

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا يُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ  
القرآن الحكيم ٢:٢٥٨

# The Ahmadiyya GAZETTE

January-February 2018

USA

"I confer upon thee a sign of My Mercy according to thy supplications. I have heard thy entreaties and have honored thy prayers with My Acceptance through My Mercy and have blessed this thy journey. A sign of power, mercy, and nearness to Me is bestowed on thee. A Sign of grace and beneficence is awarded to thee and thou art granted the key of success and victory. Peace on thee, O Victorious one..." **The great prophecy of Muslih Mau'ūd**

A historic picture of Brother Bilal Abd-us-Salam (fourth from the left) who passed away last year (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'oon)



# Help Rebuild Bait-ul-Futuh Annex

Hadrat Khalifatul Masīh V (may Allah be his Helper) has provided members the opportunity to participate in the blessing of rebuilding the Bait-ul-Futuh annex.

In his 3 November 2017 Friday Sermon, he said, "I would like to make a short appeal, which is for the UK Jamā'at in particular and for the members all over the world in general who have the capability and capacity. This appeal is for the reconstruction of the portion of Baitul-Futūh that caught fire. It has been about two years since a part of the mosque complex caught fire.

Due to the establishment of Khilāfat in UK since 1984, people from all over the world come here and are accommodated. Various functions are also held here. Now, large delegations of auxiliaries and Jamā'ats come here round the year. Their accommodation, etc., poses challenges. Previously arrangements were made in the halls and rooms adjacent to the mosque. It is becoming difficult to accommodate them after the fire.

A reconstruction plan has been prepared. It is quite a large project. Space will be only a bit larger but the project is huge. At the start of this mosque project, Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfatul-Masīh* IV (may Allah shower His mercy on him) had appealed for five million pounds. Funds were spent on annex ignoring the main structure, therefore, he had to make appeal for another five million pounds. Additional work continued slowly for which local Jamā'at continued to spend from its own budget and the project was completed to a large extent. After all this, accident happened. It was destined by God that a big portion was burnt. Now that the new plan has been made, it will cost about the same amount, that is, eleven million pounds. Half of the amount is available from insurance and the contributions from the members. More than half of the amount will be required. Members will have to make sacrifices, in any case, in the same manner as they have in the past.

Bait-ul-Futūh mosque was listed among the fifty all-time great buildings of Europe in terms of its grandeur and architecture as it stood. Ḥaḍrat *Khalīfatul-Masīh* IV (may Allah showers His mercy on him) announced and expressed at the time of its planning that he hoped that the mosque shall be Europe's largest mosque and there shall be no mosque larger than this mosque. He said that our needs would be met if seven to eight thousand people could be accommodated in the mosque. But the capacity of the mosque including halls could accommodate ten thousand people. (Reference Al-Fazl International, 7-13 April 1995, pp. 5-6, 23-29 March 2001, p. 6)

But the capacity was strained in just two to three years. The administration had to announce that people from other chapters should not come here to offer Eid Prayer and offer it in their localities. Yet, as the members know, we had to erect an additional marquees in the park for Eid arrangements. In any case, there is need. We should try to make it as much bigger and better as we can.

Those who did not have the opportunity to participate in its building should avail this opportunity to contribute. As it is the project of UK Jamā'at, therefore, generally it is the responsibility of UK Ahmadiis. It is their project and they should participate in it. The capable members world over should participate. Auxiliaries as auxiliaries, chapters as chapters, and large chapters should also take part in the project as guests come here throughout the year and Jamā'at UK takes care of the guests every month. The number of guests has now increased to thousands.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) once said, "In the era of [Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb] Alamgir, the Royal Mosque caught fire. People ran to the king and informed him that the mosque has caught fire. On hearing this news, the king fell in prostration before God and offered his thanks. His couturiers asked in amazement, "Your honor, what does make this instance a time for gratitude while the house of God is burning and Muslims are deeply grieved?" The king replied, "I have been thinking for a long time that a great and elegant mosque has been built, thousands of people reap benefit from this building. I wish there was a way for me to participate in this good deed. However, I found it to be complete, perfect, and without any defect in every aspect. I did not find anyway to contribute. Today, Almighty God created a way for me to attain His reward. Allāh is All-Hearing, All-Knowing (2[Al-Baqarah]: 245)." (Malfūzāt, Vol. I, p. 387, 1985 Edition Printed in England)

As I said, those who could not take part in the sacrifice previously should donate to the project. The amounts you pledge, try to fulfill them in a period of three years. Pay at least one-third of the pledge in the very first year.

The particulars of this project are as follows.

The previous covered area was 4,700 m<sup>2</sup> and, according to the new plan, it shall be 5,800 m<sup>2</sup>. The height of the Nasir Hall's ceiling has been raised. Apart from that, the first floor shall be Noor Hall; the height of its ceiling has also been raised. The second floor will house offices. There shall be offices, exhibition hall, and residences for guests on third and fourth floors. The building will be a little away from the gate to gain some space for parking and to facilitate movement of vehicles and pedestrians, and to separate pathways for ladies and gents.

This is the plan. May the Almighty Allah bless Jamā'at UK to accomplish the project."

All members of the Jamā'at are requested to whole-heartedly take part in this financial appeal of our beloved Imam so that we become recipient of the blessings of God Almighty. Jazakumullahu Ahsanal-Jazā. (Mubarak Ahmad Zafar, Additional Wakil-ul-Māl, London) (Translated from Urdu by Ahmadiyya Gazette USA Staff)

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**Acronyms for salutations used in this publication**

- sa/s: Şallāllāhu ‘Alaihi Wa Sallam  
(may peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him)
- as/a: ‘Alaihis-Salām (may peace be upon him)
- ra: Raḍiyallāhu ‘Anhu/‘Anha  
(may Allāh be pleased with him/her)
- rh: Raḥimahullāhu Ta‘āla  
(may Allāh shower His mercy on him)
- aba: Ayyadahullāhu Ta‘āla Bi-Naşrihil-‘Aziz  
(may Allāh support him with His mighty help)

Verse numbers in the references from the Holy Qur‘ān count Tasmiya at the beginning of a chapter as the first verse.

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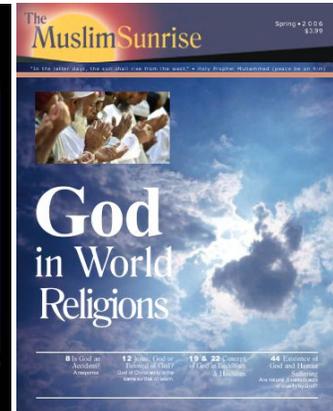
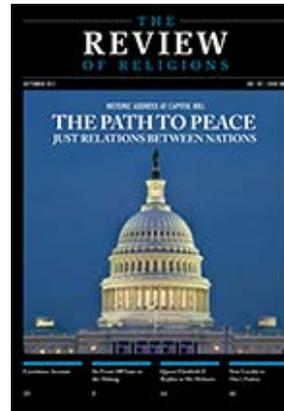
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## Guidance from the Holy Qur'an

In the words of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him

# Prophet with Highest Moral Qualities

Addressing the Holy Prophet ﷺ, Allah, the Almighty, says,

وَإِنَّكَ لَعَلَىٰ خُلُقٍ عَظِيمٍ (68[Al-Qalam]: 5)

That is, "O Prophet, you have been blessed with high moral qualities." This means that he was created with such perfection and consummation of high moral excellencies as could not be exceeded. In the Arabic idiom, the word *'azim* [which has been used in this verse] applies to a being that has attained the highest perfection of the species. For instance, when it is said that a tree is *'azim*, it means that it possesses all the length and breadth which is possible for a tree to possess. Some have said that *'azim* signifies a greatness beyond human ken. Then, the word *khulq*, when used in the Holy Quran and other books of wisdom, does not merely denote good behavior, kindness, and gentleness (as is commonly supposed), rather, *khalq*, with a *fathah* on the letter *kha*, and *khulq*, with a *dammah* on the letter *kha*, are two distinct words which are used in juxtaposition to one another. *Khalq* means the physical body that God, the Bestower of forms and shapes, bestows upon man, whereby man is distinguishable from other animals. *Khulq* means the inner qualities by virtue of which human nature stands entirely apart from animals. Thus, all the inner qualities which man possesses by virtue of his humanity—and can be extracted out of the tree of humanity, which distinguish the innate nature of man from animal—is called *khulq*. The tree of human nature is based on balance and moderation, and is free from any excess or deficiency that is found in the faculties of animals. Allah the Almighty points to this by saying: لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَن تَقْوِيمٍ (95[At-Tin]: 5)

For this reason, the word *khulq*, when not accompanied by a pejorative qualification, always means high moral qualities. These high moral qualities, which are the essence of humanity, comprise all the inner qualities found in man, and include the following: clear reason, quick understanding, purity of mind, sharp memory and remembrance, chastity, modesty, patience, contentment, piety, fear of God, high resolve, perseverance, justice, trust, truthful speech, generosity in its proper place, sacrifice in its proper place, benevolence in its proper place, beneficence in its proper place, bravery in its proper place, courage in its proper place, gentleness in its proper place, forbearance in its proper place, indignation in its proper place, courtesy in its proper place, respect in its proper place, compassion in its proper place, kindness in its proper place, mercy in its proper place, fear of Allah, love of Allah, affection for Allah, withdrawal [from all else] towards Allah, etc.

(Barahin Ahmadiyya Part 3, Haqrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiyani, the Promised Messiah & Mahdi (peace be upon him), pp. 95-6)

Note: Please see the original Urdu text in the Urdu section.

## Goodness Towards Spouses and Neighbors

### The best of men is one who is best in treating his wife

عن جَابِرٍ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ خَيْرُكُمْ خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِهِ وَأَنَا خَيْرُكُمْ لِأَهْلِي

Narrated by Ḥaḍrat Jābir, Allāh be pleased with him: Said the Prophet of Allāh (peace and blessings of Allāh be on him), “Best of you is one who is best in his treatment of his wife and I am the best of you in the treatment of my family.” (Tirmidhī)

Explanatory Note: The emphasis on the kindly treatment of one’s wife as enjoined in this Ḥadīth is clear and distinct. The Holy Prophet (peace of Allāh be on him and His blessings), attached great importance to a husband’s kind treatment of his wife, and observed in this connection that after belief in God and in His Prophet and in His Faith, the deeds of a man in respect of his treatment of God’s servants shall be subject to Divine scrutiny in the light of the rights of His creatures, and that the kind treatment of one’s wife holds a place of high priority, so much so that in the eyes of God the best of Muslims is the one who is best in treatment of his wife. (Forty Gems of Beauty by Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad, Hadith 17, translated into English by Nafisur-Rahman A.G. Soofi, First American Edition by Majlis Anṣārullāh USA, pp. 86-7)

### A pious lady is one who does her duty to her husband

عن عبد الله بن ابى اوفى قال قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم والذى نفس محمد بيده لا تؤدى المرأة حق ربها حتى تؤدى حق زوجها

Narrated by Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullah bin Abī Aufā, Allāh be pleased with him: Said the Prophet of Allāh (peace and blessings of Allāh be on him), “I swear by the Being who holds the life of Muhammad in His hands that no woman shall be deemed to have done her duty by her God unless she has done her duty to her husband.” (Ibn Mājah)

Explanatory Note: While on the one hand, the Holy Prophet (peace of Allāh be on him and His blessings) has commanded husbands to treat their wives with kindness, he has, on the other hand, enjoined on wives to do their duty to their husbands. For, the true felicity and bliss of the home lies in the husband meting out the most generous treatment to the wife and, in the latter, respecting the rights of the husband with faithfulness. The Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allāh be on him) was so particular in regard to this sacred obligation of the wife, that, in another Ḥadīth, he observed that if the husband of a Muslim wife died pleased with her, she would, by the grace of God, enter Paradise. In the same Ḥadīth he has further remarked that if *sajdah* (a form of worship which consists in the worshipper lying with his forehead and kneecaps resting on ground) before anyone other than Allāh were permissible in Islām, he would have commanded wives to perform *sajdah* before their husbands. (Forty Gems of Beauty by Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad, Hadith 18, translated into English by Nafisur-Rahman A.G. Soofi, First American Edition by Majlis Anṣārullāh USA, pp. 90-1)

### Good treatment of neighbors

عن عائشة رضي الله عنهما قال: قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: ما زال جبريل يوصيني بالجار حتى ظننت أنه سيورثه

Narrated by Ḥaḍrat ‘Ā’ishah, Allāh be pleased with her: Said the Prophet of Allāh (peace of Allāh be on him and His blessings), “Gabriel recommended to me good treatment of the neighbor so often that I started thinking that he would perhaps declare him the heir and successor.” (Bukhārī)

Explanatory Note: Neighbors are an important limb of society. The Holy Prophet (peace of Allāh be on him and His blessings) has laid great emphasis on generous treatment of neighbors. The truth is that one who does not treat his neighbor well cannot deserve to be called a human being. For, man is a civilized being and good neighborliness is a necessary part of culture. In the interest of good and strong mutual relations, Islām lays down generous treatment of one’s neighbors and puts so much emphasis on this command that the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allāh be on him) says that Gabriel reminded him of his obligation in this respect so often and so forcefully that he (the Prophet) concluded that he (Gabriel) might declare the neighbor the heir and successor. (Forty Gems of Beauty by Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad, Hadith 20, translated into English by Nafisur-Rahman A.G. Soofi, First American Edition by Majlis Anṣārullāh USA, pp. 96-7)

# The Prophecy concerning birth of Muşliḥ Mau'ūd<sup>r</sup>

**In the words of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him**

One of the prophecies revealed to the Promised Messiah and Mahdi (may peace be upon him) by God Almighty was that He would bestow on him a son who would be a sign of Allah's Mercy, Power, Grace and Beneficence, and through whom the message of Islam and Ahmadiyyat would be carried to the ends of the earth. This prophecy was fulfilled in the person of Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him), his eldest son from his second wife, Ḥaḍrat Nusrat Jahan (may Allah be pleased with her), who became the second Khalifa (caliph) on March 14, 1914 at the age of 25. Therefore, he was also known as Ḥaḍrat Muşliḥ Mau'ūd, the Promised Reformer. The background of the prophecy is as follows:

In 1885, some Hindus of Qādiān wrote a letter to Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi (may peace be upon him) asking for a sign to be shown to them within a year, between September 1885 and September 1886. He replied to their letter in the affirmative.

