



AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM COMMUNITY
United States of America

*Muslims who believe in the Messiah,
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani^{ra}*

An informational, literary, educational, and training magazine of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA

May 2015

The Ahmadiyya GAZETTE USA

KHILAFAT EDITION

Members of the National Public Relations Team gather for the “Day on the Hill” Event



...Being that he came in fulfillment of the prophecy of Muslih Mau'ud, he was inherently bestowed with numerous divine blessings that were displayed throughout his lifetime... read more inside in the article on “Blessing of Khilafat”

National Calendar of Activities

June 5-7 Fri-Sun	Jalsa Sālāna Germany		
June 5-7 Fri-Sun	Regional Aṭfāl Rally (Various Jamā'ats)	Aṭfāl	National
June 12-14 Fri-Sun	MKA National Ijtimā	Khuddām	National
Jun 13 Sat	National Āmila Meeting	Jamā'at	National
June 13-14 Sat-Sun	Spiritual Fitness Camps	Jamā'at	National
June 18 Thu to July 17 Fri	Ramaḍān		
June 20-21 Sat-Sun	Education Day Programs	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
July 4 Sat	Muslims for Loyalty	Jamā'at	National
July 18 Sat	Īd-ul-Fiṭr		
August 1-13 Sat-Thu	Waqf-e-Nau Jāmi'a Orientation Course	Jamā'at	National
August 8-9 Sat-Sun	Education Day Programs	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
August 14-16 Fri –Sun	Jalsa Sālāna USA		
August 20 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamā'at	National
August 21-23 Fri- Sun	Jalsa Sālāna UK		
August 21-23 Fri-Sun	Spiritual Fitness Camps	Jamā'at	National
August 28-30 Fri-Sun	Jalsa Sālāna Canada		
September 5-6 Sat-Sun	For My Country & Nation	Aṭfāl	National
September 11-13 Fri-Sun	East Coast Lajna Ijtimā	Lajna	National
September 13 Sun	Regional Tarbiyat Workshops	Jamā'at	National
September 17 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamā'at	National
September 18-20 Fri-Sun	Anṣārullāh Ijtimā and Shūrā	Anṣār	National
September 19 Sat	National Āmila Meeting	Jamā'at	National
September 24 Thurs	Īd-ul-Aḍḥā		
October 3-4 Sat-Sun	T20 Cricket Tournament	Khuddām	National
October 15 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamā'at	National
October 18 Sun	Religious Founders Day	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
October 18 Sun	Peace through the Messiah (Two Months Campaign)		
October 23-25 Fri-Sun	National Lajna Shūrā	Lajna	National
October 30 to 1 Nov Fri- Sun	Fourth Annual Tabligh Conference	Jamā'at	National
November 19 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamā'at	National
November 22 Sun	Sīrat-un-Nabī Day	Jamā'at	Regional/Local
November 26 Thu	Humanity First Live Streaming Telethon	Jamā'at	National
December 4 Fri	National Āmila Meeting	Jamā'at	National
December 5-6 Sat-Sun	Presidents Refresher Course	Jamā'at	National
December 17 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamā'at	National
December 25-27 Fri-Sun	West Coast Jalsa Sālāna		
December 26-27 Sat-Sun	Midwest Tarbiyati Ijtimā	Jamā'at	Midwest
December 31 Thu	Aṭfāl Sleepover	Aṭfāl	Regional/Local

Topics and Deadlines for next Issues

August Issue. Meaning of Ḥajj. September 1. Labor Day. Importance of hard work. Stories and anecdotes related to labor. Rights and responsibilities of employee and employer. Rallies. Health. Deadline June 10.

September Issue. Prophets/Prophecy. October 13. Columbus Day. History of Islam in the US. Islamic influence in the undertaking of Columbus. Contributions of Muslims to science and technology. October 31. Halloween Islam only supports healthy and productive celebrations which promote man's physical, social, economic and spiritual well-being. Deadline July 5.

An educational and spiritual publication

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Acronyms for salutations used in this publication

sa:	Şallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)
as:	'Alaihis-Salām (may peace be upon him)
ra:	Raḍiyallahu 'Anhu/'Anha (may Allah be pleased with him/her)
rh:	Raḥimahullāhu Ta'ālā (may Allah shower His mercy on him)
aba:	Ayyadahullāhu Ta'ālā Bi-Naşrihil-'Azīz (may Allah support him with His mighty help)

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The Holy Qur'an on Khilafat

وَ إِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلٰٓئِكَةِ اِنِّىْ جَاعِلٌ فِى الْاَرْضِ خَلِيْفَةً ۗ قَالُوْۤا اَتَجْعَلُ فِىْهَا مَنْ
يُّفْسِدُ فِىْهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَآءَ ۗ وَ نَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَ نُقَدِّسُ لَكَ ۗ قَالَ اِنِّىْۤ اَعْلَمُ مَا
لَا تَعْلَمُوْنَ ﴿۳۱﴾

And when thy Lord said to the angels: 'I am about to place a vicegerent in the earth,' they said: 'Wilt Thou place therein such as will cause disorder in it, and shed blood? — and we glorify Thee with Thy praise and extol Thy holiness.' He answered: 'I know what you know not.'
(Al-Baqarah [2] : 31)

وَ عَدَّ اللّٰهُ الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْۤا مِنْكُمْ وَ عَمِلُوْۤا الصّٰلِحٰتِ لَيَسْتَخْلِفَنَّهُمْ فِى الْاَرْضِ
كَمَا اسْتَخْلَفَ الَّذِيْنَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ ۗ وَ لَيُمَكِّنَنَّ لَهُمْ دِيْنََهُمُ الَّذِى ارْتَضٰى لَهُمْ وَ
لَيُبَدِّلَنَّهُمْ مِّنْۢ بَعْدِ خَوْفِهِمْ اٰمٰنًا ۗ يَعْبُدُوْنَۤىْ لَا يُشْرِكُوْنَ بِىْ شَيْئًا ۗ وَ مَنْ كَفَرَ بَعْدَ
ذٰلِكَ فَاُولٰٓئِكَ هُمُ الْفٰسِقُوْنَ ﴿۵۶﴾

Allah has 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. (Al-Nūr [24] : 56)

يٰۤاٰدَمُ اِنَّا جَعَلْنَاكَ خَلِيْفَةً فِى الْاَرْضِ فَاحْكُم بَيْنَ النَّاسِ بِالْحَقِّ وَ لَا تَتَّبِعِ
الْهَوٰى فَيُضِلَّكَ عَنْ سَبِيْلِ اللّٰهِ ۗ اِنَّ الَّذِيْنَ يَضِلُّوْنَ عَنْ سَبِيْلِ اللّٰهِ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ شَدِيْدٌ
بِمَا نَسُوْۤا يَوْمَ الْحِسَابِ ﴿۳۸﴾

[38:27] 'O David, We have made thee a vicegerent in the earth; so judge between men with justice, and follow not vain desire, lest it should lead thee astray from the way of Allah.' Surely those who go astray from the way of Allah will have a severe punishment, because they forgot the Day of Reckoning. (Şād [38] : 27)

Sayings of the Holy Prophet About Khilafat

عَنِ ابْنِ عُمَرَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا قَالَ: سَمِعْتُ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ:
 “مَنْ خَلَعَ يَدًا مِنْ طَاعَةِ لِقَى اللَّهَ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ وَلَا حُجَّةَ لَهُ، وَمَنْ مَاتَ وَلَيْسَ فِي عُنُقِهِ
 بَيْعَةٌ مَاتَ مِيتَةً جَاهِلِيَّةً وَفِي رِوَايَةٍ: مَنْ مَاتَ وَهُوَ مُفَارِقٌ لِلْجَمَاعَةِ فَإِنَّهُ يَمُوتُ مِيتَةً جَاهِلِيَّةً
 (مسلم كتاب الامارة باب الامر بلزوم الجماعة عند ظهور الفتن).

Ibn Umar says that he heard the Messenger of Allah, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, say, “One who pulls his hand from the obedience of Allah will not have any excuse when he meets Allah on the Day of Judgment, and one who dies without a pledge of allegiance, dies a death of ignorance.” Another tradition relates that if one dies while separated from community dies a death of ignorance.

مَامِنْ بُبُوَّةٍ قَطُّ إِلَّا تَبِعْتَهَا خِلَافَةً

(كنز العمال)

Every prophethood is followed by Khilāfat.

عَنْ عَلِيٍّ ؓ قَالَ: قُلْتُ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ! الْأَمْرُ يَنْزِلُ بِنَا بَعْدَكَ لَمْ يَنْزِلْ فِيهِ الْقُرْآنُ وَلَمْ
 يُسْمَعْ مِنْكَ فِيهِ شَيْءٌ قَالَ: أَجْمِعُوا لَهُ الْعَابِدِينَ مِنْ أُمَّتِي وَاجْعَلُوهُ بَيْنَكُمْ شُورَى وَ
 لَا تَقْضُوا بَرَأً يَ وَاحِدٍ-

(درمنثور- اعلام المعوقين لابن قيم)

Ali^{ra} relates, I said, “O Messenger of Allah what should be the course when such a matter arises that is not addressed specifically by the Qur’ān and nothing has been recorded from your sayings?” The Messenger of Allah said, “Gather servants from my Ummah and make the matter a topic of deliberation and do not decide with a single opinion.”

