April

آن سب با توں کے بعد پھر میں کہتا ہوں کہ بیمت خیال کرو کہ ہم نے ظاہری طور پر بیعت کر لی ہے ظاہر کھے چیز نہیں خدا تمہارے دلوں کود کھتا ہے اور اُسی کے موافق تم سے معاملہ کرے گا۔ دیکھو میں یہ کہہ کر فرض تبلیغ سے سبکدوش ہوتا ہوں کہ گناہ ایک زہر ہے اُس کومت کھاؤ۔خداکی نافر مانی ایک گندی موت ہے اس سے بچود عاکر وتا تمہیں طاقت ملے جو خص دعا کے وقت خدا کو ہرایک بات پر قادر نہیں سمجھتا بجر وعدہ کی مستثنیات کے وہ میری جماعت میں سے نہیں۔ جو شخص جموٹ اور فریب کو نہیں جچوڑتا وہ میری جماعت میں سے نہیں ہے۔ جو شخص دنیا کے لالچ میں بھنسا ہوا ہے اور آخرت کی طرف آئی گھا گھا کر بھی نہیں دیکھا وہ میری جماعت میں سے نہیں ہے۔ جو شخص در حقیقت دین کو دنیا پر مقدم نہیں رکھتا وہ میری جماعت میں سے نہیں ہے۔ جو شخص در حقیقت دین کو دنیا پر مقدم نہیں رکھتا وہ میری جماعت میں سے نہیں ہے۔ جو شخص در حقیقت دین کو دنیا پر مقدم نہیں رکھتا وہ میری جماعت میں سے نہیں ہے۔ جو شخص در حقیقت دین کو دنیا پر مقدم نہیں رکھتا وہ میری جماعت میں سے نہیں ہے۔

I repeat that you should not be content with having made a superficial covenant of Bai'at, for this amounts to nothing. God looks at your hearts and will deal with you accordingly. Look here, I discharge the obligation of conveying my message by telling you that sin is a poison—do not consume it. Disobedience to God is a filthy death—safeguard yourselves against it. Supplicate so that you might be granted strength. He who at the time of supplication does not believe that God has power over all things, except that which might be contrary to His promise, is not of my community. Whosoever does not give up lying and deceit, is not of my community. Whosoever is consumed by material greed and does not lift his eyes to look at the hereafter, is not of my community. Whosoever does not truly give precedence to religion over the world, is not of my community.

(The Promised Messiahas, Noah's Ark, pg. 30-31)

The Holy Quran / Importance of Sabr (Patience) Al Bagarah 2:46-47 & 2:154-158

Self-Study/Teaching Guide

Click on each reference below to learn more about this month's verses.

Al Baqarah 46-47

URDU

Tafseer Hazrat Masih Maud^{as} (Vol. 2, pg. 166-167)

Haqaiqul Furgan (Vol. 1, pg. 148)

<u>Tafseer-e-Kabir</u> (Vol. 1, pg. 396-398)

Dars-ul-Our'an: 11th August 1994 (Urdu) (Relevant part starts from 1:19:30)

ENGLISH

English with 5-Volume Commentary (Vol. 1, pg. 122-123)

Al Bagarah 154-158

URDU

Tafseer Hazrat Masih Maud^{as} (Vol. 2, pg. 260-284)

Hagaigul Furgan (Vol. 1, pg. 264-274)

<u>Tafseer-e-Kabir</u> (Vol. 1, pg. 283-303)

<u>Dars-ul-Qur'an: 9th November 1994 (Urdu)</u> (Relevant part starts from 46:02)

ENGLISH

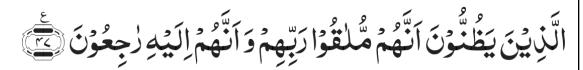
English with 5-Volume Commentary (Vol. 1, pg. 256-260)

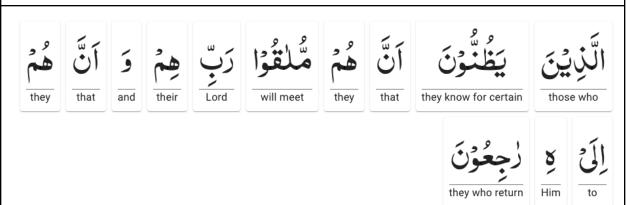


And seek help with patience and Prayer; and this indeed is hard except for the humble in spirit,

اور صبر اور نماز کے ساتھ مد د مانگواور یقیناً یہ عاجزی کرنے والوں کے سواسب پر بو حجل ہے۔

Al Baqarah 2:47 (www.alislam.org/quran/app/2:47)

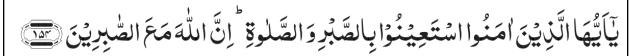




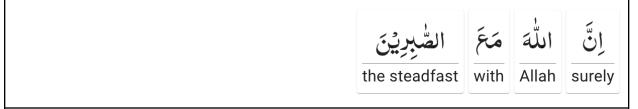
Who knows for certain that they will meet their Lord, and to Him will they return.

