

ASH-HADU ALLA ILAHA ILLALLAHU WAHDAHU LA SHARIKA LAHU WA
ASSH_HADO ANA MUHAMMADAN ABDUHU WA RASULUHU

I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah. He is One and has no partner. And I bear witness that Muhammad^{saw} is His servant and His messenger.

Am badu fa

اوعجرا ناطيشلان اللهاب ذلام

A'udhu billahi minash-shaitanir-rajim.

I seek refuge with Allah from Satan, the accursed.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Bismillah-ir-Rahman-ir-Rahim

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful.

الرُّ كُنُبٌ أَنْزَلْنَاهُ إِلَيْكَ لِتُخْرِجَ النَّاسَ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ الْعَزِيزِ الْحَمِيدِ ﴿٢﴾

Alif Lam Ra. *This is* a Book which We have revealed to thee that thou mayest bring mankind out of every *kind of* darkness into light, by the command of their Lord, to the path of the Mighty, the Praiseworthy — (14:2)

My Speech: Jalsa Salana, A special gathering.

Jalsa Salana is a conference that promotes unity. Thousands gather like bees to reach the Queen Bee, for us we try to reach Khalifat in spirit or in person. We strive to absorb the nectar of Ahmadiyyat. Many families prepare for this as a vacation. Vacation is usually a time to relax, enjoy the company of family, and tour things of interest. We plan the location, route, and itinerary of activities. We make the sacrifice of time and money or have saved for it. Then we depart enthusiastically on the journey, regardless of whether it will be smooth or turbulent.

In general, vacations are usually rooted in frivolousness and ostentation. If you google the word vacation you will find it means: 1. An extended period of leisure and recreation, especially one spent away from home or travelling. 2. The action of leaving something one previously occupied (<https://www.bing.com/>)

In my opinion the first definition of vacation is influenced by our Nafse Ammarah which means the self that incites to evil (Philosophy and Teachings of Islam). Do not misunderstand that a vacation will cause you to do evil. The correlation that I am making is that a vacation will usually be opposed to the attainment of high moral values. It concentrates on fulfilling one's natural state of satisfying one's basic desires and pleasures.

However, attending a Jalsa Salana is more like the second definition of a vacation because we are leaving something we previously occupied like our worldly pursuits. Jalsa offers the opportunity of nurturing the Nafse Lawwama (The reproving self). According to the Promised Messiah Mirza Ghulam Ahmad ^{a.s.}, Nafse Lawwama is the state which desires that man should

be in a good state and should practice good morals... but he/she cannot completely achieve this success (Philosophy Teachings of Islam, pg2). This state is weak, and you will move forward and backward. Therefore, the need for the third state of man, the Nafse Mutmainnah or Soul at Rest. The Promised Messiah ^{a.s.} explains that the soul at rest is when a person is delivered from all weaknesses, is filled with spiritual powers and establishes a relationship with God Almighty without whose support it cannot exist. In this state, man has found comfort in God, pleasure with God and God is pleased with him/her. In Holy Quran chapter 89:28-31 (Al-Fajr), it states that it is these chosen servants who will enter His garden” (Philosophy Teachings of Islam pg2). The commentary 3342 elaborates that “this is the highest state of spiritual development, man becomes immune to all moral weaknesses and frailties and is braced with a peculiar spiritual strength. And that it is in this life, not after death, that he gains a great spiritual transformation and access to Paradise’. The Promised Messiah a.s. further explains that “If the natural state of a person is subjected to the control of the directions of divine law it becomes his moral state and deeply affects his spirituality.” (Philosophy Teachings of Islam pg3).

Where can we find this place that promotes and nurtures our morals and spirituality? It is a Jalsa Salana. A special gathering and fountain head which provides an infusion of life. If we look at a man who becomes dehydrated, he becomes physically weak, mentally shallow and spiritually subdued, his will to live declines and his sense of thirst increases. However, when he receives an infusion of fluid, usually of normal saline, his veins receive nourishment, oxygen is transfused to his organs, toxins are now removed and his will to live returns, usually at a more heightened and appreciative level. We have experienced this phenomenon when we fast and learn the prayer of appreciation when given the opportunity to quench our thirst. Ibn Umar said that the Holy Prophet s.a.w. (may peace and blessings of God be upon him), used to say at ending a fast: Thirst has disappeared, and veins have received nourishment and God willing, reward has been secured” (Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, 1979).

