

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

“Forging Ahead in the New Century of Khilafat”

By: Waseem Syed

Ash hado al-laa ilaha il-lal-laho wah da hoo la shareeka lahoo wa Ash hado an-na Muhammadan abdo hoo wa Rasooluh...Am-ma ba'do fa-oozo bil-lahay minash shaitan nir rajeem...Bismil-lah hir Rahman nir Raheem

هُوَ الَّذِي أَرْسَلَ رَسُولَهُ بِالْهُدَىٰ وَدِينِ الْحَقِّ لِيُظْهِرَهُ عَلَى الدِّينِ كُلِّهِ وَلَوْ كَرِهَ الْمُشْرِكُونَ^ع [61:10]

He it is Who has sent His Messenger with the guidance and the Religion of truth, that He may cause it to prevail over all religions,

The topic of my speech: Forging Ahead in the New Century of Khilafat; conjures up in my mind the image of a Space Shuttle blasting off into space.

But before we forge ahead it behooves us to go through the pre-flight checklist ..and, at the least, be certain of where we are headed and if we have the fuel to get there ..

Ours is a spiritual journey.... the Holy Founder of our Community made this very clear....he wrote in his Will in 1905:

Rejoice! And be happy, for the field of achieving nearness to God is vacant. Every nation is engrossed in loving all that the world has to offer but they pay no attention to the things that can win the pleasure of God.

Now is the time for those who wish to forge ahead through this door, with full strength, to prove their mettle and win a most precious gift from God!

And what is the purpose of God in these latter days..Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, peace be on him, the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community laid this out also very clearly:

God Almighty desires to draw all those who live in various habitations of the world, be it Europe or Asia, and who have a virtuous nature, to the Unity of God and unite His servants under one Faith.

*This indeed is the purpose of God for which I have been sent to the world. You, too, therefore should pursue this end, but with kindness, moral probity and fervent prayers.
[Al-Wasiyyat, pp.8-9, English Translation]*

This last sentence is utterly amazing...such a long time ago...104 year to be precise, the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community laid out the path that we need to follow.

The emphasis is on narmee, kindness, on dealing with each other mercifully and with love and tenderness, and akhlaaq, high moral qualities, and prayers, worship of God...

BELIEF, or Faith in God, was central to all the things he said we needed ...and it was this one thing that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) had told us would be missing from the world...indeed he had said that, in the latter days, faith would have vanished from the hearts of the people and abandoned their environs and left the earth altogether and ascended to the heavens.....

The Promised Messiah and Mahdi, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) of Qadian; told us this again and again and it is this that we have to ensure we have full tanks of before we blast off, to continue the metaphor cited at the start, into the next century....FAITH..

He says:

Listen, O ye People! Hear what it is that God desires from you? He desires only that you become His, wholly and solely and completely, and do not associate any partners with Him, neither in the heavens nor on the earth. [p.22]

Then again:

Look! if you incline fully towards God, then I tell you, in accord with the will and pleasure of God, that you shall become His chosen people.

Let the Greatness of God take root in your hearts; and acknowledge His Unity not just with your tongues but also with your actions, so that God, too, practically shows His Mercy and Kindness to you. [p.21]

This is particularly worth emphasizing...and worth pondering over...how can we establish with our deeds, the azmat, the grandeur of God's Unity?

I humbly submit that it is by forsaking all such actions as lead to disunity and dissention and becoming one by holding fast to the rope of Allah, all together!

So, the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community came and brought faith down from the farthest recesses of space ...

...and re-established it in the hearts of those who believed in him....

...and as the time for his demise drew closer he wrote in his Will that God would prosper and flourish this Community.

He would make it achieve to the full the purpose for which it had been set up.

This would happen, he said, in the way it had always happened in Divinely established communities in the past...some at his own hand and some at the hands of those who would personify God's second manifestation of power and might....

...namely the Khalifas that God Himself would establish in the earth, one after the other, in succession, till the end of days!

He says:

And He will promote and advance this Jama'at to the full. A part of it will happen at my hands, and some after me.

It is important to understand that to be united at his hand and after him at the hands of those who would succeed him is essential and very concisely and powerfully mentioned here..

He said:

I came from God as a Manifestation of Divine Providence and I am a personification of His Power.

