**May 11, 1917**

**Miraculous Power of the Holy Prophet Muhammad: Inspiring his Followers to do What is Right**

I bear witness that none deserves to be served besides Allah and I bear witness that Muhammad is the servant and messenger of Allah.

After this, I seek the protection of Allah from the accursed devil.

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



Seest thou him who turns back. (53:33)



And gives a little, then with-holds? (53:34)



Has he the knowledge of the unseen so that he can see? (53:35)

**A distinct Religious concept before the advent of Islam**

A certain kind of religious thought had become prevalent before the advent of Islam. It was based on the principle that man cannot accomplish anything by his own effort and determination. The reason for its growth may have been the natural human inclination towards indolence and the desire not to use one’s hands and feet in spite of having the strength to do so. Or perhaps, it was to create facility in the practice of religion. Men in general seek the easy way in religion although for their worldly tasks they do not have such facility. Whatever the reasons were, this thought process became embedded and deeply rooted and in spite of being contrary to reason, continues to exist in some form or other till this day.

**Reform brought about by Islam**

Islam brought about reformation in all religions and that was its purpose. It was also responsible for correction of this specific thought process by distinctly promoting a principle. This principle is clearly expressed in the Holy Quran:

No bearer of burden bears another’s burden. (53:38)

There is a wrong perception amongst the people that someone else can bear their burden. It is enough for a person to carry his own burden. How can a person who is already carrying his own load take the responsibility to bear the burden of someone else?

The Holy Quran further states:

And that man can have nothing but what he strives for.

Ponder upon your worldly pursuits. Can you acquire anything without an effort? In fact you cannot achieve anything without hard work. It is quite strange that we turn down a principle in our religion that seems to be working so well in our worldly activities.

**Prophets before the Holy Prophet Muhammad, did not inspire this thought Process**

We are also informed in this section of the Holy Quran:

Or has he not been informed of what is in the scriptures of Moses

And (of) Abraham who fulfilled (commandments). (53:36,37)

Neither Abraham nor Moses validated the thought process that man can acquire anything without making an effort. Islam has emphasized human effort as the essential basis of any undertaking. One cannot get closer to God by sitting down in a place and counting the rosary beads.

**Greatest benefaction of Islam was to get rid of the strange and inexplicable in religious dogma**

Islam’s greatest benefaction towards mankind was getting rid of all strange and inexplicable, but nevertheless popular narratives by presenting a very simple picture of religion. Wherever a spiritual matter is mentioned proof to support it is provided by evidence from the physical environment. This simplicity even extended to the miraculous happenings and those matters that one finds hard to accept were excluded. The greatest miracle in a prophet’s life is that his enemies who are intent upon destroying him are themselves destroyed, meeting failure and disappointment. Those who follow the prophet are successful and ultimately prevail over their enemies. The miracles we observe in the lives of prophets mostly seem to be of a special kind. An unusual event occurred and their goal was accomplished. For example this is a popular miracle. A prophet is fighting the enemy and it is about to turn dark but the battle is ongoing so the prophet puts the sun on hold for the battle to come to its conclusion!

**Miracle of Moses**

Prophet Moses recues his nation from Pharaohs bondage and reaches the sea. Rather than making an effort to quickly move on to safety they wait for him to strike a path across the sea for them to cross over. The enemy follows and is drowned in the sea, while the followers of Moses without having to fight the enemy gladly observe the end of their tormentors from the other side.

The Holy Quran gives us this description:

…So we saved you and drowned the people of Pharaoh while you saw. (2:50)

This is the narrative of a nation that did not have to put in an effort to fight against the enemy.

**Miracles of the Holy Prophet Muhammad**

Holy Prophet Muhammad and his followers also had to face a somewhat similar predicament and were given the good news that their enemies will be destroyed. In their case, however, neither the earth is shaken to destroy the abode of the enemy nor is the sea parted. They are commanded to go and fight the enemy. They are told: it does not matter if you are three hundred while they are a thousand strong. No matter what their numbers are you will have to fight in order to overcome.

Later on faced with an onslaught of ten thousand, the Holy Prophet and his followers dig a trench with their own hands and repel the enemy after a sustained and difficult encounter. They were never told that the enemy will be wiped out by means of the extraordinary and the unusual. The commandment is to put in your full effort and the miracle will also be brought about in due course. It will not be that you sit around and everything will just happen. You will have to put in all the hard work and toil. Muslims make all the provisions for their safety, while the disbelievers put in their full effort and might against them. In the end a strong and foreboding wind strikes fear in the hearts of the enemy and they retreat back to Makkah.

**Who Benefitted? Children of Israel or the Companions of the Holy Prophet**

What we have to evaluate is who was better off? Was it the nation whose prophet saved them without any effort on their part and the enemy was destroyed while they watched, or those who had to strive very hard in spite of promises of success? Both of them prevailed in the end. The apparently perceived majesty seems to be with the success of the followers of Moses although they did not have to undergo any hardship. Followers of Holy Prophet Muhammad on the other hand underwent great suffering. It is said that this nation (the Muslims) excels above all never the less no such phenomenon is exhibited where they have to sit still and witness their enemy being destroyed. To seek the answer to this question, study the history of these two nations in order to determine who benefitted later on.