Ḥaḍrat Ahmad (peace be upon him) undertook to spend 40 days in a solitary retreat in January 1886 in Hoshiarpur, spending all his time in Divine worship and supplication. At the end of this period, he was granted the glad tidings of an illustrious son to be born within nine years. He published a handbill on February 20, 1886 from Hoshiarpur, detailing the revelation from God in the form of a prophecy. It was published in 'Riyad-e-Hind' newspaper dated the First of March 1886 as a supplement to the newspaper. The exact words of the prophecy which has been fulfilled word by word in the person of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ (may Allah be pleased with him) are as follows:

## The great Prophecy of Muşliḥ Mau'ūd<sup>r</sup>

Following is the prophecy given by God Almighty to the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) commonly known as the Prophecy of Musleh Mau'ūd, regarding an illustrious son with many wonderful qualities which were fulfilled in the person of Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad (may Allah be pleased with him), who later became the second Khalifa of the Jamā'at Ahmadiyya. (English translation by Chaudhary Muhammad Zafrulla Khan)

## Announcement of February 20, 1886

"God the Merciful, the Noble, the High, the Exalted, Who has power to do all that He wills (Glory be to Him and exalted be His name), has vouchsafed to me the following revelation: "I confer upon thee a Sign of My Mercy according to thy supplications. I have heard thy entreaties and have honored thy prayers with My Acceptance through My Mercy and have blessed this thy journey (of Hoshiarpur and Ludhiana). A sign of power, mercy, and nearness to Me is bestowed on thee. A Sign of grace and beneficence is awarded to thee and thou art granted the key of success and victory. Peace on thee, O Victorious one. Thus does God speak so that those who desire life may be rescued from the grip of death and those who are buried in the graves may emerge there from and so that the superiority of Islam and the dignity of God's word may become manifest unto the people and so that they may arrive with all its blessings and falsehood may depart with all its ills, and so that people may understand that I am the Lord of Power, I do whatever I will, and so that they may believe that I am with thee, and so that those who do not believe in God and deny and reject His religion and His Book and His Holy Messenger Muhammad, the chosen one (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) may be confronted with a clear sign and the way of the guilty ones may become manifest.

Rejoice, therefore, that a handsome and pure boy will be bestowed on thee. Thou will receive a bright youth who will be of thy seed and will be of thy progeny. A handsome and pure boy will come as your guest. His name is Emanuel and Bashir. He has been invested with a Holy Spirit and he will be free from all impurity. He is the light of Allah. Blessed is he who comes from heaven. He will be accompanied by grace, which shall arrive with him. He will be characterized with grandeur, greatness and wealth. He will come into the world and will heal many of their disorders through his Messianic qualities and through the blessings of the Holy Spirit. He is the Word of Allah for Allah's Mercy and Honor have equipped him with the Word of Majesty.

He will be extremely intelligent and understanding and will be meek of heart and will be filled with secular and spiritual knowledge. He will convert three into four (of this the meaning is not clear). It is Monday, a blessed

Monday. Son, delight of heart, -مظهر الحق والعلاء كان الله نزل من السماء- high ranking, noble; a manifestation of the First and the Last, a manifestation of the True and the High; as if Allah has descended from heaven. His advent will be greatly blessed and will be a source of manifestation of Divine Majesty. Behold, a light cometh, a light anointed by God with the perfume of His Pleasure. We shall pour Our spirit into him and he will be sheltered under the Shadow of God. He will grow rapidly in stature and will be the means of procuring the release of those held in bondage. His fame will spread to the ends of the earth and people will be blessed through him. He will then be raised to his spiritual station in heaven. This is a matter decreed *وَ كَانَ أَمْرًا مَّقْضِيًّا* and it is a thing decreed. (19[Maryam]: 22)

The words beginning with: A handsome and pure boy; and ending with: He who comes from Heaven; indicate a short life, for a guest is one who stays for a few days and then departs before one's eyes. The succeeding sentence refers to the Promised Reformer who was named *Fadl* in the revelation. (Green Announcement, Rūḥānī Khazā'in Vol. II, p. 21 footnote, Tabligh-e-Risalat, Vol. I, p. 141; Tadhkirah (English Translation by Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, pp. 85-86))

The prophecy was published on February 20, 1886 in the form of a leaflet on ordinary paper. Later on, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi (may peace be upon him) printed another leaflet on March 22, 1886 in which he mentioned, on the basis of Divine revelation that the Promised Son will be born within a period of nine years.

What happened afterwards was that instead of a son, the first child born after the prophecy was a daughter, Ismat. She was born on 15th April 1886. Ignorant people ridiculed at it. Later, a son was born on August 7, 1887 but he died on November 4, 1888. He was named Bashir Ahmad and has become known as Bashir Awwal (Bashir, the first). At the death of this son once again the opponents raised a lot of hue and cry. They strongly challenged the truth of this prophecy and rejected it all together.

At this point, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi (may peace be upon him) wrote a small leaflet on December 1, 1888. It was entitled, Haqqani Taqreer Bar Waqi'a Wafat Bashir. In this, he explained the true meaning of the prophecy and declared very emphatically that come what may, the Promised Son will be born within the stipulated period of nine years from the date of its first pronouncement, i.e., February 20, 1886.

This leaflet which reiterated the glad tidings of the birth of the Promised Son, was printed on green papers and was most appropriately named and is generally known as "Sabz Ishtihar" (Green leaflet) of December 1, 1888.

According to the original prophecy, by the Grace of Allah, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi (may peace be upon him) was blessed with a son on the 12th of January 1889 about whom he was told by Allah that this was the Promised Son. Thus, the prophecy was fulfilled most magnificently.

Birth of a son, named Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad about whom the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was told that he is the son through whom the prophecy was going to be fulfilled, i.e., January 12, 1889. ('Ataul-Mujeeb Rashed, Imam, London Mosque, The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA, February 2002, p. 6 and March-April 2009, p. 32)

## Introducing US Missionary

# Matiullah Joyia



Missionary Matiullah Joyia graduated with the first batch of Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya Canada in 2010.

Under the directive of the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper), his class was sent to Rabwah, Pakistan for three months and Africa for six months for training after graduation. He was sent to Liberia for another six-months training.

Then, he was assigned to USA. He served in Pacific-Island country Marshall Islands for five years from 2012-2017. He was transferred to the state of Hawaii in July 2017.

# Waṣīyyat Scheme

## Message of Ḥaḍrat Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd ' to the Ahmādīs in USA

My Dear Brethren of America!

As you must all be aware the Promised Messiah published his testamentary directions in the document which is known as *Al-Waṣīyyat* two years before his death. This is a document of great importance and must be carefully studied by every Ahmadi. I trust all of you have carefully read its English translation. If the English translation is not readily available to you I request Brother Khalil Ahmad Nasir to translate *Al-Waṣīyyat* into English with such assistance from his colleagues as he may need and to distribute it to all of you as soon as may be. I hope that each of you on studying this document will be inspired with the eager desire to participate in the grand scheme set out therein which is so vital for the advancement of Islam and humanity.

When you study this document you will find that the scheme set out in it requires each member of the Movement who wishes to join it to bequeath in favor of the Central Ahmadiyya Association one tenth of his property or an amount in cash corresponding to one tenth of the value of his property or if he owns no substantial property that he should contribute in his lifetime one tenth of his weekly or monthly income to Central Ahmadiyya Association for the propagation of Islam and for the promotion of human welfare. It is necessary that the document bequeathing the property or setting out the promise in respect of these contributions should make it clear that the bequest or contributions as the case may be are free from all conditions and limitations and that the donor or his heirs or executors will in no circumstances question the disposal or disbursement of the property or the income by the Central Ahmadiyya Association or by any other authority which may be set up for carrying out the purposes and objectives of the scheme.

Once you have studied the whole document carefully you will fully grasp its grand purpose and objective but I also request Brother Khalil Ahmad Nasir that he should arrange that the purpose and objective of *Al-Waṣīyyat* should be explained to you by representatives of the Movement in detail at your respective centers. In compliance with the spirit of *Al-Waṣīyyat* the Ahmadiyya Association of the United States of America will arrange for the purchase as early as may be of a suitable plot of land in some central locality which may be dedicated as a place of burial for those who make their wills in compliance with the conditions set out in *Al-Waṣīyyat* and the

rules promulgated from time to time by the Head of the Movement and the Central Ahmadiyya Association and *Taḥrīk-e-Jadīd*. I am convinced that once this project is put into effect in the States, it will quickly gather force and thousands of your countrymen may be even millions will in due course join this scheme and thus swell the numbers of those who shall continuously devote their efforts and substantial portions of their incomes and properties to the objects mentioned in *Al-Waṣīyyat*.

As the number of such sincere and devoted Ahmādīs increases it may become necessary to establish similar burial places in different parts of the country and this shall be done from time to time as necessity shall require.

The income derived from the property so bequeathed or from the sale thereof and from the contributions made in this behalf shall be disbursed as follows:

One half shall be remitted to the Central Ahmadiyya Association for the maintenance of Central institutions and for the propagation of Islam throughout the world including the United States of America where for a long time to come workers specially trained at the Centre will continue to be needed. The two central institutions responsible for carrying on the work of propagation of Islam are the Central Ahmadiyya Association and the *Taḥrīk-e-Jadīd*. The funds to be devoted out of the said income remitted to the Center for the propagation of Islam in various parts of the world will be divided between these two institutions in accordance with such instructions as may from time to time be laid down by the Head of the Movement.

Of the remaining one half, three quarters will be devoted to the propagation of Islam in the States and one quarter shall be devoted to the promotion of the welfare of the poorer and more backward of our brethren wherever they may be, preference being given to making provision for their education and training.

As soon as I receive intimation through the representatives of the Movement among you that a substantial number of you are eager to join the scheme set out in *Al-Waṣīyyat* I shall proceed to appoint a committee for the purpose of selecting a site for the first burial ground under the scheme and for carrying out of the preliminary work necessary for putting the scheme into effect in the United States and for making provision for the scheme and its purposes being effectively carried out in perpetuity. Every person who makes a will or

promises to make the minimum contribution under this scheme will, subject to the bequest being carried into effect or the contributions having been duly remitted, as the case may be, be entitled to be buried in one of the burial places dedicated for this purpose in the States or, in case he dies in India in the burial place at Qādiān, or, in case he dies in Pakistan, in the burial place at Rabwah, if his body is transported to the site of one of these burial places at the cost of his estate and there are no legal or other impediments in the way of the fulfillment of this purpose. It shall, however, be made clear in the will or in the document setting out the promise in respect of the said contributions, that failure to comply with this condition shall not operate to invalidate or otherwise affect the bequest or give rise to any claim in respect of the contributions made. Provision shall further be made that the Central Ahmadiyya Association shall take steps to have the names of all persons who have joined the scheme and on whose behalf its conditions have been fulfilled inscribed at suitable places in the burial places at Qādiān or Rabwah and also that these names shall be inscribed as a record copies of which shall be made available in principal Ahmadiyya Centers so that future generations of Ahmadīs may be prompted to pray for the souls of their departed brethren who had devoted themselves and their substance to the service of Islam and humanity.

It is essential and full care must be taken that the carrying into effect of the whole of this scheme shall be in accordance with the law of the United States of America so that no objection on that score should at any time operate to defeat or discount the purposes of this

scheme.

As stated in Al-Waṣiyyat this system will multiply its beneficence and shall prove the means of the uplift of all the weaker sections of humanity and for the spread of general prosperity and the promotion of human welfare. Any system, which is based on coercion or compulsion, cannot achieve the same result. The scheme set out in Al-Waṣiyyat being purely voluntary and a free gift for the service of Islam and humanity will carry with it moral and spiritual benefits which may be lacking in any other system.

In course of time country after country will proceed to adopt this scheme and through this process God's name will be glorified throughout the world more particularly on behalf of those who become the recipients of spiritual, moral and material benefits under its operation.

The scheme is already in operation in Pakistan and India. I hope and pray that the United States of America may prove to be the third country to adopt this scheme and thus lay the foundations for the promotion of the welfare of humanity on an ever-expanding scale. Ameen

Brethren! We are weak but our God is strong and Almighty. We can do but little, but He can do everything. Be sure that His help is speeding towards you. Indeed, He Himself stands at your door waiting to enter. Spring up therefore and open wide your doors for Him to enter. When God enters your homes and fills your hearts, life will become radiant for you and you will be glorified on earth as He is glorified in the Heavens. May God be with you. Ameen

## Introducing US Missionary Faran Rabbani



Faran Rabbani is a regional Missionary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. He is based in Chantilly, Virginia covering the entire state of Virginia and it's 4 chapters. Previously (2014-2017) he served as the regional missionary for the upper Midwest region whereby he covered northern Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota.

He has an OSSD from the Toronto District School

Board and Shahid Degree from Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya Canada [2005-2012], which was awarded to him by Ḥaḍrat Khalifatul-Masīḥ the 5th (may Allah be his Helper) in 2012.

He has received his formal training as a missionary from Canada and for post-graduation he was sent to Pakistan and then to UK to gain further training. He has served in the Gambia [2012-2013], West Africa and Canada [2013-2014] before finally being appointed to the United States. He is also serving as the Deputy Director of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Boys Association (*Na'ib Muhtamim Atfa*) USA and is also on the board of directors as the Chairman for ANN USA [Atfa News Network]. Also, he is serving as the national director (*Muhtamim*) for Tabligh in Majlis Khuddamul-Ahmadiyya (Muslim Youth association) of USA since 2015. (*Murabbi Silsila* USA, Upper Midwest, 202.322.9014)

# Khalīfatul-Masīh II r 1889-1926

Compiled by Mahmud Ahmad Nagi Columbus OH

(From Sad Sala Tarikh-e-Ahmadiyyat by Amat-ul-Bari Nasir)

- 12 Jan 1889 Born in Qādiān
- 1895 First reading of Holy Quran from Hafiz Ahmad Nagpuri. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) gave a gift of Rs. 150 on this occasion.
- 1898 Pledged oath of allegiance at the hands of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him).
- 1898 Studied translation and commentary of the Holy Quran, Aḥādīth Bukhari and medicine from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I (may Allah be pleased with him).
- 1905 First revelation at the age of 15-16 years.
- 1906 Delivered first public speech on shunning Shirk.
- 1906 First publication 'Who can dispel the light from true people?'
- 14 Mar 1914 Became the second successor of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him).
- 17 Mar 1914 Continued Dars-e-Quran from where Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I left (may Allah be pleased with him). He started Dars-e-Quran from Surah Al-Ma'idah.
- Apr 1914 Ahmadiyya mission house established in London by Ḥaḍrat Chaudhry Fateh Muhammad Sial.
- Apr-May 1914 First appeal for donations to support Anjuman Taraqqi-e-Islam (Organization for the progress of Islam) was announced. Ladies presented ornaments; Ḥaḍrat Amman Jan (may Allah be pleased with her) donated Rs. 100. Some Ahmadīs donated their full salaries.
- 31 May 1914 Second marriage with Sahibzadi Amat-ul-Hayy daughter of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I (may Allah be pleased with him)
- June 1914 Wrote book Tuhfat-ul-Malook (Gift for the Kings) for preaching Nizam (ruler) of Deccan.
- 26-29 Dec 1914 First Jalsa Sālāna of his Khilāfat. His speeches were published in the form of a book Barakat-e-Khilāfat (Blessings of Khilāfat).
- 7 Oct 1915 First newspaper 'Farooq' edited by Mir Qasim Ali started publication.
- 1915 Ahmadiyya hostel for boys started functioning in Lahore.
- 3-6 Mar 1916 First Jalsa for Tablīgh was held in Delhi. Khalīfatul-Masīh II (may Allah be pleased with him) sent a message titled 'Islam and other religions.'
- Nov 1916 Authored a booklet for new Ahmadi converts.
- 1916 A dialogue took place on the miracle of splitting of moon with Oxford University Professor Margolaith.
- Dec 1916 'Sadiq Library' was established from the books of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīh-I (may Allah be pleased with him), Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him) and the books from the libraries of Tashheez and Review.
- 12 Mar 1917 Prophecy regarding Czar of Russia was fulfilled when his government was toppled. The Khalīfatul-Masīh II (may Allah be pleased with him) wrote a short article 'Zinda Khuda ke Zabardast Nishan,' A Great Sign of the Living God.
- 21 Jan 1917 Noor Hospital Qādiān started operation.
- 7 Dec 1917 Scheme of 'Waqf-e-Zindagee,' devoting one's life to the service of Islam, was announced in Qādiān. 63 youth gave their names to Huzoor (may Allah be pleased with him).
- 1917 Anjuman Irshad was established under Mir Muhammad Ishaq (may Allah be pleased with him) to train youth for propagation.
- 1917 Noor Hospital was established in the house of Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I (may Allah be pleased with him).
- 1919 Announced 'Majlis Ifta' to cater the needs of judicial matters.
- 1919 Delivered a speech at Martin Historical Society, Habibia Hall, Islamia College Lahore. Syed Abdul

