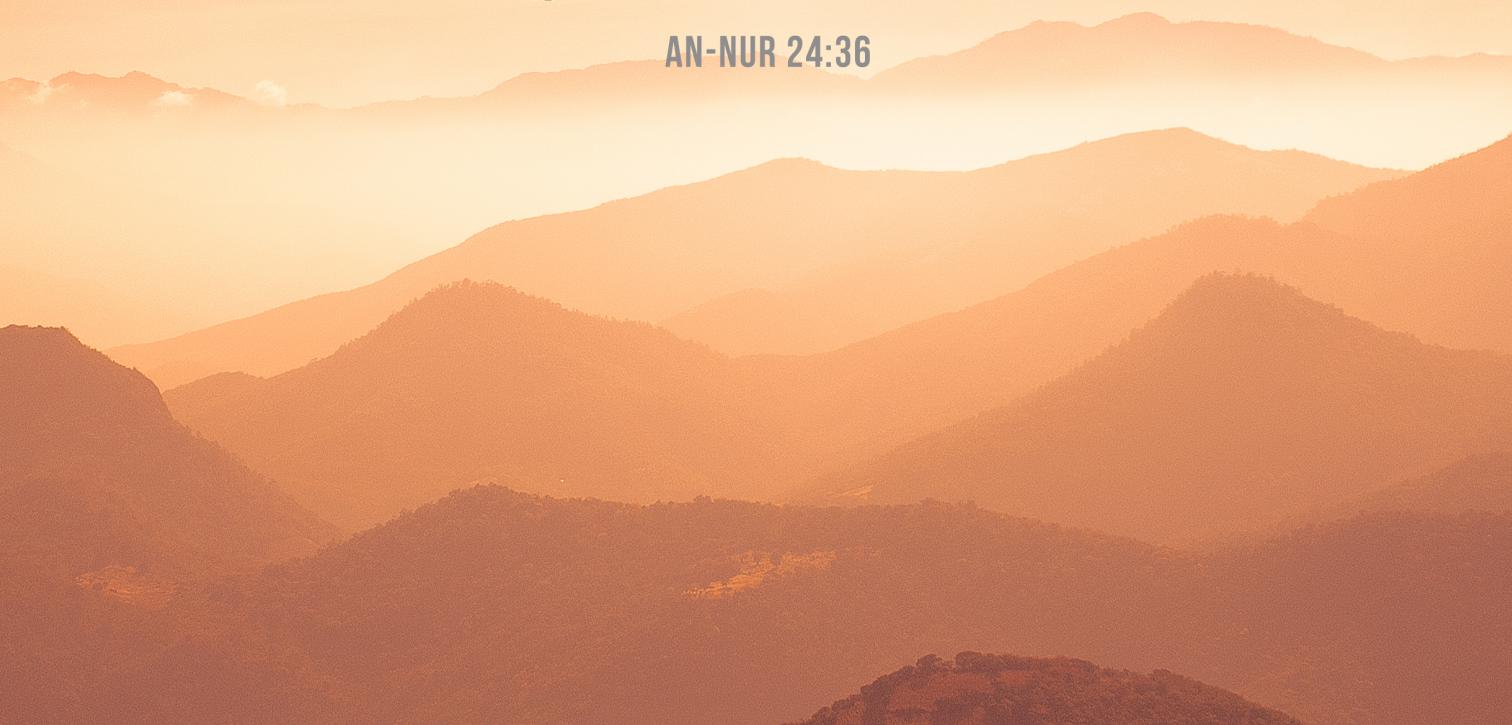




Allah is the Light of the heavens and the earth.

AN-NUR 24:36



DEC 2022
IN THIS ISSUE

RELEVANCE OF
GOD
IN THE
21ST CENTURY



AN-NIDA

الله

THE HOLY QUR'AN

اعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم
بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

