

Muhammad the Modern Prophet

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THE HOLY PROPHET—A MERCY FOR ALL PEOPLES

THE FINALITY OF PROPHETHOOD **An Eternal Verity and Inviolable Sanctity**

HAZRAT MAULANA SADRUDDIN'S INSPIRING
ADDRESS IN THE LIAQAT BAGH, RAWALPINDI

JAMAAT AHMADIYYA, Rawalpindi, arranged a tea-party in the Liaquat Bagh Press Club in honour of Hazrat Ameer Maulana Sadr-ud-Din on the occasion of its annual Jalsa. Three hundred people representing the intellectual elite were invited to this specially-arranged function. Some venerable women were also present. Hazrat Ameer delivered an illuminating and instructive lecture on the high and noble ideals preached by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him). He proved that the sweet reasonableness and the immortal usefulness of his universal teachings continue to capture the imagination of the present age of reason and enlightenment. They have vindicated their utility and practicability, hence their unmatched superiority for all times and climes. This alone throws into sharp relief the fundamental truth that he was the Seal

of the Prophets and there can be no one after him to claim that allegiance to him is obligatory and a part of faith.

As the speech contains a captivating picture of the refulgent and august personality of the Holy Prophet—as the Seal of Prophets—a liberal (not literal) translation is given in *The Light* for the benefit of its readers. The learned discourse had a profound effect as it undeceived many who were labouring under false delusions.

Hazrat Ameer Maulana Sadr-ud-Din recited Surah Fatiha and said:

The subject of my speech is that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) is the Seal of the Prophets and will remain so till the end of the world. God in His abundant Mercy sent him as a Mercy for all peoples and for the guidance of mankind fourteen hundred years ago. One can ask oneself if a teaching which is fourteen hundred years old, can be of any use in the present age of epoch-making scientific advancement. But if one sincerely ponders over this point, one will come to the inevitable conclusion that the Code of Life which the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) gave to mankind is as fresh and as comprehensive as ever. It comprehends and fully meets the needs and exigencies of the

Modern Age, because it ethically prepares a man to live usefully and peacefully.

Equality of Mankind

The Holy Quran beigns by saying: الحمد لله رب العالمين The word "Alam" means a symbol or a mark. If one casts a searching glance on the universe, one feels thoroughly convinced that everything bears a distinctive mark. This proves and establishes the fact that it is not created by man, but is the creation of the Omnipotent God. There are multifarious gradations and groups. God claims that He alone has created them. He sustains them. All animals—carnivorous and gramnivorous—and all human beings of all hues and races are His creatures and He provides them with the requisite living. It is evident that this concept of God and His relation with His creatures, can emanate from a person who believes that mankind is God's creation and also knows how to behave accordingly.

Hidebound Concept of Hindus and Jews

The Hindus who happen to be the neighbours of Pakistan are so narrow-minded that they regard all the non-Hindu human beings as untouchables. They cannot sit and eat on a carpet or at a table where a Muslim is also sitting.

A Hindu feels that the dirt innate in a Muslim emanates from him like an electric current and contaminates his food. Evidently the non-Hindus are relegated to the lowest rung of a social ladder. In Bharat ten crore scheduled caste people live at a subhuman level. On the same lines, a Jew believes that all non-Jews are dirty and impure. Hence they are not eligible for the mercy and blessings of God. They are also not fit to receive right guidance. Jesus Christ was a great Prophet of God. But he belonged to the Jewish race. He also followed the traditions of his race and exhorted his disciples to confine their preaching to the Jews and not to cast their pearls before the swine or give the bread of their children to the dogs. All other nations also swear by the racial pride and prejudice and enforce apartheid in one form or other.

Europe's Inhuman Behaviour

Even in this Age of Reason, Europe feels that its inhabitants are Heaven-born and the Easterners do not deserve to be treated as human beings.

