

## **THE ESSENCE OF THE INSTITUTION OF KHILAFAT IN CONTEMPORARY TIMES**

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وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ وَ  
عَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي  
الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ  
وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَى لَهُمْ  
وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا  
يَعْبُدُونََنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا وَمَنْ كَفَرَ  
بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ ﴿٥٦﴾

Mr. Chairman, our revered and most respected Ameer & Missionary-in-Charge, Respected Naib Ameer, the National Trustee, Members of the National AMLA, Missionaries of the blessed Jamaat of the Promised Messiah (as), Invited Guests, Members of Majlis Ansarullah, Members of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya and members of Lajna Imaillah. My Brothers and Sisters in Islam, I greet you all with the Islamic salutation of peace, *Assalaamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakaatuh!*

My topic for discussion this morning is “**THE ESSENCE OF THE INSTITUTION OF KHILAFAT IN CONTEMPORARY TIMES**”. It is my humble prayer that the Almighty will grant us the ability to derive the needed blessings from this address. Amen.

The verse that I recited is taken from the Holy Quran **Chapter 24 Verse 56** and the translation is as follows:

56. Allāh 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.

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Respected Ameer Chairman, to be able to address **the Essence of Khilafat in Contemporary Times**, I would first of all try to paint the picture of the world today and then we will discuss the relevance of **Khilafat** in addressing the issues confronting the world today.

**Immorality.** Our world today is confronted with high levels of immorality. Today on various Radio Stations, TV Stations and on various news websites we are bombarded with immorality. Nudity on social media is the norm and the sad aspect of it is that, those who engage in it are so shameless about it. People engage in illicit sexual activity and record it and circulate it for the whole world to see.

Fornication and Adultery is the order of the day. Marriage is not valued and some even see it as not being necessary (when the Holy Prophet (saw) has described marriage as half of faith). Some see marriage as slavery. Hundreds of thousands of persons now seem to think in these terms. Until today, who could even think that a time would come when people would seriously debate whether marriage is a wholesome human institution at all,

or whether promiscuity is not as good or even better than marriage? After all, a woman's function is to bear children whether children are born in or out of marriage is a matter of secondary importance! These are the arguments people make today. People have what they call open marriage where married couples can indulge in intimacy outside marriage and the parties accept it to be OK.

Today spouses believe that it is OK to cheat on your partner and commit adultery. Men who are married believe and boldly say that it is OK to still have amorous relationship with other ladies they are not married to. Society glorifies such relationships and call such women '**side chics**'. Society has given a nice name to prostitution and call it "**hook up**".

Today, society engage in group intimacy, where you have more than 2 people indulging in intimacy at the same time, and they go ahead and record such shameful acts. As if that is not bad enough, they circulate such videos for the world to see. They do all these so that they will "**trend**" as they term it.

People are always on social media, watching and circulating nudity. They post nude pictures and all kinds of immoral activities. Young women are comfortable giving birth out of wedlock and describe themselves as **Baby Mama**.

There is complete lack of modesty in the way society dress today. Women who dress to expose themselves are described as being bold and confident rather than being described as shameless.

Lack of men of conscience is the order of the day. Men wanting to take advantage of ladies for any kind of favour or service they offer. To the extent that in job placement, school admissions, etc. men want to take advantage of ladies by sleeping with them.

Homosexuality and Lesbianism is promoted and supported without any shame whatsoever, when all religious books clearly abhor such practices.

The world has conveniently forgotten about the people of Sodom and Gomora. Today society wants to say that there is nothing like male or female. Anyone is at liberty to determine their gender. Today men and women are going through processes to change their gender. Some are claiming that they are trapped in the wrong bodies and a whole lot of funny ideas. All these are being done in the name of human rights.