قُلِ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ وَسَلَامٌ عَلَىٰ عِبَادِهِ الَّذِينَ اصْطَفَىٰ ۗ اللَّهُ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ ﴿٦١﴾ أَمَّنْ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَأَنْزَلَ لَكُمْ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ مَاءً فَأَنْبَتْنَا بِهِ حَدَائِقَ ذَاتَ بَهْجَةٍ مَّا كَانَ لَكُمْ أَنْ تُنبِتُوا شَجَرَهَا ۗ إِنَّ مَعَ اللَّهِ لَإِلَهًا مَّعَ اللَّهِ ۗ بَلْ هُمْ قَوْمٌ يَعِدُونَ ﴿٦٢﴾ أَمَّنْ جَعَلَ الْأَرْضَ قَرَارًا وَجَعَلَ خِلَالَهَا أَنْهَارًا وَجَعَلَ لَهَا رَوَاسِيًا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَ الْبَحْرَيْنِ حَاجِزًا ۗ إِنْ أَرَادَ اللَّهُ مَعَ اللَّهِ ۗ بَلْ أَكْثَرُهُمْ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٦٣﴾ أَمَّنْ يُجِيبُ الْمُضْطَرَّ إِذَا دَعَاهُ وَيَكْشِفُ السُّوءَ وَيَجْعَلُ لَكُمْ خُلَفَاءَ الْأَرْضِ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ اللَّهِ ۗ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَذَكَّرُونَ ﴿٦٤﴾

“SAY, ‘ALL PRAISE BELONGS TO ALLAH, AND PEACE BE UPON THOSE SERVANTS OF HIS WHOM HE HAS CHOSEN. IS ALLAH BETTER OR WHAT THEY ASSOCIATE WITH HIM?’

OR, WHO CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH, AND WHO SENT DOWN WATER FOR YOU FROM THE SKY WHEREWITH WE CAUSE TO GROW BEAUTIFUL ORCHARDS? YOU COULD NOT CAUSE THEIR TREES TO GROW. IS THERE A GOD BESIDES ALLAH? NAY, THEY ARE A PEOPLE WHO DEVIATE FROM THE RIGHT PATH.

OR, WHO MADE THE EARTH A PLACE OF REST, AND PLACED RIVERS IN ITS MIDST, AND PLACED UPON IT FIRM MOUNTAINS, AND PUT A BARRIER BETWEEN THE TWO WATERS? IS THERE A GOD BESIDES ALLAH? NAY, MOST OF THEM KNOW NOT.

OR, WHO ANSWERS THE DISTRESSED PERSON WHEN HE CALLS UPON HIM, AND REMOVES THE EVIL, AND MAKES YOU SUCCESSORS IN THE EARTH? IS THERE A GOD BESIDES ALLAH? LITTLE IS IT THAT YOU REFLECT.”

صَلَّى اللَّهُ
عَلَيْهِ
وَسَلَّمَ

محمد

HADITH

اللهم صل على محمد و على آل محمد كما صليت على ابراهيم و على آل ابراهيم انك حميد مجيد
اللهم بارك على محمد و على آل محمد كما باركت على ابراهيم و على آل ابراهيم انك حميد مجيد

حَدَّثَنَا أَنَسُ بْنُ مَالِكٍ، قَالَ سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ " قَالَ اللَّهُ يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ إِنَّكَ مَا دَعَوْتَنِي
وَرَجَوْتَنِي غَفَرْتُ لَكَ عَلَى مَا كَانَ فِيكَ وَلَا أَبَالِي يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ لَوْ بَلَغَتْ ذُنُوبُكَ عَنَانَ السَّمَاءِ ثُمَّ اسْتَغْفَرْتَنِي غَفَرْتُ
لَكَ وَلَا أَبَالِي يَا ابْنَ آدَمَ إِنَّكَ لَوْ أَتَيْتَنِي بِقُرَابِ الْأَرْضِ خَطَايَا ثُمَّ لَقِيتَنِي لَا تُشْرِكُ بِي شَيْئًا لَأْتِيْتُكَ بِقُرَابِهَا
مَغْفِرَةً "

HAZRAT ANAS BIN MALIK^{RA} NARRATED THAT THE MESSENGER OF ALLAH (ﷺ) SAID:
"ALLAH SAID: 'O SON OF ADAM! VERILY AS LONG AS YOU CALLED UPON ME AND
HOPED IN ME, I FORGAVE YOU, DESPITE WHATEVER YOU MAY HAVE COMMITTED.
O SON OF ADAM! WERE YOUR SINS TO REACH THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY, THEN YOU
SOUGHT FORGIVENESS FROM ME, I WOULD FORGIVE YOU, AND I WOULD NOT MIND.
SO SON OF ADAM! IF YOU CAME TO ME WITH SINS NEARLY AS GREAT AS THE EARTH,
AND THEN YOU MET ME NOT ASSOCIATING ANYTHING WITH ME, I WOULD COME TO
YOU WITH FORGIVENESS AS GREAT AS IT.'"