Khilāfat: Second Manifestation of a Messenger

From the Writings of the Promised Messiah^{as}

“It is necessary for you to witness the Second Manifestation whose coming is better for you, for it is everlasting and unending till the Day of Judgment. The Second Manifestation cannot occur until I depart, and it is only when I depart that God shall send the Second Manifestation for you which shall abide with you forever. It is, therefore, necessary for you to see the day of my departure so that the day may follow which is the day of everlasting promise...”

“I have appeared from God as a glory and I am one of His glories duly personified, but there shall be other persons after me who shall bear the glory of His Second Manifestation.” (Al-Waṣiyyat, p. 6)

“Brethren, since it is the practice of God from ancient times that He shows two manifestations in order to frustrate two false exultations of His enemies, it is inconceivable that He should abandon this established practice. Therefore, you must not be grieved at that which I have mentioned, nor should your hearts be afflicted, for it is necessary for you to witness the second manifestation whose appearance is better for you, for it is everlasting and unending till the Day of Judgment.” (Al-Waṣiyyat, pp. 6-7).

“It is God’s design to gather around His Unity all those souls who possess innate faith and abide in different lands, be they in Europe or Asia, and to muster His people under one religion. This is the purpose of God for the accomplishment of which I have been commissioned. Therefore, you should pursue this purpose with meekness through constant prayers, and you should work in unity after me until someone is raised amongst you with the Holy Spirit from God.” (Al-Waṣiyyat, p. 7)

“Khalīfa means successor, and a Messenger’s successor in real terms is he who possesses the Messenger’s virtues by way of reflection. The Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, did not wish to apply the title of Khalīfa to wayward monarchs because Khalīfa is in fact a reflection of the Messenger. Since it is not possible for any man to live forever and God willed to keep alive until the Day of Judgment the reflection of Messengers, who are the noblest and highest among mankind. He therefore designed Khilāfat so that the world may never remain devoid of the blessings of Messengership.” (Shahādatul-Qurān, pp. 57-58).

Weekly Guidance from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V

May Allah be his Helper

Summaries of Friday Sermons received from
Ch. Hameedullah, Wakīl A'lā, Taḥrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya, Pakistan

Friday Sermon 27 March 2015 at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Need of Reformation

The Promised Messiah عليه السلام published numerous announcements, which shed light on his sympathy for mankind and his concern for the reformation of the world.

For Islām to prevail, we will have to reform our morals, show submission to the Almighty God, make sacrifices, and enhance our spirituality.

God never left us alone in the past, nor will He ever do so in the future, provided we continue to sincerely hold on to Him.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: One of the five branches described by the Promised Messiah عليه السلام as essential for the fulfilment of the purpose of his advent is the publication of announcements. From the time he made his claim to the day he died, he published numerous announcements, which constitute a unique treasure for the religious world. He undertook this momentous task all alone. The announcements he published shed light on his sympathy for mankind and his concern for the reformation of the world. Now, it is the duty of the Jamā'at to show the same passion and vigor for the achievement of this blessed purpose.

During the time of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, the announcements were a major means of Tablīgh; hence they were published in large numbers. At that time, to publish even two thousand copies of an announcement was considered a huge success. However, now we have to publish no less than two to three hundred thousand copies of an announcement to attract attention. Some Jamā'ats followed this advice, and their efforts proved greatly fruitful.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted some extracts from the writings of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) who said: The Promised Messiah divided his followers into three categories and said: The means of worldly progress are different from the means of spiritual progress. To make spiritual progress, one has to rectify one's morals, inculcate the spirit of sacrifice, and offer Prayer, so that one progresses spiritually. Also, one should observe fasting, put reliance wholly in God and show absolute submission and obedience to Him. We will never be able to achieve the success promised to us by the Promised Messiah عليه السلام if we tell lies when needed and if we indulge in deception, trickery, deceit, and

backbiting and behave spitefully. For this reason, each and every Ahmadi is required to improve the standards of his honesty and spirituality.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) related a few incidents as explained by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) regarding the blessed life of the Promised Messiah and the early days of the Jamā'at. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) said: Each morning would bring fresh trials and responsibilities and each night would do the same; however, the soothing breeze of Divine succor would eliminate all worries as if they were no more than a piece of straw or speck of dust. The dark clouds that threatened to destroy the very foundations of the [Jamā'at] would soon transform into clouds of Allāh's grace and mercy.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Even though Ahmadi's are financially tight in some countries but their condition is not as miserable as before, they are much better off and by the grace of Allāh, the situation has changed a lot for them in every respect. Ahmadiyyat has reached every corner of the world and by the grace of Allāh things are further improving for the Jamā'at. Even if there are difficulties at times, the words of the Almighty God give us support and comfort. God never left us alone in the past, nor will He ever do so in the future, provided we continue to sincerely hold on to Him. Each sacrifice that we make opens up a new avenue for us of Allāh's grace.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) related two incidents as explained by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd (May Allāh be pleased with him) regarding how God protected and loved the Promised Messiah عليه السلام. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام said: The purpose for which God has appointed me is to remove the malaise

afflicting the relationship between God and His creation and to replace it with love and sincerity and to sow once again the everlasting sapling of the resplendent Unity of the Almighty God.

Next, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced the martyrdom of Noman Ahmad Anjum Sahib of

Rifah-e-‘Am Karachi, and the sad demise of Farooq Ahmad Khan Sahib, Nā’ib Amīr District Peshawar. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke of their services for the Jamā‘at and announced that he would lead their funeral prayer in absentia after the Jum‘a Prayer.

Friday Sermon 3 April 2015 at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

New Ahmadīs are Showing Great Progress

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) related incidents shedding light on the strong faith and conviction of the newly converted Ahmadīs and the extraordinary progress they have made in terms of their own spirituality as well as sincerity for the Jamā‘at.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The new converts are making progress in terms of knowledge, practice and spirituality by studying the books of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام and listening to the sermons delivered by the Khalīfatul-Masīh.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: While we pray for the enhancement of our own faith and the faith of the new Ahmadīs, we should also pray for the betterment and well-being of the world at large.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: There is no doubt that God Himself planted the sapling of Ahmadiyyat in the world, and now the sapling will grow and flourish as God has promised.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) related incidents shedding light on the extraordinary grace showered by the Almighty God upon those who have newly joined the Jamā‘at.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: God blessed the hearts of these people with the light of truth enabling them to strengthen their faith and conviction and raise the standards of their own spirituality as well as sincerity for the Jamā‘at. They have begun to enjoy the obligatory prayers and take pleasure in them. Their moral conduct has also improved, and by studying the literature of the Jamā‘at they have enhanced their knowledge and understanding of the Almighty God.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: These righteous people themselves explain that after they joined Ahmadiyyat, they found it easier to understand Islāmic teachings and they found a great change to be taking place in them enabling them to establish a true relationship with Allāh.

Indeed, this is what every Ahmadī should strive for.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: An Ahmadī from Guinea Conakry writes that after he took Bai‘at, he experienced such a unique spiritual change in himself as he had never experienced before. He said that after taking Bai‘at he found the spiritual peace he needed for so many years.

A Christian missionary in Congo accepted Ahmadiyyat. He writes that the peace of mind and the

feeling of being close to God that he experienced after becoming an Ahmadī was not experienced by him ever before. He further writes that now he considers Ahmadiyyat to be everything he may need in life.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Many have embraced Ahmadiyyat through watching MTA. Secondly, the writings of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام also affect the hearts of the people and make them turn to Ahmadiyyat. A Moroccan Ahmadī writes that after God enabled him to take Bai‘at; he began to study the books of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام. He felt as if the books acted like an ointment for his injuries and provided comfort to his soul.

An Ahmadī missionary in Bosnia writes that due to the sermons which Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) had delivered last year on reformation of practice, people have become more regular in offering Fajr Prayer in congregation.

A Macedonian Ahmadī writes that his wife did not observe purdah, but ever since she listened to Huzoor’s address to the Lajna during Jalsa Sālāna Germany, she has begun to cover herself with a Hijab and observe purdah. He writes that her faith in Ahmadiyyat is not only strong but also increasing by the grace of Allāh.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Ahmadī girls, and especially ladies, should be mindful of the fact that Islām has commanded them to observe purdah; therefore, they should act upon the commandment fulfilling all its requirements.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: When I read reports containing faith-inspiring incidents from the lives of the new converts, I am amazed to find out how

God is demonstrating His signs for people and how He is guiding them even through dreams to the right path. So much so that even the opposition shown by the opponents of the Jamā'at leads good-natured people towards the Promised Messiah ﷺ. This makes Ahmadīs increase in knowledge and Divine cognizance as well as helps them improve their moral conduct. Also, it proves that God is bestowing His support and help upon the Promised Messiah ﷺ, that Islām is the best religion, and that God exists. Therefore, when we listen to faith-inspiring incidents from the lives of the new Ahmadīs, we should pray for our own faiths to grow

stronger by the day. Also, we should pray for the welfare of the entire world.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke of the pitiable state of the Muslim world and asked the Jamā'at to pray for them.

Next, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced the sad demise of Intisar Ahmad Ayaz Sahib of Boston, USA, and Waseem Ahmad Sahib, a student of Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya Qādiān, India. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke of their services for the Jamā'at and announced that he would lead their funeral prayers after the Jumu'a Prayer.

