

## The Best Model of Leadership: Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya

### Kalimah Shahadah.

وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِي الْأَرْضِ كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِهِمْ ۗ وَلَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِينَهُمُ الَّذِي ارْتَضَىٰ لَهُمْ وَلَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُم مِّن بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ أَمْنًا ۗ يَعْبُدُونَنِي لَا يُشْرِكُونَ بِي شَيْئًا ۗ وَمَن كَفَرَ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ ﴿٥٦﴾

### Translation:

**I seek refuge with Allah from satan the accursed. In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful.**

“Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors *from among* those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them in exchange security *and peace* after their fear: They will worship Me, *and* they will not associate anything with Me. Then whoso is ungrateful after that, they will be the rebellious.” — *Chapter 24, Verse 56*

Respected Sadr Sahiba and my dear sisters,  
**Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu.**

Today, I have the honor of speaking on a topic that is not just close to our hearts, but essential to our unity, spiritual growth, and our identity as Ahmadi Muslims — **“The Best Model of Leadership: Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya.”**

A simple google search of the qualities of great leaders rendered the following results: courage, the ability to build personal relationships, humility, a great vision, empathy, love, integrity, etc.

It is no coincidence that the leadership of Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya embodies a culmination all of these qualities and more! Above all, what makes Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya the best model of leadership is that it is Divinely established and guided. After the demise of the Promised Messiah (as), this spiritual leadership fulfills the prophecies in the Holy Quran and Ahadith.

The Holy Prophet (sa) prophesied,

“Prophethood shall remain among you as long as Allah shall will. He will bring about its end and follow it with Khilafat on the precepts of prophethood for as long as He shall will and then bring about its end. A tyrannical monarchy will then follow and will remain as long as Allah shall will and then come to an end. There will follow thereafter monarchial despotism to last as long as Allah shall will and come to an end upon His decree. There will then emerge Khilafat on the

precepts of Prophethood.” The Holy Prophet (sas) said no more (Masnad Ahmad).

The Promised Messiah (as) has explained, that the silence of the Holy Prophet (sa) indicates the continuation of Khilafat until the day of judgment.

This Hadith not only prophesies Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya in the latter days, but it also distinguishes it from other forms of leadership, and shows its universal superiority over all leaders, not just within the Muslim Ummah, but in the entire world! Hence, all spiritual and material success can only be achieved by following Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya.

Khilafat is a leadership rooted in Taqwa and its goal is to lead us all towards doing good. Our beloved Khulafa are chosen through prayer, not politics. Through Divine decree, not divisive debates. This leadership is free from the contamination of greed, for power and wealth. Our Khulafa lead not with ego, but their lives are models of humility and piety.

The Khalifah has a direct and strong connection with Allah the Almighty. His decisions, words, and actions, are aligned with Allah’s commands, and that is the key to the success of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya unites the Jamaat under a single leadership, being a perfect embodiment of the saying, “in unity there is strength”. Allah says in the Holy Quran, “O ye who believe! Obey Allah, and obey *His* Messenger and those

who are in authority among you. And if you differ in anything among yourselves, refer it to Allah and *His* Messenger if you are believers in Allah and the Last Day. That is best and most commendable in the end” (4:60).

Despite cultural, racial, and national differences, the absolute obedience to the Khalifah ensures that millions of Ahmadis remain united with love under the cool shade of Khilafat, and the community continues to thrive despite countless challenges. Alhamdulillah.

Inspired by Divine wisdom and guidance, the Khalifah leads the Jamaat through all trials and tribulations. For instance, through various phases of the persecution of Ahmadi Muslims, Khulafa-e-Ahmadiyya have consistently urged a dignified response of peace, patience, and prayer to every challenge. This prevents Ahmadis from resorting to violence or dividing as a community.

Our Jamaat will never forget the remarkable leadership of Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih 2nd (ra) during the partition of India. Amidst the turmoil and uncertainty of the time, he led the Ahmadis safely through the perilous migration with wisdom and foresight.

He selected a barren land near the Chenab River for resettlement. Despite its dry and inhospitable conditions, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II (ra) persisted. With Divine support and his determination, the land was miraculously transformed, becoming suitable for habitation and agriculture. A desolate land became a vibrant, organized city and Rabwah was

established as the new Markaz, becoming an enduring symbol of faith and resilience. His visionary leadership safeguarded the Community from dispersion and ensured unity and progress during one of the most challenging chapters in history. No group of people would willingly place such deep trust in their leader and accept decisions that profoundly affect their lives, without absolute confidence that he truly cares for them and acts in their best interest.