- Qadir, an Islamic historian chaired the meeting.
- 1919 Establishment of an orphanage.
- 15 Feb 1920 A mission in USA started functioning when Ḥaḍrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq (may Allah be pleased with him) reached there. He started a quarterly magazine 'The Moslem Sunrise'
- 1920 Huzoor (may Allah be pleased with him) gave a series of lectures in Lahore, Amritsar and Sialkot.
- 1921 Maulana Abd-ur-Rahim Nayyar was sent to Lagos, Nigeria as a missionary.
- 1922 A mission in Gold Coast, Ghana started by missionary Maulawi Nazir Ahmad Ali.
- 7 Feb 1921 The Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II (may Allah be pleased with him) married Sayyida Maryam Begum d/o Syed Abdul Sattar Shah (may Allah be pleased with him) on dowry money of Rs. 1000.
- 1921 A special arrangement was made to combat extremism. There was a rumor of a plan to desecrate the grave of Promised Messiah (Peace be upon him).
- 1921 The Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II (may Allah be pleased with him) went to Kashmir for 2 months on medical grounds. He visited the grave of Jesus (peace be upon him) in Khanyar, Srinagar. Ninety people embraced Aḥmadiyyat during this visit.
- 1922 A mission in Egypt was established under Shaikh Mahmood Ahmad Irfani. He started publishing a newspaper.
- 15-16 Apr 1922 First Majlis Shūrā (advisory council meeting) was held at T. I. High School, Qādiān.
- Apr 1922 A scheme for the memorization of the Holy Quran was launched.
- 25 Dec 1922 Anjuman Lajna Ima'illah was announced. Ḥaḍrat Amman Jan (may Allah be pleased with her) nominated Ḥaḍrat Umm-e-Nasir as its first president.
- May 1922 An English newspaper 'Al-Bushra' started its publication in Qādiān.
- 1923 Huzoor (may Allah be pleased with him) announced Shuddhi Movement to counter the efforts of Hindus to convert Muslims back to Hinduism. 150 members volunteered. An amount of Rs. 50,000 was collected to support work.
- 1923 Fazl Mosque was built in London by the sole contribution of Ahmadi ladies.
- 1924 Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II (may Allah be pleased with him) was invited to take part in conference on different religions at Wembley Institute London. Ḥaḍrat Chaudhri Zafrulla Khan (may Allah be pleased with him) read the keynote address, 'Aḥmadiyyat, the True Islam' written by the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II.
- 1924 Mussolini the Prime Minister of Italy met the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ (may Allah be pleased with him).
- 1924 Martyrdom of Ḥaḍrat Maulvi Nimatullah (may Allah be pleased with him) in Kabul by stoning.
- 21 Sept 1924 Huzoor (may Allah be pleased with him) met Col. Douglas who dismissed lawsuit of Henry Martin Clarke. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) bestowed on him honorary name 'Pilate II'.
- 1924 Review of Religions in English started its publication.
- 9 Oct 1924 Foundation stone of London Fazl Mosque at 231 Melrose Road was laid.
- 28 May 1924 A well-known atheist Zuwaimer visited Qādiān. He wrote an article that Christian world should prepare for the onslaught from Aḥmadiyyat.
- 12 July 1924 Ḥaḍrat Shehzada Abdul-Majeed Ludhianvi was sent to Iran to open a center there.
- Oct 1924 Maulawi Zahoor Hussain (may Allah be pleased with him) was sent to Russia on Tabligh mission. He was arrested on spy charges. He faced great hardships in prisons of Tashkent and Moscow.
- 1925 Announced a financial scheme to collect Rs. 100,000 to complete different schemes of Jamā'at and to pay salaries of Jama'at workers.
- 13 Apr 1925 Fourth marriage with Ḥaḍrat Sara Begum daughter of Ḥaḍrat Maulvi Abdul Majid Bhagalpuri.
- 1925 Two Ahmadiyya missions in Syria and Palestine were opened.
- 1 Jan 1926 Fifth marriage with Ḥaḍrat Farkhanda Akhter Aziza daughter of Ḥaḍrat Seth Abu Bakar Yousaf of Jeddah. Ḥaḍrat Maulvi Syed Sarwar Shah solemnized the Nikah at the dowry money of Rs. 1,000.
- 1 May 1926 'Dar-ush-Shuyukh' was established to cater the needs of poor, orphans and other destitute.
- 22 May 1926 Foundation stone of 'Qasr-e-Khilāfat' (Khalifa's Residence) was laid at Qādiān.

# Khilāfat News and Announcements

## Islam promoted love and compassion for all mankind

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad addresses over 5,500 Ahmadi Muslim youths at MKA Ijtimā.



On 17 September 2017, the *World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalifa*, His Holiness, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad delivered a faith-inspiring address to conclude the three-day National Ijtimā (Annual Gathering) of the *Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association* in the UK (*Majlis Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya*).

The objectives of the Ijtimā, held for the first time at *Country Market, Kingsley*, were to educate the Muslim youths of the true peaceful teachings of Islam and to inspire them towards serving both their faith and nation to the best of their abilities.

Commencing on the same day as the *Parsons Green* station attack, the Ahmadi Muslim youth were united in their condemnation of all forms of extremism and terrorism and during his keynote address, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad repeatedly stated that Islam promoted love and compassion for all mankind. Throughout his address, he spoke about the most fundamental pledge that all Muslims make, which is the Muslim creed: “There is none worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger.”

His Holiness delivered a comprehensive commentary on the Islamic creed and said it was not enough to merely proclaim these words; rather they had to be accompanied by a manifestation of one’s faith through the worship of Allah and by following the noble example of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him).

Speaking about the first aspect of the creed, which is to declare, “*There is none worthy of worship except Allah*”. He said that this must be manifested through the worship of Allah the Almighty.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said: “The most Ahmadiyya Gazette

important and significant form of worship is to offer the five daily prayers. At various places in the Holy Quran, Allah the Almighty has commanded us to offer the five obligatory prayers and so if we are negligent in our prayers it means our declaration of faith in Allah is meaningless, without value and false.”

His Holiness further explained the meaning of the creed in light of the teachings and explanations of the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad; the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him).

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said: “The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) taught that a true Muslim is he whose heart and soul are intoxicated with the love of Allah and consumed by the belief that He alone is worthy of worship. This is the standard required, otherwise, a person’s proclamation of faith in Allah is reduced to superficial and hollow words.”

Explaining the second aspect of the Islamic creed which states, “Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah”, His Holiness said that the Holy Quran has referred to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) as the perfect role model for all mankind.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said: “Without a shadow of doubt, it was the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) who scaled the highest possible peaks of worshipping Allah. No matter the circumstances, he would never allow anything to get in the way of fulfilling the rights of Allah the Almighty.”

Describing the intensity with which the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) bowed before God and prayed, His Holiness said: “It is reported that when he prayed alone, people could hear

the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) weep with such intensity that it sounded like he was screaming and wailing in despair.”



Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad continued: “This was the unparalleled standard of worship and of the fear and love of Allah displayed by the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) which was an example for all of mankind to come.” He also explained the love that the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) had for reading the Holy Quran and following its instructions.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said: “Every pore and every fiber of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was engulfed by pure love and reverence for the Word of Allah. Whenever any portion was recited he would become emotional and tears would flow from his

blessed eyes.” He also outlined the aspects of the life of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) which illustrated how he fulfilled his responsibilities towards the society and the creation of God.

His Holiness said that even after a difficult and strenuous defensive battle against a Jewish tribe, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) fulfilled the rights of his opponents. He said the Muslims were on the verge of starvation after a long battle when a shepherd from amongst the opposition accepted Islam and joined the Muslims. He brought the sheep under his care with him and enquired what should be done with them.

Explaining the response of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said: “Whilst he could easily have ordered the shepherd to hand over the lambs, instead, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) ordered him to honor his duties to the Jews and to turn the lambs in the direction of their owners so that they could make their own way back. Rather than give in to any form of temptation at a time when he and his followers were famished and desperate for sustenance, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) ensured that the rights of the opponents were fulfilled and set an incomparable example of fulfilling one’s trusts and obligation.”



Elaborating upon the need to give precedence to one’s faith, His Holiness said that the Holy Quran has instructed Muslims to leave their businesses during the Friday prayers and come to the Mosque; however, there were many Muslims who gave priority to material pursuits over their faith.

Further, His Holiness said that it was common to see people deceiving others or resorting to falsehood in business transactions. However, the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) was so particular with regards to avoiding all types of falsehoods, that he advised his companions to give charity before conducting any form of business, which would shield them from wrongdoing.

His Holiness quoted a saying of the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him), which states, that ‘*a true Muslim is he from whose tongue and hand all others are safe*’. Commenting on this, His Holiness said: “If people lived by this teaching all hatreds and conflicts would end – both at a personal level and amongst the wider society. This saying does not only instruct Muslims to abstain from harming others, it also directs them towards humanitarian efforts because the deeper meaning of these words require Muslims to actively seek to help and serve mankind.”

Elaborating the loving and kind character of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), His

Holiness shed light on the rights given to women in Islam and the kindness that Muslim men should show towards their family members. Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said: “Time and again the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) emphasized that a man must treat his wife with love, compassion and be fully respectful to her.”

Concluding his address, His Holiness said that Ahmadi Muslims must seek to fulfill the mission of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) which was to make the world recognize its Creator and to serve mankind. He said: “We must strive to further this mission so that the world, the majority of whom considers Islam to be an extremist religion that promotes terrorism, comes to realize that Islam is actually a peaceful religion that desires for mankind to recognize its Creator and to fulfill the rights of one another.”

Earlier, Mirza Waqas Ahmad, the National President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association, presented a report. *He elaborated* various activities of the 3-day event.

During the Ijtimā, Ahmadi Muslim youths from

over 100 local communities from across the United Kingdom competed in various academic and sports competitions, including a special *Kabaddi* exhibition match. The Muslim youths were also able to visit the ‘The Hub’ where they had the opportunity to ask questions in a confidential environment about religion or social issues. A number of renowned experts in different academic fields also travelled to the Ijtimā to deliver talks to the young Muslims.



## Head of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community condemns persecution of Rohingya Muslims

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community condemns in the strongest possible terms the persecution of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar (Burma).

It is being reported that scores of Muslims are being killed and tortured, whilst many thousands have been driven out of their homes and forced to flee. Such treatment can only be described as an affront to humanity.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community urges the international community to help the Muslims in Myanmar attain their basic human rights and freedoms.

The *World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalifa (Caliph)*, His Holiness, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad has said: “All Ahmadi Muslims are extremely grief-stricken to hear of the cruel treatment inflicted upon the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar and we pray that all of these cruelties and

injustices come to an immediate end.

The fact that these Muslims are being targeted seemingly with impunity is a result of the division and sectarianism within the Muslim world itself. If there was unity amongst Muslim nations and communities, such tragedies would never unfold.

On behalf of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, I hope and pray that the international community comes together to help the Muslims in Myanmar and in this effort the Muslim nations should be at the forefront. I pray that the persecution of the Muslims in Myanmar, and indeed of all people who are denied their religious rights in the world, comes to an end. We believe that all people should be free to practice their faith or beliefs without any fear and that all people should be equal under the law of their land.”

## Islam provides women with true freedom, true liberty, and true enlightenment, says the Head of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

On 24 September 2017, the World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalifa (Caliph), His Holiness Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad delivered a faith inspiring address to conclude the 39th National Ijtimā (Annual Gathering) of Lajna Imā’illāh UK, the ladies’ auxiliary organization of the Ahmadiyya

Muslim Community.

The two-day event was attended by over 4000 women and children across the United Kingdom. It was held at Country Market in Kingsley, Hampshire. During his address, His Holiness spoke about the extremely high status of women according to the teachings of

Islam and cited the examples of the female companions of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and of the Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) as women who had shown remarkable courage and resolve for the sake of their faith.

His Holiness began his address by stating that Ijtimā itself was a proof of the freedom and independence Islam grants to women. Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said: “From an administrative perspective, this Ijtimā has been organized and run by women from start to end, and they will have made a program that is attuned to the needs and preferences of our ladies and girls. Hence, this Ijtimā is a collective and practical demonstration of the great status bestowed upon women by Islam.” Addressing the allegation that Islam discriminates against women, His Holiness quoted chapter 4 verse 2 of the Holy Quran which states that God Almighty created humankind from a “single soul and created therefrom its mate.” Explaining the verse, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said: “The Quran testifies to the fact that men and women were created from a single soul and are of the same kind and species. Thus, where the Quran says ‘created therefrom its mate’ it signifies that Allah has made men and women in the same way and it cannot be said that one is dominant over the other.” Continuing, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said: “The Holy Quran has clarified that men and women have the same feelings and emotions and just as each man will be accountable before Allah for his deeds, similarly each woman will also be held accountable for her acts before God.” His Holiness said that although Islam has prescribed a division of labor between men and women whereby women are tasked with the responsibility to ensure the moral and religious training of children and men are tasked with the financial responsibilities of the family and to look after them but this should not be understood to mean that women were ‘incapable’ of doing the work of men. His Holiness said that both

Muslim men and women should be ready to serve their faith and that they would be held equally accountable by God Almighty in this regard. Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said: “Any man who thinks that women should not take an active part in religious affairs, or make sacrifices for their faith, and should stay away from religion, and just remain a ‘decoration’ for their husbands to enjoy, is guilty of extreme ignorance. Similarly, if any woman thinks that due to her domestic responsibilities she does not need to partake in religious matters, or make sacrifices for her faith, she too is mistaken and is guilty of undermining the status of women.” His Holiness then gave examples of the sacrifices made by various women for the sake of their faith and mentioned that when Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) was taken off the cross and emerged from the coffin in which he was subsequently placed, it was women, Mary Magdalene amongst others, who displayed immense bravery and reached Jesus in the very early hours of the morning. Referring to examples of women from early Islamic history, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said: “Unquestionably during the blessed era of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) the sacrifices made by the Muslim women reached a pinnacle and were of a standard that has never been witnessed at any other juncture of history. Indeed, when you read about the sacrifices made for the sake of their faith you can only be overcome with emotion.” Concluding his address, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said: “If you understand your responsibilities, I am sure that you will prove to be successful mothers, and successful Ahmadi Muslim women who are ready for every sacrifice for the sake of giving precedence to their faith over all worldly matters. If you understand your duties, I am sure you will be successful in spreading the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat far and wide.” The Ijtimā concluded with a silent prayer led by His Holiness.