The Holy Prophet's Unique Universal Teaching

In a striking contrast to the hidebound doc-

trines of other religions and ideologies, the first verse of the *Wahy* (Revelation in the Holy Quran) points to its unique universalism. It says that all human beings are God's creatures and are entitled to partake of His sustenance. His spiritual sustenance like His material sustenance is dispensed, without distinction of caste or race or country or nationality. The Holy Quran says: $\frac{۱۳}{۸}$ لكل قوم هاد
 God has sent the divinely-appointed Guides to all nations. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) is the first Prophet in the whole history of mankind who regarded and proclaimed all human beings as the creatures of God, hence rightfully eligible to His sustenance and he cemented them all with the ties of human fraternity. He proclaimed to the world that no one can become a Muslim by merely accepting and vocalizing his message unless he puts faith in all Prophets. It is in pursuance of this prophetic command that every Muslim child is taught to recite *آمنت بالله و ملائکته و کتبه و رسله* (I believe in God, His Angels, the Scriptures of all nations and the Prophets of all nations). Unless one has reverence for all the Prophets and the truths preached by them, one cannot become a real Muslim.

Captivating Concept of the Equality of Human Race

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) taught the world that the Unity of God is identified with the Unity of Mankind. When we tell the Hindus convincingly that Krishn Maharaj was an apostle and the elect of God and when we say the same thing to the Jews and Christians that Moses and Jesus were the Prophets of God and we believe in the truths preached by them, it will charm away their prejudices and draw them near and will forge links of love and affection with them.

Equal Sustenance for all Human Beings

The Holy Quran has addressed all the Muslims by saying: يا ايها الذين آمنوا (O ye people who believe); it has also addressed the whole humanity by saying: يا ايها الناس In the earlier verses it says:

يا ايها الناس اعبدوا ربكم الذى خلقكم

(O ye people, worship your Lord Who created you)

والذين من قبلكم لعلكم تتقون الذى جعل لكم الارض فراشاً
والسما بناءً

(and those who were before you so that you may become God-fearing Who made the earth a bed for

you and the heaven a roof.) The Holy Quran says:

هو الذى جعل الشمس ضياء والقمر نوراً

(He it is Who made the sun a brilliant light and the moon reflected a lustre) (10: 6) To drive home the teaching of the Oneness of God and the consequent Oneness of human beings, the Holy Quran says:

هو الذى انزل من السماء ماء فاخرجنا به نبات كل شىء

(And it is He Who sends down water from the cloud and We bring forth therewith every kind of growth (6: 99). At another place, the Holy Quran says:

انا صببنا الماء صباً ثم شققنا الارض شققا فانبتنا فيها حباً و عنباً و قصباً
وزيتوناً ونخلاً

(Verily, We pour down abundant water and make the earth burst with vegetation. Then We cause to grow therein grains, and grapes, and vegetables and olive and date-palm) (80: 27-30).

Equipment for Spiritual Sustenance of Mankind

In the verses quoted above, there is a reference to the rains needed for man's physical welfare. The Holy Quran is also a heavenly rainfall, and the heavens and the earth are harnessed to meet the bodily needs. God has in the same way made adequate provisions for the spiritual sustenance

of mankind. Man is a sort of animal. But he enjoys superiority over other animals by possessing mind and heart. God has simultaneously arranged for the well-being of man's body and man's soul. As He rained water from the heavens, He revealed the Divine Books as a rainfall for the soul, to refresh and sustain it.

Reference to the Righteous Among the People of the Book

The foregoing observations are a preface to the fact that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) is the Mercy for the Worlds. His Holy Person was a perpetual blessing of God for the entire world. This claim should now be established by quoting chapter and verse in its support. He did not remain content by saying that the Muslims alone are the people of God, He went to far as to say that wherever some Heavenly Person made his appearance or wherever some nation was blessed by the presence of a person from on High, there certainly were righteous people. In the Holy Quran there is a reference to the *Ahle Kitab* (The People of the Book). There it says:

ليسوا سوا من اهل الكتاب امة قائمة يتلون آيات الله انا الليل وهم يسجدون - يومنون بالله واليوم الآخر و يأمرون بالمعروف وينهون عن

المنكر و يسارعون في الخيرات و اولئك من الصالحين .

