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THE ISLAMIC SUNRISE

An Official Organ of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam[Lahore]

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After careful thinking and observation, I have decided to reissue the '**Islamic Sunrise**'. I regret it very much that this issue has taken so long to surface. Perhaps it is a blessing in disguise! I wish to thank those few people for expressing their support and concerns to make this newsletter a success once again. I pray and hope that this new beginning will become a lasting one. It is our desire that we have as many people as possible on our mailing list. After all, the concepts of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam(Lahore) have become the backbone of many of the 'Ulema's writers. With this newsletter, we hope to postulate quite a few concepts that will appeal to the general muslim, as well as non-muslim audience.

Introducing the Lahore Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam[Lahore]: Perhaps it is appropriate to allow The Founder, to expound on some of its precepts: Under reverence for the Holy Qur'an and Holy Prophet[p.b.u.h], he writes:"It is essential that you do not forsake the Holy Qur'an, for it is your life. Those who honour the Holy Qur'an shall be honoured in heaven. Those who give precedence to the Holy Qur'an over every tradition and saying shall be given precedence in heaven. There is no book on the face of the earth for the guidance of the world but the Holy Qur'an, and no apostle or intercessor for mankind, but the Holy Prophet Muhammad[p.b.u.h]. Endeavour to have true love for this Holy Prophet of honour and glory, and give not excellence to anyone over him, so that you may be included in heaven among those who are saved. Remember that salvation does not begin after death, rather, true salvation is that which reveals its light in this very life. Who is Saved? He who is certain that God is truth, and that the Holy Prophet is the intercessor between men and God. Under heaven there is no other apostle of equal rank with the Holy Prophet,[p.b.u.h] nor any Book of equal rank with the Holy Qur'an. For none has Almighty God willed an everlasting life, but for this chosen Holy Prophet[p.b.u.h] who lives forever".

FOR HIS FOLLOWERS:He continues to say, "O all of you who call yourselves my followers: You cannot be recognised as my followers upon heaven until you truly follow the path of righteousness. Say your five daily prayers with such awe and attention, as if you actually see Him. Keep your fasts faithfully for the sake of God. Everyone who is liable to pay Zakat must do so. If the Hajj to Mecca is obligatory upon you, and there is no impediment, you must perform it. Do good so as to love it well, and forsake evil so as to hate it. Know it for certain that no deed goes up to God which

is devoid of righteousness. Righteousness is the root of every goodness; if the root has not been neglected, the deed shall not go to waste either. It is necessary that you should be tried with various afflictions and adversities as the faithful before you were tried. Beware that you do not stumble!...You must suffer various afflictions and be deprived of long cherished hopes, but grieve not, for your God tries you as to your steadfastness in His path. If you wish that even the angels should praise you in heaven, rejoice when you are persecuted, and be thankful when you are abused, and sever not the tie when you meet with failures".

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE A STEP FURTHER BY TAKING THE BAI'AT: Read the next page for a description of the ten conditions of the bai'at which Hazrat Mirza sahib said he implemented under Divine guidance. It is important that we refresh ourselves with them now and then! Like with almost everything else, we have a tendency to forget the basic conditions which we should abide with. It is worthy to note that as followers of the Holy Prophet(p.b.u.h.), re-Hazrat Mirza Sahib, it is incumbent that we contemplate seriously on the following capsule of unparallel importance. It runs as follows:

"AGAIN, I say to you, do not consider it sufficient that you have performed the outward act of taking the pledge(Bai'at-to join the Movement). An outward act is nothing; God looks at your hearts, and deals with you accordingly. I say this, and by it fulfil my duty of delivering the message, that sin is a poison, so do not take it. Disobedience to God is an abominable death. Avoid it. Pray that you may be given strength for it.

As far his True followers are concerned, Hazrat Mirza said:

"He, who while praying, does not consider God as being powerful to bring about everything, except where it is contrary to what the Almighty Himself has promised, is not of my Jamaat. He who forsakes not falsehood and deceit is not of my Jamaat. He who is embroiled in the greed of this world, not even raising his eyes to look at the next, is not of my Jamaat. He who does not truly give precedence to religion(Islam)over worldly interests is not of my Jamaat. He who does not repent fully of every evil and wickedness, such as drinking, unlawful earning, lust, dishonesty, bribery, and every form of iniquity, is not of my Jamaat.

Again, he said:"He who is not regular in the five daily prayers is not of my Jamaat. He who is not constantly supplicating before God, remembering Him with humility, is not of my Jamaat. He who forsakes not the sinful companion, who is casting a bad influence upon him, is not of my Jamaat. He who does not honour his parents, obeys them not in fair matters which are not against the Holy Qur'an, is not of my Jamaat. He who does not show gentleness and goodness towards his wife and her relatives is not of my Jamaat. He who deprives his neighbour of the least good is not of my Jamaat. He who is not willing to forgive those who wrong him, and is vindictive, is not of my Jamaat.

And again:"He who breaks in anyway the promise he made when taking the pledge(Bai'at)--to join this Movement, is not of my Jamaat. He who does not believe me to be the Promised Messiah and Mahdi is not of my Jamaat. He who is not ready to obey me in all fair matters is not of my Jamaat. He who mixes with the opponents(of this Movement)and nods in agreement with them is not of my Jamaat. Every murderer, fornicator, unrighteous, drunkard, thief, gambler, unfaithful, usurper, drunkard, wrongdoer, deceiver, fabricator, slanderer, of his brothers and sisters, and who does not repent of his wicked deeds, and leaves not bad company, is not of my Jamaat."