Friday Sermon 17 April 2015 at the Baitul Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Fulfillment of the Prophecies of the Promised Messiah

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) gave a discourse on the blessed life history of the Promised Messiah ﷺ in light of the incidents related by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضی اللہ عنہ، and said:

The prophecies made by the Promised Messiah ﷺ were fulfilled not only during his lifetime but are being fulfilled to this very day. The progress of the Jamā'at today testifies to the fulfillment of those prophecies.

Mesmerism is the name of a few temporary tricks only, whereas prayer is the weapon that can turn around the earth and the heavens. Mesmerism cannot defeat the power of faith.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Once, when Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضی اللہ عنہ was speaking about the importance of prayer and explaining how the greatest feats could be accomplished through it, he also spoke about mesmerism and said that those who are skilled in mesmerism do manage to bring about changes in people's behaviour, but such changes are temporary and limited only to a few individuals. Moreover, they are not such as are capable of producing any revolutionary benefits. On the other hand, prayer, when offered with its prerequisites, can change the destiny of nations. The Promised Messiah ﷺ said: Mesmerism is the name of a few temporary tricks only, whereas prayer is the weapon that can change the very face of the earth and the heavens.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) related an incident as explained by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضی اللہ عنہ regarding mesmerism. The incident took place when the Promise Messiah ﷺ was sitting among his companions. A skilled hypnotist at that time tried to hypnotize the Promised Messiah ﷺ. However, God not only frustrated the plan of the hypnotist but also showed him a sign. When the Promised Messiah ﷺ found out about him, he said: "Mesmerism cannot defeat the power of faith. The will power of an ordinary man bears no comparison to the will power granted to someone from God. The one who is granted will power

from God considers the will power of ordinary human beings to be of no value."

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In order to prove the truth of His loved ones, God shows signs even to those who do not accept His chosen people. In 1904, when the Promised Messiah ﷺ travelled to Lahore, he made a speech there to the participants of a conference. A non-Ahmadī friend of the Jamā'at named Sheikh Rahmatullah Sahib (who was an advocate) was also among the audience. He relates: While the Promised Messiah ﷺ was making his speech, a column of light appeared to be rising from his head towards the sky. A friend of mine was also sitting beside me. So, I asked him what it was. He immediately said: It is a column of light rising from the head of Hazrat Mirzā Sahib and touching the sky. The spectacle left such an impact on Sheikh Rahmatullah Sahib that he accepted the Promised Messiah ﷺ on that very day.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: These signs were such by witnessing which people discovered faith. However, God did not show signs only in this way, rather He is showing signs even today in a variety of ways. Relating an incident from the life of the Promised Messiah ﷺ, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضی اللہ عنہ said: I remember that an Ahmadī once wrote a letter to the Promised Messiah ﷺ wherein he mentioned that his sister was possessed by Jinns. The Promised Messiah

عليه السلام wrote back: “There are no such jinns as people commonly believe to exist.”

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted incidents related by Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه regarding the signs and miracles showed by the Promised Messiah عليه السلام. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also related the incident according to which Abdul Karim رضى الله عنه, a companion of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, was miraculously cured after he was bitten by a mad dog. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the fulfilment of the sign mentioned in the Divine revelation: ياتيك من كل فج عميق People will come to you so that the track on which they travel will become deep due to excessive travel.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted the Promised Messiah عليه السلام: God has shown hundreds of thousands of signs to prove my claim to be true.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضى الله عنه: I would rather say that God

showed such a large number of signs in support of the truth of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام as cannot even be counted. However, the signs are shown for the sake of those who are blessed with wisdom. And, the fact is that these signs enhance us in faith. An opponent of the Jamā'at once visited the Promised Messiah عليه السلام and asked for a sign to be shown to him. The Promised Messiah عليه السلام smiled and said: You should read my book, Haqiqatul Wahi, and you will find out how many signs God has shown in my support.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The prophecies made by the Promised Messiah عليه السلام were not only fulfilled during his lifetime, but continue to be fulfilled to this very day, and the progress of the Jamā'at today bears witness to this. May Allāh grant people insight to recognize this, and may He make us stronger in faith by the minute. Āmīn.

Ansar Ijtima 2015 - Be the One

Faheem Younus Qureshi, Sadr Majlis Ansarullah USA

I am inviting you to be the guests of the Promised Messiah (may peace be on him) at the 2015 National Ijtima of Majlis Ansarullah, USA, to be held at Baitur Rahman Mosque, Silver Spring, MD on September 18-20.

You have seven months to plan. That is a long time. Long enough for a tree to lose and regain all the leaves, for an athlete to train for a marathon, and for a human to travel to Mars. Start planning now, block your weekend, book your tickets, and pray for another inspiring Ijtima.

Here are some upgrades: we have pulled the Ijtima dates up, to avoid the cold October days; we will start Majlis Shura by 10 A.M. on September 18th (Friday) and conclude it the same evening; we have reserved more hotel rooms; and we will start the popular interactive workshops on Friday afternoon, Insha'allah.

Since our biggest asset is our brotherhood, it is natural for us to make our biggest upgrade in its strength—both spiritually and numerically. Remember Allah's promise to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be on him): “Surely every hour that follows is better for thee than the one that precedes.” (The Holy Qur'an, 96 [Al-Duḥā]:5) See how his devotees increased from 313 at Badr to 1000 at Uḥud to 3000 at Aḥzāb?

The Holy Prophet's devotees in the latter days should demonstrate a similar spirit. Ḥaḍrat Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him), in Tafsir-i-Kabir, commented that just as Allah fulfilled this promise when the Holy Prophet was physically alive, He would also fulfill it for Muslims in whose hearts the Holy Prophet will remain alive in the future, the ones who will follow his path, the ones who will emulate his actions.

Based on this, I pray that may Allah bless us with 1 1 1 1 brothers at this year's Ijtima. It's not just a target in a worldly sense, it's a prayer; it's a call. Come. Be the one.

Last year, when Allah blessed us with 1036 brothers, our belief in the unseen was boosted. This year, promise that you will work hard and pray hard for another amazing Ijtima, because we are the helpers of Allah and we have pledged to keep the spirit of the Holy Prophet alive. That is how the promise of “Surely every hour that follows is better for thee than the one that precedes.” will be fulfilled for the Jamā'at of the Promised Messiah.

To me, each one of you will be the one out of one-one-one-one.

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The Blessings of Khilafat

By Sarah Meelu

God has always furnished mankind with the necessary and appropriate guidance by way of His chosen ones on Earth. All throughout history, the world has seen countless prophets appear proclaiming to show men the way to God and how to reach Him. Today this divine mission continues with the advent of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), who came to revive Islam and whose successors continue to exhort mankind towards good.

In his book, *The Will*, the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) assured his followers to have faith that God's promise would be fulfilled after his demise and that they should not falter in their belief in his holy mission to revive Islam. He writes, "It is essential for you to see the Second Manifestation, too, and its coming is better for you because it is everlasting, the continuity of which will not end till the Day of Judgment... When I depart, then God will send this second Manifestation for you which shall always remain with you as it is promised by God in *Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya*." How regretful is it that the majority of today's Muslims remain divided and choose to deprive themselves of the blessings of the true Khilāfat on earth today. They are content to remain as they are, riddled with strife and discord, and are walking down the path to utter ruin. In stark contrast to this shameful state, those who have accepted the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) are witnessing the Divine manifestation in the form of Khilāfat and are growing in number by the day. Ever since the demise of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has continued to flourish and spread all over the earth; the unity inherent in this Divinely ordained community has only taken place through Khilāfat. As the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says in his book, *The Will*, "I came from God as a Manifestation of Divine Providence and I am a personification of His Power. And after I am gone there will be some other persons who will be the Manifestation of the Second Power [of God]." Indeed, each and every Khalīfa since then has acted in unison with the will of God, directing the Jamā'at in the right way at every step; nowhere in the world can such harmony, obedience, and peace be observed. At this point, it is worth briefly mentioning some of the notable achievements made under each Khalīfa of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him).

The first Khalīfa of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), **Ḥaḍrat Maulawī Hakeem Nooruddin** (may Allah be pleased with him), was a truly a dedicated and devout person who had the honor of living with the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) in Qadian, India. He was the first person to take Bai'at or Initiation into the Community at the hands of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) on March 23, 1889. Despite the calls of some within the community who said the Khalīfa should remain in a strictly ceremonial position, he determinedly upheld the dignity of his title and thereby shut down any such imprudent ideas. With the help of God Almighty, he stayed firm and resolute as the first Khalīfa, despite some internal opposition within the Jamā'at; as he once said, "The men of God, with Allah's help and support ... ultimately triumph." And triumph he did. During his Khilāfat, he launched publications for distribution and established the first foreign mission of the community in London. The Holy Quran was translated into English. These are only a few of the highlights of his trailblazing era of Khilāfat; he was one fully devoted to the cause of God. As the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) himself once said, "How nice it would be if everyone from my followers were Nooruddin. This is possible only when one's heart is illuminated by the light of truth and firm beliefs."