## Head of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and Archbishop speak of the need for worldwide religious freedom.



On 10 October 2017, the Most Reverend, the Ahmadiyya Gazette

Archbishop of Canterbury, His Grace, Justin Welby visited London’s oldest Mosque, the Fazl Mosque where he met with the World Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalifa (Caliph), His Holiness, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad.

During the meeting, the Caliph and the Archbishop discussed the continued persecution of religious minorities in various parts of the world. His Holiness informed the Archbishop that he himself had been falsely imprisoned in Pakistan in 1999 prior to his election as Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

During the meeting, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad

spoke of the need for 'tolerance' in society and for 'mutual respect' to be displayed by all people and communities. He said that it was imperative that people had the right to practice their religion freely and without any form of coercion.



The meeting concluded as His Holiness presented the Archbishop with a copy of the Holy Quran, including both the original Arabic text and the English translation.

Following the meeting, the Archbishop of Canterbury, His Grace, Justin Welby said during an

interview with MTA News: "It was a great honor to meet His Holiness (Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad). It was a wonderful meeting, hospitable and warm... We spoke principally about the issues of persecution, which is something the Ahmadiyya Community is well aware of and suffers hugely and we also spoke about the nature of religious extremism around the world in the different faiths and the importance of faith communities in the United Kingdom standing together, both for the common good of the country and for each other's support."



During his visit, the Archbishop was given a tour of both the Bait-ul-Futūh Mosque in Morden and the Fazl Mosque in Southfields.

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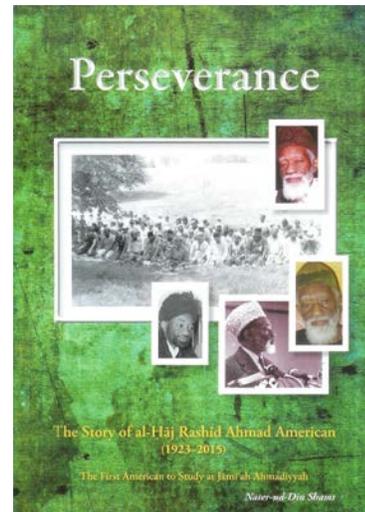
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Having no place to stay, I would routinely show up at the Mosque for the daily Fajr prayers at 4:30 am. Quite frequently, my knocking on the door would earn me the blessings of waking up the others for prayers, and on the occasions that no one answered the door, I would offer my prayers on the Mosque porch alone.

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# Weekly Guidance from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V

May Allāh be his Helper

Friday Sermon 8 September 2017 at Bait-ul-Futūh Mosque, London

## Members of the Jamā'at, Secretaries Da'wat Ilallāh and all other office bearers should carry out Tablīgh.

While conveying the message of Allah, be factual, truthful, and be kind and patient.

After reciting verse 126 of Sūrah An-Nahl, which is translated as: "Call unto the way of thy Lord with wisdom and goodly exhortation, and argue with them in a way that is best. Surely, thy Lord knows best who has strayed from His way; and He knows those who are rightly guided." (16:126)

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: In many countries the Majlis-e-Shūrā has deliberated on ways and means how to deliver the message of Islām to all people on a more solid foundation. Jamā'at UK had a similar proposal in their Majlis-e-Shūrā which they sent for my approval. Remember that after the Khalīfa's approval it is incumbent upon the members of Shūrā and the office bearers to do their utmost to implement the suggestion of the Shūrā. If there is a suggestion regarding Da'wat Ilallāh, its implementation is not only the duty of Secretaries Da'wat Ilallāh, but also all other departments should extend full cooperation too. If the office bearers present their own example, Ahmadīs will automatically start following them in spreading the message of Islām.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Every Da'wat Ilallāh should act upon the instructions given in the verse I have recited. If despite having time and knowledge one is not mindful of these things, then the work will remain unblessed. Allāh stresses inviting people with wisdom and goodly exhortation. The so-called Ulema have given such a bad name to Islām that people think that it teaches extremism and lacks argument. In these circumstances it is an important obligation of every Ahmadī to spread our message, and the office-bearers should be the first to understand this.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Some people say that they cannot do Da'wat Ilallāh because they don't have knowledge. But the fact is that the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) has provided us with such powerful arguments that with a little effort we can get sufficient strength. Then there are also the websites, audios, videos, question and answer sessions and pamphlets. It is necessary to increase our knowledge and to know where to find the answers or relevant material. People of different religions and

atheists have to be addressed according to their thinking.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: It is important to prove our point with strong arguments. And it is the task of the Da'wat Ilallāh department to collect and provide the members with such arguments. It is also important not to make objections that might in turn be leveled against us. With proper training and knowledge, such an occasion will not arise. In fact, it is more to do with other religions. For instance, the objections people raise against the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) could also apply to other Prophets. The Da'wat Ilallāh department should collect such objections and make them available. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) himself refuted such arguments and turned them against the opponents.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Wisdom also means kindness and compassion. Anger has a negative effect. If we speak kindly to someone who speaks angrily, this alone removes many of the objections. Wisdom also means that we should invite people with the teachings and arguments provided in the Holy Qur'ān, this will have a positive impact.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: We should talk to others according to their level of understanding and always speak truthfully and factually. We should not concoct things in order to impress other people. It is also important to talk in accordance with the circumstances. If you fear agitating someone then avoid those kinds of arguments and use those that will bring them closer to you. Sometimes people say something that has a positive impact, but then they keep pushing and end up alienating the other person.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: It is also important to work with perseverance and to increase our contacts. We should also work consistently and not rest content with the ten-day Da'wat Ilallāh programs.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: There are many asylum seekers here who have free time; they should present themselves for Da'wat Ilallāh. If language is a barrier, they can use media and literature. It is quite possible that by the blessing of Da'wat Ilallāh

they might succeed in their cases.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Today we have to tell the world openly that they are becoming a target of Divine wrath and that they should turn to Him. Our duty is to obey Allāh's commandments regarding Da'wat Ilallāh and to persevere in this path. It is up to Allāh to produce the results. At another place Allāh says that you cannot guide anyone, but it is your duty to convey the message. God alone knows who will find guidance and who will not. We have to fulfill our responsibility so that people cannot say that they did not receive the message of Islām. It is Allāh's promise that He and His Messengers shall prevail. In Sha Allah the time will come when we shall be in the majority.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: "God Almighty knows that I have never forsaken kindness and tenderness when replying, apart from a few times where there were extremely foul and mischievous writings from the enemy and I adopted a firm approach to some extent." Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: In such a situation, it is necessary to reply with wisdom and to stop the mischief. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) never adopted the ways of the opponents and always resorted to arguments and the law to stop mischief.

At another place the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says that the verse جادلهم بالتى هى احسن does not mean that we should become so lenient as to accept what is wrong. The difference should always be borne in

mind. While it is important to be polite and considerate, it is also important to condemn what is wrong. We cannot condone something wrong in order to bring people closer to us. We should condemn what is wrong without engaging in quarrels. Our own faith should be strong and we should stop such things with wisdom and powerful arguments. We should not agree with everything, nor should we say things that alienate people. If Allāh wishes to guide someone, He will Himself open his heart.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: The more opposition there is, the more the truth spreads. The more aggressively the truth is opposed, the more brilliantly it shines. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: I have myself seen that in places where there is much opposition against me, their Allah has caused the Jamā'at to be established. On the other hand, places where people do not respond, there we do not find much progress.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: For Da'wat Ilallāh to be successful there needs to be harmony between our words and deeds. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says that if our words are not from the heart, they will not be effective. Remember that mere verbosity is of no use unless it is supported by actions. Mere talk has no meaning in the eyes of God. Demonstrate your example as a true Muslim. May Allāh enable us to act accordingly. Amīn.

## Friday Sermon 15 September 2017 at Bait-ul-Futūh Mosque, London

### Our duty is to spread the message and fragrance of Islām.

The teachings of Islām that we present in the light of Qur'ān and Hadīth are focused on fulfilling our obligations towards God and His creatures.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: These days the Western press and media often asks us that it is true that we talk about Islām as being a religion of peace, but the majority of Muslims do not talk that way, nor do they consider us to be Muslims, and even the number of Ahmad's is very small compared to other Muslims. In this situation, they ask, how can Ahmādīs claim to be following the true teachings of Islām? And how we convince other Muslims of this? Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Our answer is that the teachings of Islām we present are based on the Holy Qur'ān and Hadīth and we do not say anything from our own selves. These are not innovations that we have made in view of the prevailing circumstances. We can and do prove that the teaching of Islām has always been focused on fulfilling our obligations towards God and His creatures.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: As to how we

are going to convince other Muslims, the answer is that the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) was to come in keeping with the prophecy of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and this prophecy was fulfilled in all its grandeur when Allāh sent the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) in this age to expound on the wisdom behind every Islāmic injunction. We Ahmādīs are conveying these teachings to everyone. Our duty is to propagate this message. Divine Jamā'ats do not spread in days, but grow gradually. Jamā'at Ahmadiyya is comprised of millions of people who have all come from other Muslim sects. When they learn of our teachings, they join us. Insha'Allah, one day we shall be in the majority. This is Allāh's promise whose signs we witness every year with the inclusion of hundreds of thousands into Ahmadiyyat, most of whom are from among Muslims.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Despite our meager resources, we are getting extraordinary results. God Himself guides people. Some are guided through dreams while others accept Aḥmadiyyat having witnessed the evil end of our opponents. Allāh had pledged to the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) that he would grace him with honor in the world, and so this Jamā'at started by a single person has now spread in the entire globe and continues to grow by the day. I will give some instances of how Allāh opens new avenues and guides people.

One brother relates: I saw in a dream that I was in Syria where two groups were fighting one another. A third group then came and made peace between them. Upon asking, I learned that these were members of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya. At another time I heard a voice telling me that the Ahmadiyya belief is the true belief.

A lady from France writes: One day I prayed to God to guide me on whether Jamā'at Ahmadiyya was right or wrong. I then had three dreams. I saw that there was turmoil everywhere but Aḥmadīs were in peace. In my state of fear, I went and clung to this group. Then my sister said to me that you should offer Ṣalāt, that is the only way. This opened my heart and I accepted Aḥmadiyyat.

An elderly gentleman from Ivory Coast writes: I saw in a dream that some Arabs had come to our village and I heard a voice saying that these are not real Arabs but that you will find God through them. A few days later an Aḥmadiyyat delegation visited the village and this gentleman had the honor of pledging Bai'at.

A gentleman from Congo writes: I saw in a dream that a sympathetic person had guided me to a path that was of abundant good. And when I looked at the other path that I had been traveling on, I saw people being subjected to forced labor. Later when I joined Aḥmadiyyat I realized that that person who had guided me was the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him).

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Jamā'at Ahmadiyya was established in three Senegalese villages, whereupon the chief and some other people prayed that God may destroy the Jamā'at. Soon afterwards, the chief died of snakebite and people started saying that it had happened due to his prayer against the Jamā'at. A few days later his deputy also died. Thereafter all the three villages accepted Aḥmadiyyat.

A *Mu'allim* writes that he was talking some *Maulawīs*, who, instead of presenting arguments, started blaspheming against the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). A young man, who was listening, started doing research and as a result became

an Aḥmadī. His father thereupon drove him out of his house. His mother asked him to return saying that the peace of the home had been destroyed. When he returned, his father disinherited him from his property. He said that God had told him that Ahmadiyyat was true and therefore he remained steadfast.

Amir Sahib Benin writes: The Jamā'at was established in a far-flung village last year and this year a Jalsa was held there. A local president said that the Jamā'at had shown them the true path of love and harmony. People had started offering Ṣalāt and there were no disputes.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: An Imām accepted Aḥmadiyyat, whereupon the people told him that the mosque was theirs and that he should either leave Aḥmadiyyat or leave the *Imamat* (the one who leads the Prayers) of that mosque. He said that he would leave the mosque and the *Imamat*. Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: This is in contrast to the *Maulawīs* in Pakistan whose sole aim is to fill their bellies.

Another person became ill and felt that his end was near. Thereupon he prayed that if the Imām Mahdī was true then may Allāh grant him health. Allāh accepted his prayer and he was healed.

A brother from Ivory Coast relates: I used to worship idols. One day in a dream I saw an old woman who brought me a cane of water and a prayer mat and told me to offer Ṣalāt. I then gave up idol-worship and started offering Ṣalāt. But then again it was said to me that I should offer Ṣalāt. When I told this to my brother who was an Aḥmadī, he said that this was an indication that I should accept Aḥmadiyyat. I did so and my heart was completely cleared of all thoughts of idol-worship. Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said that these incidents relate to new Aḥmadīs but they have lessons for old Ahmad's as well.

