

PRAYER, AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ATTAINING
DIVINE GRACE AND FAVOR

Sermon of Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih III; delivered at Rabwah, on October 30, 1970.

"And When My servants ask thee about Me, say, 'I answer the prayer of the supplicant when he prays to Me. So they should hearken to Me and believe in Me that they may follow the right way.'" (Holy Quran, 2:187)

"Say to the believers, 'But for your prayer to Him, my Lord would not care for you.'" (25:78)

Having recited the above verses of the Holy Quran, Hazrat Khalifatul-Masih said:

"Every moment of a believer's life should be spent in remembrance of Allah and in humble supplication to Him. We should never forget that Allah alone is the Source of life, and every aspect of life and subsistence is attained from Him. Man attains to ~~high positions by gradual progress, and this evolution is not possible without Allah's~~ favor and grace. There are different means of attaining Allah's grace and favor, mentioned in the Holy Quran and one of them, and a very effective one, is prayer, which man should never ignore. In truth, it would have been impossible for man to attain knowledge of Allah, had He not Himself by His grace, informed us of His existence and of being near to us. He loves us and He demonstrates His love through His affectionate word and Kind Behavior. He quickens the slumbering soul and intoxicates the sensible ones.

The question is: How can man experience God's nearness and love, without which life is not worth it. God says, "ask of Me, I will accept your prayer, and will thus grant you the capacity to do good deeds, which is the means of attaining nearness to Me."

From the verses I have recited now, it is clear that, as a result of acceptance of his prayer, man, by experiencing God's Glory, Power and Majesty, does righteous deeds cheerfully, the capacity to do which he gets from his Lord, and he gains in faith. Man cannot attain Divine favor and grace without knowing Him and being entirely His. Without Divine knowledge man cannot do the good deeds Allah wants him to do, nor can he have the progressive faith He wants him to have. God says, "I accept your prayers so that you may do good deeds cheerfully, and, as a result, your faith grow stronger and your Knowledge of God increases, and that you be blessed with right guidance and true success in life, ie., progressive nearness to Me, for which you have been created."

In short, as a result of prayer, man is blessed with increasing capacity to do good work and with progressive faith in and nearness to God. There are other ways, too, but this, too, is a beautiful and bright way to which Allah has drawn our attention in the Holy Quran. Man should not think that he can attain nearness to God by following the ways that lead him away from Him. It is self-contradictory. Man should never think that he can win the pleasure of God without the help of God. Man can do nothing without

Allah's help and succour. We should seek His assistance; we should pray to him; we should also beseech Him to accept our prayer and show us some sign and miracle of acceptance of prayer, and thus, through His Grace and Mercy, enable us to do good work cheerfully, and grow stronger in faith.

Man, by himself, can do nothing. Man should not allow himself to be misled by his low desires, he should not feed his passion; he should not be self-assertive and vain. Meekness should be his very nature and humility his conduct. Allah says, "Say to the believers, 'But for your prayer to Him, my Lord would not care for you.'" God is self-sufficient. He is not in need of you, you are in need of Him. If you do not realize this, dependence upon Him, if you do not seek honor from Him to have honor in this world; if, even to get the laces of your shoes, you consider yourself capable enough, physically and financially, you are undone, you are doomed. If you do not knock at the door of that Self-Sufficient Being with prayer - the Being Who does not depend on you, on Whom you are dependent every moment - you are ruined.

So, we should not be careless; We should not be negligent. Even as our Dear and Beloved Lord does neither sleep nor slumber, we, too, should try to keep awake to the extent He has given us power to do so. In this way we, too, may, though on a small scale, reflect His attribute mentioned in the Holy Quran - "Slumber seizes Him not, nor sleep." We should have an ardent desire to reflect in ourselves all His attributes, including this one.

So, when you reflect this Divine attribute, ie., you are never careless and neglectful; when you realize that you are nothing, He is everything - He alone is All-Mighty; ~~when you realize that He does not depend upon you for anything~~, rather, you depend on Him for everything, you will attain His nearness and pleasure, and He will accept your prayers and show you signs of His Power.

May God grant that every moment we feel - and this feeling be ever existent in our heart - that at every moment and in every matter and in every affair we are dependent on Him! May our struggle to attain His grace and favor continue for ever in our lives and be ever entitled to His Grace and Mercy! Amen!

NOTICE!!

The Missionary-in-Charge will, Insha-Allah, be away from the States for about a month effective 12th of June. He will go to Canada under instructions of the Center. He earnestly requests the prayer of all brothers and sisters for his safe and successful trip. All letters intended for him should be sent to his Dayton address as usual, from where they will be redirected to him in Canada.