The second Khalīfa of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), **Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad** (may Allah be pleased with him), played a vital role in the growth of the Jamā'at during his 52 years as Khalīfa. He organized the community and made vast legislative and administrative changes that laid the foundation for its future development. He created the auxiliary organizations and established the schemes of *Taḥrīk-e-Jadīd* and *Waqf-e-Jadīd*, for the preaching of the message of Ahmadiyyat and for supporting missionaries charged with spreading the word, respectively. He emphasized the importance of financial sacrifice and the value of moral training in children. At his time the community was undergoing vast upheavals and he strove to ensure that the community remained united under his leadership and guidance. Being that he came in fulfillment of the prophecy of Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd, he was inherently bestowed with numerous divine blessings that were displayed throughout his lifetime. In particular, he was bestowed with a vast knowledge of the Holy Quran, and

his writings on this Holy Book are remarkable. He traveled on a few foreign trips and his speeches were so grand that some were converted into books, such as 'Ahmadiyyat, the True Islam.' Furthermore, he began the tradition of holding annual Religious Founders' Day, in which speakers from various faiths gathered and discussed the teachings of their respective religions, a practice which continues in the community to this day. He also guided the Jamā'at from India to Rabwah during the 1947 partition of India. He was in fact a staunch supporter of the independence of Muslims, and stood out among other Muslims for this. In addition, he successfully weathered the bitter storm of opposition that came not only from other Muslims but also from the leaders of other religions during his term of Khilāfat. He once said that it would take a long time before the world would realize how much he had accomplished for the Jamā'at during his Khilāfat. In short, he was the full embodiment of a Khalīfa and exhorted Ahmadis to always obey the Khilāfat, for, as he once said, "Khilāfat is a source and beacon of Divine Light. So hold on firmly to Khilāfat."

The third Khalīfa of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), **Ḥaḍrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad** (may Allah shower His mercy on him), on one occasion said, "Whenever God commissions someone to reform the world, He Himself helps him and creates a congenial atmosphere for the success of the person sent by Him, He sends down His blessings." During the time of the third Khalīfa, these words were truly fulfilled. He was a stabilizing force for the community, especially when Ahmadis were declared non-Muslims in Pakistan. He traveled to foreign countries, and was hopeful for the spread of the Jamā'at in Africa in particular. He also founded the Fazl-e-Umar Foundation, the Nusrat Jehan Program, and the Jubilee Fund. The slogan "Love for All, Hatred for None," still used by the Jamā'at today, was originally coined by him. This is only a brief glimpse into his service and dedication to the community.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (may Allah shower His mercy on him) was the fourth Khalīfa of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him); he was a veritable man of God who was blessed with vast spiritual and temporal knowledge who made great achievements during his time as Khalīfa. Among these were the establishment of MTA and Humanity First. He also published numerous literary works, all of which serve as testimony to his deep and profound knowledge of the faith. When he was exiled to the United Kingdom after being forced from Pakistan, he successfully established the global center of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in London, the true world capital. Therefore, this

moment too, although seemingly perilous at the time, turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Throughout his Khilāfat, he continuously exhorted the community on various issues, ranging from the need to preach to others to attaining righteousness and piety. He also repeatedly mentioned the need and importance of Khilāfat itself, saying, "When a people are divided, they cannot attain in the world what a united people can attain because their might is not only divided and split, their might is pushed against one another... [There is a] need for unification and for one Imam to bring order, a single order in all of Islam. This cannot be done without Khilāfat, because Khilāfat is a system whereby the absence of a prophet is somehow compensated for by a person who officiates on his behalf and who sits as a deputy and a subordinate; a central authority in a seat which has been vacated by deceased prophets." It can only be hoped that the Muslims of today pay attention to these words so they realize that without Khilāfat, Islam cannot progress.

The current Khalīfa, **Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad** (may Allah be his Helper), is the fifth successor to the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him); he is providing the community with steadiness during a time when there is widespread uncertainty and skepticism about Islam, and its very existence as a faith is being widely questioned. He is successfully navigating the Jamā'at through the current age, efficiently explaining the import of true faith, righteousness, and piety. He has provided comfort and solace as the persecution of the Jamā'at intensifies around the world, and has constantly based his message on peace. Many of his inspiring addresses have been turned into books that provide continual means for the members of the Jamā'at to attain high levels of faith and spirituality in their own lives. As Khalīfa, he himself has also mentioned about Khilāfat, "Khilāfat establishes the commandments of God and His Message and the administration of the Jamā'at works under Khilāfat ... Ahmadis could not be grateful enough for this and this gratefulness can be expressed by showing complete obedience to Khilāfat." May God Almighty continue to provide him His mighty support as he leads this community into the future.

The Blessings of Khilāfat are numerous and manifold in nature; a true comprehension of the depth of these blessings can only be realized through proper obedience and submission, for Khilāfat is truly established by God to fulfill His purpose for humanity here on Earth. Indeed, "This is the Way of God," the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) wrote, "and since He created man on earth, He has always been demonstrating this way by helping His prophets and Messengers and granting them predominance, as He

says, “God has ordained that He and His prophets shall prevail” (58:22).” Under the Divine blessing of Khilāfat, this community has made tremendous progress and will do so into the future, God-willing.

It seems proper to end with the words of Ḥaḍrat Muṣliḥ Mau’ūd (may Allah be pleased with him), who

said, “Friends, my last advice would be that all blessings are in Khilāfat. Prophethood is a seed after which the Khilāfat spreads its benevolence in the world around. Hold firmly to true Khilāfat and spread its blessings in the world. Allah would be merciful to you and would bless you in this world and in the Hereafter.

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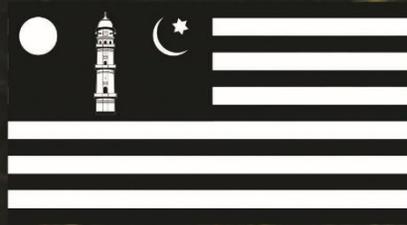
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Muhammad^{sa} Messenger of Peace Conference at Rutgers University

Abdul Nasir, Secretary Tabligh, Central Jersey

On Tuesday, March 24th, the Rutgers Ahmadi Muslim Student Association organized the Muhammad^{sa} Messenger of Peace conference at the Rutgers University Student Center in the New Brunswick campus of New Jersey.

This year, the theme focused on building bridges among faith communities by exploring the life of Prophet Muhammad, his ideologies and to contrast them with the negative and misunderstood version portrayed in the media due to the actions of the extremists carried out by ISIS and the like in the name of Islam.



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The event started at 6:30 PM with refreshments and a short video introducing the history of violent extremism in America, carried out by the likes of Timothy McVeigh, who were motivated by personal ideology and not driven by faith. Mr. Safwan Akbar moderated the program. Imam Azhar Haneef addressed the audience with opening remarks. He commented on the fact that in this day and age, we often mix extremists and their political ideologies with Islam. However, the religion of Islam provides absolutely no foundation for supporting the actions of these extremists.

The second guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Tariq Sharif, Vice President of Marketing at Dunn & Bradstreet. Mr. Sharif focused on the life of Prophet Muhammad from recorded history and highlighted several incidents relating to matters of state affairs, his reaction towards slander, dissention and even personal abuse by his critics. His exposition brought out the

benevolent and tolerant character of Prophet Muhammad.

Keynote speaker, Harris Zafar, delivered his talk on the topic of apparent conflict between Islam and freedom of expression. Detailed in his analysis of current affairs including in the Muslim countries and the Charlie Hebdo incident, Harris pointed out the apparent ongoing conflict within Muslim communities driven by misrepresentation of true Islamic teachings of Prophet Muhammad for political gains.



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The student center hall was packed with about 200 attendees with 60 guests including NJ State Senator Hon. Bob Smith (D) of district 17 who delivered a brief address thanking the community for holding this event at the campus. He emphasized the need for faith communities to participate and engage in dialogue and the democratic process.

Several guests provided very positive feedback on the program and one repeat guest mentioned, "This is my third time attending, and I always enjoy this program, it is very well put, professionally delivered and I learn a lot about Islam from this event."

The program concluded with a short question and answer session presided by Imam Azhar Haneef and a panel. Dr. Mir Sharif Ahmad, President of the Central NJ chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community closed the event thanking everyone.

Several media outlets, including TV Asia and Verizon FIOS Channel 1 news team, covered the event and it was broadcasted at the 10 PM nightly news.

Chicago Outreach Activities

Interfaith Meeting

Imam Shamshad Ahmad Nasir of Baitul-Jāmi' Mosque met religious leaders on March 11th at First Congregational Church of Glen Ellyn.



After a brief introduction, the participants were asked about their contribution for their respective congregation. Ms. Deanna Filkins, LCSW, the executive director of youth and family in Glen Ellyn explained the program of her organization and the service they provide to poor and needy people of the area.



Rev Paul Kopka of the Grace Lutheran Church, Pastor Lee of the United Methodist Church of Glen Ellyn and Mr. Atilla Ayhan, executive manager of Turkish American Wheaton also explained their services. Mr. Ayhan graciously invited all attendees to their Turkish cooking classes.

Imam Shamshad of Baitul-Jāmi' Mosque in Glen Ellyn explained that Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, under the spiritual leadership of His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad, is established in 206 countries of the world. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is trying to spread peace and to clear the image of Islam that has been portrayed by some so-called Muslims who have hijacked Islam for their political purposes. Imam

Shamshad further said that His Holiness addressed the Capitol Hill and British Parliament and told all about peaceful teaching of Islam and urged prominent leaders of the world to take a stand to establish peace and save the world from destruction. Imam Shamshad invited all leaders to his mosque for religious dialogue and for religious founder's day celebrations.

