

# BAI'AT

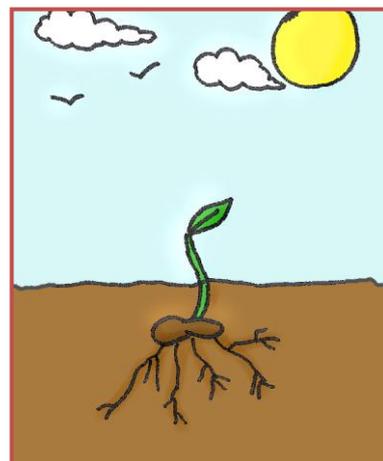


## WHAT IS BAI'AT?

This question is relevant for every single Ahmadi Muslim and we must understand the true meaning and importance of bai'it, in order to incorporate it truly in our lives. The best way to understand this is through the words of our beloved Promised Messiah(AA). In order to explain the concept and importance of bai'it, the Promised Messiah(AA) said:

*"Bai'at truly means to sell oneself; its blessing and impact are based on that condition. Just as a seed is sown into the ground, its original conditions that the hand of the farmer has sown it, but it is not known what will happen to it. If the seed is of a good quality and possesses the capacity to grow, then with the grace of Allah the Almighty, and as a consequence of the work done by the farmer, it grows until one grain turns into thousand grains. Similarly, the person taking bai'at has to first adopt lowliness and humility and has to distance himself from his ego and selfishness. Then that person becomes fit for growth. But he who continues to hold on to his ego, along with taking bai'at, will never receive any grace."*

*(Malfuzat, vol.6,p.173)*

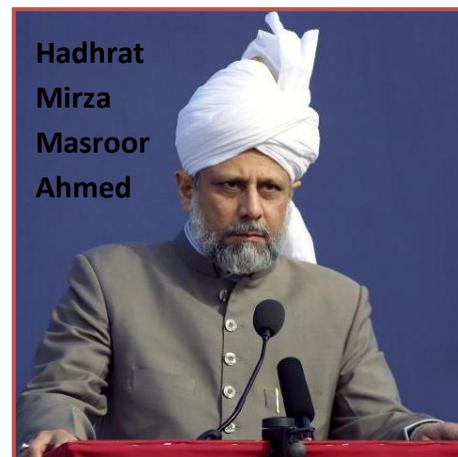


The Promised Messiah's (AA) descriptions of religious concepts are free from any fault, and this quote shows the beauty of his wisdom, in its true sense. He uses the example of a seed to illustrate what state a person needs to be in to take Bai't. Just as a seed is helpless in its capacity to make progress and grow without other factors like soil, sun, water etc., we are reliant on the help of those who we perform bai'at to – in this case, our beloved Khalifa.



The Khalifa is chosen by God as His representative on Earth and thus has a special relationship with God. Through this relationship, the Khalifa of the time has a unique understanding of religious duties and obligations; his unique religious wisdom excels that of any other person. If we follow his instructions carefully and wholeheartedly, we will also be like those precious seeds of the Ahmadiyya community who prosper and bloom into great, strong trees or beautiful flowers.

But how may we follow the instructions of our leader in the best way possible? The Promised Messiah's (AA) wonderful words answer that question for us: we may do this by being humble and putting aside our egos. This means that we must always remember that we have sold ourselves completely to the Khalifa of the time, and so we must adopt his wishes as our own and do everything in our capacity to fulfil them in the best possible manner. Through our bai'it, we have handed ourselves over to the wishes of God, and through our Khalifa we learn how best to please God.



The literal meaning of Bai'it is 'to sell oneself', and we know that when we sell something to another, we lose all right and power over it. In this world, when people sell things to others, do they then retain any right or power to decide how that thing should be used? No. They give up all control, power and authority over it. Just like that, we, as Ahmadi Muslims, have sold ourselves to the hands of our Khalifa. We must always obey him without question and respect all his wishes.

The Promised Messiah (AA) took the first , or Pledge of Allegiance, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1889. This momentous occasion occurred at the home of Hadhrat Sufi Ahmad Jan Sahib located in Mahalla Jadid. As narrated by Hadhrat Munshi 'Abdullah of Sanour, a register was prepared to record this historical event.



All Ahmadi's should read the book 'Conditions of Bai'at & Responsibilities of an Ahmadi' written by our beloved Hazur, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad. This book will explain all the criteria of what bai'at is and what the responsibilities of a true Ahmadi are. To participate with the right mind and right intension all the conditions should be read beforehand, as then the bai'at will be blessed truly by Allah the Almighty and we will be able to follow the conditions of bai'at properly.

### THE 10 CONDITIONS OF BAI'AT:

1

*The initiate shall solemnly promise that he/she shall abstain from shirk [associating any partner with god] right up to the day of his/her death.*

2

*That he/she shall keep away from falsehood, fornication/adultery, trespasses of the eye, debauchery, dissipation, cruelty, dishonesty, mischief and rebellion; and that he/she will not permit himself/herself to be carried away by passions, however strong they might be.*

3

*That he/she should regularly offer the five daily prayers in accordance with commandments of the god and the holy prophet Muhammad and shall try his/her best to be regular in offering the tahajjud and invoking durud on the holy prophet Muhammad.*

4

*That he/she shall make it his/her daily routine to ask forgiveness for his/her sins, to remember the bounties god and to praise and glorify him.*

5

*That under the impulse of any passions, he/she shall cause no harm whatsoever to the creatures of god in general and Muslims in particular, neither by his/her tongue, hands, nor any other means.*

6

*That he/she shall remain faithful to god in all adversity and in prosperity, in felicity and in trial; and that he/she in all conditions remain resigned to the decree of god and keep himself/herself ready to face all kind of indignities and suffering in his way and shall never turn away from him at the onslaught of any misfortune; on the contrary, he/she shall march forward.*

7

*That he/she shall refrain from following un-Islamic customs and lustful inclinations and shall completely submit himself/herself to the authority of the holy Quran; and that he/she shall make the word of god and the sayings of the holy prophet Muhammad his/her guiding principles in every walk of his/her life.*

8

*That he/she shall entirely give up pride and vanity and shall pass all his/her life in humbleness, cheerfulness, forbearance and meekness. That he/she shall hold faith, the honour of faith and the cause of Islam dearer than his/her life, wealth, honour, children, and all loved ones.*

9

*That he/she shall keep himself/herself occupied in the service of god's creatures for his sake only and shall endeavour towards the beneficence of mankind to the best of his/her god-given abilities and powers.*

10

*That he/she shall enter into a bond of brotherhood with this humble servant of god, pledging obedience to me in everything good for the sake of god, and remain faithful to it until the day of his/her death. That he/she shall exert such a high devotion in the observance of this bond as is not to be found in any other worldly relationship and connection that demand devoted dutifulness.*