And after I am gone there will be some other persons who will be the manifestation of the second Power [of God].

This is the Way of God. And ever since He created man on earth He has always been demonstrating this Divine practice. He helps His Prophets and Messengers and grants them success and predominance, as He says: ‘God has ordained that He and His Prophets shall prevail.’ (The Holy Qur’an, Al-Mujadalah 58:22)

I want to pause here a little and emphasize one thing that we have to worry about as we get ready to Forge Ahead into the New Century of Khilafat..

Hazrat Masih-e-Maood (as) says...that Allah helps His Messengers and Prophets and grants them supremacy in fulfillment of His promise...now after 120 years ..we are all witnesses to the truth of this...visit the millions of Ahmadis and the hundreds of thousand of Ahmadi communities scattered everywhere in some 200 countries and see the abundance that Allah has blessed them with...the amazing spirituality that pervades the Ahmadi Communities everywhere and the unity of purpose and righteous leadership and love of God and devotion to His worship....

Not only this but also the abundance of material things that Allah has blessed us with...the daily growing prosperity...

AS I SAID IN THE VERY BEGINNING WE ARE ON A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY
AND OURS IS A COMMUNITY THAT WAS SET UP TO RE- ESTABLISH FAITH
IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE...

The danger always is that as Allah's bounties begin to descend upon the people who are raised from among the spiritually dead...through God's Grace manifested by His raising among them a Messenger...as they begin to be breathed a new life into...and the bounties of God, in accord with His laws, begin to fill their houses..the danger is that they....The danger is that, **WE**, may begin to forget the Bestower and begin to fall in love with and indeed begin to worship the things we are bestowed...

Let me again emphasize: the progress and victory, the progress and victory of spirituality and godliness of this Jama'at is tied up with unity on the hand of the Holy Founder and his Successors...

The thing that we need to worry about...as we flourish is to not get into the error of thinking that now that we are so advanced, and so blessed, and so powerful and rich, and so very learned, that now WE need to be followed and become divided into as many parts as there are well-off and learned people among us.

We need to remember that there is no shortage of very, very smart people in the world...in every branch of worldly science and art...there are a huge number of such great minds ... there is no shortage of very eloquent and motivational speakers ...there is no shortage of billionaires in the world either...there is no shortage of rocket scientists ...and economists ...AND DAILY there are more and more among this Community who are reaching to the heights of achievements in all these professions...and soon we shall insha-Allah begin to see among them founders of enterprises as successful as those that we see being founded by others...

BUT THESE ARE WORLDLY THINGS AND THE MISTAKE THAT WE MUST AVOID MAKING IS THINKING that it is the worldly progress bestowed upon us and on those among us ..and our increasing numbers ...that it is by virtue of these things, and this wealth and prosperity, and these large numbers of adherents, that we shall be blessed with victory and be able to bring peace and progress and unity to the people of the world...and be in a position to solve the problems of the rich and the poor...

NO...it shall be by uniting at the hands of those Khalifas that Allah shall continue to establish among us, so long as we remain righteous and keep on doing good works ..that we shall be able to witness the victory of spirituality and godliness...this is the sum and essence of the Promise of Allah contained in the Holy Quran relating to the bounty of Khilafat:

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ

الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ^ص وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا^ط

يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُ بِي شَيْءٌ وَمَنْ كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

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: They will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me. Then whoso is ungrateful after that, they will be the rebellious.

Those among us who forget this, God forbid any of us should fall prey to this...shall be cut asunder and those united at the hands of the Khalifas shall be the ones who shall move forward and witness, in the new century, and the centuries that follow, the victory of Islam and Ahmadiyyat...

If peace and security, and establishment of our faith, could be achieved by having immense wealth...then Saudi Arabia and a whole bunch of other Muslim, middle east states, should, by now, have made at least some progress in leading the Islamic world into an era of peace and tranquility and strengthening of our faith..

If peace and security, and establishment of our faith, could be achieved by manufacturing and owning one or more atom bombs, then surely, Pakistan should, by now, have made at least some progress in leading the Islamic world into an era of peace and tranquility ...and if the Holy Quran is the Word of God..**as it most certainly is**...it should have mentioned this as the means for achieving all this...but what is it that the Holy Quran prescribes..it says **believe and do good works** then will Allah will bless you with Khilafat and give you peace and security and establish your faith for you...