NEW CONVERTS - By the Grace of Allah, two young people of Dayton have joined the Holy Movement in this month. May Allah grant them steadfastness and all-around progress.

TABLIGH (PROPAGATION) DAY ON JUNE 27

Please observe Tabligh Day on June 27 by distributing handbills abundantly, visiting friends and relatives in their houses or inviting them to your own houses.

OBITUARY

We announce with great sorrow the demise of our Brother, Abdul Hamid of Pittsburgh, who passed away recently, Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajioon (To Allah we belong, and to Him we shall return). He was one of the most sincere and senior member of the Jamat. May Allah bless him with a lofty position in Heaven and may Allah grant his family to the separation. Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolence to his family and to the Pittsburgh Jamat.

AMERICAN MISSION NEWS

Washington - Friday Prayers and Sunday Meetings were regularly held. In the absence of the Missionary, Brother Abdul Wadud led the Friday Prayer and also conducted the Sunday Meeting. The financial secretary of the Mission submitted his report and also handed over the dues to the Headquarters. The Mission arranged a party to say farewell to Br. Syed Jawad Ali and welcome to Br. Maqbul A. Qureshi. The Missionary-in-Charge and some members from Philadelphia and New York also participated in the function. The Missionary-in-Charge of the Circle, Br. Maqbul A. Qureshi in addition to performing his enormous duties as Secretary, accompanied the Chief Missionary during his tour over the eastern coast from Washington to Boston. He had also to take care of Br. Muhammad Haroon Isa, a sincere member of the Washington Jamat who suddenly had an attack of mental disease. Members are requested to pray for his speedy and perfect recovery. Amen.

Baltimore - Br. Abdul Hafeez, President, reports that they had regular Juma Services and Sunday Meetings. In one of their meetings there were five visitors who were supplied with information as well as literature about Islam. They had children's class and Khuddam's meeting too. Brother Abdur Rahman, although doing better now, is still in hospital. Sister Saliha is out of the hospital but is still under treatment. Members are requested to pray for their complete and early cure. Expressing felicity at the visit of their Mission by the Missionary-in-Charge and the Missionary of their Circle, he writes: "We all enjoyed having you and Br. M.A. Qureshi visit our little Mission. My wife and I feel honored to have you visit our little home and have lunch with us. So, please, come again to see us soon, it is a pleasure to have you in our midst."

New York - Br. Muhammad Sadiq, President, reports that they had regular Friday Service, Sunday Meeting and Children's Class. Br. Yusef Lateef gave two lectures at a high School in New Jersey. The subject was "The Physical, Moral, and Spiritual States of Man". After each lecture copies of "Teachings of Islam" were distributed. He gave a Third lecture at a church before a congregation of about 300 people. The topic was, "Threefold Reformation of Man" and "State of Man After Death". Literature was distributed on this occasion, too. May Allah bless all his services with good result and grant him capacity and opportunity to serve His cause more in future! Amen.

The financial report of the Mission shows that, by the Grace of Allah, the Mission has made considerable progress in monthly subscription. Five members have paid from fifty to eighty dollars detailed as: Br. Yusef Lateef - \$39.41; Br. Majid Ali - \$65.00; Br. Bashir Afzal - \$60.00; Br. Muhammad Sadiq - \$60.00; Sr. Iqbal Lateef - \$50.00. The rest of the members also have paid handsome amounts, some 30, some 25, some 20 and few below 10. The total subscription is \$496.41. Alhamdulillah! May Allah bless them and their income and enable them to make ever more sacrifices in His Cause! Amen!

Chicago - Br. Abdul Karim, President, reports that the Chicago Mission had regular Friday Prayer. Br. Abdul Latif Ahmad, Correspondent Secretary, writes that recently he received a letter from the leader of the Black Muslim Movement, Elijah Muhammad, who says, that it is immaterial what people think about his claim or how he teaches Islam, because God came in the person of Fard Muhammad and taught and raised him up as his messenger to raise up the dead blacks in North America and he is doing it. His assertion that God came in the person of a weak human being shows what sort of Islam he teaches. Br. Lateef also invited him to come himself or send some of his

representatives to the Ahmadiyya Mosque or to allow some Ahmadi to go to his temple to discuss Islam, but he did not accept any. Br. Lateef sent some Arabic and English literature to the keeper of the Central Mosque of Medina and also to South Africa. May Allah bless all his propagational activities with good result! Amen!