Today society is saddled with this get rich quick syndrome, where people will do anything including killing their fellow human beings to make money. There is such an excessive quest and thirst for wealth. People want to make money with exceeding speed and don't care about the means. The source of wealth of people are not questioned by society. Gambling and betting are the order of the day. And you there not speak against it. Excessive intake of alcohol is the norm. People in seeking help resort to **so called motivational speakers and social commentators**, some of whom have no clue about what they talk about.

Today there is very high level of dishonesty in society. People don't like speaking or hearing the truth. People cheat their fellow human beings and think they are smart and leaders deceive their people and call it politics. There is complete lack of respect for parents and family values in the name of modernity and human rights.

Society sees paying attention to religion and God as primitive and a bother. There are a lot of church goers, but few pay attention to the rights of God and fellow human beings.

Muslims don't pay attention to Salat. Salat is said in extreme haste. Today to join congregational prayers is too much trouble. Except the two **Ids**, millions of Muslims cannot find the few minutes needed for the daily prayers. Those who join in the daily prayers do not observe all the rules for Salat. Often they join in only for show. Recitation of the Holy Quran is not paid attention to.

You have so called **Mullahs** spreading wrong interpretations of the Holy Quran. You have these **Mullahs** introducing concepts in Islam which are alien to Islam. You have Muslims taking delight in killing their fellow Muslims in the name of they not being Muslims. People read the Holy Quran and yet don't pay attention to its teachings. We have conflicts all over and nations rising against each other. We have issues with immigration and code of conduct during wars. We have global pandemics killing many people. These and many more are some of the challenges of our time.

But as Ahmadi Muslims these happenings don't surprise us. This is because the Holy Prophet of Islam Muhammad Mustapha (saw) gave prophecies about these happenings **about 1500 years** ago regarding what to expect during these times. **I will mention just a few of such prophecies because of time:**

1. One sign mentioned by the Holy Prophet (saw) about this era, relates to the state of morals and specifically about increase in sexual immorality. So great was to be this increase that instead of being ashamed, people would take pride in being sexually immoral. According to Ibn Abi Shaiba, one of the signs of the eve of Doomsday is a visible increase in sexual immorality. Similarly, according to Anas Ibn Malik, as reported in Muslim, one of the signs of the latter days is an increase in adultery. Its reported from Hazrat Abu Huraira that one of the prophecies of the Holy Prophet (saw) about the latter days relates to the increase in illegitimate births. On the other hand, marriage would begin to be described as slavery.
2. Another sign described by the Holy Prophet (saw) relates to women's dress. Women of the time would seem undressed in spite of being dressed.
3. The Holy Prophet also mentioned one sign of the latter days, which is the disappearance of **honest dealings**. The general replacement of honest dealings by dishonest ones will be apparent everywhere.

4. Yet another sign the Holy Prophet (saw) talked about was excessive gambling, disrespect for parents by the young, the world rewarding materialism, excessive alcohol intake and public drinking of alcohol, and many more.
5. The Holy Prophet (saw) also spoke about the speed with which worshippers would go through their obligatory prayers. According to a report by Ibn Masud, the Holy Prophet said that, a time would come when fifty persons would congregate for prayers and not one of them would have his prayers accepted by God. They would observe their external form and go through them with unbecoming speed.
6. The Holy Prophet (saw) talking about this era, also mentioned that the Holy Quran will only be there in name. Muslims will read the Holy Quran but will not have that deeper understanding of the Holy Quran.

These few prophecies are exact reflection of the happenings in our world today. Going through the prophecies of the Holy Prophet today is as if the Holy Prophet (saw) is with us here today and telling us what is happening. **All these things are happening today because man is moving further and further away from Allah SWT. Man is no longer God conscious. Man has forgotten about accountability to Allah SWT and think that one can do anything he or she pleases and will not be answerable to Allah SWT.**

The good news is that we are not to despair. Allah SWT assures mankind of the help of Allah in such times that mankind is begging for the help and guidance of Allah. In fact, the provision of guidance is God's Own responsibility, a responsibility not shared by anyone else. We read in Holy

Quran Surah Al Lail **92:13** that إِنَّ عَلَيْنَا لَلْهُدَىٰ ۗ **“Verily, it is for Us to guide”**.