Jalsa Salana is an annual gathering or convention, a well-established institution of Jamaat Ahmadiyyat held nationally around the world and internationally. It infuses life into the servants of Allah and the guest of the Promised Messiah a.s.. We are reminded not to think that Jalsa is like ordinary human gatherings. It is our normal saline. It provides us with a pathway to demonstrate high moral qualities, receive a bolus of spiritual nourishment and InshaAllah, secures the favors of Allah. “Members of the Jama’at, male and female, the young and old, all participated in these Jalsas with great zeal and love”. (Rules of Anjumun Ahmadiyyat)

In 1891, the Promised Messiah^(as), for the first time, called Jamaat members to assemble in Qadian during the winter month of December. The purpose was to take counsel for the formation of members who would act as judges in regard to the first spiritual challenge, the Promised Messiah^(as) had given to Muslim clerics that year in his book ‘The Heavenly Decree’. 75 companions travelled from far and wide to Qadian on December 27, 1891. During the congregation, Hazrat Maulwi Siyakoti sahib read out ‘The Heavenly Decree’; counsel was taken from the companions, and those present had the opportunity to shake the blessed hands of the Promised Messiah^(as) and benefit from his company. This was the first Jalsa Salana of the Jamaat. At this occasion, the Promised Messiah^(as) announced that, from now on, every year a Jalsa

Salana will be held in December as during winter months farmers were not busy with harvesting crops and due to holidays. The Promised Messiah^(as) said: “So, in my opinion, these dates should be from the 27th – 29th of December. Hence, from this day, if we live to see the 27th December, all our friends should, to the best of their ability, come and listen to Divine words and join in supplication for the sake of Allah.”. (Tarikh e Ahmadiyyat pp. 439-440, The Heavenly Decree pp.73-74)

Today, the year is July 2025, 133 years after the first Jalsa Salana with millions of people attending around the world, Alhumdulillah!!! For many we have made attending the Jalsa Salana our vacation or at least part of it. As a community we are blessed to hold Jalsa Salana this month on three continents: in the United States of America, Canada and the United Kingdom, MashaAllah, Alhumdulillah/All praise to Allah.

This demonstrates the true purpose of a Jalsa; to bring people together, unify them in faith, perform congregational prayers and drink from the well of knowledge. Seeking knowledge ranks higher than worship and the most insatiable person is the seeker after knowledge, said the Holy Prophet s.a.w. (Wisdom of the Holy Prophet s.a.w.). His thirst for knowledge is always present.

Reflecting on the dehydrated person: Performing our secular duties, engaging in socialization and attracted by the glitz and glamour of this life, we can become spiritually dehydrated. Our moral receptacles become empty. We crave to quench our spiritual thirst.

From Wikipedia, “The sense of thirst is a craving for portable fluids resulting in the basic [instinct](#) of animals to [drink](#). It is vital for organisms to be able to maintain their fluid levels within very narrow ranges. The goal is to keep the interstitial fluid, the fluid outside the cell, at the same concentration as the intracellular fluid, the fluid inside the cell”
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thirst>. In the definition of dehydration and the craving for portable fluids: Think of Jalsa Salana as also a portable fluid which can quench our spiritual thirst. We can now watch and listen to it on MTA, cellular phones, computers and travel great distances to attend. We can keep our religious obligations and our spiritual development within the same concentration, juxtaposition.

This is a contemporary lesson for the person seeking to maintain an equilibrium between their secular life and material goals with their moral life and spiritual goals.

According to the Promised Messiah a.s.; “The institution of Jalsa is exclusively founded on defending the truth and establishing the supremacy of the Lord of Islam and making it prevail over all other religions *and* ideologies.”

