comes in between a man and his heart, and that He it is unto Whom you shall be gathered.
(8:25)

He reminded guests that the purpose of creation is that we should worship God and adopt or color ourselves in His attributes. The life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was to tell us how each of us can practically achieve the purpose of our lives.

He encouraged that although here in Guatemala Jama'at numbers are currently small and the majority of people are not following the teachings of Islam, no one should feel discouraged. Instead look to the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), to gain courage and resolve.

With initially only 5 people, and in the face of bitter opposition, they were firmly resolved to spread the message of Islam all over the world. What motivated them was a deep faith that God's promise was true. Throughout the early years of his prophethood, Muslims were tortured and abused. Even during the battle of the ditch when believers were exhausted, hungry and outnumbered, the Holy Prophet Muhammad

(peace be upon him) saw a vision of Muslims conquering foreign kingdoms and lands. Despite their dire condition, the Companions believed firmly that they would succeed and expand and see countless advancement.

The Holy Prophet (peace be upon) was always submissive to Allah. He and his Companions spent their nights crying out to God, and today also, only through prayer, can we win the hearts of the people.

Sincere prayers were the true weapon given to the followers of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) - faith and prayer. Men, women and children all participated in calling humanity to Faith and this is what we all must do today too.

He reminded attendees that the life of the Holy Prophet encourages us. Remember that with God nothing is impossible. In conclusion, Imam Hanjra encouraged everyone to set good examples by their own high moral conduct, to cry in the night to be changed, and to increase in love of God. Once we have brought about a spiritual change in ourselves we will be able to bring about a change in the whole world. This will ensure countless blessings for not only ourselves but our future generations also.

End of Session

At 5:20 pm, the Friday Session of Jalsa Salana Guatemala closed with Silent Prayer led by Imam Daud Hanif, followed by announcements by Imam Abdul Sattar Khan. Immediately following this session, after a brief break for ablutions, Maghrib and Isha prayers were offered and then tea, and dinner were served.