Therefore, Allah after informing the Holy Prophet (saw) about what to expect during the latter days, also informed the Holy Prophet (saw) about the fact that He, Allah will ensure that mankind will be given the appropriate guidance during such a time. Allah was going to send the Promised Messiah (as) as the Messiah and Imam Mahdi of this Age who will bring faith back to the earth, draw mankind back to Allah and help man also know his duties towards his fellow human beings. The Holy Prophet (saw) prophecy says that the solution to the moral and spiritual challenges of this age lies in the appearance of the Promised Messiah (as).

This Messiah and Imam Mahdi is no other person, other than Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) who is the founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. He is the one who has fulfilled all the signs associated with the advent of the Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi (as). **Alhamdulillah he founded the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and accepted the first Bayat on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1889.**

The Promised Messiah (as) has the duty of bringing mankind back to the Almighty. At all times and in all instances, the Promised Messiah (as) is given the best guidance from the All-Knowing Allah SWT. Therefore the solution to the challenges of the contemporary world lies with the acceptance of the greatest servant of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) who is the Promised Messiah (as) who has been commissioned by Allah SWT as the guide for this age.

Since it is not possible for any man to live forever, to have that continuity of the very important mission of the Promised Messiah (as), the institution of Khilafat was established in the Jamaat on the basis of the Holy Quran and Hadith, **on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1908** after the demise of the Promised Messiah (as) on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1908. Just as the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) had **Khulafah** after his demise in the persons of Hazrat Abubakar, Hazrat Umar, Hazrat Usman and Hazrat Ali (ra). The Promised Messiah (as) as the Imam and Mahdi of this age also has successors (**Khalifatul Masih**) who are his

reflection, who lead members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to continue with the mission of the Promised Messiah (as) to provide guidance to mankind and draw mankind towards God. Currently we are under the Khilafat of the fifth successor of the Promised Messiah (as) in the person of Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (atba).

The establishment of *Khilafat* is by God Himself as stated in the verse I recited from **Holy Quran 24:56**. Allah promises those who believe and do good works that ***“..He Allah will make them successors in the earth as He had made successors from among those who were before them.....”***.

Allah SWT is the one who actually appoints the ***Khalifa*** at any given time. For example, Hazrat Aisha (ra), the noble wife of the Holy Prophet (saw) narrates that when the Holy Prophet (saw) became ill, in his fatal illness he told her ***that “I had in mind to leave the will that after my death Abu Bakr should take over as my successor.... Then I gave up the idea, considering that neither the believers nor the Divine decree will allow any other person to be elected as my successor, except Abu Bakr”***. This tradition clearly illustrates that *Khilafat* is a Divine institution, and the *Khalifah* is actually appointed by God. *Alhamdulillah* that is exactly the case in Ahmadiyyat.

**The question then is how does Khilafat help in addressing the contemporary issues? For the purpose of today’s discussion and because of time we will highlight only three (3) aspects as follows:**

- **Hakam and Adl of this Age**
- **Obedience to Allah and His Messenger**
- **Preservation of the Teachings of Islam**

## Hakam And Adl of This Age

People can only worship Allah well when they have the right knowledge and understanding. One importance of Khilafat in Contemporary times is the provision of the Right Knowledge and guidance to mankind through the correct interpretation of the Holy Quran based on guidance from Allah SWT.