(یعنی)وہ لوگ جویقین رکھتے ہیں کہ وہ اپنے رہے ملنے والے ہیں اور بیر کہ وہ اسی کی طرف لوٹ کر جانے والے ہیں۔

Al Baqarah 2:154 (www.alislam.org/quran/app/2:154)







O ye who believe, seek help with patience and Prayer; surely, Allah is with the steadfast.

اے وہ لو گوجو ایمان لائے ہو (اللہ سے)صبر اور صلوۃ کے ساتھ مد دمانگو۔ یقیناً اللہ صبر کرنے والوں کے ساتھ ہے۔

Al Baqarah 2:155 (www.alislam.org/quran/app/2:155)

وَلَا تَقُولُوْ الِمَنَ يُّقُتَلُ فِي سَبِيْلِ اللَّهِ اَمْوَاتٌ مِّ بَلُ اَحْيَاءٌ وَّ لَكِنَ لَّا تَشْعُرُوْنَ (هَوَ عَنَ اللَّهِ اللَّ



تَشُعُرُوْنَ

you perceive / you will perceive

And say not of those who are killed in the cause of Allah that they are dead; nay, they are living; only you perceive not.

اور جو الله کی راہ میں قتل کئے جائیں ان کو مُر دے نہ کہو بلکہ (وہ تو) زندہ ہیں لیکن تم شعور نہیں رکھتے۔

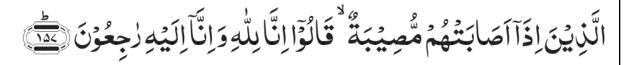
Al Baqarah 2:156 (www.alislam.org/quran/app/2:156)

وَلَنَبُلُونَّكُمْ بِشَىءٍ مِّنَ الْخَوْفِ وَالْجُوْعِ وَنَقُصٍ مِّنَ الْاَمُوَالِ وَالْاَنْفُسِ وَ التَّهَرُتِ وَبَشِّمِ الطَّبِرِيْنَ ﴿ لَيْ اللَّهِ مِنْ السَّبِرِيْنَ ﴿ لَيْ اللَّهُ مَالِ اللَّهِ مِنْ اللَّ

And We will try you with something of fear and hunger, and loss of wealth and lives, and fruits; but give glad tidings to the patient.

اور ہم ضر ور تمہیں کچھ خوف اور کچھ بھوک اور کچھ اموال اور جانوں اور بھلوں کے نقصان کے ذریعہ آزمائیں گے۔اور صبر کرنے والوں کوخوشنجری دے دے۔

Al Baqarah 2:157 (www.alislam.org/quran/app/2:157)

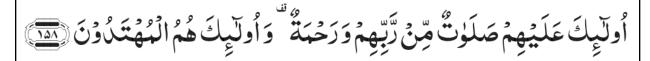


 $\frac{1}{1}$ those who return those who return $\frac{1}{1}$ towards $\frac{1}{1}$ \frac

Who, when a misfortune overtakes them, say, 'Surely, to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return.'

اُن لو گوں کو جن پر جب کوئی مصیبت آتی ہے تووہ کہتے ہیں ہم یقیناً اللہ ہی کے ہیں اور ہم یقیناً اسی کی طرف لوٹ کر جانے والے ہیں۔

Al Baqarah 2:158 (www.alislam.org/quran/app/2:158)



اُولَيْكَ عَلَىٰ عَلَىٰ هِمُ صَلَوٰتٌ مَنِ اللهِ المُلْمُ المُلْمُ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِ اللهِلمُلْ المُلْمُلِمُ المُلْمُلِمُ المُلْمُلِمُلْمُلِلْمُلْمُلِمُلْم

the rightly guided ones they these are

It is these on whom are blessings from their Lord and mercy, and it is these who are rightly guided.

یہی لوگ ہیں جن پر ان کے ربّ کی طرف سے بر کتیں ہیں اور رحمت ہے اور یہی وہ لوگ ہیں جو ہدایت پانے والے ہیں۔

Advanced Reading (Optional)

URDU

Read from <u>Tafsir Hazrat Masih Mau'ud</u>^{as}, Vol. 1 Surah Fatiha: **pg. 205-240**

ENGLISH

Read from <u>Commentary on the Holy Our'an - Vol. 1 Surah Fatiha</u>: **pg. 201-234** (Start at the bottom of the page with *"Five daily prayers are the highest worship"* onwards)



Point to Ponder: A Righteous Person and One Who Does Good

It is narrated that Imam Husayn, may Allah be pleased with him, had a servant who brought him a cup of tea. When the servant came close to him, due to his lack of attention, the cup fell on the head of Imam Husayn^{ra}. Due to the inconvenience that he had felt, Hazrat Imam Husayn^{ra} shot the servant a sharp glance. In a submissive voice, the servant said:

Upon hearing this, Imam Husayn, may Allah be pleased with him, said:

Then the servant said: وَالْعَافِيْنَ عَن النَّاس (And those who pardon men).

