

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Friday Sermon Summary 18th August 2023

'Verily, Allah commands you to make over the trusts to those entitled to them.'

(The Holy Qur'an, 4:59)

The Concept of Trust and Responsibilities

- Huzoor (aba) said that it is narrated in a Hadith that any position in which one is entrusted to see matters pertaining to others is a trust.
- Within the system of the Jama'at, any position or service to which a person is appointed is a trust.

Selection Process and Qualities of Office Bearers

- Office bearers are appointed at every level, whether locally, regionally, nationally, the local centre or the auxiliaries. Hence, it is commanded to select those who, in the people's view, are worthy of holding that office or position.
- There should be no consideration for prior friendships or relationships when suggesting or selecting office holders.
- We should always strive to select the best among us, and do so through prayer
- One Should Not Seek Position or Rank

Serving the Faith with Passion and Humility

- Everyone should have the passion and zeal to serve the faith, however, this service should be in whatever way is asked or required of them.
- We should always bear in mind that we should try to select those who will do justice to the trust that will be placed on them, not due to any friendship, relationship, or simply because they look around and see that many people have raised their hands during an election.
- This year in certain places, elections will be held for the auxiliary organisations. Those who comprise the electoral bodies should, according to the command of God, justly offer their opinion and present their recommendation to the Huzoor (Aba). If we fulfil this duty with justice, then we will have a firm role to play in the progress of the Community.

Fulfilling Duties and Responsibilities

- Those who are already office holders should always remain aware of their responsibilities. They should always understand that God has given them an opportunity to serve, and so they must carry out their work above any personal gain and do so only to attain the pleasure of God. They should bow with even more humility.
- Huzoor (Aba) said that there are also those who do not carry out their work correctly and when asked for a report leave work for pending until constant reminders are given. Such people must reform themselves, otherwise they will be removed from their posts.

- Responsibilities of Office Bearers- First and foremost is to adopt humility. It should be borne in mind that Allah is always watching and in fact, such people are under even greater scrutiny from God.
- They should work with the mentality that if they have been selected and then approved by the Caliph of the Time, then they must carry out their work to the best of their abilities.

Spiritual and Practical Aspects of Service

- If Tarbiyyat secretaries were to undertake the moral training of the Community in a loving manner, then they could bring about a revolution.
- **Every office bearer should offer at least two units of voluntary prayer every day for the betterment of their office and for God to bestow His blessings.**
- Huzoor (aba) said that in his estimation, if the Tarbiyyat department were to become active, then the work of other departments would automatically improve by at least 70%.
- It should always be remembered that office bearers must establish their examples, especially the Amirs, presidents and Tarbiyyat secretaries, and of course, all other office holders as well.

Active Involvement and Serving as Servants

- Huzoor (aba) said that in the auxiliary organisations as well, they will have to become active at every level, whether at the President level or the administrative body under them.
- Huzoor (Aba) said that office bearers are not there to simply sit on stages, rather they are to serve as ordinary workers.
- Every office bearer should bear in mind that, as the Holy Prophet (sa) said, the leader of a nation is the servant of the nation. Similarly, it is the responsibility of office bearers to establish personal connections with the members of the Community in order to foster mutual ties of love.

Accountability and Consequences of Negligence

- The Holy Prophet (sa) said that if one who is entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing other people is negligent in their responsibilities to them, then God will forbid them from Paradise. This is a great warning and cause for great concern.
- The Holy Prophet (sa) is also recorded to have said that everyone has the responsibility of overseeing something, and they will be questioned about it on the Day of Judgement.

Meaning of Overseeing and Misrepresentation

- Overseeing others refers to the responsibility of helping and reforming others, not to simply rule. If this responsibility is not fulfilled, then according to the Holy Prophet (sa), paradise becomes forbidden.
- If office bearers are not properly conducting their work and are simply calling themselves representatives of the Caliph of the time in name alone, then they misrepresent the Caliph of the time and are also putting the Caliph at fault.
- Huzoor (Aba) said that he too does istighfar (seeking forgiveness from God), and such people should also do the same and reform themselves.

- The Holy Prophet (sa) said that a person who is given the responsibility of overseeing the needs of other Muslims, Allah will not fulfil that person's needs until they fulfil the needs of others.

Implementation, Reformation, and Prioritising Faith

- Office bearers should not think that they have done their duty by sitting in meetings. Not only must they plan for the betterment of others, but they must also practically implement them as well.
- Every office bearer must reform their own homes and then look to reform the rest of the Community. We must fulfil our pledge of giving precedence to our faith over worldly matters. Office bearers at all levels must pay due attention to this.

Addressing Communication and Fulfilling Needs

- Huzoor (aba) assured the Jama'at that every letter sent to him is opened, read, and the required steps in relation to it are taken. If there is any delay or discrepancy it is on the part of the local chapters of the Community who then create doubts because of their actions. They make themselves sinful by playing in such a manner with the faith of others.
- The Holy Prophet (sa) stated that any leader who closes their doors to the needs of others, the heavens become closed for their needs. Thus, office bearers should be fearful of God and be quick to fulfil the needs of the members, or at the very least be swift in providing their report.
- Huzoor (aba) said that it is by fulfilling these trusts that will bring about a beautiful Islamic society, the establishment for which the Promised Messiah (as) was sent.

The Path of Righteousness for Office Bearers

- Office bearers should always remember that they have been elected by the members of the Jama'at so that they may fulfil this trust and so they must do so whilst bearing the fear of God in their hearts, for the sake of attaining His pleasure and to become the true helpers of the Caliph of the time. When this is the mentality, then Allah will bestow His blessings and render His help. If not for this, then we will be straying from righteousness and being dishonest to God, the Caliph and breaking the trust people placed in them thereby becoming a means of testing the faith of others.
- His Holiness (aba) said that every Ahmadi pledges to tread with righteousness and to give precedence to their faith over worldly matters, however this applies even more to office bearers; they must fulfil their pledges and trusts, the duties entrusted to them with righteousness and all of their abilities.