So how must we forge ahead?...and what will fuel our movement forward?...the answer is simple...we must forge ahead united at the hand of the Khalifa...forging ahead behind him and following him and protecting every part of our body behind his shield...and fuelled by our firm and total faith in our All-mighty and All-powerful Lord GOD, Creator and Sustainer of all that exists.

We must learn from history...the early Muslims lost their unity because of haste...1,400 years ago...haste produces nothing but waste...The immense blessing that was Khilafat-e-Rashida, was lost in a single generation, a mere 30 years ..

When people brought up in today's atheistic environment hear so much emphasis on obedience and loyalty to one individual they ask:

What is this, is it magic?

Is he not a man?

Is he infallible?

What is it that makes this utter obedience such a powerful formula?

The answer to all these questions is the same. The efficacy of the formula is in the existence of a real Living God Who is central to the whole discussion.

It is the reality and truth of this fundamental fact that makes the whole thing work.

The Prophets of God are the greatest benefactors of humanity....this is why they are so universally remembered...they are able to win the love and admiration and obedience of so many people, so completely that they are able to bring about immense revolutions and advances....

This is what the Promised Messiah (as) refers to as the First Manifestation of God's Power when he says:

I came from God as a Manifestation of Divine Providence and I am a personification of His Power.

Their Successors follow in their footsteps and it is their living connection to God that makes obedience to them so powerful a force...the secret of success is in their bidding being based on utter righteousness...so much so that even if they make a mistake, yet the Grace of God bestows blessings even still...on those who follow them.

And this is what the Promised Messiah (as) refers to as the Second Manifestation of God's Power when he says:

And after I am gone there will be some other persons who will be the manifestation of the second Power [of God].

Another objection raised by many is of force and faith and blind faith and leaping into the dark on the basis of faith...this is again a total lack of understanding of Islam's concept of faith...as made clear to the world by the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community..

The Islam that we believe in and want to spread throughout the world rejects the association of force with faith and declares blindness and darkness as being concepts associated with disbelief. We read in the Holy Quran very clearly:

لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ ^{لَاقِفٌ} قَدْ تَبَيَّنَ الرُّشْدُ مِنَ الْغَيِّ ^ج فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بِالطَّاغُوتِ وَيُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ فَقَدِ

اسْتَمْسَكَ بِالْعُرْوَةِ الْوُثْقَىٰ ^ط لَا انْفِصَامَ لَهَا وَاللَّهُ سَمِيعٌ عَلِيمٌ

There is no compulsion in faith. Surely, the right way has become distinct from error; so whosoever refuses to be led by those who transgress, and believes in Allah, has surely grasped a strong handle which knows no breaking. And Allah is All-Hearing, All-Knowing.

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُمْ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا أَوْلِيَهُمُ الطَّاغُوتُ [2:258]

يُخْرِجُهُمْ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ إِلَى الظُّلُمَاتِ أُولَئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ^ع

Allah is the Friend of those who believe; He brings them out of all kinds of darkness into light. And those who disbelieve, their friends are the transgressors who bring them out of light into manifold darkness. These are the inmates of the Fire, therein shall they abide. [2:257-258]

So belief in Allah, once attained is an illuminating experience and it is the strong handle that knows no breaking...once attained it will take a person to God without any doubt. Without there being light and truth and reality in belief in God it is impossible for man to gain from such friendship with God!

Before moving away from this need to know why following the Khalifa and obeying him and uniting with Khilafat is such a powerful formula I want to say one more thing...since God is central to the whole thing ..it will always be the case that the extent to which each of us is close to God and godly in his own actions and deeds it is to that extent that his or her own attachment shall be firm to Khilfat.

This is so because Khilafat is a Divine bounty...till you and I acquire the colors of God, to use the Quranic expression, till then we cannot know and become attached to things Divine..it is just that simple...there has to be this common sameness...

I have always marveled and wondered..how intensely busy is our Khalifa's life ..yet I always see how wonderfully and with what amazing care and satisfaction he leads the prayers five times a day....how and why does he make so much time for this? This was the example also, of course, we learn from history, of the Promised Messiah (as), who was doing no more than what his Lord and Master the Holy Prophet did and urged all to do..