In the state of kazm (i.e. suppressing anger) a person subdues their anger and does not express it, but is not pleased from within. This is why the condition of afw (i.e. pardoning others), has been set in this verse as well. To this, Hazrat Imam Husayn^{ra} said: 'I pardon you.' Then the servant recited the words:

For the truly beloved of God are those who, after suppressing their anger and pardoning others, proceed to do good. On hearing this, Imam Husayn^{ra} said: 'Go then, I free you.' These are the examples of the pious where a servant is set free for dropping a cup of tea. Now tell me, is this example not due to an excellent doctrine?

(ملفوظات 2016 ايديشن جلد 1، صفحہ 117 الله 2016 (From Malfuzat Vol. 1 pg. 186-187 الله 2016)

255 عَنْ سُلَيْمَانَ بُنِ صُرَدٍ، قَالَ كُنْتُ جَالِسًا مَعَ النَّبِيِّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ وَرَجُلاَنِ

يَسْتَبَّانِ، فَأَحَدُهُمَا احْمَرَ وَجُهُهُ، وَانْتَفَخَتْ أَوْدَاجُهُ، فَقَالَ النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ إِنِّ

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لَأَعُلَمُ كَلِمَةً لَوْ قَالَهَا ذَهَبَ عَنْهُ مَا يَجِدُ، لَوْ قَالَ أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ، ذَهَبَ عَنْهُ مَا يَجِدُهُ فَالَ تَعَوَّذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ، ذَهَبَ عَنْهُ مَا يَجِدُهُ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ تَعَوَّذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ

(بخارى كتأب بدء الخلق بأب صفة الابليس و جنودة 3282)

حضرت سلیمان بن صُرَدٌ بیان کرتے ہیں کہ میں نبی صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کے پاس بیٹھاہوا تھااور دو آدمی آپس میں گالی گلوچ کر رہے ہے۔ ان میں سے ایک کا چہرہ سرخ ہو گیا اور اس کی گردن کی رگیس پھول گئیں۔ نبی صَلَّی اللّٰہ علیہ فرمایا میں ایک کلمہ جانتا ہوں کہ اگر وہ اسے کہے توجو غصہ اس کو ہے وہ جانتا رہے گا۔ اگر وہ یہ کہے میں شیطان سے اللّٰہ کی پناہ میں آتا ہوں توجو غصہ اس کو ہے وہ جاتا رہے گا۔ لوگوں نے اس سے کہا کہ نبی صلی اللّٰہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا ہے: تم شیطان سے (بیخے کے لیے) اللّٰہ کی پناہ ما نگو۔

Hazrat Sulaiman ibn Surad^{ra} relates that he was sitting with the Holy Prophet^{sa} when two men began to quarrel and one of them went red in the face and the veins of his neck stood out.

The Holy Prophet^{sa} said: "If he were to repeat a phrase I know he would be rid of the condition in which he finds himself. The phrase is: 'I seek refuge with Allah against Satan, the rejected one."

So they said to him: "The Holy Prophet sa says: Seek refuge with Allah against Satan, the rejected one" (Bukhari and Muslim).

Source: <u>Hadigatul Saliheen</u> (Urdu) pg. 670 & <u>Gardens of the Righteous</u> (English) pg. 16

409- عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ، أَنَّ رَجُلًا قَالَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ إِنَّ لِي قَرَابَةً أَصِلُهُمْ وَيَقْطَعُونِ، وَأَخْلُمُ عَنْهُمْ وَيَجْهَلُونَ عَلَى، فَقَالَ لَئِنْ كُنْتَ كَمَا قُلْتَ، فَكَأْنَمَا تُسِفُّهُمُ الْمَلَ وَلَا يَزَالُ مَعَكَ مِنَ اللهِ ظَهِيرٌ عَلَيْهِمْ مَا دُمْتَ عَلَى ذَلِكَ

(مسلم كتاب البرو الصلة بأب صلة الرحم و تحريم قطيعتها 4626)

حضرت ابو ہریرہ ہیان کرتے ہیں کہ ایک آدمی نے عرض کیا یار سول منگا تیکٹی اللہ! میرے ایسے قرابت دار ہیں کہ میں ان سے تعلق جوڑ تاہوں اور وہ مجھ سے قطع تعلقی کرتے ہیں میں ان سے اچھاسلوک کرتا ہوں اور وہ مجھ سے بیش آتا ہوں وہ مجھ سے جہالت سے پیش آتے ہیں۔ اس پر آپ ئے فرمایا اگرتم ویسے ہی ہو جیسا کہ تم کہتے ہو۔ تو تم گویا ان پر گرم را کھ ڈالتے ہو۔ جب تک تم اس حال پر رہے اللہ کی طرف سے تمہارے ساتھ ان کے مقابل پر ایک مددگار رہے گا۔

Hazrat Abu Hurairah^{ra} relates that once a person said to the Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa}, "O Messenger of Allah^{sa}, I have some relatives, I try to establish ties and they cut me asunder. I do them favours and they treat me badly. They respond to my kindness and gentleness with aggression and high handiness".