(Jami' at-Tirmidhi Kitab al-Da'wat an Rasulullah)

THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS}

“DO NOT LOSE HOPE AND DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED BY THE THOUGHT: ‘OUR SOULS ARE SO DEFILED WITH SIN; OF WHAT VALUE ARE OUR SUPPLICATIONS AND WHAT IMPACT WOULD THEY HAVE?’ THE HUMAN SOUL HAS, IN FACT, BEEN CREATED FOR THE LOVE OF GOD AND ALTHOUGH THE FIRE OF SIN MAY INTENSELY EXCITE HIM, EVEN THEN HE POSSESSES SUCH POWER OF REPENTANCE THAT IT CAN EXTINGUISH THAT FIRE. JUST AS YOU OBSERVE THAT HOWEVER MUCH WATER IS HEATED, WHEN IT IS Poured OVER A FIRE IT STILL EXTINGUISHES THE FIRE.

EVER SINCE GOD ALMIGHTY CREATED PEOPLE, THEIR HEARTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CLEANSED AND PURIFIED THROUGH THIS MEANS ALONE. IN OTHER WORDS, MAN CANNOT BE PURIFIED FROM SIN THROUGH ANY MEANS BESIDES THE LIVING GOD HIMSELF—THROUGH HIS OWN MANIFESTATIONS OF WORD AND DEED— REVEALING HIS EXISTENCE, HIS POWER, AND HIS GODHOOD, AND DISPLAYING HIS SHINING AWE.”

(Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya Part 5 (Eng. Translation) p. 52)



“ THE THOUGHT OF HAVING COMMITTED A PLETHORA OF SINS OUGHT NOT TO HOLD BACK A SINNER FROM SUPPLICATION. PRAYER IS AN ANTIDOTE. ULTIMATELY, SUCH A ONE WILL OBSERVE HOW PRAYERS SERVE TO FOSTER WITHIN HIM AN AVERSION TOWARDS VICE. IN THE END, THOSE STEEPED IN SIN WHO DESPAIR OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF PRAYER AND DO NOT SEEK RECOURSE TO REPENTANCE, LOSE FAITH IN THE PROPHETS AND THEIR EFFECTS.

(Malfuzat Volume 1 (Eng. Translation) p. 4)

“ IF OUR ENTIRE LIVES ARE SPENT IN WORLDLY ENGAGEMENTS, WHAT WILL WE HAVE ACCUMULATED FOR THE HEREAFTER? MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO WAKE UP FOR TAHAJJUD AND OFFER IT WITH FERVOUR AND JOY. AT TIMES, THE PRAYERS TO BE OFFERED DURING THE DAY POSE A CHALLENGE TO THOSE WHO ARE IN EMPLOYMENT, BUT ALLAH THE EXALTED IS THE PROVIDER. THE OBLIGATORY PRAYERS OUGHT TO BE OFFERED AT THEIR PRESCRIBED TIMES. ON OCCASION, IT IS PERMISSIBLE TO COMBINE THE ZUHR AND ASR PRAYERS. ALLAH ALMIGHTY MADE PROVISION FOR THIS, FOR HE KNEW THAT SOME WOULD BE WEAKER THAN OTHERS. HOWEVER, THIS PERMISSION DOES NOT ALLOW FOR THREE PRAYERS TO BE COMBINED.

(Malfuzat Volume 1 (Eng. Translation) p. 5)

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Vaba

“...ENTER THE NEW YEAR WITH PRAYERS. MAKE A PARTICULAR EFFORT TO OBSERVE THE TAHAJJUD PRAYER. VARIOUS MOSQUES WILL ALSO BE ORGANISING [CONGREGATIONAL TAHAJJUD] AND THOSE THAT HAVE NOT DONE SO SHOULD ALSO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS. IF IT CANNOT BE DONE IN CONGREGATION, THEN ONE SHOULD OFFER THE TAHAJJUD PRAYER INDIVIDUALLY OR ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN THE HOMES [FOR CONGREGATION]. NONETHELESS, ENSURE TO OFFER THE TAHAJJUD PRAYER AND OFFER SUPPLICATIONS.”