Meeting with Sierra Leon Muslims

Imam Shamshad was invited by Sierra Leonean Muslim Community to convey the teachings of the Quran at Chicago Northside. The event took place in the House of Sheikh Mohamed Kallon, the chief Imam of the Muslim Community of Sierra Leone. It was attended by 60 people.

Imam Shamshad addressed the gathering by saying that it was his love and affection for the people of Sierra Leone that brought him to meet them. He had the opportunity to serve as a missionary for four years in Sierra Leone during 1980s. The love and affection that he was shown during his stay in their country has stayed with him and for that matter he also wants to always reciprocate that love by establishing relationship with Sierra Leonean community wherever he serves as an Ahmadiyya Muslim Missionary.

Imam said: It is very important to know why God Almighty has created human being on the earth and what He meant when God said: "For my worship alone." So, we should all follow the commandments of God and try our best to offer 5 times daily prayers, as mentioned in the Holy Quran and practiced by Holy Prophet Mohammad, may peace be on him. It is also important that we should help the needy and poor people of the community. Islam teaches that Muslims should be always in front to serve the Humanity, therefore, Ahmadiyya Muslim mission establishes schools and hospitals for the benefit of people of Africa.

Lastly, Imam extended invitation to the community to visit Baitul-Jāmi'. He also offered to host the community's up-coming Independence Day celebrations.

Promised Messiah Day

The Glen Ellyn chapter of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community celebrated the Promised Messiah Day at the Baitul-Jāmi' Mosque. The event started with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by members, Kaashif Qaderi and Ismael Khan, who spoke to shed light on the history of Ahmadiyyat and its divine purpose of coming into being.



The community's National Secretary for Agriculture, Nasir Malik, spoke on how to plant gardens for the upcoming season so that members of this community could create a self-sustaining lifestyle in order to benefit themselves and this nation.

Imam Shamshad reminded people of the teachings of Islam. The Imam reiterated the ten conditions of initiation (Bai'it) set by the community's founder, Ḥaḍrat Ahmad^{as}, so as to renew commitment towards the community as the original 40 members had done so over 100 years ago.

Distribution of the copies Holy Quran to Sierra Leone Muslim Community

On Sunday March 15, 2015, Imam Shamshad Nasir was invited to the house of Chief Imam Mr. Kaloon of the Sierra Leone Muslim Community in Romeoville, IL. As a friend of the community, Imam Shamshad was asked to partake in their community gatherings which they hold regularly.

The program started with Sunset Prayer (Maghrib) followed by dinner. Then the members of Sierra Leone Muslim community started the meeting with the reading of the holy Quran by the chief and local Imams. After that they read many prayers and verses from the Quran and listened to different speeches. Then the chief imam and general secretary Mr. Ibrahim invited Imam Shamshad to speak.

Imam Shamshad addressed the community in a very comprehensive manner and directed their attention to the blessings of reading the holy Quran. He said that merely reading the Quran without understanding its meaning would not bring them proper benefits. He stressed the importance of knowing the meaning and keeping it in mind during recitation. Imam Shamshad brought many copies of Holy Quran with English translation for them so that those who read it could understand the Holy Quran and practice it in their daily life so that they can have successful life.

There was another noble purpose of this visit and that was to distribute the copies of Holy Quran to the members of Sierra Leone Muslim and Christian communities. Members of the Sierra Leone Muslim Community had mentioned to Imam Shamshad that they did not have enough copies of Holy Quran to distribute to each household as they wished. Imam Shamshad provided them with copies of Holy Quran on behalf of Ahmadiyya Mission USA. A total of 41 copies of Holy Quran with English translation by Ḥaḍrat Maulawī Sher Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) were distributed that day.

After expressing their gratitude for the copies of the Holy Quran, the ceremony came to an end with a silent prayer.

Ghana National Council of Chicago

Imam Shamshad Nasir recently visited the Ghana National Council of Chicago which is composed of representatives of several Chicagoland Ghanaian associations that meet monthly at 4900 S. Chicago Beach Drive and discuss coordination of the various programs respective of their organizations.



The visit was organized by Mr. Sadik Aboagye who is a member of the Ghanaian organization and an Ahmadi. Hassan Wahab and Ismail Anani, who are also Ahmadi Ghanaian, introduced Imam Shamshad to the council and its President, Mr. Ebenezer Antwi-Nsiah. Imam Shamshad thanked them for the opportunity to address them and be present among them and explained to the council that he was fortunate to have spent 4 years in Ghana as a missionary in eastern region stationed at Koforidua from 1978 to 1982 and has unique connection with the Ghanaian people. Imam said that Ghanaian are a great nation and Ahmadiyya mission is serving them in the field of health and Education. After some remarks regarding his time in Ghana and the importance of teaching children our culture and values, Imam Shamshad introduced Mr. Hassan Wahab, whose father, Maulawī Wahab Adam was a well-known figure in Ghanaian

political and religious circles as well in the services of the country. Imam Shamshad invited the group to make use of the space available at Baitul-Jāmi' Mosque. The offer was well received and several members spoke up to thank Imam Shamshad for the introduction and invite.

Lastly, President Ebenezer Antwi-Nsiah thanked the Imam Shamshad one more time for addressing the council and promised to stay in touch for future events and invited him to the Ghanaian Independence Day celebration to be held on Friday, March 6th, at 1515 East 154th Street, Dolton, IL at 9 PM.

Khilāfat & ISIS Conference in Seattle

By Imran Ghumman

On March 01, 2015, Seattle Jamā'at held a historic event at Seattle Town Hall on the topic of Khilāfat & ISIS. The hall was packed and there was no seat left. A hall that could accommodate only two hundred people buzzed with around two hundred seventy five people including around two hundred fifty guests. These guests included members from TV, Print Media, US Senate, US Congress, city mayors, non-profit organizations, NGOs, law enforcement agencies, politicians and many others. The program started at 5 PM and ended at around 9 PM. Khuddam were wearing "STOP the CRISIS" T-shirts and they greeted all guests. There was a big banner of "STOP the CRISIS" outside the hall as well as at guests registration table.



The program was moderated by Rasheed Reno. The program started with recitation of the Holy Quran. Owais Ahmad recited a few verses of the Holy Quran and Farooq Ahmad read the English translation of these verses. Irfan Chaudhry, President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Seattle, delivered a welcome address. During his address, he thanked all guests. He introduced Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and gave a brief overview of ISIS and the atrocities this group is committing in the name of Islam. He briefed the audience about the efforts of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ (may Allah be his Helper) to establish peace in the world. He mentioned Jihad by Pen waged by Majlis Ansar Sultanul-Qalam. He highlighted Jamā'at efforts under the campaigns of "Muslims for Peace" and

"Muslims for Loyalty." He spoke about the blasphemy law in Pakistan and how Ahmadis have been the victims of extremists for more than a century. He spoke about the advent of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) in the light of the prophecies made by Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). A video on the introduction of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was played that was keenly watched by the audience.

There were several dignitaries who attended this program. Many of them had a chance to speak to the audience while others were introduced to the audience by Rasheed Reno. The dignitaries who attended this program were: Frank Montoya Jr from FBI. Nicola Smith, Mayor of City of Lynnwood. Julie Moore, Community Outreach Specialist. Habtamu Abdi, Community Outreach Officer of the Office of Mayor, City of Seattle. Tommy Bauer, Congressional Staffer. Kevin Milosevich, Chief of Police, Renton Police Department. Carol Cummings, Chief of Police, Bothell Police Department. Bruce Miyaki, Assistant US Attorney Western WA District. Susan Hutchison, Chair-Elect, WA State Republican Party. Chief Phil Lane Jr., Chairman, Four Worlds International Institute. Rich Stolz, President, One America. Jim Montgomery and Jim Jolliffe, Chief and Deputy Chief of Police, City of Bellevue. Steven Jensen and Karen Manser, Chief and Deputy Chief of Police, City of Lynnwood. Linh Thai, Representing Congressman Adam Smith's Office.

Susan Hutchison, elected chair of Washington state Republican party said: *"I really appreciate your courage, wearing a T-shirt that says "STOP the CRISIS" puts a target on you and I recognize that... We are grateful to you and honor you for your courage."*

Bothell Police Chief, Carol Cummings said: *"Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Khilāfat & ISIS presentation last evening at Town Hall. I found the information that was shared to be both interesting and hopeful. The hospitality that you showed us was wonderful and the dinner was delicious. I know that it*

takes a lot of work to put on a presentation like this and I wanted you to know that it was appreciated."

Linh Thai, a representative of Congressman Adam Smith (WA-09) said: *"I think that there was definite needs and wants from the public to have more dialogues about this subject (Khilāfat & ISIS), given the overflows of attendance. I also want to acknowledge the way your team and the panelists handled the edgy questions from the audience; they stroke a great balance between facts and emotional intelligence. I've learned a great deal from the town hall so thank you for given our office the opportunity to bear witness. Please stay in touch and let us know about similar events in the district."*

The keynote speech was delivered by Imam Azam Akram. During his speech Imam Akram explained the meaning of Khilāfat from the Holy Quran. He explained how ISIS and Taliban are gaining strength using social media and how they are attracting more people by getting more involved in humanitarian efforts. Imam Akram shared national stats about counter terrorism effort made by the US government and its effectiveness. He urged media to show more interest in the activities of Jamā'at as Jamā'at tries to combat the misconception of Jihad as interpreted by ISIS and Taliban. Imam Akram asked audience the name of ISIS head who claimed to be the self-appointed Khalīfa. In

response to this question many members of the audience spoke his name while no one among guests could tell the name of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ, Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper). Imam Akram showed video clips from different news channels and explained how ISIS and Taliban use these kind of clips in their social circles to spread hatred and recruit more people to fight. He gave history of Ahmadiyya Khilāfat. He emphasized that we require no financial support from any organization and that we are self-funded organization. To commemorate the victims of terrorism, Ahmadis give their blood to save lives of fellow Americans, Imam Akram said. Audience asked several questions that were answered satisfactorily.