There are many lessons found in the Holy Quran to guide us. Chapter 5:49 (Al-Maidah) explains: Now, we have revealed unto thee this Book comprising the truth, fulfilling that which was revealed before it of the Book, and as a guardian over it. Judge, therefore, between them by that which Allah has revealed, and follow not their vain desires in preference to the truth which has come to thee. ***For each of you We have prepared, according to the capacity of each, a path or a highway, to enable you to approach the fountain of revealed guidance.***

Had Allah so willed, He would have made you all one people, but He wishes to try you by that which He has given you. ***Then try to outstrip each other in the pursuit of good.*** To Allah shall you all return; then will He enlighten you in respect of all that wherein you differed.

Jalsa Salana USA 2025 marks a milestone; Our 75th Jalsa Salana. Alhumdulillah. When searching for the significance of the number 75. One may find on the internet: "...The number 7 is associated with spiritual growth and higher knowledge, while the number 5 represents change, adventure, and freedom. Together, they create a harmonious energy that invites us to embrace our personal power and pursue self-improvement" [what does the number 75 mean spiritually.](#)

This is a befitting description of what we gain from this spiritual gathering. Divinely guided, Jalsa Salana is held regularly every year. Reflecting on a few of the aims and objectives and their blessings, the Promised Messiah a.s. describes Jalsa Salana as:

1. "...all friends, should try to the utmost of their ability to come here only for the sake of Allah to listen to His words and to participate in supplications."
2. "Such truths and words of wisdom should be heard during this meeting as are essential for the increase of faith, conviction and knowledge..."
3. "The newcomers into the Jamaat will come...and will be able to see the faces of their brothers (sisters) who preceded them in faith and this personal acquaintance will continually develop into closer friendship and love..."
4. "Prayers will be offered for the forgiveness of such brothers (sisters) in faith who pass away during the year..."
5. "The purpose of the speeches at Jalsa Salana is also to increase the knowledge of the participants...They should listen to them carefully and remember the main points..." (Rules & Regulations of Tahrik Jadid Anjuman Ahmadiyya, 2016).

The Holy Quran states 6:39: There is not an animal that moves about in the earth, nor a bird that flies on its two wings but are communities like you. We have not left out anything in the Book. Then to their Lord shall they be gathered together.

Further Allah revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad s.a.w.: He it is Who enables you to journey through land and sea... (10:23) and Allah is He Who has subjected the sea to you that vessels may sail thereon by His command, and that you may seek of His bounty and that you may be grateful, 45:13.

Where can a person experience the ride of a heavenly vessel on earth? We have locomotives but none uses a moral GPS (compass) or taqwa (fear of Allah/righteousness) for traffic control. None give the guidance that when there is turbulence buckle up and tighten-your prayers. None direct you when in possible harm the emergency exit is through remembrance of Allah.

When the newcomer attends the Jalsa we pray that she sees the light of Allah. Khalifatul Masih IV Mirza Tahir Ahmad rh (may Allah be pleased with him) refers to the light from 81:2-3

(When the sun is wrapped up, And when the stars are obscured). The Quran refers to The Holy Prophet s.a.w. as Sirajan munira which literally means the radiant sun and the Holy Prophet s.a.w. refers to the company of the pious people who borrow from his light, as shining stars, who in the absence of the sun still emit enough light to guide the wayward; the stubborn, perverse, headstrong and the seekers of truth. (Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge and Truth, 1998, Khalifatul Masih IVrh Mirza Tahir Ahmad). Can we become the guiding light for our guests and new members?

We hope our newcomers and guests experience the practicality and application of our 10 Conditions of Bai'at (our pledge of allegiance to our Messiah and Mahdi and faith). In particular, during this Jalsa, we should show the unity of God, a relationship with Him, good behavior, dedication to our namaz/time for prayer, kindness, sympathy, shun arrogance and exhibit a strong bond of brotherhood/sisterhood (Conditions of Bai'at, Lajna Imaillah USA). In regard to the speeches, we hope it increases their knowledge and touch the heart as we invoke the prayer of the Promised Messiah a.s. Rabbi allim-nee maa hu wa Khairun inda-ka/ O Lord, help me learn that which You consider best for me (Tazkirah, p653 and Basics of Religious Education, 1994, AMC-Canada). Finally, we should hope that our guests leave understanding the true Islam, witness our emulation of the hadith that the Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand people are safe, and feels our community motto of "Love for All, Hatred for None".