(They are not all alike. Among the People of the Book, there is a party who stand by their covenant; they recite the word of God in the hours of night and prostrate themselves before Him. They believe in God and the Last Day, and enjoin what is good and forbid evil, and hasten, vying with one another, in good words. And these are among the righteous) (3: 109-110).

This is an indubitably clear declaration of a belief that there are righteous people among other nations. This is reinforced by another verse: وما يفعلوا من خير فلن يكفروه (And whatever good they do, they shall not be denied its due reward) (3: 116). It is very heartening that whatever good the righteous people do will be duly appreciated and rewarded. God says:

و من قوم موسى امة يهدون بالحق و به يعدلون

(And of people of Moses there is a party that exhorts people to truth and does justice therewith) (7: 160).

Righteous and Just People in All Races

This attitude is not confined to the followers of Moses and Jesus. It encompasses the entire humanity. The Holy Quran says:

و من خلقنا امة يهدون بالحق و به يعدلون

(And of those We have created, there are a people who guide men with truth and do justice there-with). (7: 180).

God says:

انا انزلنا التوراة فيها هدى و نور

(Surely, We sent down the Torah wherein was guidance and light.) (5: 48). At another place in the Holy Quran, God says:

و آتينا الانجيل فيه هدى و نور

(We gave him (Jesus) the Gospel, which contains guidance and light.) (5 : 50). This is the attitude of Islam to other scriptures.

Non-Muslims under an Islamic State

Islam, on the other hand, presents a different picture. When the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) assumed political authority, he faced a test. He had to determine and declare his policy towards the non-Muslim subjects. He vindicated his claim as *Rahmatul-lil-Alameen* (Mercy for all peoples) by granting them rights equal to those of the Muslims. He declared that the Islamic State would be responsible for the security of their life, limb and property. It was in pursuance of the prophetic mission that Hazrat

Umar (God be pleased with him) left a Will for his successor. It ran thus:

اوصيه بذمة الله وذمة الرسول ان يوفى اليهم بعهدهم و ان يقاتلوا
من ورائهم و لا يكلفوا فوق طاقتهم .

[I command you to fulfil the covenant that Allah and His Messenger (peace and blessings of God be upon him) had entered into with them. Their life, limb and property should be protected. If they are attacked by an enemy, they should be properly supported and defended. No work beyond their power should be exacted from them.]

It is an undeniable fact of history, that the Muslim rulers fulfilled this Will in thought, word and deed. When Hazrat Amr bin al-Aas conquered Egypt, he proclaimed that the Copts and the Canaanites would enjoy rights equal to those of the Muslims. This declaration of Islamic humanitarian trend sent a wave of joy among the people of Egypt. Islam does not limit its humanitarianism to this degree only. It goes beyond this and ranks a ruler equal to the ruled in the exercise of the Fundamental Human Rights. Once a son of the Governor of Egypt manhandled a Copt. As soon as the report of the unpleasant incident reached Hazrat Umar (God be pleased with him), he summoned both the Governor and his erring son.

English Concept of Prestige and Islam's Concept of Justice

In the light of the English traditions of colonial rule, this act of Hazrat Umar (God be pleased with him) implied a violation of the rule of a Ruler's Prestige. But Islam discards and spurns this false conception of prestige. Hazrat Umar (God be pleased with him) said to the defaulters:

منذكم عبدتم الذين ولدتهم امهاتهم احراراً.

(Since when did you enslave these people whom their mothers bore as freemen.)

The Governor was rebuked for his son's criminality and the defaulting son was punished. The English Government would not only not do this but would not touch this Islamic Humanism with a pair of tongs.