Imam Akram was later interviewed by NBC TV channel and a journalist from a newspapers. King 5 News did a segment with interview of Imam Azam Akram. It was one of the top news segments (<http://www.king5.com/media/cinematic/video/24245873/local-panel-holds-forum-on-isis/>).

In his remarks, President Irfan Chaudhry thanked Missionary Azam Akram for a wonderful presentation and for traveling to Seattle to deliver the keynote address.

At the end of the program, guests were given gift bags containing the book, *"World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace."*

Announcements, News and Events

Go Mex, Young Man!

Waqifeen-e-Aarzee and Student Enrolment in Mexican Universities:

Hadrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper) has directed that we encourage young Ahmadis to:

1. Devote time for Waqf-e-Ārḍī (temporary dedication) in Mexico. If anyone wishes to go to Mexico for Waqf-e-Aarzee, please ask them to complete the Application for Waqf-e-Aarzi in Merida, Mexico form here: <http://tinyurl.com/merida786> and submit as soon as possible.

2. That they be encouraged to enroll for studies in Mexican universities and that they simultaneously learn Spanish and assist in the outreach efforts underway in Mexico.

Maulana Nasim Mahdi, National Naib Amīr, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA Condemns Hate Ads on Philadelphia and NYC Public Transit

Calls on all Americans to unite against bigotry, falsehood, and violence

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA expresses its strong objection to the anti-Islam hate ads on New York City and Philadelphia public transport. These hate ads promote a fabrication of "Jewhatred" that is contrary to the true Islamic teachings of peace for all

people of all faiths—including for Jews. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community condemns these ads as a form of hate speech and incitement to religious hatred.

"Such ads ignore the reality of Islam's pluralistic teachings, and only foster hatred against Muslims

under the guise of free speech.” said Dr. Nasim Rehmatullah, National Vice President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA. “States are not moral agents, people are. Evil can only be surmounted when good people band together and decry such speech and actions.”

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA encourages all Americans to categorically condemn the religious bigotry and violence these hate ads foster. Islam celebrates Jews as equal human beings deserving of equal human rights, and we are open and eager to engage with all our fellow Americans on this important topic.

Tahir Academies All Over the Country

As we approach the end of the first year of establishing Tahir Academies, nationwide, there is a lot to share. But it's all old news: The Atfal and Nasirat attendance has more than doubled, number of parent volunteers serving these 25 Tahir Academies has peaked over 100 and Jamā'at's financial support has crossed six digits. Al-Hamdu Lillah!

While all of this old news is good news, let us share with you an even better news: we have a new tagline. Our logo now reads: “Tahir Academy – the home of Atfal and Nasirat.”

Yes. That's precisely what it is. An infrastructure where our auxiliaries could peak their potential. Please update your local materials and handbooks to reflect this update.

Last month, we held a day-long meeting with the respected Sadrs of Khuddamul-Ahmadiyya and Lajna Ima'illah (and their teams). We not only tied operational loose ends, but also developed a future understanding to synchronize the Atfal and Nasirat syllabi. Everyone wants to do it right though. So please remain patient as we develop a unified syllabus. We will keep you posted.

In the interim, please keep using the existing syllabi and tests of the auxiliaries for their respective classes. Keep your Board engaged. Consider inviting the Nazim Atfal and Secretary Nasirat to the board meetings. Let there be no ambiguity about the fact that Tahir Academy does not replace Atfal/Nasirat classes.

The list of Jamā'ats with a functional Tahir Academy is pasted below. If you are considering

starting a Tahir Academy in your Jamā'at, consult with the auxiliary heads, secretary Tarbiyat, and local missionary right from the get go. All Tahir Academies should include both male and female students. There should be no Atfal-only or Nasirat-only Tahir Academies as our goal is to serve the educational needs of Ahmadi boys and girls, equally.

What is the Tahir Academy all about? Watch our top video on this link

Read the FAQs and learn the answer to questions that you may have.

What is the administrative structure? We knew you would ask, so we made a short video. Watch here.

If you seek full detail, read these handbook of rules, policies, and best practices from two different Jamā'ats. Here and here.

Here is the list of 25 Tahir Academies serving 30 Jamā'ats. We are deeply thankful to these selfless souls who are tirelessly working to implement the directives of Hadrat Khalifatul-Masih. Jazakumallah.

Albany, Atlanta, Baltimore, Brooklyn, Central Jersey, Connecticut, Dallas, Detroit, Fitchburg, Fort Worth, Houston (North and South), Los Angeles (East, West, Inland Empire, Las Vegas, San Diego), Long Island, Miami, North Jersey, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New York, Rochester, Seattle, Silicon Valley, Tucson, York Harrisburg, South Virginia, Willingboro.

(Faheem Younus Qureshi, National Secretary Tarbiyat)

AudioBooks and Soundcloud

For your listening pleasure, alislam and Ansarullah Pakistan present audio books of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) in English and Urdu.

- First 3 volumes of Ruhani Khaza'in
- Malfūzāt 500 tracks
- Dars Ḥadīth 358 tracks

In addition, alislam has updated soundcloud. One can go to soundcloud.com/alislam on internet or the soundcloud app for iPhone or Android can be downloaded to smartphones. Follow the channel or search the channel alislam official. (Dr. N. Rehmatullah, National Secretary Audio-Video)

Tahrik-e-Jadid Devices: Magic Mugs and All...

We have created THREE interesting and very useful devices to promote Tahrik-e-Jadid participation and contribution. They are as follows:

1. Color changing Coffee/Tea Mugs: These Mugs are ceramic made and are black in color. The moment you add hot tea or coffee, it will change its color to green and will display the accomplishments of Tahrik-e-Jadid worldwide. Our Cup is being selected for an Exhibition in Rabwah. It has a world map with a revelation of Hadrat Ahmad, "I shall cause Thy message to reach the corners of the earth." No sooner tea is finished and the cup has cooled down, it will turn black again. It is available for \$ 10.

2. TJ Savings bank for boys, girls, Atfal, and Nasirat: This is a Jar with a lid and a coin dropping hole. It has a digital and accurate readout as to the amount in the Jar. This is to encourage children to save money and for them to pay Tahrik-e-Jadid Chanda every month. There are more than 2000 homes in USA with at least one child. Every home should have at least one such bank. Preferably every child should have his or her own. The lids are of different colors to identify with their names. This is available for \$ 5. The Amazon price is \$ 14.95. This bank will have a colored information of the accomplishments of Tahrik-e-Jadid in pictorial form on the inner surface of the bank.

3. Smart Phone Cover: This is a cover to be used for Smart phones, Androids, iPhone, etc. It has the concept of reward from Allah with the similitude of corn mentioned in Surah Al-Baqarah [2]:262. A Graphic scene of corn growth matching the verse is presented on the smartphone cover. It is available for \$ 10. The market price is \$ 20. Again, a useful reminder for all who have just started working in the field. A gentle reminder for obligatory Chandas.

(Anwer Khan, National Secretary Tahrik-e-Jadid, USA)

Geo-Reminders to Silence Phone in the Mosque

For those of us who forget to put our phones on silence mode at the mosque, an iOS and Android App is available to help us.

Geo-Reminders is a location-based reminders app that will automatically remind you when you entering or leaving a watched location. What is location-based reminder exactly? Location-based reminder is fired by

the change of user's current location. Here are a few examples, remind yourself to pick up gift when you leave work, remind to do laundry, remind to put your phone on silence mode when at the mosque.

Spend some time looking at this App and see how it can help you. (Dr. N. Rehmatullah, National Secretary Audio-Video)

Children's Photos for Daftar Panjum, Fifth Wave of Contributors to Tahrik-i-Jadid

Guidelines for the picture:

1. All children (born in 2005 or later) could be seated on chairs alone or with their fathers if they are too young.
2. President Jamā'at, Missionary, TJ Secretary, Finance Secretary, Qaid and Za'im should also be seated.
3. All children must contribute any amount (\$ 10 recommended) to enroll in Daftar Panjum.
4. Name captions are positively needed as we will send this album to the Khalifatul-Masih. It must be presentable.
5. Proper portrait style picture should be taken.
6. The name of President and Secretary TJ should also be included.