At the heart of the community's unity lies this mutual bond of love and trust between the Khalifah and his followers. The Khalifah is the only leader in the world who has a personal connection with the members of his community. He takes the time to meet them and directly communicates with them by lovingly responding to their letters. He listens to their concerns and worries, and shares in their joys. He prays for them and gives them comfort. He provides a protective shade over them, like a nurturing mother does for her children.

Perhaps all of us who are present here can relate to the experience of a personal Mulaqat, or writing a letter to beloved Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) for prayers, maybe for success in upcoming exams, or upon the birth of a child, or the loss of a loved one, and receiving a reassuring prayerful response. Each and every Ahmadi can confidently say that they love their beloved Khalifah and would even be willing to put their lives on the line for him. The same cannot be said for any other leader. In fact, worldly leaders cannot even imagine forging such close relationships with members of their communities.

In his book Blessings of Khilafat, Hazrat Khalifahtul-Masih 2nd (RA) lovingly writes, “You have someone who has true sympathy for you; who truly loves you; who considers your pain and sufferings to be his own; and who is always praying to Allah for you. You have someone who is always anxious for your well-being, who puts himself into trouble for your sake, and who prays restlessly before his Lord for the sake of your comfort and peace” (page 6). The Khalifah sees his leadership, not as a position of power or pride, but as a burden of responsibility to his people.

In contrast, worldly leaders have other goals and objectives. In his Friday Sermon on June 6, 2014, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifah-tul-Masih the 5th (may Allah be his Helper) emphasized that there can be no comparison between a Khalifah and a worldly leader, saying, “Whilst worldly leaders have secular goals, they are only concerned about increasing their territories and wordly borders. This is their main objective, they aim to subjugate and capture other countries. This is true whether it is a democracy or a dictatorship.”

It is not at all surprising that world leaders are frequently found guilty of wrongdoing. We live in a world where over 68% of countries score below 50 on the Corruption Perceptions Index—meaning, the majority of governments around the world are perceived as corrupt or seriously flawed (Transparency International, 2024). Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya remains a rare beacon of incorruptible leadership. A system where power does not corrupt—because it was never sought, only bestowed by Allah the Almighty.

The Muslim world is not very different. Muslims are suffering from deep-rooted fragmentation because they have deprived themselves of the blessings of Khilafat. The Islamic world is plagued by distress, mutual enmity, and turmoil, to say the least. Various sects and self-proclaimed scholars offer their own conflicting interpretations about halal and haram. Some Muslim political groups have unsuccessfully attempted to create their own misconstrued version of Khilafat!

The Promised Messiah (as) has written extensively about the state of Muslim rulers. In his book *Al-Huda*, he writes, “rulers of the time who are considered as elders of the faith are in fact inclined wholeheartedly towards the embellishments of this world. They turn to what God has forbidden and are not inclined towards righteousness.... This is the reason they are in every-day decline.”

Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya, on the other hand, cares deeply and works tirelessly for the betterment of the entire Muslim Ummah. For example, during the partition of India, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih the 2nd (ra) demonstrated excellent leadership for the Muslims of the time. He played a crucial role in the formation of Pakistan by not only advising the political leaders of the time in their decision making, but also praying to Allah the Almighty for this cause. Qaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah thanked Huzoor (ra) for his prayers and support for Pakistan’s cause. Huzoor (ra) did not seek any political power for himself, but he was involved purely to

serve the interests of the Muslims. That is despite opposition and ongoing persecution of his community!

A distinguished Muslim, Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar, paid tribute to the work of the Ahmadiyya Movement in fighting for an independent Muslim state with these words, "It will be ungrateful if we do not mention (the Second Khalifa) and his well-disciplined Community who have devoted all their efforts, irrespective of doctrinal differences, towards the welfare of the Muslims. The time is not far away when the attitude of this organised sect of Islam will provide guidance for the Muslim nation in general and for those persons in particular who are idly sitting under the domes of Bismillah and making boastful and empty claims of service to Islam".

Driven by the teachings of the Holy Quran, the hearts of Khulafa-e-Ahmadiyya ache for all of humanity, and they have always upheld the mission to extend care and compassion beyond geographical and cultural boundaries.

For example, Hazrat Hakeem Maulawi Noor-ud-Deen, Khalifahtul Masih the First (ra) devoted himself to serving humanity as a physician. In his personal clinic, he gave free treatment to patients in need. In 1918, he built a hospital in Qadian, now known as Noor Hospital, which continues to provide state of the art health care until this day.

Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih the 3rd (RH) made exceptional contributions to education and healthcare, particularly in West Africa. At a time when Christian schools often denied admission to non-Christian students and hospitals turned away those who held different religious beliefs, he launched an initiative under the Nusrat Jehan Scheme to make these services more accessible, and started a revolution in West Africa. In the 1970's, he raised an extraordinary amount of funds to build dozens of hospitals and schools in remote parts of Africa. As of 2021, 37 hospitals are operating in 12 African countries, while 593 schools are operating in 11 African countries under this scheme.

Continuing on this path of healing, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifah-tul Masih 4th (RH) launched Humanity First, the non-profit and impartial organization whose purpose is to serve and protect human life and dignity by fighting hunger, disease, and natural disasters all over the world.

Through their humanitarian initiatives, the Khulafa are beacons of peace, providing equal opportunity and access to universal healthcare. Their efforts shine a light of hope on the forgotten people of the world. Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya has infused this noble spirit of service into all members of Jamaat Ahmadiyya, who selflessly dedicate themselves to humanitarian causes.

Moreover, Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya exemplifies model leadership through unwavering commitment to absolute justice and achieving world peace amidst various global conflicts.

While other leaders attend “peace conferences”, our Khalifah (may Allah be his Helper), launches actual humanitarian missions - not to showcase power, but to serve the powerless. In his ongoing initiatives to encourage peace-building and bring end to conflicts, he launched the annual National Peace Symposium, and the annual “Ahmadiyya Muslim Prize for the Advancement of Peace”; an international peace award for individuals or organisations that have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the cause of peace.

Whether speaking at parliaments, meeting with politicians and dignitaries, or writing letters to spiritual and world leaders, his compassionate and foresighted leadership continues to prove essential in addressing the pressing challenges of our time. He plays a crucial role in raising awareness about global issues that require urgent attention and provides key guidance to address these problems. In turn, he calls them to the teachings of Islam and the One True God.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) courageously calls out the unfair policies and failures of powerful leaders and organizations meant to ensure justice for the weaker nations.

He has repeatedly warned of the dangers of nuclear proliferation and the catastrophic consequences of war.

In an address to Dutch audience at Jalsa Salana Holland 2019, Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) showed the powerful western nations the mirror of their injustices. He said, “Modern society is consumed by self-interest and greed. Disorder, conflict, and warfare are on the rise and the principles of equity and justice are being consistently discarded. This is illustrated by the foreign policies of many powerful and rich countries. It has been a constant theme of modern history that dominant powers have sent their armies to distant lands, on the pretext of establishing peace, but time has proven that their real objective has been to protect and enhance their vested interests.” I cannot think of any other world leader who so explicitly condemns the hypocrisy of powerful nations for committing injustice.

While fearing backlash, others remained silent in the face of the brutal slaughter of innocent people in Gaza and in other parts of the world, our beloved Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) practiced profound courage by condemning the brutality, and warning the perpetrators to fear Allah and desist from their cruelties, becoming a strong and steadfast voice of the voiceless.

While many leaders and dignitaries, actively seek Huzoor's advice and guidance regarding policy, countless others testify to the strong leadership provided by our Khalifah (may Allah be his Helper). For example, at the European Parliament in 2012, Dr. Bishop Amen Howard of Switzerland remarked on Huzoor's address, saying,

“His Holiness has changed my entire perspective on Islam. I used to be afraid of Islam. If people listen to Mirza Masroor Ahmad then the world will change. My question is why can't all the Muslim leaders all over emulate this kind of gentle religious doctrine that tends to unite people irrespective of race, beliefs and background? If there will exist another three men like His Holiness with his message of peace, love for all and hatred for none, I truly believe the world will transform into a better place... Your leader speaks very simply and very softly. Yet despite this, he does not hold back in his comments. Whatever he believes, he says without fear. This is what distinguishes him.”

My dear sisters, we are the fortunate ones who have been blessed with the gift of Khilafat, which is transforming the world through its exemplary leadership. Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya, the embodiment of the second manifestation of Allah's power in this age; the only true and Divine leadership, is the means to salvation for all people in all nations!

Therefore, as those who have been blessed to be guided by its leadership, we hold a great responsibility.

It is our duty to listen to the guidance of Khilafat, to obey it sincerely, to pray for our Khalifah daily, and to let his love and guidance shape our lives. May Allah enable us to do so, Ameen! Khilafat-e-Ahmadiyya, Zindabad!

Wa akhiru da'wana anil hamdulillahi rabbil 'alameen.

Fareha Hamid