The Holy Prophet Muhammad^{sa} replied, "If they behave as you have just described, then you are throwing dirt on their faces, meaning you are putting them to shame by doing favours to them. One guardian angel will be appointed for you by God and this angel will stay with you as long as you continue your good behaviour." (Musnad Ahmad bin Hambal, vol.2, p.300. Pg 247)

Source: Hadiqatul Saliheen (Urdu) pg. 358-359 & Muhammad The Perfect Man (English) pg. 247

Class #1: Revise Sajdah (plural: Sujood)

Step#1: Please listen to the following audio file (this is in Urdu & English):

Sujood Audio File: www.alislam.org/salaat/downloads/14 Sajdah.mp3

In Sajdah, only our toes, knees, hands, nose and forehead should be touching the ground - make sure your elbow does not touch the ground.

بلندشان والا (ہے)



Holy

212 6

Step#2: Please review the correct pronunciation of the prayer & the word-by-word translation:

my Lord

Sajdan				سجده			
Subhaana Rabbi yal a`laa				سُبْحَانَ رَبِّيَ الْأَعْلَٰي			
Holy is my Lord, the Most High				پاک ہے میرا رتِ جو بڑی شان والا ہے۔			
al a`laa	الْأَعْلَى	Rabbiya		دَدّ	Subhaana	51404	



0 - : -1 - 1-

the Most High

Point to Ponder: The Purpose of Sajdah

The purpose of Sajdah is to come to terms with our reality. As long as we think we are strong, we are not living in reality because we think we are god; we won't feel any need to seek strength from God. We cannot pray to God if we have no need for God. We'll comfortably make plans for the day without realizing that many of the people who died this morning had every hour of today planned out. Before we can start to pray, we have to accept the reality that we have no power and Allah Almighty is All-Powerful. Then we realize how fragile we are. Then we come to terms with how brutal reality is. We now have a need for prayer, and now we have no choice but to fall before Allah Almighty and beg for His help. Sajdah is simply coming to terms with reality; its beauty is in its simplicity.

The Holy Prophet^{sa} said, "The nearest a servant comes to his Lord is when he is prostrating himself, so increase supplications while prostrating." (Sahīh Muslim, Book 4, Chapter 42)

(From *Understanding Salat, A Word by Word Commentary on Salat* by Murabbi Rizwan Khan, pg. 145)

Class #2: Review etiquette regarding offering Salat behind a non-Ahmadi Imam

Please read the following guidance of Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aa} on this matter in the following article of Al Fazal and its translation in Al Hakam.

May Allah ta'ala guide all sisters to understand and act upon this divine guidance. Ameen!

سوال: ایک دوست نے بعض احباب کی طرف سے پوجھے جانے والے اس سوال کی بابت حضورا نورایدہ اللہ تعالیٰ بنصرہ العزیزسے رہ نمائی چاہی ہے کہ گھانا کے ماحول کوسامنے رکھتے ہوئے جمال الیے غیر احدی امام بھی ہیں جو حضرت مسے موعود علیہ السلام اور احدیت کوسچا اور بہترین اسلام سمجھتے ہیں اور مخالفت بھی نہیں کرتے لیکن کسی مجبوری کی وجہ سے قبول احدیت کی توفیق نہیں پاتے، توکیا الیے افرادیا اماموں کے پیچھے نماز پڑھنا جائز ہوگا؟ حضورا نور نے اپنے مکتوب مور خر 22ء جولائی 2019ء میں اس کا درج ذیل جواب عطافر مایا۔ حضور نے فرمایا:

جواب: سیدنا حضرت مسیح موعود علیہ السلام نے غیراحدی امام کی اقتدامیں نمازنہ پڑھنے کے مسئد پرسیر حاصل بحث فرمائی ہے اور جہاں آپ نے اس مسئلہ کے مختلف پہلوؤں کو ہمار سے لیے کھول کھول کربیان فرمایا ہے وہاں آپ کے بیان کر دہ مسئلہ پر بھی روشنی ڈالی ہے۔ چانخپر ایک موقع پرالیے لوگوں کی نسبت ذکر ہوا جونہ محفر ہیں نہ مکذب اور ان کے پیچھے نماز پڑھنے کا مسئلہ دریافت کیا گیا۔ حضرت مسیح موعود علیہ السلام نے فرمایا:

'اگروہ منافقانہ رنگ میں ایسا نہیں کرتے جیسا کہ بعض لوگوں کی عادت ہوتی ہے کہ (بامسلمال اللہ اللہ، بابر ہمن رام رام) تووہ اشتہار دیدیں کہ ہم نہ مکذب ہیں نہ مکفر (بلکہ بزرگ نیک ولی اللہ سمجھتے ہیں)اور مکفرین کواس لئے کہ وہ ایک مومن کو کافر کھتے ہیں، کافر جانتے ہیں توہمیں معلوم ہو کہ وہ سجے تیں ورنہ ہم ان کا کیسے اعتبار کر سکتے ہیں اور کیو نکران کے بیچھے نماز کا حکم دیے سکتے ہیں۔ گر حفظ مراتب نہ کنی زندیقی۔