Zion City - By the Grace of Allah, a new Jamat has been established in Zion City, Ill. with Br. Falahuddin Shams as President. Here in 1903 a Mighty sign was shown by Allah, by causing Alexander Dowie to die a miserable death in the lifetime of the Promised Messiah, peace and blessings of Allah be on him, in fulfillment of his prophecy. Let us hope and pray that Zion will now become a center of Islamic activities. Amen! The Secretary, Sr. Tanvir, reports that they had Sunday Meetings and collected \$100 as monthly subscription during February and March, half of which was sent to Headquarters. They also helped in preparing handbills for distribution.

Pittsburgh - The President of the Mission, Br. Jameellur Rahman, reports that they held Sunday meetings, Juma services, and children's class regularly and that they cleaned the Mosque twice every month. The Khuddam distributed literature in the Mosque area. They complied with requests for literature received from several correctional Institutions. ~~X~~ Br. Ahmad Shaheed who had been in the hospital has been transferred to a rehabilitation center. By the Grace of Allah, he is doing far better now. Members are requested to pray fervently for his speedy and perfect cure. Amen. Sr. Aliyya Shaheed expresses her deepest appreciation for the prayers, concern, cards and many other expressions shown to her and her husband so far, and requests continuation of prayer for her husband's speedy and perfect cure.

Detroit - Sr. Fatima, Secretary of the Mission, reports that they had Juma services and Lajna meetings. Sr. Mujeeba who was hospitalized for about a week is back home and doing better. Members are requested to pray for her perfect health.

Hartford, Conn. - Br. Ahmad Saeed reports that he has been sending letters, passing handbills on the streets and meeting people at their homes. He had three handbills duplicated for distribution in the month of March at a cost of \$19.95. He also sent cablegram to Pakistan in repudiation of the false statement against our Movement published in the "Azad" Lahore. May Allah amply reward him for all these services and grant him capacities to serve His cause ever more and produce good result thereof! Amen!

Sante Fe, California - Br. Ikramul Haq Jattala informs that he has been distributing literature he received from Washington. He has received invitation for friendly discussion with some Jehovah Witnesses and a "Father" of a church. He is experiencing some financial difficulties. May Allah solve his difficulties. He conveys his Salam and request for prayer to all members.

Milwaukee - Bro. Abdul Malik, President, reports that they are having regular Friday services and Sunday Meetings which is programmed as follows: 12 A.M. to 1 P.M. - Lajna and Khuddam's Meetings; 1 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. - Arabic Class; 1:30 to 2:00 P.M. - Salat or Prayer - 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. - Reading of the Holy Quran - 4:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. - One lecture by some member. At the end of the program they have refreshments which is followed by Maghrib or Evening Prayer. They also have business meeting on the first Sunday of the Month. This is a nice program. Other Missions also may follow it. The Jamat contributed \$1000 for the St. Louis Mosque. They are trying to buy a building for their own Mission and ask prayer to be able to do so soon. Members are requested to pray that Allah grant them success in this Holy endeavor! Amen! The Khuddam sold books of the Movement and distributed pamphlets. Sr. Mubarika Malik, Br. Abdul Malik delivered some lectures at some local schools. May Allah produce good result of all their activities! Amen!

Jackson, Miss. - Dr. Qazi Barkatullah informs that he sent telegram to the Editor, the "Azad", Pakistan protesting the publication of an entirely false statement against our Movement.

Toronto, Canada - Br. Khalil Ahmad Chaudhry also informs that he and some other members of Toronto sent protest telegrams as well as letters.

Dayton - Besides regular Sunday meeting and Friday congregational services, a class was held every Saturday to teach Prayer, Principles and Practices of Islam and reading of Arabic. The Khuddam (youths), the Ansar (elders) and the Lajna (sisters Organization) held their respective meetings. The Lajna is also having an Arts & Crafts Class every Wednesday.

Several visitors came to the Mosque for information, prominent among whom were some college students and an Egyptian Muslim. They were supplied with verbal information as well as literature.

On an invitation from a local church, the Missionary delivered a lecture on Islam to a group of members of the church. The lecture was highly appreciated. A member of the Mission also accompanied the Missionary and distributed and sold literature. Literature was also presented to the Pastor and Ministers who accepted it with thanks.

On an invitation from the Mayor of the City of Dayton, the Missionary, accompanied by a member of the Mission, participated in the Annual Luncheon meeting of the Dayton Human Relations Council.