Amir Sahib of Burkina Faso writes: A brother pledged Bai'at and thereafter saw in a dream that the place where he had been before was in darkness and that he was now in a place glowing with light. Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Thus is Allāh drawing people towards true Islām. One day Islām will triumph through Aḥmadiyyat. May Allāh enable every one of us to remain constantly engaged in *Tabligh. Amin*.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Khurshid Ruqayya Sahiba, wife of *Maulawī* Manzoor Ahmad Sahib of Qādiān, and the sad demise of Dr Salahud-Din Sahib of USA. Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) led their funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

## The gatherings should be aimed at earning divine pleasure.

### Avoid all gatherings and occasions that encourage sin.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: There are all sorts of gatherings in the world, and they have different objectives, such as for enjoyment, intellectual pursuits, committees that work out programs for leisure or enjoyment. All these are for worldly pursuits, not for seeking God's pleasure. Even gatherings that are for people's welfare are for worldly pursuits. However, there are some gatherings that are meant to draw people closer to Allāh and to find ways of spiritual progress. Their purpose is only that whatever we do and whatever we plan should be for the sake of Allāh. God loves such gatherings and their effects are manifested in the world. Allāh also blesses those who join such gatherings after they die. Whether they gather in their homes or outside, believers should strive to win Allāh's pleasure and to improve the lot of the believers.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: A believer's worldly gatherings are not devoid of the remembrance of God. While they are busy in their worldly engagements, their hearts are not unmindful of God. Believers do not talk about cheating or usurping other people's rights. They have the fear of God and piety in mind. While the Holy Qur'an teaches that our gatherings should be free from rebellion, sin and disobedience of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and should be directed towards righteousness, the pity is that most gatherings of Muslims these days are contrary to this. Internal dissent has crossed all bounds. While believers are supposed to be kind and merciful towards one another, what we witness is quite the opposite. They are making covenants with their enemies and have lost all fear of God. No power will avail them against God. Calling oneself a Muslim and yet hankering after the world shows that their faith is weak. In any case, it is our duty to transform ourselves and to make other Muslims understand that your actions will not only make you subservient to others, but you will also lose your faith. It is time to fear God and adopt righteousness; otherwise you will be left empty-handed.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: We should keep doing introspection. Satan will never tolerate seeing the Jamā'at progress. Satan in fact deceives those who speak against the institutions of the Jamā'at. If reformation is their concern, then they should take their complaints to their country's higher office-bearers or to Khalīfatul-Masīh. It is wrong to sit here and there talking against the Jamā'at. Such gathering should be shunned. If there is a complaint against an office-

bearer, then it should be taken to Markaz or to Khalīfatul-Masīh. It is then up to him how the Khalifa handles the matter. We should pray wholeheartedly that Allah may rid the Jamā'at of all evil and enable us to tread the path of Taqwa. May we always be part of gatherings that are pious and righteous.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: As the Jamā'at continues to progress, Satan will also do his best to stop it. The opponents of the Jamā'at not only openly oppose us but also use simple-minded people against us. May Allāh save the Jamā'at from internal and external mischief. *Amin.*

Regarding the gatherings of believers, the Promised Messiah says: The teaching that we have been given and that believers should follow is that they should either speak up or keep quiet. When you see that God and His Prophet are being ridiculed, leave that gathering; otherwise refute them fully and openly. He who keeps sitting without answering will be acting hypocritically. Anyone who listens to words against God or His Prophet or the Jamā'at should refute them. It is not right to show weakness in matters of faith and such accusations should be answered openly, otherwise one should leave the gathering. The following kinds of gatherings are unacceptable: Those in which the institutions are criticized. It is related in a Hadīth that a person asked the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as to who they should associate with. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, keep company with those who remind you of God, whose actions remind you of the hereafter, and prefer gatherings where there is the remembrance of God.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Today it is essential for every Aḥmadī to increase his or her knowledge of faith. The shine and glitter of the world is not everything, God's pleasure should be our ultimate aim. A believer should shun the gatherings of the worldly. If we remain mindful of this, our young people will be saved from a lot of mischief. Parents should keep an eye on the kind of company their kids keep and should arrange for righteous gathering in their homes that should cater for their proper upbringing.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Today the Ijtimā' of Lajna Imā'illāh, UK is starting. Most of the programs should be comprised of religious and intellectual subjects. Women should remember that this is not a worldly fair. They should remember the purpose

of coming to the Ijtimā' and discuss issues relating to faith and knowledge. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) says that those who sit in a gathering where they do not remember God, will look back to those gatherings with regret on the Day of Judgment. We should sit and associate with people who are firm in faith, in accordance with the Qur'anic injunction كونوا مع الصادقين (Be with the righteous). Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: One's company has a powerful and lasting impact. It is important to avoid evil companionship.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: "When an individual sits in the company of one who is pious and truthful, then that individual partakes of that truthfulness. However, if one abandons the company of the pious and associates with the sinful and wicked, then that individual is influenced by evil thoughts. The one who keeps company with the righteous and pious becomes one of them. It is therefore important to act according to the verse كونوا مع الصادقين (Be with the righteous). The Ḥadīth انهم قوم لا يشقى جلسهم says they are the people even whose companions are not devoid of blessings. This Ḥadīth also shows the benefits of keeping company with the righteous. Unfortunate indeed is he who keeps away from them.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: Seek knowledge through prayer; otherwise you will never attain certainty. Certainty will only come

when you realize that cutting off from God means a kind of death. While you pray to be saved from sin, do not let go of the means, and shun all the companionships and associations that invite towards sin, and keep praying. Ṣalāt does not mean mere standing and bowing and following a ritual, rather Ṣalāt is something that should be felt by the heart, so that the soul melts and flows towards the threshold of the Divine. Try as best as you can to feel sincere pathos and to beg Him with humility so that all the sin and audacity of the heart should disappear. Such is the Ṣalāt that is blessed. If one perseveres in this, he will find that during day or night a light has descended upon his heart and the power of the self that incites to evil has been weakened.

It is written in a Ḥadīth that at the end of gatherings, the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) used to pray: سبحانك اللهم و بحمدك، لا اله الا انت استغفرک و اتوب اليك (Holy are You our Lord with all Your attributes. There is none worthy of worship except You. I seek Your forgiveness and turn to you). May Allāh always save us from the onslaughts of Satan.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Mr. Bilal Abdus-Salam, an African Aḥmadī residing in USA. Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) led his funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayer.

## Friday Sermon 29 September 2017 at Karlsruhe, Germany

### Majlis Anṣārullāh should become more drawn towards God.

#### The pleasure in Ṣalāt comes from the relationship between the servant and the Master.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Today is the inauguration of the annual Ijtimā' of Majlis Anṣārullāh, UK. In this context, I would like to draw attention towards an essential point, and that is the observance of prayer. When a person crosses the age of 40, he should realize that the days of life are now ebbing away, so he should become more inclined towards God. A believer should worry about fulfilling his obligations to God and to His creatures. Whenever Allāh draws our attention to Ṣalāt, He says that it should be offered in time and with congregation. This is what Iqamah or observance of prayer means. From the reports I receive, I get the impression that many do not give proper attention to this despite having reached such a mature age. Every Nāsir should look within himself and strive to become punctual in Ṣalāt. The Anṣārullāh can only become helpers of God if they do their duty in observing the faith and having others observe it as well. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says that prayer is the weapon that will make us victorious; we should use

this weapon in the manner that Allāh has taught us.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Observe prayers punctually and with the proper decorum. Some people offer only one prayer in a day. They should remember that no one is exempted from prescribed Ṣalāt, not even Prophets. It is related in a Ḥadīth that a group of new converts came to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and asked that they be exempted from offering the Ṣalāt. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) refused, saying: "The religion that is devoid of practice is meaningless."

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: What is Ṣalāt? It is a special form of prayer, but people treat it like a tax they owe to the sovereign. The naïve people do not understand that God benefits nothing from their prayer and supplication. Instead, it is for man's own benefit, for in this way he reaches his goal.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: I am pained to see that these days' people do not aspire for worship and Taqwa and piety. The reason is the poisonous influence of the world that is causing the love for God to grow cold, so that people do not experience the kind of pleasure that they should derive from worship. Those who do not experience pleasure in worship should worry about their ailment, for they are ill. When God has created mankind for His worship, how can it be that he did not imbue it with pleasure and joy. There is pleasure and joy, but only if one is willing to experience it.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: Understand well that worship is not a burden or a tax. It has a pleasure and joy that is greater than all the joys of the world and all the pleasures of the self. Just as a sick person is unable to enjoy the taste of delicious food, so are unfortunate people deprived of the pleasure of God's worship.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: Remember, Ṣalāt is something that embellishes a man's worldly life and his faith. Allah has cursed the worshippers who are not mindful of its essence. Ṣalāt is something that, when it is properly observed, it protects one from all kinds of sin and transgression.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: It is not in man's power to offer such Ṣalāt, and it can only be achieved through God's help. And this cannot come about unless one continues to pray and supplicate. Therefore, whether it is day or night, not one moment in your life should be empty of prayers. In order to experience the pleasure of Ṣalāt, it is important to seek Allāh's help. We should beseech God that, just as He has given us the pleasure of fruits and other things, so should He let us experience the pleasure of Ṣalāt. When a drunkard fails to get intoxicated, he continues to drink cup after cup until he finds the pleasure he is seeking. And just as the alcoholic has a pleasure in his mind that he strives for, we should employ all our faculties to find pleasure in worship. If we pray with the same zeal to find pleasure in worship, then, truly do I say to you, you will find that pleasure. Also, when praying we should

bear in mind its benefits. **إِنَّ الْحَسَنَاتِ يُدْهِبْنَ السَّيِّئَاتِ**  
Surely virtues drive away evils. (11[Hud]: 115)

We should keep these bounties and the pleasures in mind and pray that we may experience the Ṣalāt that is the lot of the righteous. Prayer is not just going through certain motions. The essence of Ṣalāt is the prayer which contains pleasure and joy.

Regarding the essence and purpose of Ṣalāt, the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: All the postures of Ṣalāt are meant to attain the purpose and essence of worship. The postures of prayer are in

fact expressions of the soul. What the tongue speaks is also spoken by the soul. It is thus that one receives enlightenment and contentment. If a person reflects on how he was born and how he grew up, he can try to fulfill his obligations as God's servant. In short, the pleasure in Ṣalāt comes from the relationship between the Master and the servant. If you wish to benefit from God's grace, then you have to become His perfect servant. And it is then that you will experience the high degree of pleasure, which is not surpassed by any other. At this stage, man's soul becomes as if non-existent and flows towards God like a stream and is cut off from all that is other than God. It is then that God's love descends on him. It is the meeting of two passions: the passion of God's providence from above and the passion of a person's servitude from below. This is the state that is called Ṣalāt. And it is such Ṣalāt that burns all evil. Such Ṣalāt does away with sin and leaves behind a light and luster. This is the Ṣalāt to which applies the verse;

**إِنَّ الصَّلَاةَ تَنْهَىٰ عَنِ الْفَحْشَاءِ وَالْمُنْكَرِ**

Surely, Prayer restrains one from indecency and manifest evil. (29[Al-'Ankabut]: 46)

In short, Ṣalāt brings such pleasure and joy that I do not know how to describe it.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: The essence of true Ṣalāt is only attained through prayers. To beseech anyone other than God is contrary to a believer's honor because only God is worthy of being beseeched. All of a believer's faculties lie at the feet of God. The one who seeks from those beside God should know that he is most unfortunate and the time comes when he will not be able to turn to God even superficially. It is something to be dreaded that one should leave God and beseech someone else. It is therefore important to be regular in Ṣalāt. To turn to anyone other than God means to be cut off from God. Ṣalāt is the practical affirmation of God's Oneness, and it remains unblessed and of no use unless it is accompanied by humility and total devotion.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: Those who are not completely devoted to God are often visited by doubts and suspicions in their Ṣalāt. When a person turns to God with a pure heart, then Satan can never dare whisper in his heart. Look, your life is ebbing away, let go of heedlessness and be fearful. Pray in solitude so that God may preserve your faith and be pleased with you. Ṣalāt is something that can lead a person to the stage of *Mi'raj*, provided that it is the Ṣalāt that melts the soul. Wake up for Tahajjud prayer and offer it with eagerness and zeal. If you wish to have a true relationship with God then become regular in your prayers, so that not only your tongue but also the very passions and objectives of your soul may become embodied in Ṣalāt.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) prayed: May Allāh enable us to become firmly established upon Tauhid and to safeguard our prayers and to experience prayers that are pleasurable. May we turn towards God alone, and to no one else. I have learned that there are

no arrangements for offering congregational prayers at Ijtimā' venue. Next time they should make arrangements whereby all five prayers are offered at the venue. May Allāh make us His true servants. Amīn.

## Friday Sermon 6 October 2017 at Bait-ul-Futūh Mosque, London

### Whoever strives in the path of Allāh, Allāh guides him and bestows blessings on him.

Huzoor (may Allah be pleased with him) (may Allah be his Helper) said: I occasionally relate accounts that serve to enhance the faith of members of the Jamā'at. Many people write to me that these accounts serve to bring about a transformation in themselves and in their children. Some old Aḥmadīs write that they are motivated by the zeal of new Aḥmadīs to strengthen their faith. Some new Aḥmadīs express similar sentiments. However, some naïve people ask why these accounts are mostly related to Arabs and Africans and why do people in Europe not transform through dreams or by reading books. Let it be clear that God brings about transformation in the hearts of Europeans as well. There are local Aḥmadīs here in UK who are growing in faith with each coming day and had wonderful experiences that have strengthened their faith. They are also excelling one another in their love and devotion to Khilāfat. Remember that Allāh guides those who wish to come towards Him. Worldly people who have been made arrogant by materialism do not have the good fortune to seek faith. Also, most Europeans have become atheists. And when they do not care about Allāh, why would He care about them?

قُلْ مَا يَعْبُورُ بِكُمْ رَبِّي لَوْلَا دُعَاؤُكُمْ

Say to the disbelievers: 'But for your prayer to Him my Lord would not care for you'. (25[Al-Furqan]: 78)

Allāh says that He guides those who strive in His path. Therefore, Allāh guides those who seek His path, and the accounts I relate are the experiences of people who have a longing to find God and it is because of some virtue on their part that Allāh shows them the way.

Huzoor (may Allah be pleased with him) (may Allah be his Helper) said: A missionary from Burkina Faso writes: Our delegation went to a village for Tabligh, and only one old woman took Bai'at. This old lady tried every Friday to come to the mission house for Friday prayer but could not cross the seasonal stream that came in the way, and so she would lay down her prayer mat there and pray. After a month when the stream dried up, she told this story to the Mu'allim and the people of the village, who were so impressed that 30 of

her relatives accepted Bai'at.

A lady from Egypt came across MTA and watched the program *Hiwar-ul-Mabashir* (straight talk) and later accepted Bai'at on the basis of a dream. A lady from Turkey likewise accepted Bai'at after watching MTA. She writes: One day I saw in a dream that I was reciting Sūrah *Al-Kahf*. I realized that God would save me from the mischief of the *Dajjal*. Therefore, I took Bai'at and joined the Jamā'at.

A missionary from Benin writes: Two hundred people accepted Bai'at in a village. After that the daughter of the local president fell ill and they were despaired of her life. He asked people to pray for her and also wrote to me. By the grace of Allāh, the next day his daughter recovered completely.

So if someone asks why these people alone experience such phenomena, they should know that these people seek faith and listen to preaching all night. This is why Allāh so blesses them.

A *Mu'allim* sahib from Congo Brazzaville writes that a man told him that his son-in-law used to abuse him after he became drunk and treated him badly; but ever since he accepted Aḥmadiyyat his attitude has changed and he has stopped drinking.

Huzoor (may Allah be pleased with him) (may Allah be his Helper) said: I had told asylum seekers to spend their free time in Tabligh. One asylum seeker told me that in his final protocol the judge asked him whether he distributed leaflets for his Jamā'at. He said yes. The judge asked where he distributed the leaflets, upon which he named some places. The judge said that is right, because I myself received one from you at such and such place. And the judge cleared his case. Thus Allāh provides guidance for those who seek it.

Amīr Sahib of France says: MTA is of great value. A brother named Daniel told me that the Imām of his mosque used to play Huzoor (may Allah be pleased with him)'s Friday sermons. One of these sermons had a profound impact on him. He then found the French translation of the actual sermon delivered by Huzoor (may Allah be pleased with him) (may Allah be his Helper) and became an Aḥmadī. Later he sent books to

the Imām who also accepted Bai'at along with 70 people. These are Allāh's blessings that He is conveying through MTA. Some people are also guided through radio programs. A brother from Benin writes: Once I asked a question during a radio program and when I heard the answer to my question I was satisfied and entered the Jamā'at. He said that he had been listening to the radio for a long time. Thus, Allāh guides people who truly seek guidance.