نرمی کے موقع پر نرمی اور سختی کے موقع پر سختی کرنی چاہیئے فرعون میں ایک قسم کا رشد تھا اور اسی رشد کا نتیجہ تھا کہ اس کے مونہہ سے وہ کلمہ نکلا، جوصد ہا ڈو بنے والے کفار کے منہ سے نہ نکلا۔ یعنی

أَمَنْتُ آتَّهُ لَآ اِلْمَ اِلَّا الَّذِيِّ أَمَنَتُ بِمِ بَثُوًّا اِسُرَآءِيُلَ.

اس کے ساتھ نرمی کا حکم ہوا۔

قُولَالَهُ قَوْلًا لَّيِّنَّا.

اور دوسري طرف نبي كريم كوفرمايا

وَاغْلُظْ عَلَيْهِمْ.

معلوم ہو تا ہے ان لوگوں میں بالکل رشد نہ تھا۔ پس الیے معترضین کے ساتھ صاف صاف بات کرنی چاہیئے تاکہ ان کے دل میں جوگندو خبث پوشیدہ ہے نسکل آئے اور ننگ جماعت نہ ہوں۔''

(اخبار بدر نمبر 16 جلد 7 مورخه 23م اپریل 1908ء صفحه 4)

(Source: <u>www.alfazl.com/2021/02/13/27116/</u>)

Huzoor^{aa} was asked for guidance on the following question submitted by some members: "Keeping in mind the environment of Ghana where there are non-Ahmadi imams who consider the Promised Messiah^{as} and Ahmadiyyat to be the true and most excellent representation of Islam and who do not oppose it, but also do not succeed in accepting Ahmadiyyat due to some compelling reason, would it be permissible to offer prayers behind such individuals or imams?" In a letter dated 22 July 2019, Huzoor^{aa} gave the following reply:

"The Promised Messiah^{as} has discussed the issue of not praying behind a non-Ahmadi imam at length. Where he has clearly explained various aspects of this issue to us, he has also shed light on the aspect that you have mentioned. Hence, on one occasion, such people were mentioned, who did not declare the Promised Messiah^{as} a liar or a disbeliever and someone asked whether one could pray behind such people. The Promised Messiah^{as} said:

'If they do not act in a hypocritical manner as some people do (who follow the mantra of invoking Allah when among Muslims, and invoking Ram when among Hindus), then they should publicise that they neither consider me a liar nor a disbeliever, (and that they rather consider me a pious saint and a waliullah) and that they consider those who declare me a disbeliever to be disbelievers for they attribute disbelief to a believer. Thus, we would know that they are telling the truth. Otherwise, how can we trust them and instruct people to pray behind them?

'[If you are not considerate of rank, you shall lose your faith.]

'Gentleness should be adopted where appropriate and firmness where it is appropriate. There was a kind of right-mindedness in Pharaoh and the result of that right-mindedness was that a phrase came out of his mouth, which did not come out of the mouths of hundreds of drowning disbelievers. That is:

'[I believe that there is no God but He in Whom the children of Israel believe.]

'The following commandment came with regard to being gentle with him:

قُولَالَهُ قَوْلًا لَيِّنًا

'["(...) address him both of you, with gentle words".]

'On the other hand, the Holy Prophet'sa was commanded وَاغْلُظْ عَلَيْهِمْ ("and be severe to them"]. It seems that those people did not have any right-mindedness at all. Therefore, it is necessary to speak candidly to people who raise these kinds of allegations so that whatever filth and malice is in their hearts may manifest itself and they may not bring any reproach upon the Community.' (Badr, No. 16, Vol. 7, dated 23 April 1908, p. 4)"

(Source: www.alhakam.org/answers-to-everyday-issues-part-xii/)

Additional Activity (Optional)

Please listen to the following Friday Sermon of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih ${\rm IV}^{\rm rh}$ on the blessings of Prayer and its etiquette.

The Blessings of the Last 10 Days of Ramadan (April 5, 1991)

Urdu Audio: https://khut.ba/5apr1991

English Audio also available at the link above: Click on Audio > More Languages > English



یہ بات ٹھیک نہیں کہ بعض اخلاق کے تبدیل پروہ قادر کے اس کے اور بعض اخلاق کے تبدیل پروہ قادر کے اور اس کے اور بعض پر نہیں نہیں نہیں نہیں اہر ایک مرض کا علاج موجود ہے۔ لِکُلِّ دَاءِ دَوَاءٌ افسوس! لوگ آپ کے اس مبارک قول کی قدر نہیں کرتے اور اس کو صرف ظاہری امراض ہی تک محدود تبجھتے ہیں۔ یہ س قدرنا دانی اور غلطی ہے۔ جس حال میں ایک فانی جسم کے لئے اس کی اصلاح اور بھلائی کے کل سامان موجود ہیں ، تو کیا یہ ہوسکتا ہے کہ انسان کی روحانی امراض کا مداوا اللہ تعالی کے حضور کھے بھی نہ ہو؟ ہے! اور ضرور ہے!!