The Missionary had been out on tour, visiting the Eastern Coastal Missions of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston. He also attended the Presidents' meeting held at Athens.

The Khuddam, the Ansar and the Sisters propagated Islam by individual contact and distribution of literature. One Khadim went to Michigan and distributed pamphlets and sold literature worth \$36.35 among his relatives, friends and acquaintances. One Khadim has donated a nice double toaster to the Mission, and one sister a valuable cooking pot.

The Lajna sisters rendered commendable services in typing and stenciling materials for the magazines, and writing addresses on envelopes. Sisters, brothers and children helped in stapling, packing and dispatching, too. May Allah bless them all, and reward them amply for the holy and selfless services they are rendering to His Cause! Amen! One zealous young brother, Falahuddin, who had some nervous trouble and had been in the hospital for some days is now back home, Alhamdulillah. Members are requested to pray for the full restoration of his health. Amen!

Protest Telegram & Letters

Several other members and Missions of the U.S.A. also sent such telegrams and letters. It may be mentioned in this connection that the Editor of the "Azad" Lahore, Pakistan, in its issue of March 23, published a down-right false statement made by Mian Tufail Muhammad, Leader, Jamat Islamia, Lahore, to the effect that the Head of the Ahmadiyya Community conspired at Washington in collaboration with Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel and Suran Sing, Foreign Minister of India, to put an end to Pakistan. An entirely unfounded statement. The Head of the Community never set foot in America, and the Ahmadiyya Community has always been exhorting his followers to serve Pakistan and make sacrifices for it to the best of their capacities and has further been praying and exhorting the community to pray fervently for the security, solidarity and welfare of Pakistan.

The above News are of March-April. News of May will, Insha-Allah, be published in the next Gazette.

KHUDDAM'S CORNER

(Duties of Different Nazims or National Office Holders)

(Continued from previous issue)

Nazim-i-Maal (Financial Secretary):

His duty is to make necessary arrangements for the collection of:

1. Khuddam's dues at the rate of 1% of one's net income, or, at least, one dollar a month from those who cannot afford to pay at the abovementioned rate.
2. Atfal's dues at the rate of a quarter a month.
3. Donation for the Central Hall at the rate of one dollar per head, per year, or 1% of one month's income throughout the year from those who can afford.
4. Donation for the Annual Rally at the same rate as mentioned above.

For the collection of the above-mentioned dues the Nazim should:

1. Send occasional circulars or reminders to the different Majlises.
2. Demand financial reports from Majlises.
3. Get budgets of income prepared by Majlises. To facilitate preparation of budget, budget forms may be supplied to Majlises.

The Nazim-i-Maal should also exhort Khuddam to pay monthly subscription to the Jamat at the prescribed rate of 7%.

He should also exhort the Khuddam to participate in Tahrik-i-Jadid (Donation for propagation of Islam in Foreign lands), Waqf-i-Jadid (Donation for Propagation of Islam in rural areas at the rate of half a dollar a month) and Nusrat Jahan Reserve Fund.

The Nazim should also procure a separate report of Khuddam's participation in the aforesaid activities.

Nazim, Social Service:

The function of this Department is to take care of the poor and the needy, and to try to solve social problems. The greatest problem that confronts our society here to-day is the problem of the marriage of our youths. So the Nazim of this Department should make necessary arrangements for the marriage of our youths with Ahmadi girls. The Khuddam should be made to take a vow that they would, in no case, marry a non-Ahmadi girl.

The Nazim should prepare a list of all the marriageable Khuddam of the Jamat, with details of age, qualification, profession, date of initiation into the Movement, and parentage, and then try to get a similar list of the marriageable girls with the help

of the Social Secretary, Lajna Imaullah, and then try to arrange marriage between suitable parties ~~by~~ negotiation.

In this connection the Nazim should bring home to the Khuddam that dating and premarital sexual relations are not allowed in Islam, nor are dancing and drinking.

The Nazim of Social Service should also exhort the Khuddam, from time to time, to help fellow-beings to the best of their capacities, with money, labor, medical aid, counsel procuring job, etc.

Nazim, Health & Hygiene, should draw attention of the Khuddam, from time to say, by circulars, to the necessity of:

(1) Physical Exercise; (2) cleanliness, particularly, cleaning of teeth, (3) using perfumes in congregations, (4) abstaining from smoking, (5) studying books on health and hygiene. Some suitable book on health and hygiene may also be prescribed, and test given.

