**July 7, 1916**

**Duties of the Ahmadiyya Organization**

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.



And from among you there should be a party who invite to good and enjoin the right and forbid the wrong. And these are they who are successful. (3:104)

What is the purpose of coming of the Promised Messiah? This is something he himself has clearly expressed. Unfortunately it seems very difficult for the Muslims to come out of their present condition even those who accepted the Promised Messiah, supported his mission and took pledge at his hands. Many amongst them even did not try to make an effort to thoroughly understand his mission, or make it the purpose of their lives. Was the purpose of his coming only to solve the problem of the death of Jesus or give some practical guidelines for reformation of the Muslims? Or to rectify some wrong assertions regarding the religion of Islam, remove the chains of worship of religious mentors weighing down the necks of Muslims, or clarify the subject of Divine revelation? There is no doubt that all of these were great accomplishments reminiscent of the work of reformation done by imams of previous ages. The great work accomplished by the Promised Messiah for which he was sent is, however, of a different nature. *Hadith* describe his task as the breaking of the cross and the killing of the swine. The Holy Quran clearly defined it as:

The Religion of Truth that He may make it prevail over all religions. (9:33)

**Purpose of Coming of the Holy Prophet**

The purpose of coming of the Holy Prophet Muhammad was that Allah the Most High may make Islam prevail over all other religions. God fulfilled most of the promises made with the Holy Prophet in his lifetime and this process is on going into the future. For example this promise that Islam would be made to prevail was in one way clearly fulfilled during the Holy Prophet’s lifetime. All the Arabs accepted the message of, *la ilaha ill- Allah Muhammad-ur- Rasool Allah* (None deserves to be worshipped besides Allah, Muhammad is the messenger of Allah) during the lifetime of the Holy Prophet. This promise was therefore fulfilled to a great extent during his life. *Hadith* states that Allah the Most High will bring about fulfillment of this promise in the most excellent manner in the later days. This does not mean that no one was there early on to bring this promise to fruition. In fact its foundation had already been laid by the Holy Prophet in his lifetime. Completion of the task, however, was not to be all done by him but was also left in the hands of his followers.

**Companions of the Holy Prophet and the Generation that followed them**

The companions of the Holy Prophet were responsible for spread of Islam all over the world, even to the lands where opposition was very strong. This was one phase of spread of Islam. The generation that came after the companions made similar sacrifices for the propagation of Islam. Their purpose was also to exalt the name of God. They had not yet succumbed to the desires for acquisition of wealth or kingdom. Their objective was purely to provide relief to the nations who were consumed by false beliefs and guide them towards the truth and for this purpose they were willing to face great difficulties.

**Religious Elders and Muslims of the Present Age**

Unfortunately a time came over the followers of Islam when they completely neglected the propagation of their religion. We observe that all over India there are mausoleums marking the graves of religious elders. Who were these people? They were the spiritual personages who considered propagation of Religion as the prime objective of their lives. They would unflinchingly go into the strongholds of disbelief including temples of idol worship and start preaching the religion of Islam. Those who believe that Islam was spread by the sword deceive themselves and show their unfamiliarity with the historical narrative. These spiritual elders of the Muslim nation had such overwhelming passion for Islam in their hearts, that wherever they went they attracted people towards the Unity of God in place of idol worship. The institutions connected with these mausoleums have now discarded the teachings of the Unity of the Divine Being and are themselves becoming symbols of idol worship. Their passion for propagation of Islam has been lost and replaced by a coloring of a different variety. This decline has taken hundreds of years to set in. It does not even cross their minds that it is their duty to propagate the religion of Islam, although they are familiar with these words of the Holy Quran:

And from among you there should be a party who invite to good (*alkhair*) and enjoin the right and forbid the wrong. And these are they who are successful. (3:104)

From this verse it appears that this task should always be pursued. The Arabic word *alkhair*means Islam. It is indeed lamentable that no Muslim nation pays attention to this responsibility. It has only been fifty years since the first translation of the Holy Quran in the Turkish language was published. The Turks were a sovereign Muslim nation given the title of, the servants of the Two Sacred cities. From this degree of inertia you can estimate how much importance was being given to the task of propagation by Muslim nations. Under such conditions prevailing throughout the Muslim world a great Reformer came at the head of this century. At a time when the task of propagation had come to a complete stop, he was commanded by God to form an organization that would invite people towards Islam and this was the monumental task accomplished by him.

**Promised Messiah and the Work of Reformation**

It is quite essential that whosoever invites towards Islam, his own beliefs should be free of any defects. That is why the Reformer of this age was given the task of bringing clarity to the belief in death of Jesus. Considering Jesus to be alive was equivalent to giving him Divine status. It was essential for the propagation of Islam to reform this belief. The pledge that the Reformer of this age took from his followers indicates the reason for which he was sent to the world. The pledge contains the commitment, “to hold the religion above the world.” People have misunderstood these words. They do not simply mean that I will fulfill certain religious obligations. What they mean is that instead of the love of the world in my heart I will have the love of religion. A person who has the love of wealth in his heart no matter how hard he prays or fasts cannot reach the spiritual status of the one who fulfills this pledge.

The Holy Prophet said:

You cannot be a believer unless you love me more than your father and mother and all of the people.