(Friday Sermon December 31, 2021)



“MAY GOD ALMIGHTY GRANT US THE ABILITY TO DO MORE JUSTICE TO BELIEVING IN THE IMAM OF THE AGE AND MAY WE THEREBY WAVE THE FLAG OF THE UNITY OF GOD IN THE WORLD. MAY WE BRING OTHERS UNDER THE FLAG OF THE HOLY PROPHET^{SA} AND MAY WE EXHAUST ALL OUR EFFORTS AND FACULTIES IN ACHIEVING THIS. IF WE FAIL TO ADOPT THIS APPROACH AND MENTALITY AND TO PRAY IN THIS MANNER WHEN ENTERING THE NEW YEAR, THEN CONGRATULATING ONE ANOTHER ON THE NEW YEAR WOULD BE SUPERFICIAL AND SERVE NO PURPOSE.

THUS, TRUE NEW YEAR GREETINGS PLACE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY UPON EVERY AHMADI, BE THEY MEN, WOMEN, OR CHILDREN, AND THEY OUGHT TO BE MINDFUL OF THIS. WE MUST UTILISE ALL OF OUR STRENGTHS, FACULTIES AND CAPABILITIES AND STRIVE TO OUR UTMOST TO ACHIEVE THIS. THROUGH OUR PRAYERS, WE MUST FORM A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD ALMIGHTY AND ONLY THEN CAN WE RECEIVE THE BLESSINGS OF THIS YEAR. MAY GOD ALMIGHTY ENABLE US TO DO SO.”

(Friday Sermon January 3, 2020)

AN-NIDA MAGAZINE



MAJLIS
KHUDDAMUL
AHMADIYYA
CANADA

PUBLICATION TEAM

SADR MAJLIS

TAHIR AHMED

MUHTAMIM ISHAAT

ZAHID CHAUDHRY

CHIEF EDITOR

ABDUL NOOR ABID

ENGLISH EDITOR

SARMAD NAVEED

CREATIVE TEAM

ABRAR HAQUE

KUNWAR KARIM

KASHIF DAUD

REVIEW BOARD

AHMED SAHI

ZAHID CHAUDHRY

FARHAN IQBAL

NABIL MIRZA

FARRUKH-UR-REHMAN TAHIR

Table of Contents

SAYINGS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH ^{AS}	4
QUOTES OF HUZOOR ANWAR ^{ABA}	6
MESSAGE FROM SADR MAJLIS	10
THE RELEVANCE OF GOD IN THE 21 ST CENTURY	14
A KHADIM'S NEW YEAR	18
NEW YEAR RESOLUTION	20

THINK YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE PUBLICATION OF THIS MAGAZINE?
THEN DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US!

ISHAAT@KHUDDAM.CA

EDITORIAL

My Dear Khuddam brothers,
Assalamo Alaikum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakatohou!

Giving precedence to faith over worldly matters!

The Promised Messiah^{as} states:

“I openly proclaim that a person who does not give precedence to God over everything and until God can look into that person’s heart and confirm that it belongs to Him alone, they cannot become a true believer.”¹

In another place The Promised Messiah^{as} states:

“That is to say, God is with those who are righteous. It ought to be borne in mind that the word taqwa (i.e. righteousness) has appeared in the Holy Qur’an many a time. This word is understood in light of the word ma’a (meaning ‘with’), which appears before it. That is to say that those who give precedence to God, in return are given precedence by God and He saves such people from every kind of disgrace in this world. It is my belief that if an individual desires to be safeguarded from every kind of disgrace and hardship in this world, there is only one way and that is to become righteous. After this, such a one lacks nothing. Hence, the success of a believer moves them further ahead and they never remain stagnant.”²

Huzoor Anwar^{aba} graciously approved the theme of “Ta’luq Billah (i.e. Connection with Allah Almighty)” for the year 2022-2023 of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Canada. In this issue of An-Nida, we have tried to highlight the importance of connection with Allah Almighty and how best to start our new year as a khadim. We as Ahmadi youth have treasures of knowledge in the Holy Qur’an, Hadith and the sayings of the Promised Messiah^{as}. We are even more fortunate that we have Khilafat to guide us every day of our lives.

We hope that you will enjoy reading this issue, and we request your prayers that Allah enables Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya to continue to march ahead with ever-greater successes. Ameen.

Wassalaam,
Editor, An-Nida

¹ Malfuzat – Volume 1 (p. 73)

² Malfuzat – Volume 1 (pp. 153-154)



MESSAGE FROM SADR MAJLIS

TAHIR AHMED

IT IS BY THE SHEER GRACE OF GOD ALMIGHTY THAT WE ARE ABOUT TO START A NEW YEAR. WE SHOULD ALL EVALUATE OURSELVES TO SEE WHAT WE HAVE GAINED AND LOST IN THE PAST YEAR. WERE WE ABLE TO IMPROVE OUR SPIRITUAL STATE IN THE PAST YEAR? DID WE FULFIL THE RIGHTS OF ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY AND HIS CREATION? MAY ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY ENABLE US TO LEARN FROM OUR PAST MISTAKES.

ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY STATES IN THE HOLY QUR'AN:

مَثَلُ الَّذِينَ اتَّخَذُوا مِنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ أَوْلِيَاءَ كَمَثَلِ الْعَنْكَبُوتِ اتَّخَذَتْ بَيْتًا وَإِنَّ أَوْهَنَ
الْبُيُوتِ لَبَيْتُ الْعَنْكَبُوتِ لَوْ كَانُوا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٢﴾

'THE CASE OF THOSE WHO TAKE HELPERS BESIDE ALLAH IS LIKE UNTO THE CASE OF THE SPIDER, WHO MAKES FOR HERSELF A HOUSE; AND SURELY THE FRAILEST OF ALL HOUSES IS THE HOUSE OF THE SPIDER, IF THEY BUT KNEW!' (29:42)

HAVE WE JOINED THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN THIS VERSE OF THE HOLY QUR'AN; IGNORANT PEOPLE WHO, INSTEAD OF REGARDING ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY AS THEIR GUARDIAN AND HELPER, TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR WORLDLY WEALTH AND POSSESSIONS. SUCH PEOPLE DO NOT BEFRIEND THE ALL-POWERFUL GOD AND DEPEND ON THE WEAK, MAKING THEIR SOLE OBJECTIVE THE PURSUIT OF MATERIAL WEALTH.

WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT ALL SUCH MATERIAL WEALTH IS MERELY A FAÇADE. IF WE ARE UNABLE TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD ALMIGHTY, THEN EVERYTHING IS IN VAIN. IF THE TREASURES OF QARUN AND THE KINGDOM

OF THE PHAROAH WERE OF NO BENEFIT TO THEM, WHAT BENEFIT WOULD SUCH THINGS BRING US? WE SHOULD TRY AND REALIZE THE TRUE PURPOSE OF OUR LIVES.

THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS} STATES:

‘ANOTHER REASON FOR MY ADVENT IS TO BOLSTER FAITH, AND TO DEMONSTRATE THE EXISTENCE OF GOD TO OTHERS. THE STATE OF EVERY NATION’S FAITH HAS GROWN VERY WEARY AND THE BELIEF IN THE HEREAFTER IS REGARDED AS A MERE FANTASY; EVERY HUMAN IS DEMONSTRATING THROUGH THEIR ACTIONS THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE SAME CONFIDENCE AND FAITH IN GOD ALMIGHTY AND THE HEREAFTER THAT THEY DO IN THE WORLD AND ITS MATERIAL WEALTH AND POWER; THEY RELY MORE ON MATERIAL MEANS. THEY MAKE GRAND CLAIMS, YET IN REALITY, THEIR HEARTS ARE OVERCOME WITH LOVE FOR THE MATERIAL WORLD... THUS, I HAVE BEEN SENT TO, ONCE AGAIN, BRING ABOUT AN AGE OF TRUTH AND FAITH, AND TO FOSTER RIGHTEOUSNESS WITHIN THE HEARTS.’

(KITAB AL-BARIYYAH, PP. 291-293, FOOTNOTE)

MAY ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY ENABLE US TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM AND DULY FULFIL THE RIGHTS OF HIS WORSHIP. MAY ALLAH ENABLE US TO PROSTRATE BEFORE HIM, BESEECH HIM AND HAVE FIRM FAITH IN HIM. WE SHOULD ALSO ALWAYS BE MINDFUL OF THE FACT THAT PRAYER IS THE GREATEST MEANS TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD ALMIGHTY. WE WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO ATTAIN THE LOVE OF GOD IF WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS REGULARLY.

THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS} STATES:

‘I PRAY FERVENTLY THAT GOD ALMIGHTY COUNTS MY WHOLE COMMUNITY AMONGST THOSE WHO FEAR HIM, WHO OFFER AND ESTABLISH PRAYER, WHO WAKE DURING THE NIGHT AND FALL TO PRAYER, WEEPING. I PRAY THAT THEY NEVER NEGLECT THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO GOD AND THAT THEY NEVER BECOME SELFISH, MISERLY, IGNORANT AND ABSORBED IN THE WORLD.’

THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS} FURTHER STATES:

‘GOD DESIRES TO MAKE THIS COMMUNITY AN EXEMPLAR THAT INVOKES THE REMEMBRANCE OF GOD IN OTHERS, THAT ATTAINS THE PINNACLE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PURITY, AND THAT GIVES PRECEDENCE TO FAITH OVER THE WORLD.’

(MAJMU’AH ISHTIHARAT, VOL. 2, P. 219 – PUBLISHED IN RABWAH, PAKISTAN)

I WOULD LIKE TO END WITH A QUOTE FROM A FRIDAY SERMON OF HAZRAT KHALIFATUL MASIH V^{ABA}, DELIVERED ON 30 DECEMBER 2016. WHILST QUOTING THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS}, HUZOOR^{ABA} STATES:

“THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS} STATES:

‘THE TRUTH IS, A CROP THAT IS FARMED AND CULTIVATED WITH GREAT CARE IS ALSO PRONE TO BE ENCROACHED BY WEEDS WHICH MUST BE EITHER CUT AWAY OR BURNT. THIS IS THE ENDURING LAW OF NATURE WHICH EVEN MY COMMUNITY CANNOT ESCAPE. I KNOW FULL WELL THAT THOSE WHO ARE TRULY A PART OF MY COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN MADE NATURALLY AVERSE TO SIN BY GOD ALMIGHTY. THEY ARE INCLINED TOWARD GOODNESS, AND I HAVE HOPE THAT THEIR LIVES WILL BECOME AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS.’”

(MAJMU’AH ISHTIHARAT, VOL. 3, PP. 46-49, 29 MAY 1898, AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO ADMONISH THE COMMUNITY)

MAY ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY ENABLE US TO SPEND OUR LIVES IN LIGHT OF THIS GUIDANCE AND ADMONISHMENT FROM THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS}. MAY WE FULFIL THE BAI’AT (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE) WE HAVE TAKEN. MAY OUR LIVES BE SPENT IN THE PURSUIT OF ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY’S PLEASURE. MAY WE CONFORM OUR LIVES IN ACCORDANCE TO THE DESIRES OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS} AND DEMONSTRATE AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW. MAY ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY OVERLOOK OUR SHORTCOMINGS AND BESTOW HIS FAVOURS UPON US. MAY HE SHOW US THE SUCCESSES THAT ARE DESTINED FOR THE COMMUNITY OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH^{AS}. MAY THIS NEW YEAR BRING BLESSINGS. MAY ALLAH THE ALMIGHTY ACCEPT THESE PRAYERS IN OUR FAVOUR.

AMEEN.

**MY PURPOSE, YEARNING, AND
HEARTFELT DESIRE IS TO SERVE
HUMANITY;
THIS IS MY JOB, THIS IS MY FAITH,
THIS IS MY HABIT AND THIS IS
MY WAY OF LIFE.**

[Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya Parts 1-2, p. 88]



THE RELEVANCE OF GOD IN THE 21ST CENTURY

قُلْ إِنَّ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ

“Say, ‘My Prayer and my sacrifice and my life and my death are all for Allah, the Lord of the worlds.’”
(The Holy Qur’an 6:163)

At every juncture in our day to day lives, we find ourselves assessing and deciding whether something is of any relevance or value to us. Such is the case with the existence of God. Many ask whether belief in God still holds any relevance.

Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad^{ra} has laid a simple, yet profound litmus test, by which we can assess whether anything is of value to us. He writes:

“First, we see whether what we need offers us any benefit. If so, we adopt it, otherwise, we abandon it. Second, we consider whether it is something by ignoring which we disadvantage ourselves. If so, we take it on, otherwise we let it go”

(Our God, Page 12)

Let’s use this principle explained by Hazrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad^{ra} to answer this question of God’s relevance, in light of purpose and morality.



The Benefit of Purpose

The universe began with a bang, a rather *Big* Bang. Within a thousandth of a thousandth of a second after the Big Bang, not only did the forces vital to our universe come about, they began coming together in perfect harmony, despite being fundamentally individual forces. In fact, their coming together was so perfect, that they formed elements like hydrogen which subsequently gave birth to stars. Such unison and harmony require so many trillions of dismissals of astronomical grace coincidences that it would no longer be scientific to continue dubbing everything as coincident, when they very well could have, and should have, taken a totally different route.

