

**Shura Meeting 2011 Closing Comments:  
Making a Dynamic Community  
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**Slide 1**

Ashado & 3:133

“And obey Allah and the Messenger that you be shown mercy.”

**Slide 2**

We claim that:

“The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is *a dynamic, fast-growing* international revival movement within Islam.”

**Slide 3**

Lets think about that word – Dynamic...



Very energetic...



Relating to activity or things in movement...



Any driving force instrumental in growth or change

Some other words that come to my mind:



Lively



Engaging



An energy that draws people and maintains interest



Working eagerly together

Let us reflect a moment upon our own Majlis – would we describe our selves like that - as dynamic and fast growing?

Undoubtedly our Islam is captivating and compelling and there are surely groups of our people who fit this description. We have just heard inspiring reports from Hudhur’s European journey. And surely those Majalis who were enthusiastic about the Muslims for life must have felt this kind of energy – but what of our group?

If we find ourselves lacking, what must we do to bring about change?...and be a part of this dynamic force...

**Slide 4**

By the Grace of God, in two recent sermons, 10/7/11 & 10/14/11, Hudhur has asked every community to **fast** one day a week and appealed to everyone to **pray in anguish**,

☉ For our community to be released from cruel persecution

Which is intensifying and becoming a worldwide phenomenon.

However, in such fasts, where prayers become deep and spiritual direction strengthens perhaps we might also benefit personally so that...

☉ Insha Allah, our own Tarbiyat, and our children's good connection with Allah will also improve

### **Slide 5**

For these fasts and prayers to be accepted, Hudhur<sup>atba</sup> implored that:

☉ Every Ahmadi child, young, adult, old, man, woman should bow down in complete obedience before every commandment of God in absolute perfection and fulfill the rights towards God and fellow human beings.

☉ We must forever remain concerned about whether we are fulfilling our roles and duties and responsibilities so that we continue to receive Divine succor and favors and blessings.

Khutba 10/07/11

He reminded us not to be disheartened - that Allah is the hearer of our prayers for "The blow of the enemy at every occasion results in failure due to the Divine favors in our support. The trials however should lead us to purify ourselves and turn to God with even greater zeal...."

Prayers of those whose hearts are injured shake the heavens. (10/14/11, Renaissance and Victory of Islam)

Therefore, now is the time more than ever to pay attention to our status with Allah...

### **Slide 6**

The verse that I recited at the beginning from 3:133:

"And obey Allah and the Messenger that you be shown mercy."

It means we must immerse ourselves in Allah as did His beloved Muhammad, the Holy Prophet <sup>saws</sup>

When we do that we find the courage to keep Allah's commandments without complaint...

## Slide 7

In Our Teaching the Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup> passionately explains:

☻ Blessed are they who for the sake of the Lord wage a war against their own selves...

And on the other hand...

☻ Whosoever for the sake of his own self evades a commandment of God, he will never enter the kingdom of heaven...

☻ Strive therefore to the utmost that not a jot or syllable of the Holy Qur'an should bear witness against you...

So in our Jihad to become a dynamic cog in the wheel of our community these fasts and prayers will be of the utmost importance. Because it is Allah who gives life and through our love of Him we find energy for faith.

Though there are many obligations we owe to God, apart from those of worship, as a take home message to your members I would like to mention two that are easily eroded living in a fast pace society as we do:

## Slide 8

*FOOD:*

☻ *"O ye who believe! eat of the good things We have provided for you, and render thanks to Allah, if it is He Whom you worship."* (Holy Qur'an 2:173)

☻ Muslims should avoid those things, which will injure their physical, moral and spiritual health

Also, In Surah Al Maida 5:2 Allah says: "Fulfill your compacts..."

A time would come when Muslims would have to face trials and suffer hardship in order to avoid forbidden food. It is then that they would have to be particularly regardful of God's commandments in this respect, as the food we eat pays such an important role in the forming of good morals.

Our health program is full of helpful advice in this regard. Nowadays, there is a lot of harmful so-called 'food' for one's health. You can look at the ingredients label and not recognize any thing listed as food. For us to be on the path of self-purification we will have to be very conscious and make daily choices regarding healthy food.

## Slide 9

**MODESTY:**

I would also like to stress on the importance of 'keeping our compacts' with regards to modesty and Purdah. Hudhur has recently mentioned this again in his Khutba from Norway on Populating Mosques. He said:

☉ *"And they swear by Allah their strongest oaths that, if thou command them, they will surely go forth. Say, 'Swear not; what is required is actual obedience in what is right. Surely, Allah is well aware of what you do.'" (Holy Qur'an 24:54)*

☉ Therefore, office-holders, whether at a halqa level or national level, should observe the highest standards of purdah and their attitudes should be in line with the Holy Qur'an so that they become models for other lajna members and children.

Khutba 9/30/11

Furthermore in his Address to Lajna Germany at their Ijtema, 9/17/2011, Hudhur spoke about the importance of keeping our trusts as office holders: The Lajna President should be careful not to keep such women in her Aamilah, which do not fulfill the requirements such as observing purdah. If a Lajna President keeps a non-purdah observing woman in her Aamilah then she is not delivering the right of her trust.

Please note, Purdah is an obligation on every Muslim woman - not just office holders.

### **Slide 10**

Regarding our obligations to each other:

☉ **Beautify our Mosques with Taqwa**

### **Slide 11**

We must cleanse our communities of

☉ Backbiting

☉ Suspicion

☉ Finding faults

☉ Inquisitiveness

☉ Cliques that exclude others

☉ Hatred & rancor in the heart

Tell your communities that these do not belong to the character of the Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup>. These are the agencies of discord, they prevent others from joining us and obstruct our purpose.

