

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ



إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَّسُولُ اللَّهِ

## FRIDAY SERMON

HADHRAT MUHYI-UD-DIN AL-KHALIFATULLAH

MUNIR AHMAD AZIM

19 April 2019

12 Shabaan 1440 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 sermon on:

### 19 APRIL 2003-2019

*Alhamdulillah, Summa Alhamdulillah*, today (19 April) marks 16 years that a historical event happened within the framework of the Divine Manifestation of this era. The first *Bai'ah* (oath of allegiance) in the hand of Allah was made and that day also marked the death of the 4<sup>th</sup> Caliph of the Ahmadiyya Movement. Before I get up to deliver my sermon, I feel that I shall receive many important messages from Allah. These revelations may come down during or after my sermon. Anyway, these are messages [*they are coming and Huzur (atba) is aware of it*] that I must share – soon – with you my dear disciples and all humanity, *Insha-Allah*.

[The Caliph of Allah - Khalifatullah (atba) - then spoke of this important day in the annals of the history of the Divine Manifestation and the Jamaat Ul Sahih Al Islam. He recounted how he and the one who was always by his side to write down the divine revelations - and to whom Allah had made great favours (Z. Domun Saheb) - gathered with the believers of the Divine Manifestation at that time for the study circle at Quatre-Bornes. That day was the day when the 4<sup>th</sup> Caliph of the Ahmadiyya Movement died, and Z. Domun Saheb asked Amir'ul

**Mumineen, Munir Azim Saheb, a question about whether he had received any revelation about giving *Bai'ah* (oath of allegiance) to the believers.**

Huzur (atba) said that at that time he had not yet received any revelation, and that if he did not receive a revelation, it means that he did not receive any revelation from Allah and that he could not say at that time that he received any revelation because lying about revelation is a very serious act in the eyes of Allah.

It was only during the study circle that the divine revelation came, and through it, Allah had manifested Himself and the first *Bai'ah* had been taken by all those present in the Hand of Allah (represented by the Khalifatullah's hand). Huzur (atba) mentioned names like M. Ramjaun Saheb, his wife and children who were present and who had taken the *Bai'ah*. So he gave a warning, and he advised those who had taken the *Bai'ah* at that time (and who turned their backs on the Divine Manifestation) to think carefully about what they did.

Huzur (atba) then said that by the grace of Allah, it is Allah who consolidates the truth and helps His elect and by His grace He has sent other people, from other countries who have acknowledged the truth and who have integrated the Divine Manifestation - the Jamaat UI Sahih Al Islam. *Alhamdulillah.*

**Huzur (atba) seized this opportunity to mention the initiative for a gathering by the female wing (Siraj Makin) of the Jamaat UI Sahih Al Islam of Kerala which begins today on this blessed day 19 April 2019 and their function will end tomorrow 20 April 2019. He congratulated them by telling them "Mubarak Ho" and prayed for the success of their gathering.]**

## **THE MONTH OF SHABAAN**

Like you are aware, we are in the month of Shabaan and this is the second Friday Sermon that I am doing during this month, and so I chose *Shabaan and its importance* as subject of my sermon for today.

Shabaan is the eighth month of the Islamic calendar. And after the month of Shabaan, we have the blessed month of Ramadan. Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) gave Shabaan all its importance.

On the authority of Hazrat Aisha (ra), *“The Messenger of Allah (pbuh) used to fast till one would say that he would never stop fasting, and he would abandon fasting till one would say that he would never fast. I never saw Allah’s Apostle fasting for a whole month except the month of Ramadan, and did not see him fasting in any month more than in the month of Shaban.”* (Bukhari and Muslim)

In another Hadith on the authority of Usama Ibn Zayd (ra), he reported asking the Messenger of Allah (pbuh): *‘O Messenger of Allah, I do not see you fasting during any month as much as you do in Shabaan.’* He said: *“That is a month to which people do not pay much attention, which is found between Rajab and Ramadan. It is a month in which the deeds are taken up to the Lord of the worlds, and I like that my deeds be taken up when I am fasting.”* (An-Nasa’i).

We learn from these Hadiths that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) used to maximize this month in acts of worship. Through him, through his Sunnah, we have learned that our actions are presented to Allah, and therefore we must do our utmost best to make sure that Allah accepts our good deeds and forgives us our sins and mistakes. And Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) had such a deep love for Allah that he used to sacrifice himself a lot for Him so that Allah would be pleased with him.

So imagine, weak humans that we are, if the *Rahmat-ul-lil-Aalamin* had a very great fear and love for Allah, and he loved that his actions go up to Allah while he is in a pure state of fasting and of submission, then, imagine how many precautions we must take, weak humans that we are, to continue his *Sunnah* in the most correct way and not adding any innovation to these pure practices, because if we do not follow his example in the right way, it is not good deeds that we will do, but sins. We shall thus add innovations to the religion of Allah instead of following the right path.

It is true that the month of Shabaan is a very great month, and the *Sunnah* of the noble prophet (pbuh) even showed us all that!

## SHAB-E-BARAAT

As you will find in my Friday Sermon of 05 June 2015, I mentioned that according to Baihaqi, Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) spoke of the importance of the mid-Shabaan night (15<sup>th</sup> night of Shabaan). He used to do a lot of *Ibaadat*, and fasted. And he said that during this night, Allah forgives the one who asks for His forgiveness, and He sends His mercy on those who seek His mercy and He gives a delay to the jealous, to those who have an illness in their hearts (so that they may reform themselves).

It is true that as Muslims we must respect this *Sunnah*, but only to the extent that Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) used to practice it! We must not go beyond the limits where we take non-Islamic practices and we add them to Islam. This is extremely condemnable in Islam.