This 75th Jalsa Salana, is a grand reminder of the 75 companions who were in attendance at the first Jalsa Salana 133 years ago. I went to the book, The Heavenly Decree, to find the names of these 75 companions. They were listed on pages 50 to 51. I read each name, looking to recognize one.

Will you leave a legacy for your children to know that you attended a Jalsa Salana? Will you follow in the footsteps of these 75 companions and be listed in the registrar of our annual Jalsa? In the 41 years of my conversion to Ahmadiyyat, I and my children have only missed one Jalsa while they were under my wing. This is probably true for others. The one that we missed was because I was in the hospital. My life was threatened by cancer. And when members came to visit me prior to departing for Jalsa Salana, my heart sank because I could not go. The only thing on my mind was missing Jalsa and the only thing I could do was request prayers, pray for them and pray for myself. Today many in attendance are present with their children, grandchildren and maybe even great-grandchildren. Alhumdulillah. One of the most beautiful blessings for a mother is to see her adult children also realize the significance of a Jalsa Salana and lay the seed for their children to propagate its truth. If we live to see another Jalsa announced, do not miss it.

An extension to this special gathering is to attend Jalsa Salana in the United Kingdom under the wing of our Khalifa. Some will have the opportunity to sit in his company and others shake his hand, just like in the time of the Promised Messiah a.s.. Our Khalifa is a personification of the continued presence of the Promised Messiah a.s. Allah Akbar/God is Great. Never neglect this blessing.

I end with the words by the Promised Messiah a.s. (peace be upon him)

“Bai‘at, our pledge is devoid of all blessings and is a mere formality if one does not care to meet me. Since—due to physical inability, lack of resources, and long distances—it is not possible for everyone to stay in my company or to visit me a few times every year, and most hearts are not yet endowed with such ardent desire that they should bear the greatest troubles and hardships for the meeting, it seems appropriate, therefore, that three days of every year should be fixed for a gathering in which all my devoted followers should—God willing—be present, with the condition of health, time and absence of strong impediments. If they lay aside a small sum on a daily or monthly basis, through planning and saving, they will have enough provisions for the journey, and it will seem as if the journey was undertaken free of cost”. (The Heavenly Decree)

He then concluded with prayers, “May Allah be with those who would take up the journey for the Jalsa held for the sake of Allah. May Allah grant them tremendous reward, have mercy on them, relieve them of difficulties and anxiety and remove their grief and sorrows. May He release them from troubles and open for them the way to obtain their aims and resurrect them on the last day among His servants who are blessed with favor and mercy, and may he be their khalifa after them till the end of their journey (that is Allah look after their homes in their absence). O Allah the Praiseworthy, the Bounteous, the Merciful and the Remover of all difficulties, accept all these supplications and grant us dominance over our opponents with clear signs, for, all power and strength lies with You. Amin.”. (Rules and Regulations of Tahrik Jadid Anjuman Ahmadiyya, 2016 and Published in his announcement of December 7, 1892)

As we enter into the last day of our Jalsa Salana, let’s remember the Promised Messiah a.s. who laid the foundation for Jalsa and prayed for its continuation through Khalifat, be like the 75 listed companions who attended Jalsa Salana, emulate the meaning of the number 75 to use your personal power to self-reform, and ask Allah to make us the stars that reflect His light and the transfusion of spiritual fluid that vitalizes the true Islam for our future generations and mankind. Ameen.

References

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6. Rules and Regulations of Tahrik Jadid Anjuman Ahmadiyya, 2016.
7. Wisdom of the Holy Prophet, Muhammad Zafrulla han, 1981.