



Jalsa Salana

OPENING SPEECH

HADHRAT MUHYI-UD-DIN AL-KHALIFATULLAH

Munir Ahmad Axim

14 October 2016
(13 Muharram 1438 AH)

After greeting all his disciples (and all Muslims) worldwide with the greeting of peace Hadhrat Khalifatullah (atba) read the Tashahhud, Ta'uz, Surah Al Fatiha, and then he delivered his speech on the subject of *"Hunger for Spirituality"*:



There are a great number of people who attend religious services and meetings but leave as empty as they were before they arrived. They are in no way moved or changed for the

better. No doubt they may express their appreciation of the sermon or address and highly laud the speaker for his inspiring words; but that is as far as it goes. They usually enjoy the speakers' eloquent talk in the same way that they may enjoy listening to a pleasant song; but when all is over its effect completely vanishes. With whom does the fault lie? With the speaker? It does to a great extent if his manner of delivery is listless, monotonous or generally boring; otherwise it does not.

The fault lies with the individuals themselves for they have no hunger for spiritual food. One may live in healthy places, eat healthy food yet not enjoy those things in any way. They feel disconnected with those things and do not derive any pleasure from them. This is an example of the physical need which the human body needs, that is, fresh air, good food, clean and decent clothing and a good shelter. Despite having those essentials of life, even more than the basic, yet they still feel empty and they may even fall ill. Now what about the soul? Doesn't it need its food to thrive? The food of the soul is all goodness, pleasant words such as the commandments of God Almighty and the words of His Messengers which awakens it to His *Rab* (Lord, Allah), to accede to His presence and obtain His love, mercy and satisfaction. But many a times, man does not heed the message of God; he does not feel that need to connect to His *Rab*. He feels empty spiritually. He does not derive any pleasure in anything spiritual.

He lives in the midst of abundant spiritual guidance but he has no appetite for it. God has provided us all with heavenly nourishment but most of us do not hunger for it. Only those with spiritual appetite assuage their hunger with God's heavenly fruits which sustain them not only for this temporal life, but also for the life to come. God has provided divine laws and guidance for our spiritual welfare but unfortunately many of us have no appetite for His heavenly provision. What a waste of life! God Almighty says in the Holy Quran: **“Verily the most honourable person in the sight of Allah is the one who is most righteous.”** (Al-Hujurat 49: 14).

He who earnestly seeks to appease his spiritual hunger constantly seeks and absorbs spiritual food. He feeds his mind with holy thoughts and incessantly strives to improve his character which he regards as his first duty. This is the central aim of his life. His innermost desire is to climb higher and higher the ladder of spiritual success by living his life to the fullest in the spiritual sense, because he knows that it is in the spiritual that there is true felicity for him both in this world and the next. He strives to live his life according to the way which God Almighty appreciates of him. He perpetually strives to better himself towards this end being aware that God Almighty is seeing him in everything that he does and thinks; for verily God Almighty knows the content of his

heart, mind and soul, everything that constitutes him, and thus man, especially the Muslim believer who feels the beauty of the call of Allah in his heart must strive through much effort, sacrifice and prayer to reap the pleasure of Allah. By pleasing God Almighty, he is himself pleasing himself, because he feels satiated with the spiritual food he receives. His heart, mind and heart is alert and absorbs in all divine commandments, counsels and good words which shall help him in making an analysis of his own self and reforming himself accordingly for his prime wish is to attain perfection in the love of God Almighty.

That is what the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), the Seal of all prophets as well as all the other prophets (upon them be peace and mercy of God) preached and it is our duty as Muslim believers to live our lives on these precepts and to take pleasure in those marvellous spiritual food which guarantee the beatitude of our souls in the sight of Allah. May God Almighty enable us to do us, and I pray that each one of you, and those who shall get this message later on meditate on these precious advices to learn and cultivate in themselves that appetite for spirituality for therein is the betterment of their own beings, both in this world and the hereafter. May Allah enable you all to do and benefit from everything good which proceeds from Him. *Ameen.*