May Allah enhance your efforts with His Grace. (Anwer Khan, Secretary Tahrik-e-Jadid)

Birth Announcement

Almighty Allah has blessed my son Intisar Ahmad Malhi and daughter in-law Amtul Noor with a daughter on March 13, 2015. Hadrat Khalifatul Masih V, may Allah be his Helper, kindly has suggested the name of new born Saariyah Ahmad. Chaudhry Ghulam Haider Malhi was Paternal great-grandfather of her and Professor Mubarak Tahir, president of Mahallah Darul-Barakat Rabwah, is her Maternal grandfather, and Master Muhammad Ismail was her maternal great grandfather. Prayers are requested that may Allah, the Almighty make her a devout follower of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, may peace be upon him, and Qurratul-'Ain (the delight of eyes) for her parents. (Irshad Ahmad Malhi, Regional Missionary)

A Letter of the Promised Messiah^{as} on the Subject of Ribā (Interest)

Dr. Lutf ur Rehman, Nashville, TN.

After Bismillah, the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, wrote to Mian Ghulam Nabi Sethi, a businessman:

In yesterday's mail, I received your letter. I hope that because of your pure intentions and concern, God will create some relief for you. Until such time you should engage in Istighfār and be resolute. I believe that following is an excellent way of dealing with interest money.

You should not spend the interest money in your own business, but collect it separately. When you need to pay interest, do it from this money. If there is money left over, there is no harm spending it in the cause of the Faith where no personal expense is involved. I have already issued this proclamation for the Jamā'at that God has forbidden interest for personal use. It is prohibited for someone to use the interest money for the upkeep of himself and his family such as food shelter and clothing. Or he should give this money to others for similar personal use. But it is not at all prohibited to spend this money in the way of God without receiving any personal benefit to spread His message. It is proven from the Holy Quran that God is the owner of everything. Anything that returns to God becomes clean except the wealth which has been procured without the consent of the people such as stealing, theft, robbery and so on. Such wealth is not suitable for spending in the way of God under any circumstances. But the wealth which is procured with the consent of the people can be spent in the way of God. We should look at our dire need for money against those who are publishing to repudiate our Faith. We are in a struggle with them. There is nothing wrong in spending this money in this struggle. This is my proclamation.

It is sufficient to keep the gaze lower and not look at women directly to remain chaste.

Keep praying to God. It is an act of gratitude that you constantly help the Faith by giving from your wealth. In this hour of need, this is an excellent way to achieve nearness to God. So be thankful that God has given you this ability and my observation is that you are always active on this path. God knows this and He would give you the reward. In addition one should constantly pray and engage in Istighfār. All is well.

Sincerely, Humble Servant, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad from Qadian. April 24, 1898.

PS: By saying that interest money can be spent in the cause of Faith, I do not mean that one should intentionally get involved in the business of interest. If one is facing circumstances such as you, or one comes into possession of interest money for some reason beyond his control, then it can be spent as I have explained. Divine reward would be additional. (G)

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad^{ra} said, "I recognize this letter clearly that it is written by the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). Following regulations are obvious from this letter:

- 1) The interest money can be spent in the payment of interest. In such circumstances, it is better to pay interest from the money which was earned as interest. Muslim businessmen, who are compelled due to circumstances of these days and cannot avoid interest, can make these arrangements.
- 2) The interest money should be separate from other money. Its accounting should be maintained separately and clearly.
- 3) The interest money cannot be spent on personal expense under any circumstances nor could it be given to someone else for his personal use.
- 4) Interest money can be spent in the cause of Faith where no personal expenses are involved such as publications.
- 5) Those assets can be spent in the cause of Faith whose personal use may be prohibited and which have not been procured against the will of the people. They should not be obtained under coercion or deceit such as theft, robbery or embezzlement.
- 6) The precarious condition of the religion of Islam and Muslims supports this view.
- 7) No one should intentionally get involved in the business of interest. The above proclamation is for those circumstances only where one has no control, or he comes into possession of interest money by chance.
- 8) In the present day, the system of interest has been established in a way that no significant business can be run without getting involved in it. This will be considered an excuse due to circumstances. Under these circumstances, accepting and paying interest

will be according to the above instructions. It is because the Promised Messiah considered the circumstances of Sethi Sahib who was a businessman, a valid excuse. The intent of the Promised Messiah is not that one should intentionally get involved in the business of interest. Due to circumstances if one is faced with receiving and paying interest in business, there is no harm in it. This proclamation has been issued keeping such circumstances in view. According to the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) Muslims should not stop doing business because of the fear of getting involved in interest and restrict their trade to small shops where usually there is no concern of interest. By doing so they will destroy their economy compared with other nations.

- 9) According to this proclamation, banking is permitted for the benefit of the Muslims, and interest can be earned and paid according to the above principles.
- 10) A person who earns interest according to this proclamation and spends it in the cause of God is liable for reward before God.

- 11) There is another instruction in this letter about meeting with women who are not observing purdah. These days a lot of women are out there without purdah and it is impossible not to look at them at all. In some situations, one has to meet with these women. Under these circumstances, the instruction of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) is to keep the gaze low and not to look at them directly. One should not avoid meeting with such women entirely as some women may also be compelled due to their circumstances. One should constantly pray to God that he may be saved from any wrongdoing. It is my observation that when the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) would talk with a woman without purdah, his eyes would be almost closed. I could not understand why he did that but the wisdom became clear once I grew up.

Another observation clear from the letter of the Promised Messiah is that in the present-day precarious situation of Islam, the best action is to work in support of Islam. There is no better way to reach God.

(Translated from *Sīratul-Mahdī* by Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad^{ra}, Narration number 442)



Decorations at Masjid Baitur-Rahman, Silver Spring MD
arranged by National Secretary Agriculture and local members

Outreach Activities of Philadelphia Chapter



MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD
HEAD OF THE AHMADIYYA COMMUNITY
IN ISLAM

T-5683
13.10-14

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
نُحَمِّدُهُ وَنُصَلِّيْ عَلٰی رَسُوْلِهِ الْكَرِیْمِ
وَعَلٰی عَبْدِهِ الْمَسِيْحِ الْمَوْعُوْدِ
خدا کے فضل اور رحم کے ساتھ
هوالتاصر

Mr Hassan Hakeem
National Secretary Tabligh
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at
Silver Spring
MD 20905
USA

My Dear Hassan Hakeem

Assalamo Alaikum wa rahmatullah wa barakatuhu

I was pleased to receive your letter dated 27th August 2014 in which you informed that you were able to put up the Tabligh Tool Booth at the USA Jalsa Salana this year.

You described that this tool has been used in the Philadelphia Jama'at with positive results and that it contains helium balloons, gift bags, a two-seater cycle and promotional banner, T-shirts and the book *Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge and Truth* together with stickers and your latest tool of car magnet. You informed that 50 pairs of car magnets were sold which should spread the message. *Alhamdulillah!*

You also requested prayers for four members of the Jama'at who have given endless assistance in this matter. I have prayed that may Allah bless them for their efforts in promoting new ways for Tabligh. May Allah bless them and reward them abundantly for their service to the faith.

Then, you informed that you plan to add a Mobile Tabligh Unit and display a sample car as part of the Tabligh Tool Booth.

May Allah enable you to continue to find new means for promoting the true faith of Islam Ahmadiyyat by various means. May Allah assist you to draw pious souls to you through those efforts in His cause. Ameen.

May Allah bless you

Wassalam

Yours Sincerely

Mirza Masroor Ahmad
KHALIFATUL MASHI V

Establishment of National Archives and Reference Library Next to the Sadiq Mosque

A National Archives and Reference Library is planned that will have the facilities, services and resources we currently do not have. It is slated to be located at the newly purchased school in Chicago East. Chicago school makes a good option due to its historical background. The first Ahmadiyya public library was established in the Sadiq Mosque next door in the same block.



Open Library: Public library will have Ahmadiyya literature, books written by Ahmadis which are not being collected anywhere in the US currently, Jamā'at periodicals from all over the world currently not available anywhere in the US and original or duplicates of US periodicals. It will have a reading area. The public will be able to come and study Islam.



Free Books Exchange: There will be a facility for the collection and exchange of free publications and books, to receive orphan books and articles of historic

importance from retiring persons moving to smaller dwellings, valuable collections left behind when a member passes away, and used books not needed by owners anymore. Donated books not needed by library will be made available to other libraries and public. Free books exchange room will be partitioned into display and work areas.

Research and Reference Library: It will have books on the history of Ahmadiyyat and materials for the research of information related to Ahmadiyya claims, prophecies about the second coming and the life of Jesus after the incident of crucifixion. It will house books on Ahmadiyyat, books on the second coming, books on Jesus in India, books on Jesus after crucifixion, books on the Shroud of Turin, books on Islam in the US, anti-Ahmadiyya books to be able to respond to allegations effectively, books mentioning the above topics, books related to the above topics and books on African American history.



Ahmadiyya National Archives: It will house archives activity, housing a large-format-scanner and other necessary equipment and storage areas for various formats to sort out, catalog, scan and store archives.

Library Office: It will have a librarian's desk (books cataloging, identifying needs, ordering, organizing library), IT desk (digitization of archives, computers and servers maintenance, documents uploading), scanning station for archives and rare items, cabinets for supplies, visitors seating, coffee/tea station, and shipping and receiving.

Invited Lectures, Exhibits and Presentations: The library will share the designated school auditorium for guest speakers and other library programs.

History Exhibition: An exhibition on the history of Ahmadiyyat in USA will be in the hall outside the rooms. The display will be on the library walls. Rooms have solid walls towards the hall to hold large posters which will include Ahmadiyya history in general. This will be an exhibition of our history for us and others to view.

In short, this will be a unique library. It will not be a duplicate of any existing library. It addresses what we lack and do not have and need urgently. Monetary support and book donations are welcome.