Instead we are each other's *Wali*

## Slide 12

*Wali* means Friend

- ① They possess feelings of great love and affection for each other.
- ① They are each others helpers; each others protectors
- ① They safeguard each other's matters
- ① They remove all worldly boundaries of caste or creed to create feelings of love, affection and bonding.

Khutba 6/26/10

These are Hudhur's beautiful words on the meaning of *Wali* from our Tarbiyat program of last quarter, Hudhur's Address to Lajna Germany at Jalsa 2010 – fulfilling the rights of mankind to inherit Paradise

## Slide 13

① O ye who believe! When the call is made for prayer on Friday, hasten to the remembrance of Allah, and *leave off all business*. That is better for you, if you only knew. (62:10)

So far all the reminders towards becoming a dynamic community I have given could be coming up in our Lajna meetings – they are all in our Lajna Program.

Now I want to impress upon everyone the importance of stopping everything to come to Jummah.

Jummah is a special time of worship, which helps us to be free from the material traps:

The commentary of the above verse explains that at the time of the Messiah<sup>as</sup> trade and commerce will engross people's attention and they will consign God to oblivion. There will also be all sorts of amusements, sports and pastimes to divert the attention and cause greater forgetfulness of God.

The story in the Qur'an of how the Jews saw the fish coming to the surface on their Sabbath Day, because the fish were accustomed to that day being a 'no fishing' day tells us about our own dilemma. The Jews found it too tempting to see such an abundance of fish and could not refrain from 'business'...

It is important to remember that a person cannot be interested in God who is locked up in material pursuits.

More women are going to work these days. How can it be that our husbands are told - you must leave your work to attend Jumma but your wife can go to work? It makes no sense of the Qur'anic teaching which emphatically explains: O ye who believe! ... *leave off all business*.

In the Jumma prayer there is a time when Allah will accept the prayers of the supplicant.

It is a time to pray in anguish:

- For the people suffering under cruel persecution
- For our own selves and our children that we can be a true servant of Allah in the community of the Promised Messiah <sup>as</sup>

#### **Slide 14**

 The Promised Messiah (as) has taught us that unless there is absolute anguish and tenderness in the heart, which beseeches the Mercy of the Lord, that supplication will have no value in the sight of God Almighty. This anguish of the heart is a pre-condition for the acceptance of prayer.

Khutba 10/07/11

We just heard in Hudhur's beautiful Khutba on 'Increase in Fervor of Supplications' how necessary it is to come to prayer in a state of agitation...

The prayer must have a profound effect on us. We give ourselves over to Allah, our soul is standing there before the Almighty King yearning to be cleansed, seeking forgiveness and imploring for His help...

#### **Slide 15**

***GUIDE US IN THY BRIGHT PATH***

#### **Slide 16**

It was the subject of our Jalsa 2011

 "Blessed are you who do not get tired in your prayers and your souls melt while you pray, and your eyes shed tears, and a fire is lit in your breasts and you are driven into dark chambers and desolated jungles seeking solitude, and you are rendered restless and mad and unconscious of self, for in the end you will become the recipients of Grace."

(Lecture Sialkot, Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup>)

#### **Slide 17**

***DYNAMIC***

 Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> says:

## “Jump into the Abyss!” Our Teaching

So that Allah will catch you in His Loving arms... The giving of our self to Allah must be complete... We have to make the inner change.. Our Islam is not a formula. We may find it by immersing ourselves in Allah... like the immigrants who leave their homeland and make the change into their new environment... we don't know what it will be like when we make that migration.. Jump into the Abyss!

We have to leave our habits, social customs and other patterns of behavior that once analyzed are not in tune with Islamic values. When people do that they become engaging, dynamic... they have a purpose, they know what they must do

### Slide 18

Each Ahmadi has taken the Bai'at of the one commissioned by God, the ardent lover of the Holy Prophet <sup>saws</sup>, and pledges to sacrifice life, wealth and time ...

 To always be ready to sacrifice our lives, our wealth, our time...

 To make every sacrifice for the Khalifa & the Jamaat...

To attain the objective of bringing the message to others (10/14/11, Renaissance and Victory of Islam)

### Slide 19

An important example of being committed to our pledge is the story of Khlifatul Masih Awwal<sup>rz</sup>. Hadhrat Maulana Noorudeen<sup>rz</sup> took permission from Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> to administer to a patient some distance away from Qadian. Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> granted him permission but apparently somewhat casually said to him, **“But be back here by Fajr time”**. As Maulana Noorudeen<sup>rz</sup> began his return journey after tending to the patient, the weather turned bad with heavy torrential rain. He was traveling by horse and cart and with the heavy rains the road became thick mud. A wheel came off the cart. He proceeded to walk now that his cart was disabled. But in the thick mud his shoes were lost. Nevertheless he continued to walk so that he could ‘be back by Fajr time.’ His feet were cut and bleeding and he had to walk all through the night in the inclement weather. He did arrive at the time of Fajr. When Promised Messiah<sup>as</sup> came to lead the Fajr Prayer, before he started he said: Is Noorudeen here? Maulana Noorudeen simply answered:

### Slide 20

 **I AM HERE, HUDHUR**

He did not give the details of the anguished journey he had to undertake. His only reply was ‘I am here’.

The whole point of our Islam is to be ready to drop everything that we thought was important and say “I am here...” striving against all odds.