Huzoor (may Allah be pleased with him) (may Allah be his Helper) said: Allāh had revealed to the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) **فحان ان تعان و تعرف**

**بين الناس** The time has come for you to be helped and to

be made known to the people.

This was first revealed in 1883 and then twice again. This was the time when no one knew the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). He says that this could not be the work of a mortal. It is only God who gives tidings of the unseen. It is by the grace of Allāh that the Jamā'at is being widely recognized and people are entering its fold. Allāh had said to the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) that a time would come when people will enter into your Jamā'at in flocks, and today we are seeing its fulfillment. Today the Jamā'at has been established in 210 countries.

May these faith-enhancing accounts inspire us to progress in spirituality, and may the Jamā'at continue to grow and flourish. *Āmīn*.

## Friday Sermon 13 October 2017 at Bait-ul-Futūh Mosque, London

### An attempt is made to play politics in Pakistan in the name of Khatm-e-Nubuwwat.

#### Rebuttal of the allegations against Jamā'at Ahmadiyya

After reciting verse 41 of Sūrah Al-Ahzab, which is translated as follows: "Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allāh and the Seal of the Prophets; and Allāh has full knowledge of all things." (33[Al-Ahzab]: 41)

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: We see time and again in Pakistan that whenever a party's popularity is on the wane or a religious party wants to draw attention, they start accusing the government of trying to include Ahmadis among Muslims under international pressure. And they say that since, according to them, Ahmadis deny the finality of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), they will never allow this to happen. Other parties counter this by saying that there is no question of granting Ahmadis any rights, and that even the little rights they have should be taken away from them.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: The real issues are their own political motives for which they unjustly involve Ahmadis. A similar situation has occurred in Pakistan during the past few days which everyone knows about through the media. As far as the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at is concerned, we have not asked any foreign powers for this, nor have we begged the Pakistani government, nor do we require anyone's certificate to be called Muslims. Allāh and His Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) call us Muslims because we profess the Kalima (There is none worthy of worship except Allāh) and believe in all the articles of Islām and faith and believe in Ḥaḍrat Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon

him) to be *Khatam-un-Nabiyyin*, as has been repeatedly stated by the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him).

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: The accusation that we do not believe the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to be Khatam-un-Nabiyyin is a malicious accusation. The fact is that we read and believe in the Holy Qur'ān and it clearly calls him Khatam-un-Nabiyyin. How cannot we believe in the Holy Qur'ān and the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) when the Promised Messiah's revelations declare the Holy Qur'ān to be the source of all good and the Holy Prophet to be Khatam-un-Nabiyyin? It was revealed to the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) that "All good lies in the Holy Qur'ān," and "Those who honor the Holy Qur'ān shall find honor in Heaven." All his revelations are subservient to the Holy Qur'ān and all his guidance is derived from the Holy Book. In his writings we find numerous pronouncements that the Holy Prophet is Khatam-un-Nabiyyin.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: If our opponents were indeed true, then why would we go to such lengths to publish the Holy Qur'ān and its translation in 75 languages? How come that Ahmadis who are propagating the message that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is Khatam-un-Nabiyyin are the ones being accused of denying it?

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says, "The faith and enlightened conviction with which

we believe the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to be *Khatam-un-Nabiyyin*, others do not even have a fraction of that faith and conviction. They do not understand the secret behind the finality of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). It is a word they have heard from their forefathers but they are unaware of its reality and do not know what *Khatm-e-Nubuwwat* is and what it means to believe in it. God has revealed the meaning of *Khatm-e-Nubuwwat* upon me, and such is the sweet elixir of knowledge that I have been made to drink that others can have no idea of it unless they are themselves satiated from the same spring.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is *Khatam-un-Nabiyyeen* and all Prophethood ended with him. But it did not end in the way someone is strangled, for such an ending would not be something to be proud of, rather the finality of Prophethood means that all the excellences of Prophethood culminated in his person and thus he was named the seal of Prophets. In the same way, all the truths and verities contained in past scriptures culminated in the Holy Qur'an, and it came to be called *Khatam-ul-Kutub*. This is the truth of which our opponents are unaware, and the ulema do not allow them to be free of their snare because this is what their livelihood depends upon.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: Being the Seal of Prophets is one of the signs of the Prophethood of Muhammad, and it is something a Muslim must believe in otherwise he does not remain a Muslim. Faith and knowledge were perfected with the coming of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The sun that dawned from Arabia illuminated every nation. And now Ahmadiyyat is spreading this light in every town and village. It is the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) who apprised other nations of the status of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says, "The signs of the Holy Prophet's Prophethood are brighter than the sun and are beyond counting. If the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) had not come, other religions would have remained in darkness and the earth would be filled with Divine wrath. Islām was the light that brought even others out of darkness. The true light that is required for salvation is to be found in Islām. With respect to the Oneness of God, the Holy Qur'an is like a unsheathed sword cutting at the roots of idolatry. Likewise, it so illuminates every aspect of Prophethood that it leaves nothing wanting. This is the understanding that the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) has given us. Today's *ulema* may be busy criticizing each other,

but they have not the courage to demonstrate to others the true status of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: I have never ever applied the word Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) or Messenger to myself in the actual sense of the word. To use a word in a metaphorical sense and to employ it in keeping with the lexicons does not constitute heresy. But I do not like anything that is even likely to mislead common Muslims. However, in the revelations I have received from God, the words Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and Messenger have appeared numerous times, and, having been ordained by God, I cannot conceal them. But I do reiterate that the use of these words with respect to me is not in the real sense. The truth, to which I testify on the basis of many testimonies, is that no Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) can come after the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), neither new nor old.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: Our belief is that anyone who considers himself to be an actual Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and portrays himself as a Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) as separate from the blessed fountain of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), such a person is an apostate and is faithless. He will create his own Kalima and bring innovation into worship and change the sharia. Hence he will undoubtedly be a brother of Musailima, the Liar, and he will undoubtedly be a heretic.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: We are Muslims, we believe in the Holy Qur'an, and we believe that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is the Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) of God and His Messenger who brought the best of religions. We also believe that he is *Khatam-un-Nabiyyin* and that there is no Prophet after him other than one who is brought up under his guidance and in keeping with his prophecies. Allāh grants His discourse to the saints of this *Ummah* and colors them in the color of Prophets. But they are not Prophets in the actual sense. There is no Prophet under the heavens except the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), and no books other than the Holy Qur'an, and whoever contradicts this leads himself towards hell.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: One Pakistani Member of Parliament made a hateful speech in parliament in order to create chaos in the country. He was also seeking to portray have himself as a patriot and to find new political life. Many sensible politicians and

media persons have condemned this speech and said that Ahmadīs are true patriots. They even spoke about the sacrifices made by Ahmadīs for their country.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: We are and shall always be ready to make any sacrifices to

safeguard the honor of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). May Allāh protect this country and save it from tyrannical rulers and safeguard the country. Amīn.

## Friday Sermon 20 October 2017 at Bait-ul-Futūh Mosque, London

**Promised Messiah truly loved the Holy Prophet; it was through him that we understood what it means to truly love the Holy Prophet.**

**No one can be truly virtuous or receive truths and verities and visions unless he is totally immersed in obedience of the Holy Prophet.**

After reciting verse 32 of Sūrah *Al-e-Imran*, which is translated as follows: Say, 'If you love Allāh, follow me: then will Allāh love you and forgive you your faults. And Allāh is Most Forgiving, Merciful.' (3[Al-Imran]: 32)

Huzoor said: In my last sermon, I read an extract from the writings of the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) in which he says that if the Muslims had not reached such a deplorable state and had not deviated so far from the essence of Islām, there would be no need for his advent. Today we see that the most corrupt state is that of the Muslims. While they recite the *Kalima*, they kill or usurp the rights of others or try to harm those who recite the same *Kalima*. Is this the teaching of the Holy Qur'ān? Is this the example set by the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)? Today we see that Muslims are enamored of the world, and if they ever speak of religion it is only to serve their political ends.

Huzoor said: Speaking of the character of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), Ḥaḍrat Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) said, "His morals were the Quran itself."

Huzoor said: Therefore, those who believe in him should follow in his footsteps and not rest content merely with raising slogans. In the above verse, Allāh says that if you want to establish a true relationship with Me, you will have to follow My beloved. Does the condition of the Muslims today show that God loves them? No. In fact, the *ulema* whom the common people consider to be close to Allāh are foremost in spreading mischief. Columnists and commentators in Pakistan are now expressing this view.

Huzoor said: The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) truly loved the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and he was sent to uphold the Holy Prophet's Shari'ah. It was through him that we gained full understanding of the Holy Qur'ān. He guided us at every step. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) elaborated the same theme on

various occasions and told us that these are the conditions that can make us God's beloved. Muslims have no other way to survive and to keep peace in their countries other than to follow the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Otherwise their claim of لا اله الا الله is an empty claim. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) says that if the Muslims truly followed in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), they would not be in the state they are today. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) says: I am an example of true obedience to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Those who truly follow the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) should raise their levels of worship, and each of us should do introspection in this regard, otherwise our claims are mereclaims.

Huzoor said: Ḥaḍrat Ayesha (may Allah be pleased with her) said that the Holy Prophet's morals were the Qur'ān itself. Therefore, before we tell others to do so, we first need to read the Holy Qur'ān and act upon it. Materialism has been the source of all the division among the Muslims. How can these people be called Muslims who do not follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)! Allāh says that you should follow the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) if you love me, but these people give preference to the world. Is this the way of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)? Was the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) a materialist? Did he indulge in usury? Did he show laxity in fulfilling God's commandments? Was he, God forbid, hypocritical? Did he give preference to the world over the faith? No. If they truly walk in his footsteps, they will witness God's immense blessings.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) says, "I say truly, and I do so on the basis of my own experience, that none can truly act virtuously, attain the pleasure of Allāh the Exalted, nor derive benefit from these

rewards, blessings, profound wisdoms, truths and visions, which are acquired at the highest stage of the purification of the soul, until he subjugates himself in following the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Furthermore, evidence of this is found in the very words of God, and I am a practical and living proof of this statement.

Huzoor said: The person whom the world accuses of denigrating the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is in fact his most ardent lover. The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) says: Your claim that you love Allāh can only be true if you follow the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). This verse clearly says that man cannot attain God's nearness through his own efforts and meditations and striving without following the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The light and blessings of the Divine cannot descend on anyone unless he wholly becomes immersed in obedience to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). As for those who completely obey him and bring a kind of death upon themselves, they are given the kind of light and faith and love that frees them from all other than God, and this saves them from sin and brings salvation. In this very world, they find the pure life and are freed from the dark and narrow grave of the passions of the self.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) says: For the ultimate bliss, Allāh has opened one path, and that is to follow the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The verse clearly asks the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) to say: Come to me so that Allāh may befriend you. This does not mean offering physical worship and praying and fasting. What it means is to submit oneself wholly like a sacrificial lamb, just as the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: My death and my life, my prayers, my sacrifices are all for the sake of God, and I am the first

to offer my life for Him.

Huzoor said: Our claim that we follow the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is hollow if we do not raise the standards of our worship. Not everyone has the power to reach God on his own; it is therefore essential to find Him through the medium of the Holy Qur'ān and the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The one who abandons Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) will never attain salvation. Man is in essence a servant and he has to accept what the Master says. So if you wish to benefit from the blessings of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), you should become his servant, offer *Durood*, and not deviate from any of his teachings.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) says: There is only one-way to please God, and it is through obedience to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). We see that people are engrossed in traditions which not only contradict the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) but are even derogatory to him. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)'s highest status was that of being the beloved of God, but he also told others of the way through which they can find Him. Anyone who thinks that salvation can be achieved without the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is false, and anyone who holds malice towards the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) will not prosper.

The Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) says: I have received this blessing, not through my own ability, but through the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Huzoor said: It was on account of his complete love for the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) that the Promised Messiah (peace be upon him) was given the status of a follower-Prophet. May Allāh enable us and others to follow him to the best of our ability. *Amīn*.

## Friday Sermon 27 October 2017 at Bait-ul-Futūh Mosque, London

### Our objective should always be to excel in good deeds.

#### Spiritual progress is possible only when one totally shuns evil and adopts righteousness.

In the beginning of his sermon Huzoor referred to verse 149 of surah *Al-Baqarah*, that Allāh advises believers to vie, with one another in good works: فَاسْتَبِقُوا فَاسْتَبِقُوا . Huzoor then alluded to verse 8 of surah *Al-Bayyinah* which is as follows:

لِنَّ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ ۗ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمْ خَيْرُ الْبَرِيَّةِ

“Verily, those who believe and do good works — they are the best of creatures.” (98:8)

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says that man should progress in piety and practice good deeds. What is piety, how can it be practiced, why is faith in God essential for practicing good deeds, what should be the standard of our faith, how can this standard be raised further, what are the means of attaining piety, and how does God reward those who are pious? Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Striving for what is lawful is also a virtue,

but if one exceeds the limits, it ceases to be a virtue. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: Good deeds are a ladder that leads towards God. Remember, Satan follows you in every path and tries to drive you away from the truth. To give a beggar the leftovers from the previous day is not piety; rather piety requires that you give him from the fresh food that is before you. For true virtue, it is essential to have faith in God and to believe that God sees everything. To correct one's ways, it is essential to believe in an ever-watchful God. This alone can lead to true virtue.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: *Taqwa* means to shun even the minute paths of evil. It is not piety that one does not steal or commit adultery. True piety requires steadfastness in the path of God to the extent of being willing to give up one's life. The mere avoidance of evil is not piety unless it is accompanied by good deeds. Unless one adopts piety, one cannot abide in the spiritual realm. Good deeds are like food for the soul, and this state is attained, by growing in faith, by being one in word and deed, and by knowing that evil deeds will be punished. Man's every deed should be a manifestation of God's existence. The atheists cannot achieve such morals, because all these virtues result from faith. As faith grows weaker, so is there weakness in good deeds. One who has true faith in God cannot be sinful because his faith drives away all the faculties of sin and a death comes upon all the things that could lead to sin. He becomes like a lifeless body. This comes about through true faith in God, and this is the objective we should have in mind.

The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says: Man has two duties. One is to avoid evil and the other is to strive for virtue. Virtue has two aspects: to shun evil and to do good deeds. Man cannot become perfect by merely avoiding evil unless he also benefits others. These spiritual stations; can only be attained by having faith in God's attributes. There are many who do not violate worldly laws but go against Divine laws, and this is because their faith is weak. While they believe God is All-Knowing, they deny this with their actions and thus fall prey to many evils. To avoid evil, one's faith has to be perfect and then one should seek to follow the path of the Prophets and saints. This path is recognized by the way God treated those people. The first step of avoiding evil is attained through God's glorious attributes whereby He is the enemy of the wicked. The other is attained through His Benevolent

attributes. In short, it only comes about through the power of the holy spirit which comes from God and is accompanied with peace and tranquility and inculcates love and devotion.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: One can only progress in spirituality when he totally shuns evil and adopts piety for the sake of God. Good deeds comprise two parts: the obligatory and the *nawafil*, or the supererogatory. The paying of one's debt is obligatory. All obligations are accompanied by *nawafil*, and anything that one does over and above what is obligatory falls into this category. All the religious obligations are perfected through *nawafil*. *Zakāt*, for examples, is accompanied by charity and alms giving. Thus, friendship with God becomes so strong that according to Hadith, "I become their hands and feet and I become their tongue with which they speak".