During the Second World War, Lord Wavel proved a signal failure. He was replaced by General Montgomery. But the unsuccessful general was neither rebuked nor removed from service, On the other hand, he was elevated and appointed the Viceroy of India. In accordance with the ethics of the English Government, it is improper to punish or penalize a defaulting officer, as it involves a blow at the dignity and prestige of the Government. But there is no room in Islam for

the false sense of prestige. Thus it is a proof positive of the fact that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) was a Mercy for the world, not only in name but in action also.

Exploitation of the Non-Muslims Forbidden

When Abu Musa Asha'ari was appointed Governor of Yemen, he was exhorted by the Holy Prophet thus:

اياك و المعصية فان بالمعصية حل سخط الله .

(Be on guard against impiety as it brings down Divine Punishment).

This warning is supplemented by a command:

اتق دعوة المظلوم فانه ليس بينها و بين الله حجاب .

(Beware of the laments of the victims of cruelty as they go straight to God. There is no barrier between the cries of a victim and Allah).

He was further warned that a Muslim Ruler would be punished for his cruelty to the non-Muslim subjects. He also forbade him to exploit them or snatch and swallow their property. His actual words are:

اياكم و كرائم اموالهم .

(Be on your guard against exploitation of their best possessions. Beware ! On you rests the responsibility of preserving the sanctity for their possessions).

British Exploitation.

The English ruled over us for a century and a

half. They denuded us of our wealth. During my stay in England as a Muslim Missionary, I saw the houses of the retired British officers bursting with the abundance of rare things of luxury. They had turned their homes into Museums by their economic exploitation of the British dominions.

Blessings of Islamic Rule in Spain

Our Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) gave a standing order against exploitation. The Muslim conquerors kept this prohibition in view in their dealings with the vanquished peoples. Wherever they went, they disseminated knowledge by establishing universities. They constructed monumental buildings in Spain. They functioned as ministering angels to their subjects irrespective of their religion.

Mankind is the Family of God

In pursuance of the high and noble example of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him), his followers proved a divine blessing to the peoples of the world. They were taught to remember and practise the following command:

المخلوق عيال الله فان احبهم الى الله انفعهم لعياله .

(The entire mankind is the family of God and God loves them best who love His family).

The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) further commanded:

لا فضل لعربي على عجمي و لا لعجمي على عربي و لا لاسود على احمر و
لا لاحمر على اسود الا بتقوى الله.

(The Arabs have no precedence over other people nor have other people any precedence over the Arabs. Likewise the black people have no precedence over the white people nor do the white people have any precedence over the black people. Only the pious people who cherish fear of God, are superior to all other peoples). This formula for peaceful living was proclaimed by the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) fourteen hundred years ago. But in these days, Hitler and Mussolini or dictators like them declared racial supremacy as the rule of life. They perpetrated hair-raising atrocities against the vanquished peoples to establish the superiority of their own nations. This rule of man's inhumanity to man was further aggravated by Darwin's doctrine of the "Survival of the Fittest." A German philosopher, Nietzsche taught Europe the bifurcation of Morality into Master Morality and Slave Morality. It was by immoral and inhuman ethics that the Western nations determined their attitude to the peoples under their sway. They regarded it as a civilised behaviour

that the strong should rule over the weak. These very ethics now govern the foreign policies of America and Russia. They are inventing the most destructive weapons to overawe others and perpetuate their supremacy over the under-developed countries.

Quranic Concept of Survival

In a striking contrast to the brutal ethics of the modern nations, the Holy Quran prescribes a human and humane recipe for the peace and prosperity of mankind. It says:

اما ما ينفع الناس فيمكث في الارض .

(But as to that which benefits man, it stays on the earth). (13: 18) What a contrast between the Nietzschean rule of the survival of the most violent, and the Quranic rule of the survival of the most benevolent! The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) inspired hope by saying that a nation will be blessed by God, if it behaves benevolently. In one case, it is violence and in the other case it is benevolence which is the hall-mark of fitness, hence a guarantee of survival.