*Alhamdulillah*, I see that all Muslims, especially in Mauritius, have begun to realize that we should not add innovations to the religion of Islam and the *Sunnah* of our beloved prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) . This is actually a very big step that they have taken to follow only the practices of Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh), where they observe fasting and do a lot of *Ibaadat*, a lot of supererogatory prayers and they seek the proximity of Allah. And many Muslims stopped this non-Islamic practice of baking Indian breads with sweets (*Halwa* and *Roti*) to place them on the graves of their dead family members.

It is not forbidden to go to the cemetery and invoke Allah (do *dua*hs) for the dead. On the contrary, it is recommended, not only during the mid-Shabaan night but also the rest of the year, to go to the cemeteries and pray for the dead, as this practice will remind one who does so that a day shall dawn upon him when he also shall die. And so this thought about his imminent death will keep him on the right path, and help him to do good deeds to reap the pleasure of Allah. *Insha-Allah*.

Allah and His Messenger Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) has given us - Muslims - an ocean of knowledge through the Holy Qur'an and the Hadith and Sunnah of our beloved Prophet (pbuh). Those who follow the Qur'an and Sunnah properly will never go astray. And when the time comes when people will corrupt the teachings of Islam and the Sunnah of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh),

then, as in our present time, Allah will send one of His representatives with the *Ruh-il-Quddus* (Holy Spirit) to show them the right way.

The duty of a Khalifatullah is to warn you, to give you advice and then it is up to you now to see if you will take these advices into consideration and reform your life as per the wishes of Allah (for you).

The night of the 15<sup>th</sup> of Shabaan is a night filled with blessings, but as in the month of Ramadan and especially the last ten nights of Ramadan, Muslims must realize that Allah knows and sees everything, and He knows the deepest of hearts and with what intention someone is doing such and such actions. If he does many acts of worship on a specific day thinking that all his sins are forgiven and the next day he falls into sin once again, then this type of *Ibaadat* is without any value in the eyes of Allah.

The month of Shabaan is a training for Muslims to begin to prepare themselves physically, morally and spiritually for the fasting of Ramadan. The month of Shabaan prepares them for the month of Ramadan and it is up to the believers to take the initiative not to exceed the limits of the permissible; they must not fall into *Shirk*.

Stay within the limits of what Islam has prescribed. Do your acts of worship with a lot of love and respect. *Nafil* (surerogatory) acts in the month of Shabaan are not obligatory, but the more a person consecrates himself in adoration, in meditation, not only in the months of Shabaan and Ramadan, but throughout the year, then this person is a true believer who knows the importance of his relationship with Allah and His prophet (pbuh) and Islam, and such a true believer does all he can to practice and preach the teachings of Islam in its authenticity, without adding or removing anything from Islam.

Moreover, we must bear in mind that as believers who claim belief in Allah and His Messenger (pbuh), we must fulfill all the duties that Allah has entrusted to us. Remember the explanation I gave you during the month of Rajab. During his *Miraj* (spiritual ascension) Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) had been instructed by Allah to tell his *Ummah* (his community) to perform the obligatory prayer 50 times a day, but then with the advice of Hazrat Musa (as), in a state of vision, Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) went to plead with Allah to reduce the number of prayers,

and then the mandatory *Salat* was reduced to only five. Then out of His mercy for us, Allah said that He will count these five mandatory prayers as the initial 50 prayers He ordained for us.

So, first and foremost, we must respect and practice all *Farz* (mandatory) acts. A Muslim must first and foremost establish himself firmly on the obligatory acts, and then, when he has firmly established himself on them, he can thereafter perform the *Nafil* (voluntary) acts to strengthen his bond with Allah (twa), and a *Nafil* act that is highly recommended by Allah Himself and also by our noble Prophet (pbuh) is the **TAHAJJUD**, where Allah says in a Hadith-e-Qudsi:

On the authority of Abu Huraira (ra), the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: Our Lord (glorified and exalted be He) descends each night to the earth's sky when there remains the final third of the night, and He says: Who is saying a prayer to Me that I may answer it? Who is asking something of Me that I may give it him? Who is asking forgiveness of Me that I may forgive him? (Bukhari, Muslim, Malik, Tirmidhi & Abu Dawud).

In another version by Muslim the Hadith ends with the words: And thus He continues till [the light of] dawn shines.

In another Hadith-e-Qudsi narrated by Anas (ra) that the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) said: *“Allah the Almighty said: ‘O son of Adam, so long as you call upon Me and ask of Me, I shall forgive you for what you have done, and I shall not mind. O son of Adam, were your sins to reach the clouds of the sky and were you then to ask forgiveness of Me, I would forgive you. O son of Adam, were you to come to Me with sins nearly as great as the earth and were you then to face Me, ascribing no partner to Me, I would bring you forgiveness nearly as great as it’.”* (Tirmidhi, Ahmad ibn Hanbal and Ibn Majah).

Then, I advise all my disciples and the rest of the *Ummah* of Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) to remain engaged in acts of worship (*Ibaadat* and *Zikr*) every day, because every day of your life is a gift that Allah has given you, through which you can accede to His presence. Do not wait for a specific day to receive Allah’s forgiveness for your sins or mistakes. Enjoy the blessed nights that Allah has given you, **YES**, but do not rely **ONLY** on these nights thinking that you have freed

yourselves from all your sins and mistakes, that Allah have forgiven you, and so once again you succumb to the attractions of this world, and fall into sins.

You must learn to maintain a balance between the material and the spiritual. You must maintain a balance between the two, seeking the help of Allah so that you succeed in the mission that Allah has entrusted to you, that Allah have entrusted to us all when He sent us on earth. We should not become the helpers of Satan, but we must do such actions that will attract the pleasure of Allah upon us. *Insha-Allah, Ameen.*