Over 1,500 years ago, the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) spoke about the future of Islam that: **"There will come a time upon the people when nothing will remain of Islam except its name and nothing will remain of the Holy Quran except its inscription"**. This means Muslims will read the Holy Quran but will not have that correct and deeper understanding of the Holy Quran. This is also a clear indication that the Holy Prophet (saw) knew that going into the future we will require someone to be guiding us with the true understanding of the verses of the Holy Quran. We read from Holy Quran **Chapter 3 Verse 8** that:

***"He it is Who has sent down to thee the Book; in it there are verses that are decisive in meaning – they are the basis of the Book – and there are others that are susceptible of different interpretations. But those in whose hearts is a perversity pursue such thereof as are susceptible of interpretations, seeking discord and seeking wrong interpretation of it. And none knows its right interpretation except Allah and those who are firmly grounded in knowledge....."***

This verse of the Holy Quran clearly shows that guidance and true knowledge of the Holy Quran is from only Allah SWT.

The Promised Messiah (as) is the ***Hakam and Adl*** (Judge and Just Arbiter). **It means he is the one who always judges on a matter and delivers justice, in every situation, to everyone.** He always provides the right judgement. He was to eliminate the erroneous interpretations of the Holy Quran by humanity. The Promised Messiah (as) once said that ***"the***

***meanings of the Holy Qur'an as understood by the one who has been sent by God as the Hakam and Adl will be the true meanings. Likewise, the authentic Ahadith will be those which he deems to be authentic”.***

Therefore the verdicts of the Promised Messiah (as) on matters in this age are always the best and the right one. So is the position of his **Khulafah** who are a reflection of the Promised Messiah (as) who are continuing the work of the Promised Messiah (as). The directives of the Khalifah on any matter in this age is the best and is therefore a great source of blessing, which if adhered to, will address the issues of today. Hence true and correct guidance on any matter can only be obtained from the Khalifah of the time who is the **Khalifah** of the **Hakam & Adl of this age**.

Without understanding the Holy Quran in relation to the current developments of the world it would be difficult to relate to it in the context of the current challenges of the world. This requires someone who is appointed by the Almighty with the true and correct knowledge of the Holy Quran to guide mankind and thereby help the world to deal with present day challenges. It is only that Khalifah who is appointed by the Almighty and who is granted with that true and correct knowledge and understanding of the Holy Quran who will be able to explain the meanings of the Holy Quran in line with modern day challenges to enable society relate better to the message of the Holy Quran. The Khalifah is the one who is in the position to provide that right knowledge at any point in time on any matter.

We read in Holy Quran (Surah Ibrahim) 14: 2 “ ***Alif Lam Ra (I am Allah, the All Seeing). This is a Book which We have revealed to thee, that thou mayest bring mankind out of the depths of darkness into light, by the command of their Lord, to the path of the Mighty, the Praiseworthy***”. From this verse of the Holy Quran, true guidance which can lead mankind away from the current situation can only be obtained from the Holy Quran. And at the present age, the best teacher of the Holy Quran

is the **Khilafah** of the Promised Messiah and Mahdi (as) who is the **Hakam and Adl** of the age.

The Promised Messiah (as) says that *“at the present time, people have fallen prey to serious error in relation to what constitutes a practice of the Holy Prophet (saw) and the reality of innovation in the faith. They suffer from a grave misconception and cannot differentiate between the Sunnah and Innovation in the faith. They have abandoned the exemplary model of the Holy Prophet (saw) and have invented many practices of their own accord considering them to be an ample form of guidance for their lives, even though these practices are leading them astray”*. (**Malfuzat Vol 3, Page 397**).

The question is, with the fast changing world today, who is in the position to make a determination of what constitutes innovation and what does not? Is it up to any Mullah to make a determination of what constitutes innovation? Is it up to the Imam of a certain mosque somewhere to make that determination? Or is it up to what people say on social media? Certainly not. It is the **Hakam and Adl** of this age who has the right knowledge and understanding to make a ruling on what constitutes Innovation. And that is the **Khalifah** of the Promised Messiah (as).

Today World Leaders are making decisions which is creating wars in the world. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V started warning the world and the leaders more than 10 years ago. He took the trouble to personally write to the world leaders to caution them. He has used various platforms to address what decisions would have to be made to achieve world peace. Sadly the world has refused to listen to the **Hakam and Adl** and hence we see tensions continuously rising.