Open and free libraries are planned downstairs while rooms upstairs will be assigned other functions.

Prayers are requested for the success of the library. All advice and support is welcome. Your monetary and book donations are welcome. Please contact publications@ahmadiyya.us.

The Pork Issue

Abdul Ganew Issahaque

Student at ICBP, Victoria de Giron, Cuba

*Forbidden to you is the flesh of an animal which dies of itself, the blood and **the flesh of swine**, and that on which is invoked the name of one other than Allah ...whoso is forced by hunger, without being willfully inclined to sin, then, surely, Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful.*
(*Al-Ma'idah [5] : 4*)

The perfection of a Religion cannot be fully ascertained unless it deals justly with all aspects of human life keeping man on a well-balanced pedestal in his strive to attain Divine nearness. Islam, as perfect as it is, is not lacking in this sense. One aspect that greatly influences man, be it physically, morally or spiritually, is what he consumes as food. In Sha Allah, we will delve a little into Islamic dietary laws especially pertaining to the prohibition of the intake of pork or meat of swine. An issue that came up among my peers propelled me to pen down this brief treatise and I pray that Allah be my guide in this effort, amen!

Introduction

The pig is an omnivorous four-legged animal commonly kept as a farm animal whose meat “pork” is the subject of discussion. Pork is consumed around the world chiefly in Germany, Denmark, Poland and Australia¹. The country presently I live in sees it as “national meat.” and this global usage makes it even more difficult to convey the rationality behind the need to avoid it.

The name given to this animal in different languages bear ample testimony to its nature. Let’s take a glance at some examples:

- ♦ In Arabic; the name given to it is “**Khinzir**.” According to Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian, the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), this name is a compound of “Khanz” (very foul) and “Ara” (I see) literally meaning: *I see it very foul*.²

- ♦ In Hindi; it is known as “**Suar**” with its root words as “Su”(a borrowed word from Arabic—the mother of all languages meaning *bad*) and “Ara” thus having similar meaning as in Arabic.³

- ♦ In Spanish: it is called “**cerdo**,” “**Puerco**,” “**cochino**,” *hombre sucio* (meaning: dirty man) and in some cases the meaning given to “cochino” stands as “*hombre muy sucio y desaseado*” (very dirty and filthy man).

All these things point to one fact that this animal is seen as an unclean and abhorrent species and making its meat one’s source of food would only have an immense negative impact on the moral and spiritual make-up of the consumer.

Why Avoid the Flesh of Swine--Pork?

The injunction to not take pork is not only found Islam but also in the Scriptures of the Mosaic Dispensation proving that this wise teaching indeed proceeded from the One and Only God and not man’s make-up. The convincing reasons that constitute a clarion call to all and sundry be they believers or otherwise to stay far away from pork are given as follows.

1. A Command From Allah—The Wise and All-Knowing

First of all, the simple argument in favor of the prohibition is that the Creator of Heaven and Earth and

all that is between them, Who encompasses all knowledge, has given a clear-cut command,

“Forbidden to you is the flesh of swine”⁴

This is sufficient enough for a believer in the Unity of God to abstain because Allah is the One who has provided man with sustenance and in the best of His Wisdom deems it fit for him to avoid it. Several other verses of the Holy Quran exhort the believers in this same regard. Al-Baqarah verse 174, Al-An‘am verse 146 and Al-Nahl, verse 116.

In the Holy Bible, we read:

And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be cloven footed, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.⁵

Yet a more severe injunction we read in Deuteronomy 14:8

And the swine, because it divideth the hoof, yet cheweth not the cud, it is unclean unto you: ye shall not eat of their flesh, **nor touch their dead carcass.**

In Matthew 7:6, Jesus’ admonition “*neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet*” alluded to those who did not believe in him as “swine” and the usage of “pearls” signifying revelation and Signs of God.⁶ This in itself constitute how Jesus perceived this animal to be.

2. Filthy Nature of Swine and Its Negative Influence on the Soul

The names of this animal in various languages as already presented leaves no room as to its nature. It is known to feed on filth and has great affinity with dirt.

And once it has been established to have an inherent filthiness in it, one can then understand how it can affect adversely affect the sublime nature of the soul and alter the morals of those who eat its meat. The adage that “*you are what you eat*” gives a striking warning to us. Moral qualities such as chastity, modesty, humility, honesty and integrity gradually take leave of one who consumes pork making him adopt shamelessness, greediness, gluttony and leaving him as may be said “a shell without kernel”. An ample proof of this is the character portrayed by one who eats meat (aggressive, exceeding brave, fearless) and its contrast the vegetarian (mild, gentle, calm etc.)⁷

With this the objection may be raised that some pigs are raised under very clean environments especially in this part of our globe unlike in my native Africa where a picturesque representation of the filthiness of a pig is not farfetched. Well the answer to this is clear, that once it is known to have an innate affinity for dirt, no matter the conditions under which

it is brought up, its flesh cannot be devoid of this innate character. We give the example of a water-closet (bathroom). No matter how new it is or how nice it looks, it is out of place for a sane person to eat food from it. Why? Simply because its nature and purpose do not fit no matter how beautifully it is presented.

3. Health Risks or Medical Implications

After looking at what it does to the soul with respect to ones morals and attitude, now let us take a look at how the body receives its fair share of the negative impact of pork.

On medical grounds, the flesh of swine, no doubt is high in fat content exposing one to atherosclerosis (deposition of fats in the arterial walls thus narrowing the passage of blood). The consequence of this is high blood pressure and finally heart attacks and strokes.

The pig serves as a very friendly host to several disease-causing parasites such as *Trichinella spiralis*, tapeworm that causes Trichinosis; *Balantidium coli* protozoa found in the intestines of pigs and causes Balantidiosis; *Taenia solium* (pork tapeworm), that invades the tissues and causes *Cisticercosis*.

Now we take a look at some of these diseases that can be traced to eating pork meat:

A) **Trichinosis:** A disease caused by *Trichinella spiralis* and acquired by humans by the intake of undercooked pork. The worm deposits larvae capsule or cysts in the muscles of the pig and once the meat is consumed, the Trichinella begins its life cycle again in the human being. The clinical manifestations of this disease are grouped into three stages.

1. Intestinal stage (2-7days): Diarrhea, abdominal pains, nausea, vomiting and on occasions a feeling of fullness.

2. Muscle invasion stage (second week): Fever, pain in joints, swelling of face, muscle pain whether in movement or at rest, shivering. Three-fourths (¾) of patients of this disease suffer eye problems that include photophobia, conjunctivitis and bleeding of the retina. Also in this stage of its evolution myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle), Taquicardia and chest constriction are not uncommon.

3. Convalescence stage (after 3-4 weeks): Reduction in fever but there is persistence in the muscle weakness.⁸

B) **Balantidiosis:** Also known as Balandtidial Dysentery. It is caused by *Balantidium coli*, the biggest protozoa that can infect man found in the intestines of pigs. This parasite making its way into the human system feeds on red blood cells. Its clinical manifestations include interstitial ulcers, dysentery (an infection of the intestines marked by severe diarrhea),

inflammation of colon, constipation, fever and nausea. The parasite also affects the liver and there is a reported case of it affecting the urinary bladder, ⁹

C) **Infection by *Taenia solium***, a tapeworm rarely known in Muslim countries¹⁰ perhaps due to pork prohibition. It is prevalent in places where there is a habit of intake of pork. The larvae of this parasite inside the pig, including other hosts, forms a protective capsule (encysts) and once the meat is eaten improperly cooked, the cysticercus attaches itself to the intestine and develops directly into a mature adult. From there it goes into the blood stream and to the connective tissues of the muscles. Even though its clinical manifestations are not clearly known, the appearance of the parasite in the feces is the cause of medical consultations of the patients. ¹¹

Conclusion

It is obvious thereby that the injunction which causes the eye-brows to rise among Westerners, or “the lovers of pork meat,” did not just come from an unlettered man, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) about 1435 years ago, when there were no microscopes, but rather from a Supreme Being whose Knowledge and Wisdom transcends that of all His creatures. Notwithstanding the fact that from a medical point of view, there exists other animals whose meat are consumed by man and yet are hosts to harmful parasites which cause so much unrest health-wise, the flesh of swine possess a peculiarity as it is demonstrated, extending its harm to the corruption of one’s morals and from a religious point of view, disobeying Gods command thereby keeping man far away from attaining nearness to his Creator.

It is my fervent prayer that not only should we Muslims appreciate the great wisdom that lies behind the Divine injunctions outlined in the Holy Qur’an and

Sunnah but also that those not acquainted with these injunctions realize the beauty that lies in them. Amen!

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7

Local TV Visits Minnesota Mosque

The local CTN News, Coon Rapids TV station, visited Nusrat Mosque on Friday October 3, 2014 to make a program about the mosque. Bao Vang and her cameraman recorded Friday Prayer, interviewed President, Lajna, and members (worshippers) to make a program about the new mosque. The TV station ran the program on Friday October 3, 2014 night in the evening news. The TV broadcast the video through the

whole week of October 6-10, 2014. A larger version or complete story was broadcast in December 2014. The CTN crew remained at the mosque for two hours, interviewing, recording sermon and Jum’a Prayer, and making video of inside and outside of the mosque. A video can be viewed on CTN site (<http://tinyurl.com/ctntvstp>).