What do future events in the history of the Children of Israel tell us? Later on when Moses asks them to go out and fight the enemy, they refuse. This was because earlier they had seen their enemy being destroyed without any effort on their part. They want the same to happen again and answer their prophet in these words:

…Go therefore thou and thy Lord, and fight; surely here we sit... (5:24)

Perhaps they were under the impression that God would once again destroy their enemy without any effort on their part. The followers of Holy Prophet Muhammad on the other hand witnessed a miracle that made them capable of overcoming the greatest challenges. The inherent qualities within man are no less than a miracle! If he utilizes them, they can forever make him capable to withstand any challenge. Look at the respective histories of these two nations, the followers of Moses and the companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. The followers of Moses were unable to do anything during his lifetime. Later on six hundred thousand of them under the leadership of Prophet Joshua became victorious. After passage of some time they again reach an abject state and come close to ruin. David brings about their revival but with the end of Solomon’s reign their condition deteriorates again. You can study the history of this nation and observe repeatedly their humiliation and destruction. Why did this happen? It was because after witnessing the miracles they quit making an effort and just waited for a miracle to happen again and bring about a change.

**Miracle of the Companions of the Holy Prophet**

The companions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad did not need an outside miracle to happen. What they had within themselves was nothing less than a miracle. Once such a miraculous change in character is brought about its effect is long lasting. All the inner strengths within man can become the basis of such a momentous change. People, however, remain focused on the miracles happening on the outside. The honored companions used their inner strengths and we observe the effects of this wonderful change lasting for a while. The resources that nature provides for us also exist within us and man himself is a minor universe. In the past those things appeared as miraculous happenings and were seen as unusual occurrences by the people. The honored companions of the Holy Prophet however used their inner faculties and made the same happen.

**Muslims and Miracles**

Thus Islam taught that nothing can be achieved without an effort and at the same time made these miracles also subject to the amount of effort put in. Muslims would therefore be in the wrong if they hope for a miracle to happen and consequentially propel them towards greatness. Put in an effort yourselves and then observe such miracles with the help of God. At the time of the crusades it is recorded that some Christian youth also wanted to participate in the fighting. An army of these youth embarked upon this mission and a twelve years old boy became their commander in chief. When they reached the ocean, their leader said he was sure that just as Moses was able to part the sea with his staff, he would also be able to do the same. Needless to say their attempts were fruitless. Allah the Most High has not made the religion of Islam dependent upon such miracles. He has given you the faculties and inner strengths to bring about these miracles. You should not wait to see miracles happen but bring about these miracles yourselves.

**A little effort off and on cannot achieve anything**

The Holy Quran states:

Seest thou him who turns back

And gives a little, then with-holds?

Has he the knowledge of the unseen so that he can see?

These words show us that man is in error if he thinks that a little effort off and on will bear fruit. Commentators of the Holy Quran have written that these words refer to a disbeliever. In fact the message being conveyed is this: that those who act upon a few of the commandments and ignore or reject the rest cannot expect good results. Unless a comprehensive and sustained effort is made with use of all of one’s faculties and strengths, success does not come. It can only occur, when the guidance is fully accepted and all the effort is put in to achieve the objective.

**Present condition of the Muslims and those who do not accept Islam**

In this age of ours, I repeatedly hear the cry that Muslims are decrepit and heading towards destruction. The question is, will merely raising this slogan bring about any change? Some action is certainly called for to reverse this course. The Holy Quran does not say things that are unacceptable to the world at large. Apparently those who reject it have more faith in its tenets than the Muslims. For example the Holy Quran states:

And that man can have nothing but what he strives for. (53:39)

How can it be that the non Muslims act upon this principle while the Muslims do not put it into practice? What then is the difference between them and us? Like us they also accept some principles of the Holy Quran and reject others. Our verbal claims cannot merely bring about any results, unless we put them into practice. The only way to differentiate and distinguish ourselves is through practice of our religion. This is what you should be doing!

**For attention of our organization**

I am surprised that even members of our own organization lack the desire to study and ponder upon the word of the Holy Quran and benefit from it. They think it’s a great sacrifice that they come and listen to one of the lessons of the Holy Quran. But merely listening and not practicing is precisely the behavior described in this verse:

And gives a little, then with-holds?

Islam is a highly cherished possession and the Holy Prophet Muhammad is a Prophet of great and unlimited excellence. You are unaware of the excellences of the Holy Quran. Read the *Hadith* (sayings) of the Holy Prophet and discover the knowledge there in for your spiritual development. You can benefit greatly from it. In fact I am saying that even when a non Muslim reads the life history of the Holy Prophet they are greatly impressed. Recently there was a gathering to celebrate *Milad un-Nabi* (birth of the Holy Prophet) in London. A non Muslim participant stood up and presented an amazing portrait of the Holy Prophet. This is the condition of the non-Muslims! How far have you studied his life history and made your children aware of it? A lot of claims are made but how much of a real effort has been made to study the Holy Quran and the *Hadith*? You make great provisions for your children, what have you done so far to teach them the Holy Quran and the *Hadith*? Quite a bit of time has passed in merely making claims. What kind of honor can a people acquire, who do not actually practice what they say? If this is all you can do, then a similar example was there already! The days are passing by, if you want to do something, do it now. Set a practical example. There are many amongst you who can do a lot if they want to. It is time for you to learn. Future generations also have to be taught. Your existing condition seems quite the opposite. People have started complaining that the condition of certain offspring of members of the Ahmadiyya movement is not satisfactory. It is not appropriate to get angry when you hear such reports. If the shortcoming is in fact there, remedial action should be undertaken. One should try to benefit even from what is said by the opponents. Your condition should not be such that you exult in answering abuse with abuse. For God’s sake do not keep wasting time and putting things off! Start being concerned today!