یہ کی وقعی اور یقینی بات ہے کہ خدا تعالی ان لوگوں کی مدد کرتا ہے جو آپ اپنی مدد کرتے ہیں، لیکن جو کسل اور سستی سے کا م کرتے ہیں وہ آخر کا رہلاک ہوجاتے ہیں۔

(English translation: Malfuzat Vol. 1 pg. 133 & 117 صفحہ 11 ملفوظات 2016 ایڈیشن جلد 1، صفحہ 117

The Promised Messiah's Book /

A REVIEW OF THE DEBATE BETWEEN BATALAVI AND CHAKRHALAVI



In November of 1902 a debate took place between Maulavi Muhammad Husain Batalvi and Maulavi 'Abdullah Chkrhalavi on the importance and position of the Holy Quran, Sunnah and Ahadith.

This book is a succinct yet comprehensive analysis written by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, peace be on him, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, and founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, on the two flawed and extreme views held by the above-mentioned Maulavis. He eloquently presents a well-reasoned and rational perspective on the issue at hand in his capacity as a divinely appointed Prophet of God. In this comparative analysis the Promised Messiah, peace be on him, elaborates that the Holy Quran and Sunnah ought to be

placed above the Ahadith. A verbal narration attributed to the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, which contradicts these two sources of guidance could not possible be his words. A narration, however, which does not contradict the two aforementioned sources, ought to be readily accepted.

To read this book in English, please click here: www.alislam.org/book/review-debate-batalavi-chakrhalavi/

> مطالعہ کتب حضرت مسیح موعود علیہ السلام: ریویو بر مباحثہ بٹالوی و چکڑالوی روحانی خزائن جلد 19

Advanced Reading (Optional)

Finished the above assigned book quickly? Click on the title of the following book of the Promised Messiah^{as} below to read it.

The Criterion for Religions (Mi'vaarul Madhaahib)

Pearls of Wisdom / Guidance of Khilafat

Please watch the following two video clips to learn the guidance of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aa} on these important questions.

Class #1: How can we have a good marriage? https://youtu.be/QbwC2TNu-9Q

Class #2: How can we reform/discipline our children? https://youtu.be/dMrOtzYMvTY



The Review of Religions, in print since 1902, is one of the longest-running comparative religious magazines. The magazine is devoted to promoting intellectual and lively debate that is based on respect for all prophets and religions. Check it out here: www.reviewofreligions.org/ or follow them on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.

Khilafat Ala Minhajun Nabuwwah / History of Khilafat

Class #1 Reading

Volume 2, pg. 309-311

www.alislam.org/urdu/pdf/Khilafat-ala-Minhaj-un-Nubawt-2.pdf

Class #2 Reading:

Volume 2, pg. 313-314

www.alislam.org/urdu/pdf/Khilafat-ala-Minhaj-un-Nubawt-2.pdf

Advanced Reading (Optional)

Looking for something in English? Please click on the title to read the book.

<u>Nubuwwat & Khilafat (Prophethood & Its Successorship)</u> – A compilation of four speeches delivered under the chairmanship of Hazrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih III ^{rh}

What Should We Do? / 15 min Discussion on Tarbiyati Matters

In this quarter we are focusing on the family unit and what we need to do to ensure the strength of our relationships and keep peace and harmony in our homes. We are living in a day and age where many social norms are prevalent, accepted and promoted that are contrary to the teachings of Islam. This makes the task of the moral upbringing (Tarbiyat) of our children all the more difficult, because we cannot assume and trust that our children will be positively influenced when they are outside of the home. The issues we are discussing today is one that every single Lajna member should be informed about so that she can protect her children from its evil influence by educating her children herself on the basis of the Holy Quran, and confidently answer their questions. It is as follows:

"I don't know what LGBTQ+ is except that it is bad. And I'm not sure how my kids are being affected. They just go to school and come straight home. So then how can they be affected by this?"

Note: If your Majlis holds a Lajna Students Class, please discuss the following scenario in their class:

"All of my friends have joined the gay-straight alliance at school and I feel left out. If our Jama'at teaches 'love for all, hatred for none', then why don't we support the LGBTQ+ community?"

If Lajna Students do not have a separate class and attend the same class as all other Lajna members, we encourage you to also address this question as well, time permitting.

<u>Note to Teachers:</u> In order to have a beneficial and engaging discussion, please review the teaching guide resources below and prepare your own notes.

Self-Study/Teaching Guide

Click on each reference below to learn more about the Islamic teaching on the LGBTQ+.