Nazim, Dignity of Labor, should exhort the Khuddam, from time to time, by circulars and through the Gazette, to clean Mosques, Mission Houses, their own houses and environments; to wash their own clothes; to polish their own shoes; to lay out gardens or grassy lawns in the yards of Mosques, Mission Houses and their own houses, and so on.

Nazim, Atfal (Boys between 7 and 15) should prepare a register of all Atfal of the Jamat with particulars of parentage, age, education and address.

He should organize a Majlis-i-Atfalullah (Boys Association) wherever there are three or more Atfal, with one "Muntazim as their head. If there are less than three, they should be advised to group with the Majlis of Khuddam. Each Majlis of Atfal should have a Murabbi (Guardian) appointed from among the Khuddam or Ansar, who should be a specially righteous and pious person.

A course of study for the year should be fixed and occasional tests should be given.

Competitions in "Azan" (Call to Prayer), Recitation, Memorizing Verses of the Holy Quran, speeches and essay-writing should also be held.

Meetings - weekly or fortnightly, games - like badminton, pingpong, etc. should also be organized in Majlises.

A Parents' Days - Nation-wide or circle-wide - should also be observed once or twice a year. Details about the Parents' Day will, Insha-Allah, be given in the next Gazette.

May Allah enable all office-holders to give proper attention to and carry out their respective duties and obligations! Amen!

AS THE DUTIES OF THE DIFFERENT NAZIMS HAVE NOW BEEN FULLY EXPLAINED, THE NAZIMS SHOULD MAKE PROGRAMS OF ACTIVITIES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPARTMENTS, INFORM THE ZAIMS, AND SEE THAT THE PROGRAMS ARE CARRIED OUT.

Subj. Bushra

AN EXECUTIVE MEETING OF THE NAZIMS WILL, INSHA-ALLAH, BE HELD SOON AT WASHINGTON, TO CHALK OUT THE PROGRAMS BY MUTUAL CONSULTATION. THE QAID WILL MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MEETING. BROTHER MAQBOOL A. QURESHI WILL, INSHA-ALLAH, PRESIDE OVER THE MEETING, AND BLESS IT WITH HIS WISE COUNSEL AND GUIDANCE.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ZAIMS

Khuddamul-Ahmadiyya Majlises

The President of the Central Khuddamul-Ahmadiyya Association, has demanded lists of the Khuddam of different Majlises with the following particulars: (1) Age, (2) Education, (3) Date of Initiation, (4) Nationality, (5) Occupation. These lists should be supplied to the Center as early as possible.

Zaims of Majlises are, therefore, requested to prepare lists of Khuddam of their respective Majlises, in the afore-said manner, and send three copies thereof to the Naib-Sadr, who will then send one to the Center, retain one for himself and send one to the Qaid for record.

ELECTION OF OFFICE-HOLDERS OF MILWAUKEE MAJLIS

Zaim - Br. Basharat Sabur - General Secretary - Br. Basheer Malik - Education Secretary - Br. Mubarak Ahmad.

May Allah enable these newly-elected office-holders to carry out their duties satisfactorily! Amen!

BALTIMORE MAJLIS

The Zaim, Brother Yahya Abdullah, reports the Khuddam presented copies of "Teachings of Islam" to some army officers and students, collected Khuddam dues, and are studying "Life of Muhammad". One Khadim, Captain Abdus Salam Khan, gave a dinner and lecture to a group of Christians in the ship. He lectured to another group in a private house. One "Tifl" (boy) was examined by the Missionary-in-Charge, while visiting Baltimore, and being pleased with his answer almost all of which were correct, awarded him the prize of "Sitara-i-Atfal" (Atfal Star). May Allah bless this Atfal with increasing knowledge of Islam! Amen!

PROPAGATION CAMPAIGN AT CHICAGO, ON MAY 20, A WONDERFUL SUCCESS

In compliance with decision of the Presidents' meeting, a National Propagation Campaign was organized in Chicago. Besides members of the Chicago Mission, a number of Khuddam and Ansars from St. Louis, Waukegan and Milwaukee and the Missionaries, too, participated and flooded the city with distribution of 75,000 handbills. Br. Rasheed Ahmad organized the distributors into groups and sent them to important centers of the city and supervised their activities and supplied them with handbills, if exhausted. Sis. Bushra Husain designed the handbills - eight in kinds and one hundred thousand in number - in very attractive and interest-provoking manner and got them printed in her own press. May Allah reward her amply! Hundreds of people were seen reading the handbills to prove how interesting they were. Members were provided with food and lodging by the Chicago Mission, and Lajna. May Allah reward them all! Amen!

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