Islam's Universal Concepts rule out the Advent of a Prophet

Islam has presented a Code of Life which brings blessings to nations if they sincerely follow

it. As it contains eternal verities and is practicable for all times to come, it leaves no conceivable room or any legitimate need for any new prophet. If in the face of these facts, anyone dares to lay claim to prophethood, we shall denounce and condemn him. It is because we sincerely believe that God has endowed the message of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) with finality and perpetual efficacy.

Hazrat Mirza Sahib claimed to be a Mujaddid and not a Prophet

Hazrat Maulana Sadr-ud-Din said:

I took *baiat* at Hazrat Mirza Sahib's own hand. It was a *baiat* of brotherhood pure and simple (بيعت اخوت). It implied that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) was the spiritual father of us all and we, Muslims, are brethren-in-faith and have entered into a covenant of fraternity with the Imam of the day. When Hazrat Sahib passed away, the inscription on the epitaph put up on his grave was مجدد صد چهاردهم (Mujaddid of the Fourteenth Century). We who lived with him bear witness to the fact that he never claimed to be *Nabi* (Prophet). He claimed to be a *Mujaddid* (Reformer). When he died his epitaph which was prepared in all seriousness and

with the approval of Hazrat Maulana Noorud Din (God be pleased with him) is a witness to his real claim as a *Mujaddid* (Reformer). This being so, the acceptance of his claim cannot form a vital part of one's belief nor is it mandatory. He himself declared that a disbelief of his claim did not turn a Muslim into a *kafir*.

Advantages of Allegiance to Mujaddid

There are definite advantages which accrue to one who follows the *Mujaddid*. It implies obedience of the command of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessing of God be upon him) to identify oneself with the *Mujaddid's* Mission by accepting his claim. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) said:

ان الله يبعث لهذه الامة على رأس كل مائة سنة من يجدد لها دينها.

(God will send for the *Ummat* at the turn of each century such persons as will revive *Deen* (religion), and restore its vigour and vitality. When the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him) gives the glad tidings of the advent of a Great Reformer (*Mujaddid*) we should welcome his appearance as an auspicious portent of the resurgence of Islam.

Mujjaddid's Historic Services

The *Mujaddid* of the Fourteenth Century inflicted a crushing defeat on the Christian evangelists. He also counter-attacked the Arya Samajists and served a quietus to their calumnies against Islam and the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him). He revealed to the world the luminous and radiant face of Islam. He unfurled the banner of Islam in Europe. He declared that as his name *غلام احمد* implies he was the servant of Ahmad the Seal of Prophets. He also said that he was the humble devotee of the companions of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of God be upon him). He enunciated a rule that a prophet is one who receives his prophetic revelation through *Jibreel*. But the descent of *Jibreel* he said as a bearer of revelation is banned and barred till the end of the world. He averred that he received only *ilham* (revelation) and not *Wahy-i-Nabuwwat* (Prophetic Revelation). Hazrat Ameer wound up his luminous discourse by addressing the audience thus:

You people have seen this great Experiment. Many Europeans of note here and in the West quitted Christianity and entered the fold of Islam. You now can imagine that even great peers can become Muslims. Lord Headley accepted Islam and visited this country. A baron from Germany

Ehrenfels also paid homage to Islam and abandoned his ancestral religion. Before Hazrat Mirza Sahib no one could think or could have the courage to undertake to convert Englishmen to Islam. He had a luminous vision in which he saw that he was standing on a pulpit in London and giving a sermon and white birds flew into his hands. This vision has now become an undeniable reality as white men have entered the fold of Islam through the efforts of the Ahmadi Missionaries.

After this successful Experiment, you should join us so that we should carry on our Missionary activities on a higher and larger scale. People continue to labour under false delusions and cherish baseless suspicions about our Anjuman. By doing so they just deprive themselves of doing good work in the cause of Islam.