

“UNDERSTANDING ISLAM” with Imam Shamshad on KCAA -- **SHOW #38** (05-25-2010)

SHOW: #38 TITLE: **“Khilafat = Peaceful Leadership in Islam.”**

AIR TIME: between 9:20am and 9:5am DATE: Tuesday, May 25th, 2010

PAUL: As always on Tuesday, we have our regular segment of “Understanding Islam with Imam Shamshad”. . .

Brought to you by the world-wide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, currently in 195 countries with 160-million members around the world. Their motto as always is: “Love for All – hatred for None.”

As-salaam Alaikum and welcome, Imam Shamshad. . .

[Imam returns Paul’s Salaam and they chit-chat.]

I understand you had a very special celebration this past Sunday at your mosque in Chino. Tell us about that. . .

IMAM: Yes, Paul, we held our annual Khilafat Day celebration.
[explains about Khilafat Day.]

PAUL: So “Khalifa” is the title for the spiritual leader for the Muslims, and “Khilafat” is the name of the institution of spiritual leadership in Islam. . .

And in the case of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, you believe the Khalifa is divinely-appointed and guided just like in the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad when a series of Khalifas were selected after his death.

IMAM: [talks about the first rightly-guided Khalifas in Islam.]

The word Khilafat means *succession*, and the Khalifa is a successor to a Prophet of Allah, whose goal is to carry to completion the tasks of reformation and moral training that were started by the Prophet.

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IMAM: The community of followers of a Prophet of Allah continues to nurture its faith and practices under the blessing of the institution of Khilafat for as long as Allah wishes. Allah says in the Quran, in chapter 24, verse 56:

Allah 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.

PAUL: Now, Imam Shamshad. . . One thing I’ve noticed about the religion of Islam is that whenever some idea or concept is mentioned in the Holy Quran, there is always seems to be some quote from the Prophet Muhammad that goes along with that verse from the Quran to clarify it or expound upon the matter, am I right?

So I know you’ve got to have some gem of wisdom from the Prophet Muhammad on the subject of prophet-hood.

IMAM: Of course! The Holy Prophet (saw) has said that:

"Prophet-hood 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 prophet-hood for as long as He shall will and then bring about its end.

Politically-minded ruler-ship by worldly kings will follow, and will remain as long as Allah shall will, and then they will come to an end.

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IMAM: After that, there will follow kingdoms ruled by tyrants and cruel, wicked despots, and this will last as long as Allah shall will, and then it will come to an end.

Then, Khilafat on the precept of Prophet-hood will emerge and shall remain until the Day of Resurrection."

PAUL: You, know, Imam, over these past 8 months or so, we've talked a lot about the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, how it is different from all other Muslim groups, and how it is the only Muslim group that is peacefully unified under one spiritual leader who calls himself a Khalifa, and who is appointed by God. . .

And in light of that last saying you read from the Prophet Muhammad, it sure looks like a fulfilled prophesy to me.

IMAM: [explains how only one true Khilafat can exist and all others that are man-made soon perish and collapse. True spiritual Khilafat is started from a foundation of Prophet-hood, usually a prophet with a divine Law.]

PAUL: So. . . one of the proofs that a prophet is in fact true – especially in the case of Law-bearing prophets like Moses and Muhammad – is that there follows after them a series of divinely-guided and protected spiritual leaders.

IMAM: That is exactly the case. The Promised Messiah (as) has described Khilafat as the Second Manifestation of God.

It is the practice of God Almighty, and ever since He created man on this earth, He has been demonstrating this practice -- that He helps His messengers and grants them ascendancy. He has said:

kataballaho la'aghlebanna ana wa rosolee

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IMAM: *“Allah has decreed: Most surely I will prevail, I and My Messengers. Verily, Allah is Powerful, Mighty.” (58:22)*

Here “*prevail*” means that, as it is the intention of messengers and prophets that God's Word must be established on earth and no one should be able to fight it, thus God manifests their truth with His mighty signs.

The truth which they want to disseminate in the world, God sows its seeds with their hands. But He does not accomplish it through them.

Rather, God causes them to die at a time when there is the fear of the collapse of all they have started.

Thus God gives a prophet’s enemies the chance to laugh, ridicule and scorn what looks to be the failure of the divine works and community of the prophet.

When the enemies have done this, then God shows His hand of might and brings about the means by which the goals and unfinished work of the prophet are realized.

Thus God manifests two kinds of power: First, He shows His hand of might through the prophets.

Secondly, at the time of the death of the prophet, when difficulties mount and the enemy is in full might and thinks the followers of the prophet are in deep trouble –

-- then God manifests His strong hand of might and sustains the collapsing community.

Thus, he who shows patience till the end, witnesses this divine miracle. About this divine help for his community, the Promised Messiah, near the end of his life, wrote:

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IMAM: “You should therefore, neither grieve over what I have told you -- that the hour of my death is near -- nor should you be heart-broken, for it is necessary that you see God's second manifestation. . .

When I go, God will send to you the second manifestation and it will stay with you forever.”

This shows that Khilafat is, in reality, an off-shoot or branch of the system of Prophet-hood.

PAUL: Now, in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, you’ve had five spiritual successors since the beginning of your Khilafat in 1908. Explain how a Khalifa is chosen.

IMAM: Just as God appoints a Prophet, He also appoints a Khalifa. . . God chooses the person who is most eligible to become a Khalifa, and guides a group of pious believers into manifesting His Will through a process of selection of the Khalifa.

Once a Khalifa is selected, he remains a Khalifa for life as a living testament to the Divine Will.

Khilafat establishes the authority of Allah on earth, and the Khalifa strives to uphold that authority within the community of followers.

For the believers, Khilafat is an embodiment of Allah’s Unity, as they choose to take divine authority through the person of the Khalifa. The believers partake of the blessings of Khilafat by holding firm to their faith and practices, united under him.

PAUL: Imam, we’re out of time. Give us your contact info.

IMAM: [gives 1-800# and www.alislam.org website.]