In today's world, the LGBTQ+ community is increasingly accepted and this is being reflected in mainstream society. Television, books, school, work, etc, all are working to include the LGBTQ+ voice and make sure they are represented, all under the guise of "inclusivity" (a practice/policy of making sure that everyone has equal access to opportunities and resources, especially those marginalized groups that might otherwise be excluded). Inclusivity is very good for individuals with mental or physical disabilities, those who are of different races or cultural backgrounds, or even women. But it becomes dangerous to the peace and stability of society when it includes people who are living a lifestyle that is contrary to Islamic teachings.

What does LGBTQ+ mean? It is an acronym for a community of people that identify themselves in terms of their sexuality and gender. This acronym stands for, Lesbian, Gay,

Bisexual, Transexual, Queer, and the **plus sign (**+) is for many other groups that are also identifying themselves in different ways. Our children are being taught about this in school; if you want to see how much they know, just ask them and see what they tell you. Please note that they are not only being taught about this during Health Class. This topic can now arise at any point and under any subject, including: English, Drama, Social Studies, History, etc. This is especially the case in children grade 6 and up, where they may even have classmates that are identifying as LGTQ+. So, they may learn about this from their friends at recess.

While the LGBTQ+ community is small, they are very loud and have many supporters. This is a social disease that has spread very quickly. Parents must be aware and understand that our children are being influenced through school and the media to accept and think that what the LGBTQ+ community stands for is normal. Society is now teaching that people do not have a choice about who they love or what gender they are. They are claiming that people are born this way, which is very dangerous thinking. They argue that if a person is born as LGBTQ+, they should be accepted for who they are and not forced to be straight. They also argue that a person's sex is not linked to their gender. So just because you have female organs, it doesn't mean that you will necessarily "feel" or believe that you are a girl.

Mothers will be making a mistake to think that their children are not affected. We know that some Ahmadi girls have gone to the bathroom at school and found a transgender student there as well (a boy who identifies as a girl). About transgenderism, <u>Huzoor Anwar^{aa} has said</u>, ""It can never be morally right for society to encourage young people to change their biological gender or sex. This is completely against the teachings of Islam. Nonetheless, there are some people who are born intersex and they should be supported and helped by society so that they can live their lives in the best way possible. They should be protected from discrimination or having their human rights usurped."

In Islam, the Holy Quran teaches us that the only relationship that is allowed in the eyes of God is that between a husband and wife. Anything outside of this is a sin. Islam also teaches that how a person is born physically is their gender. We do not choose what our gender is; this is like saying that God, who is our Creator, has made a mistake. Allah Ta'ala is All Knowing and the Wise and He does not make mistakes. When society forgets Allah and strays from chastity and modesty, then they are being led by evil influences and thoughts which lead them to engage in acts that the Holy Quran has called فَاحِشَةُ (foul deeds; abomination).

The Jama'at's logo is "love for all, hatred for none." What this means is that we love all people, but we hate the sin they commit. If we are a part of the community that is spreading the true teachings of Islam in order to unite humanity, then we have the job of showing our friends, classmates, coworkers, etc the right path through our own deeds and actions. We should be kind and respectful to everyone, and we should pray for them and for society at large.

It must be emphasized to Lajna members that we must create safe spaces for our children to discuss these current issues that they are learning about in school. These topics are no longer taboo in mainstream society, and we should **expect, be prepared, and be proactive** in bringing such topics up at home with our children. We should not be judgemental, angry, upset or embarrassed if our children know about these things and/or want to discuss them. As Syedna Hazrat Khalifatul Masiv V^{aa} has repeatedly emphasized, our children should want to come to their parents first to discuss anything and to do that parents must regularly have open discussions at home where our kids feel safe and comfortable.

It is not a coincidence that we are seeing a rise of atheism alongside the growing LGBTQ+ community. If we want to save our children from the moral depravity of this society we must first strengthen our relationship with Allah Ta'ala (offer Salat, read and study the Holy Quran, read the books of the Promised Messiah^{as}, and keep a link with Khilafat). Then, instill the love of Allah Ta'ala in our children's hearts. When they see us giving precedence to Allah Ta'ala over the world, they will follow our example.

May Allah ta'ala help every mother in the Tarbiyat of her children and keep everyone protected from the evils we face today. Ameen!

Click on each reference below to learn more about the topic:

- 1. Please review **the story of Hazrat Lut**^{as} **in the Holy Quran** (<u>Al A'raf Ch. 7</u>; <u>An Naml Ch. 27</u>; <u>Al Ankabut Ch. 29</u>). Share these specific references with the class and encourage them to read them themselves and make note of them so they can show their children in the Holy Quran why we do not support the LGBTQ+ community.
- 2. Guidance of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aa}:
 - a. **Social acceptance of LGBTQ+.** <u>Virtual mulaqats with Lajna Imaillah the</u> Netherlands.
 - b. "Courage of Our Convictions" <u>A Personal Account: COVID-19 Part 2</u> by Abid Khan
- 3. "Relationships in Islam & Gender Identity". Video clips of guidance of Khilafat. Ask Lajna YouTube channel playlist.
- 4. "Appendix 5: Talking About Homosexuality". Paradise Under Your Feet, pg 181. (Note: Encourage members to read this book)
- 5. Faith Matters MTA Program:
 - a. What to do about homosexual tendencies and how can the Jama'at have the motto "love for all, hatred for non".
 - b. What is Islamic view on gender identity issues i.e. sex change?