We are in a complex world today. We see how Europe and America keep making laws relating to gender and reversing such decisions. For example in the USA and Europe laws about transgender and changing ones gender

and having gender neutral public washrooms and such decisions being reversed and changed are all indications of confusion and lack of guidance. We are in a world where we are to deal with Artificial Intelligence with all its positives as well as threats to society. Countries are struggling to have regulations to deal with the negative impacts of Artificial Intelligence.

It is only the Almighty Allah who is the All Knowing and All Wise who can provide the right guidance through **His Khalifah** who is the reflection of the **Hakam and Adl** of this age, so that mankind will be rightly guided.

This my brothers and sisters is the essence of Khilafat in contemporary times. In these times, we are confronted with new issues each day and human beings are at a loss as to how to deal with them. The truth is new and more issues will emerge in future and for mankind to be rightly guided on all such matters, it takes only the Khalifah of the **Hakam and Adl** of this age to provide the right guidance based on his superior and divinely inspired understanding of the Holy Quran which indeed has answers to all issues of today and the future.

So as Ahmadis who have been blessed with the **Institution of Khilafat**, we are to pay particular attention to the instructions and directives of the **Khalifah** on various matters. We are to write to him for prayers and guidance on matters that confront us. We are to listen to his various addresses, directives on various matters and do our level best to implement what he tells us. That is how we benefit from the **Hakam and Adl** of this age and get protected from the negative developments in the world today.

### **Obedience to Allah and His Messenger**

Another reason for the challenges of the world today is because the world is not obeying Allah and His Messenger and therefore moving away from

Allah SWT. Obedience to Allah and His Messenger is a key requirement for drawing closer to Allah SWT. We read in several places of the Holy Quran that we should obey Allah and obey His Messenger. The Holy Quran says:

أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ

But the truth is, **true obedience to Allah and the Holy Prophet (saw) is not possible without Khilafat.** Else after the death of the Prophet (saw) there wouldn't have been the need for Khilafat. The Khilafat of the Holy Prophet (saw) clearly shows that following the verse of the Quran “**Obey Allah and obey His Messenger**” is not possible without the **Khalifah**. The Second Khalifah of the Promised Messiah (as), Hazrat Musleh Maud (ra) explains as follows:

*“ This is because the real purpose behind obedience to the Messenger is to string all the believers in the thread of unity. The question we should ask ourselves is that, the Muslims of the time of the Holy Prophet said salat, they fasted and followed the teachings of Islam so how come Muslims of today do these things and yet are not achieving the self-reformation of the companions of the Holy Prophet? The difference is, these acts are committed, but there is no sense of submission in them, because the sense of submission cannot be created without the **System of Khilafat**. So, when there is Khilafat there is obedience to the Messenger. At the time of the Holy Prophet (saw) all their acts were dominated by the spirit of obedience to the Holy Prophet (saw). They prayed when the Holy Prophet said so, they did everything based on instructions from the Holy Prophet. They obeyed the Prophet of Islam in every directive that he gave. They did their very best to honour the Bayat they made at the hands of the Holy Prophet.*

*Obedience to the Messenger does not just mean the performance of Prayer, Fasting and Hajj, etc. These are all commandments of God. The submission to the Messenger is that when he says that now is the time to*

*put more emphasis on Prayer, then all the people start asserting more emphasis upon Prayer. When he says that now the need of Zakat is growing, so be ready to offer contributions, then the people start focusing on contributing more towards Zakat. When he says that now is time to sacrifice for something, they come forward to sacrifice for that course.*

*Therefore, these things are all totally attached with **Khilafat**. The Khalifah who is appointed by Allah is the one who is guided by the Almighty to make those demands of the believers.”*

Today, **Alhamdulillah** it is only Khilafat Ahmadiyyat that creates a situation just like that of the era of the Holy Prophet (saw) to enable us render true obedience to Khilafat and derive the purification that the world badly needs.

