

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

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19 April 2008

PRESS RELEASE

KHILAFAT CENTENARY JALSA CONCLUDES WITH ADDRESS BY HADHRAT KHALIFA-TUL MASIH V

The first Jalsa Salana (Annual Convention) attended by His Holiness, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community concluded today. The final session, which was chaired by His Lordship Saeed Kweku Gyan, included a speech by His Excellency Alhaj Aliu Mahama the Vice President of the Republic of Ghana and the presentation of gold medals honouring academic excellence to a number of male and female students. The highlight of the session was the concluding address delivered by His Holiness, which brought down the curtain on this year's Convention.

During his speech Vice President Mahama congratulated the Jama'at on the occasion of the Khilafat Centenary and said that it was a great honour to welcome Hadhrat Khalifa-tul Masih V to the country for the second time since his appointment as Head of the Community. He spoke of how he greatly valued the commitment shown by the Jama'at to co-operate with other faiths and groups.

The Vice President spoke of the many positive activities the Jama'at was involved with throughout the country particularly in the fields of Agriculture, Education and Health. He said the benefits of such activities were there for all to see. His Excellency concluded his speech by speaking of Ghana's commitment to good governance, respect for human rights and access to education.

His Holiness began his address at 5.10pm by stating that due to his participation and the attendance of Ahmadis from 32 countries this had been an International Convention. This was reinforced by the fact that the proceedings had been shown live worldwide on MTA.

His Holiness drew the attention of all Ahmadis to the task of continually striving towards the path of God Almighty. Drawing analogy with crops in farmland, he said that for a good crop to emerge the weeds must be removed at an early stage and continual care must be taken to water and develop the seeds carefully. Similarly a person must follow set procedures to derive maximum blessings from God Almighty. His Holiness said:

“We have to nurture and take care of our hearts so the seedlings of good work begin to sprout.”

Developing this theme, His Holiness spoke of how seeking God's Forgiveness was not limited to uttering words of repentance. In fact a person had to make a pure and firm resolve seeking God's Help. Human nature was naturally inclined towards sin and thus God's Help was necessary to fight against evil tendencies. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) taught three conditions that had

to be fulfilled for true repentance. Firstly, a person had to shun and distance himself from foul and corrupt thoughts. Secondly he had to inculcate a feeling of shame and regret for any bad deeds that he has previously committed. The third and final stage of repentance was achieved when a person developed a firm resolve never to commit a particular sin again. When these stages had been accomplished then a person's evil deeds were replaced by high moral values.

His Holiness spoke of the importance of husbands and wives within a family. He said that harshness never produced good results. Husbands therefore ought to be examples for the entire family and thus when returning home at the end of a day they ought to greet their wives and children in a tender and loving manner.

Likewise women within a family had a hugely important role to play for they have been granted the honour and task of nurturing the children and consequently developing the future generations of their nation.

His Holiness gave the example of a hardened criminal who had committed so many heinous crimes that he was awarded the Death Penalty. As a last request he asked that he may meet his mother. When she came he asked her to put out her tongue and when she did so he bit it in half. When asked why he had committed this atrocity as a final act of vengeance he said that when he was young his mother defended and even encouraged him when he was involved in little petty crimes. From thereon he progressed until he became the evil man he was now. He regretted that his mother had not stopped him. This His Holiness said, showed that the influence of a mother stayed with her offspring

throughout their lives. Thus whilst a tradition of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) stated that Paradise lied under the feet of one's mother, His Holiness said that if a mother did not discharge her duties of shepherding her family then in fact Hell lied under her feet.

His Holiness concluded his address by invoking a great number of earnest prayers in favour of Africa and Ghana in particular. He said that Africa had a bright future and thus the people of the country had to be willing to work diligently and with honesty so that the bright future emerged rapidly. His Holiness ended his address at 5.50pm by praying,

“May Allah have Mercy on all of mankind. May this coming year of the Khilafat Centenary bring a revolution within each and every one of you. May Allah enable me to love you ever more than before. May Allah enable leaders to rise above their vested interests for the betterment of their societies. May Allah take you back to your homes safely. And may Allah make all the participants of this Jalsa Salana worthy of the prayers of the Promised Messiah.”

End of Release

For further information:

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