We belief that the Holy Prophet is the LAST Prophet!

CONDITIONS OF THE BAI'AT

Anyone who would like to be (and is initiated) in the Movement must pledge and abide with the following conditions:

Firstly, that until he is laid in his grave, he will shun all forms and shades of shirk (polytheism).

Secondly, that he will guard against falsehood, fornication, evil sight and every form of sin, evil, cruelty, dishonesty, disorder, and rebellion; and that moments of passion, he will on no account give in, however boisterous that passion may be.

Thirdly, that without fail, he will say his five prayers a day as enjoined by God and his Messenger, and that **to his best of his power**, he will say his Midnight [Tahajjud] Prayer, will invoke Divine blessings on the Holy Prophet (p.b.u.h.), will ask forgiveness for his sins and will with a truly loving heart, recall God's favours and glorify Him.

Fourthly, that he will do nothing in any way to injure his fellow human beings in general and the Muslims in particular--neither with the tongue, nor with the hand, nor in any other way.

Fifthly, that he will show fidelity to God under all circumstances--alike in prosperity and adversity, in pleasure and in pain, in time of bliss and affection; that he will resign himself to God under all conditions and will cheerfully bear all hardships and humiliations in His way; that in the hour of calamity he will not turn his back but will step yet onward.

Sixthly, that he will eschew all observances of evil customs or following the prompting of his lower nature, that he will thoroughly submit to the yoke of the Holy Qur'an, and in every walk of life he will hold the Word of God and His Messenger as his guiding principle.

Seventhly, that he will totally abstain from haughtiness and will live in humility, meekness and mildness.

Eighthly, that he will hold the honour of religion and sympathy for Islam dearer than everything else--dearer than his life, his wealth, his honour, his children, his kith and kin.

Ninthly, that he will make it a rule of his life to show sympathy towards all human beings out of love for God and that to the best of his power, he will use all God-given faculties and blessings for the benefit of humanity.

Tenthly, that binding himself with me (i.e. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam) in a fraternal bond in the way Allah, he will obey me in everything good, and will live up to his pledge till his death; that in this fraternal bond he will show such sincerity as is not met with in cases of blood relations or other worldly connections

There has remained nothing of Prophethood, except Mubasharaat [good news]-- Bukhari!

Look out for more interesting topics in forthcoming issues of The Islamic Sunrise, with more pages.

THE OBJECT OF RELIGION

by

The late Hazrat Kwajah Kamalu-ud-din

I have been requested to say something on the object of Religion, a subject which has caused such a diversity of opinion and confusion of ideas. It has created quite different theologies and diverse codes of morality in different parts of the world. Some say that the object of Religion is fulfilling when we give up all worldly affairs in pursuit of a Godly life. With them Religion stands for renunciation. Others think that the function of Religion consists in bringing purity of life into the world of every day.

With some, Religion in the best form, came to redeem humanity from eternal perdition by showing us the way to appease an angered Deity, and to create a sort of reconciliation between the Creator and the creature; as if we had incurred Divine wrath even before our birth, without any action on our part. In short, the object of Religion has been formulated in different accents and stresses in various quarters. But the last Book of God, I mean the Holy Qur'an epitomizes in it one word. It makes "falah" the object for which religion came to humanity from its Maker.

I have purposely given here the original word from the text, as I fail to find its proper equivalent in any other language. In its ordinary meaning the word "falah" in Arabic signifies success, but literally it means the burrowing out of what is hidden in anything. You cannot succeed in doing a thing of which you are not capable; consequently where there is a want of capacity, there is a want of success.

Success, therefore, consists in the working out of your latent faculties to your best ability. I am not concerned with what others say on the subject, but I have given you what the Holy Qur'an describes as the object of Divine Revelation to humanity. Whatever of noble and good is hidden you must come out, whatever is in the form of potentiality in human minds must be converted into actuality.

Some think to please God can be the only valid object of Religion. That is true, but one fails to understand in what consists the pleasure of God. If He created man for certain purpose, do we not incur His wrath, if, through our actions, we bring that purpose to nothing? Divine glorification does not mean the singing of hymns; that is bit lip-gratitude which will not please even an average man. What about God? Divine glorification, from the Holy Qur'an's point of view, consists of human edification, and in order to please God, we cannot do better than help Him in the accomplishment of that grand object for which man was created. Therefore, to please God is really to work out our own evolution, and to bring to realization what our creator has [placed in us. In this lies our whole success. The Holy Qur'an says the same elsewhere: *"He who purifies himself and through that purification reaches his full-fledgedness is successful, but he who has stunted his faculties meets failure."* Again the book says, when it defines man's religion: *"Turn your face strictly to the right Faith-Nature, given by God, on which He has created man; there cannot be change in the Make of God; it is the Religion."*

In these words we have been given our Religion. My Religion is my own nature and to live religion is to work it out. Study your own Nature, try to find out what inestimable treasures lies in it, discover means whereby you may bring your Nature to fruition, and you have found your religion. Revelation from God, according to the Holy Qur'an, therefore, came to enlighten us as to our own capacities, and to provide us with means to work them out to their perfection. To study your own Nature is, therefore to study your own religion. "One who has known his own self", so says the noble Prophet, "has known his own God". See what wonderful capabilities you possess, bring them to your fructification, and you have glorified your own Maker and live the best religion you can possibly live: and this is ISLAM.

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