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: As man grows in piety, one good deed leads to another. Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said God does not allow the good deeds of even non-believers to go in vain, so how could he do so for the believers. Believers should use even lawful things in a balanced way, otherwise they will not remain a virtue.

Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) said: Our teaching is that we should be kind to everyone. We should obey our rulers because they are our guardians and protect our lives and property. We should be kind towards our relatives. We should not pray behind those who are not righteous and indulge in frivolous innovations. The principle is to be kind to everyone but also to protect ourselves in matters of faith. The sphere of kindness is vast and is not confined to Muslims alone. At the first stage, be kind in terms of justice and fairness, and then be compassionate, and then be loving as a mother. It is at this stage that piety reaches its climax. God loves piety and He loves kindness towards His creatures. May Allāh enable us to do good deeds for His sake so that we may achieve the target given to us.

At the end of the sermon, Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Hamid Maqsood Atif Sahib, Ahmadiyya missionary; Ali Saeed Musa Sahib, former Amīr Jamā'at Tanzania; and Nusrat Sadiqa Sahiba, mother of Abdul Momin Tāhir Sahib, in-charge Arabic Desk London. Huzoor (may Allah be his Helper) led their funeral prayer in absentia after the Fridayprayer.

Full original text of Friday Sermons by the Caliphs of Ahmadiyya Islam is available in print in Al-Fazl International, Al-Fazl Rabwah and Badr. These publications are also available online at [alislam.org](http://alislam.org) under periodicals. Translations and summaries of Friday Sermons March are also available in various languages on [alislam.org](http://alislam.org) under Friday Sermons. In the US, please contact Faiza Bajwa to subscribe to Al-Fazl International. E.-mail: [fh0294@yahoo.com](mailto:fh0294@yahoo.com). Phone: (718) 813-0700. Mail: 188-15 McLaughlin Ave., Hollis NY 11423.

# Activities and News of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in USA

## Amir Jamā'at USA condoles demise of Dr Salahuddin

I am writing to share with you the sad news of sudden demise of Dr, Salahuddin Sahib. *Inna Lillāhi Wa Innā Ilaihi Raji'oon.*

Many of Jamā'at members know him. He was a member of New Jersey Jamā'at. For decades, he had been heading the team of volunteers working in Langarkhana (culinary arrangements) at Jalsa Sālāna USA. His selfless and dedicated service at Jalsa Sālāna had set a high standard of excellence for all of us. He shunned publicity and selflessly and enthusiastically endeavored to serve guests of Promised Messiah (A.S.),

always available and willing to help.

May Allah grant him place close to His loved ones and his revered parents. May Allah give strength to his family to bear this loss.

We will miss him dearly. We owe him our gratitude for his service to USA Jamā'at, and we should pray that may Allah forgive him and elevate his status and guide him to the Paradise of His pleasure. (Aameen)

Mirza Maghfoor Ahmad, Amīr USA. September 10, 2017.

## Sad demise of respected Bilal Abdus-Salaam

I am informing you with great sorrow and grief that our dear elder of Philadelphia Jamā'at Respected Bilal Abdus Salaam passed away. *Inna Lillāhi Wa Innā Ilaihi Raji'oon.*

He was 84 years old. He served the Jamā'at in many capacities, especially served as missionary in Baltimore.

He was actively involved in Tabligh and his love for Khilāfat was unparalleled. May Allah give him high rank in paradise and solace to bereaved family. Amin.

(Mukhtar Ahmad Malhi, National General Secretary USA Jamā'at)

## Sister Salma Ghani Passes Away

With great pain and sadness, I am informing you that one of our elder dear sister Salma Ghani passed away at age of 83 in Philadelphia. *Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'oon.*

Among the early pioneers of Philadelphia Jama'at, she was the early convert in the 60s along with Late Brother Bilal, Hussain Abdul-Aziz and Sister Firdaus.

She served Lajna as General Secretary in early 60s.

She also served local Lajna President for many years and Sadr Lajna USA for a long time (approximately over 12 years) during the Fourth Khilāfat.

She was very humble and devoted person. She used to pray always for whole Jama'at and for victory of Ahmadiyya Islam.

May Allah give her high rank in paradise. (Mukhtar Malhi, National General Secretary, USA)

## Respected Abdur Rehman Saleem passes away

It is with great pain and sorrow, I am informing you, that Respected Abdur Rehman Saleem Sahib, passed away in his sleep 10 November 2017 in Columbus, OH. *إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ*. He was 99.

He was father of Respected Nasir Mahmood Malik Sahib, our past National Secretary Ta'lim.

He was grandfather of Dr. Ahmad Malik Sahib President of Silver Spring Jama'at and maternal

grandfather of Tariq H. Malik Sahib North & South American Coordinator, The Review of Religions.

At the time of his death, he was living with his younger son Dr. Abdus Salam Malik Sahib of Columbus OH.

May Allah elevate his station in Jannat-ul-Firdaus and grant ease and patience to the family during this difficult time. Aameen.

## Wife of Dr. Abdul Hakeem Nasar Passed Away

Amtul Baseer Sahiba wife of Dr. Abdul Hakeem Nasar Sahib died on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017. *Inna Lillāhi Wa Innā Ilaihi Raji'oon.* She passed away due to some

complications during a small eye surgery procedure that was done on Friday October 27th. She was in coma since then.

## Important Announcement for Jalsa Sālāna USA 2018

Insha'Allah, next Jalsa Sālāna of USA Jamā'at will be held from Friday, June 29, 2018 to Sunday, July 1, 2018 at Donald E Stephens convention center in

Rosemont, Illinois. The address is: 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont, IL 60018. <http://www.rosemont.com/desconvention>

### Reminder from Secretary Tabligh

Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V, may Allah be his Helper, said, in his Friday Sermon of September 22, 2017:

“... We must reflect upon and assess our own conditions also and always remember that Satan will never tolerate to see the Jamā'at progress. Satan, according to his nature, will continue his endeavors to divide us. Thus, do not play in the hands of people who slyly criticize the Nizām-e-Jamā'at, i.e. administrative system of the Jamā'at in private gatherings pretending to be voicing their opinions out of his sympathy for the Jamā'at. The correct procedure is that they should bring their concerns to the attention of the higher administrative system of the country and to the Khalifa of the time. Criticizing the system of the Jamā'at in this manner is a sign of sin, rebellion, disobedience to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon

him)) and being far from righteousness. Thus, Allah the Almighty has also cautioned believers from partaking in such gatherings. Every Ahmadi should fervently supplicate that Allah the Almighty removes every evil aspect from the Jamā'at and that He continues to bless the Jamā'at with people, who tread on the path of righteousness and fulfill their duties with righteousness.”

“Thus, everyone should remember this important matter. May Allah the Almighty protect the Jamā'at from every kind of disorder, whether internal or external. May He enable us to always partake in gatherings of virtue and righteousness, rather than gatherings of sin, rebellion, disobedience to the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and those that lead away from righteousness.”

### Inauguration of Nusrat Qur'an Academy Minnesota



National Tabligh Department started an initiative to reach out to Gambian population living in Twin Cities Minnesota in early April 2017.

A one-day meeting was held with Minnesota Jamā'at which was spearheaded by National Tabligh Secretary and was attended by Imam Abdullah Dibba, Imam Faran Rabbani, Fazle Rabbi (New York), Mohammed Trawally (Boston) and Usman Choudhry. One of the outcomes of the meeting was to start Nusrat Qur'an Academy (NQA) in Nusrat Mosque, Coon Rapids Minnesota offering free Holy Qur'an learning class for children of all African communities living in Twin Cities.

In order to launch NQA, it was decided to arrange a get acquainted dinner with Gambian, Ghanaian, Sierra Leoneans, Somalis and other Africans residing in twin cities. To start the process Lamin Dibba headed a

committee with its members Ebou Jafuneh, Lamin Kassama, Mohammed Trawally, Dawood Ofori, and Jabou Jagne to start contacting the Africans in Twin Cities. Four hundred flyers about the NQA Qur'an class were distributed; over three hundred invitation cards for NQA inauguration was hand delivered by committee members. The committee in an Aamila meeting requested to hold NQA inauguration event in Nusrat Mosque on Sunday September 17, 2017 and the dinner in the parking lot of Nusrat Mosque in a Marquise.



NQA inauguration was attended by Imam Abdullah Dibba, President PAAMA, Imam Faran Rabbani, Imam Luqman Gondal (Missionary Minnesota & Iowa – Midwest North Region), Dr. Basyr Rodney, Talim Secretary PAAMA and Hafiz Abdul-Qudus Kukoyi, Talim-ul-Qur'an Secretary PAAMA.

The attendance in the NQA inauguration was over one 110, and 23 children from African communities registered for the Qur'an Class. Looking at the comments of attendees and their appreciation of Ahmadiyya Community in Minnesota work, the number

of children attending the NQA Qur'an class will increase. In Sha Allah.

Some attendees gave cash donation after the event in appreciation of NQA Qur'an class initiative.

## Central Jersey chapter holds Coffee, Cake and True Islam event

On Saturday, the Central Jersey chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community hosted its first "Coffee, Cake, and True Islam" event for Rutgers University students at the Panera Bread on the College Avenue campus. The event is part of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's national True Islam campaign, which hosts "Coffee, Cake, and True Islam" events across the country.

This event at Rutgers University was hosted by Hena Tahir, a graduate student at Rutgers University Newark, and Homaira Khandakar, the interfaith communication coordinator for the Central Jersey chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. "We started having these 'Coffee, Cake, and True Islam'

meetings in different areas to raise awareness and promote the different points of Islam, and let people know what we're all about," Tahir said. In New Jersey, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has three chapters – central, south and north, with two representatives who run meet ups from each chapter. As an undergraduate student at the College of New Jersey (TCNJ), Tahir regularly hosted meet ups with students, where they learned about each other's religions. These meet ups, as well as the ones hosted at Rutgers University, are meant for female students, Khandakar said. The men of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community have hosted their own outreach events for several years.

## 'Meet a Muslim Day' in Oshkosh brings Muslims together

Organizers say they hope to break down barriers of mistrust and misunderstanding and teach people that Muslims are just like everyone else. Ladies from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Oshkosh teamed up with men to answer questions as part of their *#MeetAMuslim - Ask Me Anything* campaign. A U.S. Muslim group is reaching out to their communities at large as part of a national effort to unite people of all faiths. Locally, a contingent of men and women from the Ahmadiyya Muslim youth group of Oshkosh teamed up to host Meet a Muslim Day as people showed up on

the Capitol Square for the Dane County Farmers' Market in Madison, Wisconsin, WKOW has reported.

One of the event organizers, Harris Ahmed, said the group hopes to break down barriers of mistrust and misunderstanding and teach people that Muslims are just like everyone else. "There was a pew research study that was done that said only 62 percent of Americans had ever met a Muslim and that's why we're here and making ourselves available," WKOW quoted Ahmed as saying.

## Faith Leaders Gather at Jain Temple in Orange county



Leaders of Jewish, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Zoroastrian, Baha'i and Islam gathered at Jain Temple in Buena Park CA and shared views about Peace and

Gandhi's admonition to study Prophet Mohammad's life. In this Meeting Buddhist Master spoke about his friendship with Ahmadiyya Community and his

impressions about His Holiness Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah be his Helper) and his meeting during his recent trip to UK. Here is the link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/lbozoz4ear1n6xe/Thay%20speech%20at%20Jain%20Ctr%2010-1-17.MOV?dl=0>

He stated that his team of 21 people received excellent treatment at Jalsa UK and he was impressed with his audience with Huzoor Aqdas. They learned that

two of his team members were quite moved by their meeting with Huzoor and they shared this via tweet to all their friends in Vietnam.

They were presented a copy of the Holy Quran in Vietnamese language.

The Buddhist Master spoke about what he observed at the UK Jalsa for 6 minutes of this 8-minutes clip.

## Interfaith meeting Tabligh Report Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Connecticut

### Telemundo's La Feria De La Familia September 10th, 2017 at Hartford XL Centre

The Jamā'at volunteers included local Dae'n team as well as Dr. Hafeez Rehman, National Spanish Tabligh Desk Spokesperson and Missionary Syed Abdullah Shah, National Spanish Tabligh Desk Head.



A 10 x 10 foot booth was transformed into a True Islam Ahmadiyya “Talk To Us” Table and Exhibition en Espanol and a free Medical Health Checkup Station. Coffee, cake and other snacks were served freely which attracted swarms of diverse people and handed each an “Islam Autentico” flier along with a Coffee, Cake and True Islam flier or local contact card. We gifted only those visitors who filled out our metrics forms with our “Musulmanes Por La Paz” T-shirts (100 total) which were a massive hit for young and old alike (definitely

the most popular item), wristbands (500), and latex helium balloons (500) all with our message en Espanol (designed from scratch and approved by National Spanish Tabligh Desk). People happily wore our shirts, which also stated “The Messiah (may peace be upon him) has come” en Espanol, and other memorabilia throughout the event from start to finish, including the Executive Event Director Mr. Pabon. Telemundo Media interviewed our National Spanish Tabligh Desk Team. One team also invested an hour outside the XL Center in downtown Hartford for #MeetAMuslim and flier distribution where we were interviewed and recorded by BBC (Washington Bureau).



## An Interfaith at a Jewish Congregation in Troy, Michigan

### A Rabbi, an Imam and a Priest met to discuss who is a Prophet? They had fantastic discussion!

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Metro Detroit joined hands in an interfaith titled “Who is a Prophet?” The Interfaith discussion was part of the Third Annual Interfaith Forum sponsored by The South Oakland Vicariate Justice and Peace Committee and Neighbors in Faith that took place Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017, from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. at Congregation Shir Tikvah, of Troy, Michigan.

#### Members of Detroit Jamā'at with panelists

Imam Yahya Luqman along with Rabbi Aura Ahmadiyya Gazette

Bartfeld Ahuvia, of the host Congregation Shir Tikvah and Father Simon J. Hendry, S.J., of University of Detroit Mercy was among the panelists representing Islam, Judaism and Christianity. Program started with moderator Ed Demerly of St. Thomas More introducing the panelists along with their brief bios. Also, he highlighted the fact that Imam Yahya Luqman will be transferring to Atlanta, GA and this will be his last day in Michigan. He appreciated Imam Yahya Luqman's active contributions and participation in the interfaith community and recounted many events that Imam

Yahya Luqman was part of. At the same time, he introduced to the audience and welcomed our new Imam Shamshad Nasir to the region and renewed the commitment to the interfaith dialogue with Imam Shamshad Nasir.



There were more than 100 attendees present including sixteen members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Detroit. The moderator then kicked off the conversation by introducing some of the fundamental questions around the understanding of prophet as understood by the three main religions of the

## Meet a Muslim Campaign in L.A. East

L.A. East President, Qā'id Majlis and Financial Secretary with their young boys and a few Khuddam displayed banners of Meet a Muslim in Orange County.