Upon studying these intricacies, one realizes that the probability that this universe arose serendipitously and automatically is egregiously slim. Such accuracy could have not arisen by chance. Instead, the intricate design of the universe logically points towards the existence of a Creator.

Furthermore, if we consider the thousands of incidents of the acceptance of prayer, revelations vouchsafed to prophets and miraculous signs that affirm God's existence, we are compelled to believe we have been created by a God.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?



If we have been created by a God, it means we have been created for a purpose. Recognizing that purpose is our greatest asset, and neglecting it is our greatest weakness, for a life without purpose is no life at all. The Promised Messiah^{as} explains this in the following words:

“It is obvious that man is not in a position to appoint the purpose of his own life, for he does not come into the world of his own accord, nor will he depart therefrom of his own will. He is a creature and the One Who created him and invested him with better and higher faculties than those of all other animals, has also appointed a purpose for his life. Whether anyone penetrates it or not, the purpose of man’s creation without a doubt is the worship and the understanding of God and complete devotion to Him.”

(Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam, Page 159)

Simply put, our entire existence literally revolves around God’s existence. Finding Him is the only path to a life of purpose and true contentment. No matter how much money we make, the power we hold or the fame we amass, it all amounts to nothing, if we don’t achieve our purpose. Indeed, this is why the Promised Messiah^{as} further explains:

“Man does not find his true welfare except in God. Having had great wealth, having held high office, having become a great merchant, having ruled a great kingdom, having been known as a great philosopher, in the end he departs from all these involvements with great regret.”

(Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam, Page 160)

In essence, God’s existence, or at the very least, the question of His existence, is the foundation of our existence.

The Benefit of Morality

There is no secret in the fact that the moral state of the world is on the decline. The reason for such a state of affairs? A self-conceived purpose.

When the greed for money and power become the sole purpose in people's lives, they are able to sacrifice all values and morals to achieve it. They concoct their own morality, whereby they define anything which advances their personal agenda as "right" or "justified", and the rest as "wrong" or "useless". This has unfortunately had some very terrifying repercussions. One glance at the turmoil in the world and it is clear to see that many of the wars waged by countries are rooted in greed for territorial and economic power, yet under the guise of "the greater good."

These are the results of self-ordained codes of morality. Conversely, God Himself, through His Word and through the example of His prophets, sets an infallible moral standard for us, rooted in His worship and service to humanity.

Islam, the perfect religion sent from Allah the Almighty, grants us that infallible moral teaching. It is a religion which champions the highest forms of self-annihilation in order to serve our neighbors, our family, orphans, the weak and indeed all factions of society. It teaches us to treat women and children with honor, dignity and respect. It is a religion which warns us that the Omnipotent God is always watching, and that we must hold ourselves accountable to Him. Hence, eliminating vested interests, but establishing true morality for a higher purpose.

In conclusion, the relevance of God in today's age is no different than any other. We may think that our technological, scientific, and intellectual advancements preclude us from any need for God, but in reality, our entire existence, as well as our moral framework, depend on God.

By: Khubair Choudhry



NEW NEW YEAR YOU

Have you ever thought about the true purpose of celebrating New Year's Day? After all, with the world drinking and celebrating in the days leading up to the moment, New Year's Eve seems to have become nothing short of a drinking holiday. It begs the question, is New Year's nothing more than a time for partying, or should there be a different approach to bringing in the new year?

According to the lunar calendar, the New Year starts on the first day of Muharram, a sacred month and a time of remembrance and reflection. Today, the Gregorian calendar is the most widely used across the world. With December 31st marking the end of the year, we see and hear celebrations taking place across the world. However, in Islam, this date itself does not carry any significance. Twelve months pass by. Years come and go. While the aim throughout the year should be to increase in righteousness, those who are steeped in worldliness only chase after material pursuits.

However, if the goal throughout the year is increased righteousness and a better connection with God, how can people hope to achieve it when New Year's Eve often involves excessive alcohol and celebrating. In other words, the New Year already begins with immoral and worldly activities.

For true believers, the mere turning of a calendar is not enough to warrant celebrations and certainly not in the manner New Year's is celebrated these days. Rather, a true believer understands the meaning of life and the efforts they must make throughout the year in order to tread upon the path that leads to God. Our time in this life is limited and unknown, as Allah the Almighty states in the Holy Qur'an:

"Verily, with Allah alone is the knowledge of the Hour. And He sends down the rain, and He knows what is in the wombs. And no soul knows what it will earn tomorrow, and no soul knows in what land it will die. Surely, Allah is All-Knowing, All-Aware."
(The Holy Qur'an 31:35)

Why waste the whole year, or our whole life, only chasing after the material gains of the world? After all, only Allah knows how much time we have left in this life. A believer should ask oneself: as time goes by and with a new year every 365 days, did we truly fulfill our duties as a Muslim? Did we move closer to the objective for which we have been created? As God Almighty states:

“And I have not created the jinn and the men but that they may worship Me.”