I cite the Khalifa's example because I see this ..and I ask myself why and how does Hazrat Khalifatul Masih make so much time for prayers...when he has so much to do...and the only answer is that it is humanly impossible to accomplish all the tasks he as Khalifa is charged with and it is in and through prayer that he seeks God's help and receives it and His guidance and succeeds in accomplishing his tasks..

This is key..if we want to understand the “magic” that is inherent in Divine leadership and obedience to it ...we cannot understand it without becoming ourselves godly...we must take the trouble to cleanse ourselves and adorn ourselves, again using the Quranic expression, with the best adornment..that of righteousness..then we will be blessed with an inner light that Allah Himself bestows upon those who believe by becoming the friend of such believers..

Unless we do this, ours would be the case of one who has no knowledge of what water is, nor ever seen a drop of it, and wishes to understand what an ocean is and questions if such a thing exists..

Coming back to my subject, **today**, we must counsel those who question the emphasis on obedience and faith: Look at history and learn to be patient and sincere and thankful and offer your sacrifices and service staying honest to yourselves with pure intentions and operate wholly behind the shield of Khilafat...then you will be successful...listen to Allah's decree...work in accord with it...the Promised Messiah (as) said it is Allah's wish to unite...

So do nothing that will separate you from the path on which Allah wishes to take humanity...

And where shall we arrive when we follow the divinely appointed leadership and work within the Nizam, the System, set up by them, and who shall be victorious...Hazrat Masih-e-Maood (as) says..:

“I declare with full confidence and determination that I am in the right and that with the Grace of Allah, I will emerge victorious in this field. And, as far as I can observe with my far-reaching sight, I see the entire world submissive to my truth. The time is near when I should attain a magnificent victory, because in support of what I state, there is another voice which speaks; and in support of my hand there is another hand which operates. [Izala Auham]

And again:

Rest assured that this is a tree planted by the Hand of God! He will never permit it go to waste. He shall not rest content till He has seen it to its fullness. He will see to it that it is well irrigated and will build a protective fence around it and will bless it with amazing progress. [Anjam-e-Atham]

And again:

People of the world may be inclined to think that it is Christianity that may ultimately spread throughout the world, or it may be Buddhism that will prevail in the end. But they are certainly wrong in these conjectures. Remember that nothing happens on this Earth unless it has been so willed in Heaven. And it is the God of Heaven who has revealed to me that in the end it will be the religion of Islam that will conquer the hearts of the people. [Braheen, Vol. V]

When we examine the weakness and frailty of ourselves and look at the enormity of the task ahead only then can we fully understand how truly a test of our faith all this is...

Even today, after 120 years, an estimation of our resources will leave us numb...to serve the needs of this immense country of 300 million inhabitants our sum total resources both human capital and material means are tiny, insignificant infact.... making just a mention is humbling..

So far I have mentioned only the enormity of the financial needs in relation to our duty of spreading the message of Islam-Ahmadiyyat to the ends of the earth..but there is a much bigger responsibility that lies on our shoulders ...

Every person, who believes that the Holy Prophet (sa) had prophesied the advent of a Messiah (as) and Mahdi (as), must admit that it was the function of the Promised One (as) to find a remedy for the disorder, unrest and misery from which the world is suffering today.

Communism that had risen in the last century with tall claims to solve the problems of humanity has failed and the unshakeable confidence that much of humanity had placed in Capitalism is being severely tested as I speak...

The remedy that is required should make it possible to provide food, clothing, shelter, medical relief and means of education for everybody and yet safeguard mankind against intellectual deterioration, the discouragement of individual enterprise and effort, and tyranny and exploitation of one people by another. In other words, it should secure peace and goodwill between nations and classes, and also succeed in finding resources to fulfill the needs of all individuals.

It was, therefore, the duty of the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, the greatest of the Successors of the Holy Prophet (sa) to come in the Latter days, to devise a scheme in

accordance with Islamic teachings that should prove adequate to the needs of the time and put an end to the miseries from which the world is suffering.

The Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community put forward just such a remedy. His remedy conforms with the following four essentials of the Islamic social and economic system: (1) that the needs of all human beings should be provided for; (2) that in trying to achieve the first object the incentive behind individual effort and enterprise should not be weakened; (3) that the system devised should be voluntary and should not involve forcible dispossession or confiscation; and (4) that the system should not be confined to one country or one nation, but should be universal.

Both Communism and Capitalism are in one respect or other limited in their application. The Islamic system is not national or sectional but universal. The Islamic teaching pays due regard to all the four factors just cited. The appointed one of God laid the foundations of the New Order in 1905 in his Al-Wasiyyat.

As time moves along, the Khalifas that God shall bestow upon us shall detail how exactly we shall erect the structure on the foundations laid by the Promised Messiah (as) ...and that time is approaching fast...

For now we must heed the call of the Khalifatul Masih and join that Nizam..join that System...

On the 1st of August 2004, he had announced to us all; talking about the Nizam-e-Wasiyyat, that:

It is my desire and I wish to urge you all to join this Heavenly Nizam for the purpose of purifying your lives...COME FORWARD...It is my wish that by the year 2008 when,

insha-Allah, 100 years shall have been completed of the establishment of Khilafat, then by that time in every country at least 50% of the earning members of those Jama'ats shall have joined this blessed nizam and shall have become those who have decided to advance in spirituality and establish the highest levels of sacrifices.

So here I was worried about the meagerness of our financial and human capital and here is the man blessed with the Mantle of Khilafat by God telling us that what we have to worry about is our spiritual purification and the rest will be taken care of by God himself...

So let me now conclude by saying that it is with, and through, and by following fully, and obediently, Khilafat that we shall be able to forge ahead into the next century and fulfill the objectives of the coming of the Promised Messiah and Mahdi (as)...and it is this to which Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (ab) called us in his centenary message:

So, O Believers of the Masih-e-Muhammadi [The Messiah of Muhammad]! O dear ones of the Promised Messiah and the flourishing branches of the tree of his being! rise up. Be ready to make any sacrifice required for the further strengthening of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya so that, by holding fast to the rope of Allah, you may spread, to the ends of the world, the message of the Holy Prophet, with which Allah sent the Messiah of Muhammad.

Also convey the message to each and every person in the world that his or her survival depends on establishing a true relationship with the One and only God and that the peace of the world depends on joining the Jama'at of the Mahdi and the Messiah because today he alone is the standard-bearer of the true Islamic teachings regarding peace and security, the example of which is not found on the surface of the earth. Today to fulfill the

mission of the Messiah of Muhammad and to be united in faith in the Unity of God can only be achieved by remaining attached to Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya.

It is this by which men of God will bring about a spiritual revolution in the world.

May Allah enable each Ahmadi to convey with firm faith this beautiful Truth to every individual in the world.

I would like to end by reminding us all of the oath we took on the 27th of May 2008...in this also is made very clear how we must welcome the new century of Khilafat and how we must move forward: “Ash hado al-la ilaha il-lalaho wah dahoo la shareekalahoo wa ash hado an-na Muhammadan abdohoo wa rasooluh.”

“I bear witness that there is no one worthy of worship except Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is His Servant and Messenger.”

“Today at the completion of 100 years of Khilafat–e–Ahmadiyya, we swear in the name of Allah, that we shall continue to work till the very last breath of our lives, to spread to the corners of the earth, the message of Islam and Ahmadiyyat, and the name of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).”

“And we pledge that for the accomplishment of this holy duty we will always keep our lives devoted and dedicated to Allah and His Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).”

“And by presenting every sacrifice, no matter how great, we shall endeavor to ensure that the flag of Islam flies the highest in every country of the world till the day of Judgment.”

“We also affirm that we shall continue to strive to our utmost, and till the very last breath of our lives, to safeguard and make firm the institution of Khilafat and we shall direct our progeny and the progeny of our progeny, to always remain firmly attached with Khilafat and to seek always its blessings, so that Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya continues to go on safe and sound and the propagation of Islam may go on through Ahmadiyyat till the Day of Judgment and so that the flag of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) may fly higher than all the other flags in the world.”

“O God, grant us the capacity to fulfill this pledge.”

Wa akhiro dawaana anil hamdo lillahay rabbil aalameen...