What is the love of the Holy Prophet? It is to create the same passion in our hearts that he had for Islam. This was the reason for the coming of the Promised Messiah and it was to fulfill this purpose that he formed an organization in his lifetime to continue the work of propagation. If we think about it, in Islam only those people are called religious guides who consider propagation of Islam as their goal in life.

**Three Essential Steps**

Our duty is to first read and understand the Holy Quran and then act upon it. These are three very difficult stages. It is easy to read the Holy Quran, but there are many who fail to develop a proper understanding of it and there are very few who act upon its guidance. The purpose that this organization has been created cannot be achieved unless its members read, understand and act upon the word of the Holy Quran. Until they go through these three stages they cannot claim to invite people towards Islam. It is our duty to fulfill these three requirements. Only the word coming out of the heart can bring about a change in someone else. It was the Holy Quran that the Holy Prophet took in hand and accomplished his task. That Hoy Quran is now in our hands. We have to carry out the task as the Holy Prophet did:

…Who shall recite to them Thy messages and teach them the Book and the Wisdom, and purify them. (2:129)

**Purification of the Human Soul and the Holy Prophet**

This is the greatest accomplishment and the most difficult stage. Holy Prophet Muhammad uplifted a whole humanity from its fallen state. His passionate pleas before the Lord of the World helped to bring about this great transformation. We look at his example, he recited the message of the Holy Quran to the people and showed them how to follow it. His greatest accomplishment was purification of the hearts of his honored companions. Only God knows the fervent prayers he recited in the solitude of the cave of *Hira,* pleading before the Lord for the guidance of humanity. As a result he was given Prophet-hood and commanded thus:

“O thou covering thyself up! Rise to pray by night except a little…Truly thou hast by day a prolonged occupation (73:1,2,7)

The Holy Prophet was informed by Allah the Most High that his period of solitude had now come to an end and he was now given the task to teach the world to read and guide them thereby. Under these circumstances his days were to be occupied, therefore he needed the nighttime for worship and supplication.

**Sacrifice and Prayer**

The Christians are in error regarding the principle of sacrifice. Truth is that a prophet should cry out his heart and supplicate for the reformation of his people. The words of the Holy Quran:

“Then maybe thou will kill thyself with grief, sorrowing after them, if they believe not in this announcement. (18:6)

Indicate that the Holy Prophet supplicated with such fervor. He had great passion in his heart for the reformation of people. If you want to invite people to Islam you should create such a passion in your hearts and supplicate for them. Prayers have the ability to soften the most hard hearted of the opponents. Hazrat Umar goes out with the intent to kill the Holy Prophet, he listens to the words of the Holy Quran on his way there that immediately open up and soften his heart. He becomes a convert to Islam. If you also have the passionate intent and pray fervently, Allah the Most High brings about a change in hearts of the most hard-hearted disbelievers.

**Quranic Lessons during Ramadhan**

I have fixed a time for Quranic lessons during Ramadhan. This appears to be a very daunting task but if I am given the opportunity and the health, by Allah’s permission it is bound to happen. My intent in doing this is that our members should read and understand the Book of Allah. Prayers are accepted during Ramadhan:

And when My servants ask thee concerning Me, surely I am nigh. I answer the prayer of the suppliant when he calls on Me. (2:186)

We should therefore read this Quran to understand it and put it into practice and seek Allah’s pleasure through it. God’s help is much needed in the work of propagation. Allah has given us the month of Ramadhan. The time of *Tahajjud* prayer is the time for supplication. Pray fervently and do not lose sight of your true objective.

**The Need for Teachers of Religion**

I have to say this with regret. In the past wherever we had members of this organization they themselves became the teachers and missionaries for the Ahmadiyya movement. Now I see that people have become sluggish. The step that does not take a forward stride will one day fall back. We should not become lazy but try to move forward. The work that has to be done by a paid missionary can be done by the local members. They are in fact more effective by being role models. You need to now resume this task. There should indeed be people who invite towards Islam. If there had been a system of such religious teachers in place from the very beginning these objection against Islam would have not been raised. Remember those who accept the truth are always there in the world but we need people who are ready to work for the cause of truth. The numbers of workers need to be increased because sometimes only a few out of the hundreds of thousands turn out to be useful. Similarly large numbers get educated but only a handful, go on to accomplish great tasks. We should not be concerned about whether someone is capable of propagating the religion of Islam or not. Allah the Most High makes everyone capable of propagating his faith according to his capabilities.

**Our Duty**

The Ahmadiyya organization is meant to serve and propagate Islam. There is nothing more to it and you should be proud of serving Islam. It is nothing to be proud of to call ourselves Muslims and the rest disbelievers. In this age a person claimed to be the Promised Messiah. How hard is it to understand his claim? In fact no effort is made in this regard. That is the reason for lack of progress. In one way we are responsible for this lack of progress and also there is lassitude on our part. The obstacle is in the form of our own beliefs. If we present the true picture of the Ahmadiyya beliefs, it would be impossible for them not to gain acceptance. We saw a person stand up and go to propagate Islam in a land where the cross was dominant and the call of *Allah hu Akbar* (Allah is the Greatest!) had not been heard. People used to look at pictures of Muslim Prayer services as a novelty. Allah the Most High makes him successful and the people who used to see pictures of prayer services are now themselves praying in that manner. In short Allah’s Grace comes in proportion to the effort we make.