How Do I Respond? / 15 min Discussion on Tabligh FAQs

Last quarter we looked at specific questions related to Muslim women. This month we want to tackle a widespread misconception about Islamic teaching in regards to gender equality:

Why are Muslim women not considered equal to men in Islam?

<u>Note to Teachers:</u> In order to have a beneficial and engaging discussion, please review the teaching guide resources below and prepare your own notes.

Self-Study/Teaching Guide

Click on each reference below to learn more about the marital relations in Islam.

Start this discussion by emphasizing that according to Islamic teaching men are not superior to women. Both enjoy spiritual and social equality. Where there is a difference is in their roles and responsibilities, which we've discussed in the last quarter.

The Holy Qur'an emphasizes that men and women have been created from one soul or *Nafs* (see 4:2; 7:190; 39:7). *Nafs* is gender neutral, meaning that Allah Almighty created human beings from a single gender neutral source. Therefore, in terms of our creation, men and women are equal.

Next, in terms of spirituality, which is the most important in the sight of Allah, men and women share equality here as well (see: 4:125, 16:08). Both are expected to inculcate good moral qualities within themselves, follow all of the Divine Commandments, fulfil Huquq Allah and Huqul Ibad. And if both genders live up to the expectation of Allah Almighty, and if we are true believers, we will be rewarded in Paradise (33:36). This is a promise Allah Almighty made to both men and women.

Men and women also enjoy equal rights in society, a few of which are the right to an education (20:115) and the right to an inheritance (4:8), the right to divorce (2:230). It should be highlighted that economically there isn't equality because a man must share his income with his family, while a Muslim woman is not obligated to share her income with anyone at all. What she earns, inherits or is gifted is solely hers.

Now, it's important to address why this misconception about gender equality exists in Islam. We are being raised and educated in a world that values secularism, capitalism and patriarchy – it's a very male-dominated materialistic world that we live in. People are valued based on how much money they make and the title they have. The worst thing in Western society is to be a stay-at-home mom. This is contrary to Islamic teaching which divides worldly responsibilities between both genders such that men earn an income outside of the home to provide for their family and women are expected to stay home to take care of the family.

Nowhere in the Holy Qur'an does it say that men are superior to women which is why they should work, or that women are inferior to men because they can't do work as well as men. Yes, women can have careers and they can even be greatly successful at them (and in fact, there's nothing in Islamic teaching that says they can't pursue a career as long as their primary responsibility is not negatively affected). Yes, men can stay home and be successful at being a "stay-at-home" dad. However, it is important for us to see that we are Allah Almighty's creation and that there is Divine Wisdom and purpose behind how men and women have been created. There is a Divine wisdom behind the biological differences between men and women. Those biological differences – be it our physical bodies, our emotional capacities, even our differing chemical or hormonal makeup, thought processes – directly relate to the roles and responsibilities that are best suited for men and women. It is a documented fact, whether or not today's society wants to accept it, but when gender roles and responsibilities are switched, people, the family unit and society at large suffer.

The Islamic teaching on gender equality and the division of roles and responsibility speaks to our inherent, natural capabilities. In some ways both genders are equal and in other ways we are not, which does not mean an inferiority in any way because the difference is a reflection of the strength and skills of each gender.

Click on each reference below to learn more about gender equality in Islam:

- 1. Guidance of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aa}
 - a. "Women's Status in Islam"
 - **b.** "Response to allegations regarding the blessings of Heaven"
- 2. "Gender Equality in Islam". Video clips of guidance of Khilafat. Ask Lajna YouTube channel playlist.
- 3. "Are women inferior to men in Islam?"
- 4. "Gender Equality in Islam" by Murrabi Farhan Iqbal
- 5. "<u>Is Islam a misogynistic faith?</u>" The Quest of a Curious Muslim by Murrabi Farhan Iqbal and Murrabi Shahrukh Rizwan Abid

Dā'i Ilallāh Activity

You don't have to be an active $D\bar{a}$ 'i Ilall $\bar{a}h$ to take part in this activity! Tabligh is something we can all engage in; every effort counts. We invite you to participate in the following effort.

Use the month of Ramadan to **reach out to neighbours**, **friends**, **school teachers**, **co-workers**, **etc and wish them Ramadan Mubarak**. Consider giving them a card or sharing some Iftar treats with them to include them in this blessed month.

Advanced Reading (Optional)

A major part of Tabligh is answering questions. We suggest the following book to help increase our knowledge. Please click on the title to read the book.

مسيح ہندوستان ميں، روحاني خزائن جلد 15

Jesus in India by the Promised Messiah^{as}