### **Preservation of the Teachings of Islam**

From the verse that I recited from Holy Quran 24:56, Allah SWT says “.... **He will surely establish for them their religion....”** and this is linked to **Khilafat**. One way of establishing Allah’s religion, which is Islam is to preserve the true and correct teachings of Islam. In this day and age, with internet and social media there is a lot of misinformation out there and some of the teachings of Islam are being distorted and corrupted. If Allah SWT has to establish His religion then the true and correct teachings have to be preserved.

Please let’s take a journey back into the history of Islam. At the time the Holy Prophet Mohammad (saw) passed away. The Muslims were so sad to the extent that somebody like Hazrat Omar (ra) out of grief threatened to kill anyone who said the Holy Prophet had died and that rather the Holy Prophet was not dead and had disappeared from their midst temporarily like Moses left his people temporarily and that the Holy Prophet (saw) will soon return.

It took Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) who intervened and told the Companions that the Holy Prophet had really died. Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) recited from the Holy Quran **3:145**:

***“ And Muhammad is only a Messenger. Verily, all Messengers have passed away before him. If he also should die or be put to death, will you turn back on your heels?”***

Hazrat Abu Bakar (ra) further recited Holy Quran **39:31** as follows:

**“Thou (O Muhammad) art surely going to die and they surely are going to die”.**

Having recited these verses, Hazrat Abu Bakr went on to say:

**“O ye men, whoever amongst you worshipped Muhammad, let him know that Muhammad is dead, and whoever amongst you worshipped Allah, let him know that Allah is Living, there is no death for Him”**

When Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) recited the verses of the Holy Quran and pointed to their meaning, the Companions realized what had happened. The Prophet had died. They began to cry. Hazrat Omar (ra) is reported to have said that when Hazrat Abu Bakr (ra) recited the verses of the Holy Quran, and their meaning suddenly dawned upon him, it seemed as though the verses had been revealed on that day, at that moment. His legs could no longer support him. He staggered and fell down in grief.

This account of what took place between the Companions at the Holy Prophet's death proves that the first formal and collective expression of opinion upon which the Companions agreed after the death of the Holy

Prophet (saw) was that all prophets before the Holy Prophet had died. There was no exception. If the Companions present on this solemn occasion thought that some earlier prophets had not died, they would have stood up and pointed to the exceptions. They could have said that at least Jesus had been alive in Heaven for six hundred years.

But today some Muslims have the belief of Jesus currently living in heaven. The source of that belief clearly is alien to Islam. The Promised Messiah (as) has corrected some of these beliefs and it is only his **Khulafah** who are his reflection and who are rightly guided who will ensure the preservation of the true and correct teachings of Islam on subjects like this and many others.

One key role therefore played by Khilafat is to preserve the correct and true teachings of Islam so that Allah's religion will be established and mankind will derive the needed blessings from Allah's religion. Through Khilafat Ahmadiyyat, the Jamaat has systems in place to ensure that the true teachings of Islam is preserved and kept in its pure form. It is in the preservation of the true teachings of Islam that the contemporary world benefits.

For example through the various **Jaamiats** of the Jamaat established under the directives of the **Khulafah** of the Jamaat, missionaries are trained with the true and correct teachings of Islam so that they can also in turn impact the society with the acquired knowledge and by so doing preserve the true teachings of Islam.

## **Conclusion**

To conclude, the issues and challenges of the world today can all be addressed if humanity decides to listen and pay attention to the true and best guide for the world who is the Khalifah of the Promised Messiah (as)

who is the **Hakam and Adl** of this age. Contemporary society with all its technological advancement cannot derive the best from its inventions, if guidance is not provided by Allah SWT through the Khalifah of Allah. I humbly call on all gathered here to remain resolute and firmly attached to the institution of Khilafat, because that is the only safety net for the world today.

***Assalaamu Alaikum Warahmatullah Wabarakaatuh!***