(The Holy Qur’an 51:57)

Furthermore, God instructs that the life of a Muslim has two primary objectives: to fulfill the rights of God and to fulfill the rights of humanity. So, on every occasion, including New Year’s Day, Canadian Ahmadi Muslims will seek the opportunity to perform both duties. On New Year’s morning, Ahmadis, including women and children, will gather in their local mosques and prayer centers to offer Tahajjud, the pre-dawn voluntary prayers. Additionally, many Khuddam across Canada will participate in the New Year’s Waqar-e-Amal by cleaning up streets in their local cities. This will ensure they start the year in good spirits and righteous conduct.

For us Ahmadi youth, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} is a role model and guide in our daily lives. His guidance is that rather than making a New Year’s resolution based purely on worldly gains and accomplishments, we must begin with a new resolve for spiritual growth and the best way to begin a year is to bow in prostration to our God.

During his Friday sermon on December 30th, 2016, beloved Huzoor^{aba} said:

“The majesty of a true believer is not only to express despair over such worldly activities but also to conduct a self-audit and evaluate the year that has passed. What have we earned and lost through this year? Will the true believer evaluate the year through a worldly lens, or will it be through religious and spiritual perspective? We Ahmadis are very fortunate that Allah has given us the instruction of following the Promised Messiah^{as} who presented to us the summary of the teachings of Allah and His Prophet^{sa} and also showed us the high standards to evaluate our deeds and spirituality. If this standard is kept in mind then we can surely achieve the standards of true believers.”

May Allah enable us and all our Khuddam brothers in Canada and across the world to truly climb the heights of spiritual development and fulfill our duties to the highest of standards. Ameen.

By: Fozan Khawaja

NEW YEAR

RESOLUTION

1 SALAT

1

Let's start the year 2023 with being regular in our 5 daily prayers. We should try to perform these prayers in congregation.



2

2 TILAWAT

Let's become regular in reciting the Holy Qur'an. Let's try and complete one full recitation of the Holy Qur'an in the year.



5 PAY SADQA

Let's start the year by giving Sadqa. Sadqa is a voluntary donation given to the needy and is given to get extra blessings.



5

Let's become regular in writing to Huzoor Anwar^{aba} requesting for prayers.

4 LETTER TO HUZOOR^{ABA}

4



3

3 TAHAJJUD

All Khuddam & Atfal should offer congregational Tahajjud Prayer. Pray for all, pray for the entire world.



A Prime Example

“Once, in his youth, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IVth during his stay in London was in town on the New Year’s Eve. When it was time for the New Year he took a newspaper and put it on the floor and performed some ‘Nawafil’ prayers (voluntary prayers). After finishing he saw one English man in tears watching him. He asked him what the matter was and the Englishman replied: “The whole world is getting drunk and you are the only one that remembers God at this time.”



(Tariq Magazine, Vol 21 Issue 1, Page 17)

Durood

“Holy Prophet^{sa} said that ‘if you pray for something without reciting Durood then they stop between the land and sky.’ Thus your prayers will not reach the Divine Threshold if they are not complimented with Durood.”

Prevention of Ill Thoughts

“In this world there is television and internet that has programs that lead to development of ill and unpleasant thoughts, did you save yourself from it?”



Loyalty to Khilafat

Did we pray to remain loyal and obedient to the institution of Khilafat?... Did we pray regularly for the Khalifa and the Jama’at?

Five Daily Prayers

“Allah has commanded us for it many a times in the Holy Quran. Holy Prophet^{sa} said that quitting Salat leads a person towards idolatry and disbelief.”

True New Year’s Celebration

“If we spend the last night of the previous year and the dawn of the New Year pondering over our spritual conditions and by spending time supplicating towards Allah then we will be the ones who will be working towards a good life in the hereafter. And if we also indulge in worldly wishes and affairs, then we will lose a lot and gain nothing.”



(Taken from Friday Sermon delivered by Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih V^{aba} on December 30, 2016)



**MAJLIS
KHUDDAMUL
AHMADIYYA
CANADA**