Bravo! Atfa! great job!

A few people stopped by and held brief conversations.

## Disaster Response Missions

Humanity First is dealing with unexpected back-to-back disasters in many countries. Our volunteers are on the ground and serving needs of the people impacted by these disasters.

**Houston, TX:** The initial disaster relief phase is nearly over. So far, more than 270 volunteers from 6 states and Humanity First Canada have served over 600 meals; 25 rescues by boats; gutted & cleaned more than 70 houses; distributed relief supplies including health & hygiene products, cleaning supplies, dry meals and water. We are planning for the second phase of rebuilding.

**Jacksonville & Naples, FL:** More than 30 Volunteers from several states are distributing relief supplies and have helped over 20 homeowners with recovery cleanup efforts to make their homes habitable.

**Mexico Earthquake:** Humanity First disaster response team of 16 including 3 physicians is providing relief in La Nopalera in Morelos state and Mexico City.

world:

- What does it mean to be a prophet?
- How does each faith understand “prophet”?
- What is a prophet’s mission?
- Do the three faiths have the same prophets?
- Who is called to be a prophet?
- Do we have present-day prophets? Who are they and what is their advice?

Each panelist provided their view from their respective understanding of their faith. Later the floor was opened to questions from the audience. Many in attendance asked probing questions and each of the panelists provided their response. The event was keenly listened by the attendees and they liked the conversation and answers to their questions. The attendees gave a very positive impression of the interfaith dialogue and urged to continue and expand the interfaith dialogue to dispel the negative propaganda in the media.



The team includes 2 members from Humanity First USA and Guatemala each, and Humanity First Mexico. Relief efforts include distribution of food and water; helping with relocation of residents whose houses are damaged; and emergency relief supplies. Our team is also helping a local organization to establish a shelter to care for more than 200 people.

**Puerto Rico, Guadeloupe and other Islands in the Caribbean:** We have established local contacts and two disaster relief teams from Humanity First USA to travel to Puerto Rico and Guadeloupe to initiate relief efforts.

**Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh:** Humanity First is working in collaboration with local authorities in Bangladesh to provide relief to Rohingya refugees from Burma. We have started installation of 6 water wells and water tanks, and construction of toilets at two refugee camps in Bangladesh. In addition, we have established a large-scale kitchen where we are serving

hot meals to refugees.

**Timbuktu, Mali:** Timbuktu region in Mali is suffering with drought and sectarian violence where

thousands of people are displaced from their homes. Humanity First team distributed 7 tons of rice and other relief items amongst the displaced populations.

## Houston mosque became Harvey Disaster Relief Center



As we keep our eyes peeled on the latest track of Hurricane Irma and hope for the best, I want to take you back to what played out in a sleepy neighborhood north of Houston immediately in the aftermath of hurricane Harvey. Even before the floodwaters started to recede, members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association (AMYA), in partnership with Humanity First, sprang into action, distributing drinking water and using their raft to help families in need.

As roads into Houston began to open up by Tuesday (Aug. 29), more than \$1,000 worth of critical food supplies from Austin was brought in. Over the next two days, 600 hot meals were prepared and distributed to Harvey evacuees.

As the Labor Day weekend began, Ahmadi youth from all over Texas and the country began to trickle in from as far as Chicago and Los Angeles. The trickle grew into more than 175 volunteers over the weekend. The band of youth organized into groups and started roaming the hardest hit areas of Houston (Kashmere Gardens, especially), not with any bad intention, but to knock on doors and help residents struggling to clean up their apartments and homes.

By the end of the Labor Day weekend, we had volunteered a total of 1,800 man hours, helped clean up over 64 homes, done 30 boat rescues and donated more than \$10,000 in supplies. Bait-us-Samee Mosque North of Houston was used for the purpose.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

## Humanity First USA



With your support, Humanity First has been responding to back-to-back disasters here in the US and other parts of the world. Currently, our teams are actively serving victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, Northern California Fires and refugees of Rohingya Crisis.

**Puerto Rico:** For the past two weeks Humanity First Disaster Relief Team is serving local populations impacted by the devastating Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The team consists of 8 volunteers including 3 locals and 5 volunteers from the mainland US. The disaster relief team is comprised of trained volunteers from our partners, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and its youth auxiliary, the Muslim Youth Association.

We are working in close collaboration with local authorities and other relief agencies in Bayamon, Toa Baja, Villa Calma, and mountain communities of Guara Guao.

So far, our teams have served over 35,000 meals, water and, health & hygiene products to hundreds of families in many areas including hard to reach mountain communities who saw relief through Humanity First teams for the first time.

## Reports on Hurricane from Georgia and Orlando

**Georgia Jamā'at:** By the Grace of Allah, everyone in Georgia Jamā'at was safe. There were some members who had uprooted trees manually.

Some Florida Jamā'at members had sought shelter in Atlanta. We prepared and opened our mosque as a shelter for the local community. Many Khuddam volunteered 24 hours a day to be in mosque shelter ready to help the community at large. Our mosque being a shelter was announced in local TV. Since there were not many local evacuees, our shelter didn't receive any outsiders. (Hazeem Pudhiapura Sadr, Georgia).



We are also providing over the counter medications to different hospitals and clinics, and prescription medicines are being arranged. Humanity First is collaborating with management of the Hospital Hermanos Melendez to arrange return flights for Humanity First Medical teams. Although there is need for a lot more help, we are having difficulties in getting confirmed return flights for our teams because airport in San Juan is not fully functional

**Northern California Fires:** Humanity First teams on the ground are working with shelters to organize and distribute supplies to the needy.

**Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh:** Humanity First is working in collaboration with local authorities in Bangladesh to provide relief to Rohingya refugees from Burma.

Please make generous donations towards our Disaster Relief Fund so we can serve our fellow human beings impacted by these disasters. (Munum Naeem, Executive Director)

**Orlando Jamā'at:** By the Grace and Mercy of Almighty Allah all members of the Orlando Jamā'at were safe. Some members did not have electricity, but there was no report of any property damage or flooding from any Ahmadi household, Al-Hamdu Lillah.

You must have seen on the TV that some cities were struggling with flooding and Jacksonville was one of them. The downtown area was under 5 to 6 feet of water. However, all Ahmadi homes were safe even though a couple of families were in the flood zone. (Wajeih Bajwa)

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## Humanity First USA report on Hurricane Harvey - 30 Aug 2017



- Nightly teleconference held Humanity First USA Disaster Relief Team in Texas.
- 8 volunteers served lunch to 300 at the Alter Church next to Bait-us-Samee Mosque.
- In Katy (west Houston) 1 volunteer used his boat to rescue 14 Hurricane victims who were stuck in homes flooded with water.

- In Meyer land (south Houston) 6 volunteers helped an entire street of 5 homes clean out debris and heavy furniture.
- Six volunteers gave clothes, shoes, and water in Houston's 5th Ward.



- More volunteers will go to Austin tomorrow to help volunteers...

## Let us unite against violence



After the tragic shooting deaths of 58 innocent people in Los Vegas, memorials vigils immediately started taking place. One local man said he wanted to be there in person. Rizwan Ahmad is a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Milwaukee. In the past, members of that community have traveled to different cities following tragic events to offer support.



This was the first time Ahmad traveled for something like this and he said when he heard about what happened, he didn't hesitate to get on a plane.

"I wanted to express my condolences and just be on the ground," he said. "We are part of the American fabric and when something like this happens, we hurt just like everybody else."

## An Important request from T.I. College Alumni Association, USA

T.I. College Alumni Association, USA urgently needs to complete its membership data. If you are an old student of T.I College, please provide:

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| (1) Name         | (2) E-Mail Address  |
| (3) Phone Number | (4) Mailing Address |

You may send your data as follows:

Fill in an online membership form at:

Ahmadiyya Gazette

<http://www.ticalumniusa.org/membership-form/index.html>

(B) Provide your name, e-mail, phone and mailing address to Nasir Jamil, General Secretary, Alumni USA Executive Body by sending him an e-mail at [nasir.jamil5@gmail.com](mailto:nasir.jamil5@gmail.com) or by calling him at 443-567-1862

## UN International Day of Peace event

UN International Day of Peace event was celebrated in Columbus on Saturday, September 23, 2017. This humble one was one of those who were awarded the Certificate of Ambassador for Peace.



## Important Links /Forms /Contacts

Publications: [publications@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:publications@ahmadiyya.us)

Book Store: [incharge@amibookstore.us](mailto:incharge@amibookstore.us)

Muslim Sunrise: [muslimsunrise@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:muslimsunrise@ahmadiyya.us)

Al-Nur: [al-nur@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:al-nur@ahmadiyya.us)

Al-Hilal: [al-hilal@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:al-hilal@ahmadiyya.us)

Taleem Department:

[scholarship.committee@ahmadiyya.us](mailto:scholarship.committee@ahmadiyya.us)

[info@educationahmadiyya.us](mailto:info@educationahmadiyya.us)

## Introducing new Ahmadi Muslim converts in Portland, OR

Rafael Vaca and his wife Raquel signed Bai'at form on Friday, August 25, 2017. Rafael is a Mexican American who works at a local private university in their events / facilities office as a technician. Both of them are bilingual - speaking both Spanish and English fluently.

Together, Rafael and Raquel have two children - a special needs daughter and also a 12-year old son. They did not write their son's name down in the Bai'at since he is extremely influenced by YouTube videos and has a very negative view about religion in general but Islam in particular. Raquel has asked for prayers for him so that he begins to understand the beauty of the Jamā'at with time.



## Big Beaver Methodist Church (BBUMC) Children Group Visits Masjid Mahmood Detroit Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Report by Muhammad Ahmad



Islam is the religion of peace and tolerance said Imam Shamshad, a newly arrived Missionary in Detroit area of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community at Rochester Hills Michigan

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Metro Detroit hosted a group of children, their teacher and Pastors to an informal evening session at Masjid Mahmood on Nov 8, 2017. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation youth group of the Big Beaver United Methodist Church visited Masjid Mahmood along with Pastor Gregg Mayberry. This visit was part of the 3 to 4 visits each

year in the two-year confirmation program so that the students may learn about other faiths as they make decisions about their own faith Journeys and to gain knowledge and appreciation of other faiths. This visit was to learn about the fundamental Islamic concepts and teachings.



Imam Shamshad Nasir welcomed the guests to Masjid Mahmood at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Center located on Auburn Road in Rochester Hills. He then gave students a brief overview of basic beliefs and the five pillars of Islam. He started off by providing the meaning of the word "Islam" as peace and complete submission to the Will of God and "Muslim" as the follower of the religion Islam. "Islam is the religion of peace, tolerance and provides freedom of Faith to all, he added.

Imam Shamshad then went into a brief history of Islam and elaborated some of the sects within Islam. He differentiated Ahmadiyya Muslim Community as the followers of the Promised Messiah, Mirza Ghulam

Ahmad of Qadian whose advent has been prophesized invariably in all religious scriptures including Christianity and Judaism and by Holy Founder of Islam Muhammad peace be on him.

He elaborated that according to the teachings of Holy Bible (Old Testament and New Testament and The Holy Quran, Jesus Christ has died a natural death and that the second coming of the Jesus or Messiah is in the metaphorical sense.



Imam Shamshad Nasir then answered to the questions from the guests. Later tour of the Mosque was provided by the members of the community.

At the end, Imam thanked the students, their teachers and pastor for their time and interest in learning about Islam and invited them again to visit any time.

## Your enemies are bent upon trying to destroy you

### Ḥaḍrat Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd, Khalīfatul-Masiḥ II, may Allah be pleased with him

Hazrat Musleh Maood, may Allah be pleased with him, Khalifatul Masih II says, "Now I wish to convey a piece of advice to my Jama'at also and that is that your enemies are bent upon trying to destroy you but if you possess bosoms filled with certainty of faith they will never be able to destroy you. You must make your words, deeds, beliefs, morals and dealings correct and walk step by step alongside the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). Leave aside all laziness and weaknesses for you are assigned the execution of a great task, you have an immense campaign that you have to accomplish. You have to spread Ahmadiyyat and this cannot be done unless you abandon all bad morals and unjust dealings and become fully compliant in the observation of the five daily prayers and all other commandments of the faith. Make an effort. Make every effort to become victorious. You will be granted true victory and even the false victories of the enemy will become a source of sorrow for them and your enemy will seek to run away from you as Satan seeks to run away from one seeking protection of God by reciting, la hawla ... [meaning, 'there is neither might nor any power except with Allah.']. The mullas are a cowardly people and they rely wholly on worldly means and they are totally unaware of the treasure that obtains from Allah the Almighty. Thus, everyone from among you must attend to the fulfilment of his fundamental and central obligation and become engrossed in the work of making the people Ahmadi. Then you will see that our success will become for our enemies a reason to mourn and lament. May Allah, the Exalted, bestow success upon us. And set right our condition and forgive our weaknesses and bestow success upon us and make our success bright. Aameen." [Mi'yaar-e-Sadaqaat, Anwaarul-Uloom, Vol 6, pp. 64-65, Printed by Fazl-e-Umar Foundation]

# International News

## India: Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Badal appeals to Ḥaḍrat Mirza Mansoor Ahmad to visit Qādiān

Punjab Finance Minister, Manpreet Singh Badal, visited Ahmadiyya Headquarters here in Qādiān today. He visited Holy Places of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), the Ahmadiyya exhibition gallery, Mubarak and Aqsa mosques and the Manarat-ul-Masīh. He also paid respect at the grave of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's founder, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah, in Behishtī Maqbarah graveyard. In his comments, Badal appealed to the worldwide leader of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, His Holiness, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad to pay a visit to Qādiān. Badal pledged that the Government of the Punjab would facilitate every possible arrangement for tour of His Holiness.



## India: Ahmadiyya Muslim Community organizes Peace Symposium as a part of 12th Global Youth Peace Festival 2017



On 29th September 2017, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community India (AMJ) organized a Peace Symposium as a part of the 12th Global Youth Peace Festival (GYPF) 2017. This Symposium comprised of more than 150 International delegates from more than 30 countries, who came to participate in the GYPF 2017. In this session, the Ahmadiyya Scholars explored the responsibilities of Youth in promoting global peace and harmony. It was followed by a short documentary, which introduced the community and its Global efforts to promote peace and harmony. The documentary also covered the guidance of the Khalifa of Islam, His Holiness Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Head of the

worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in which His Holiness emphasized the integral role of the youth in promoting Global peace and harmony and in the development and reformation of the society and nation. Global Issues like peace in an unrest world, how to tackle extremism & radicalization, youth moralization, global conflicts and the need for absolute justice, refugee crisis, pluralism and tolerance, women empowerment etc. were discussed. Before the conclusion of the event a question & answer session was held that promoted a deeper understanding of the peaceful teachings of Islam.

## Noor Hospital Qādiān celebrated its centenary



The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community celebrated Noor Hospital centenary here in Qādiān today. Year 2017 marks one hundred years since the establishment

## The revised 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Holy Quran in Japanese published

The Japanese translation (with footnotes) of the Holy Quran was printed in December 1988 by Islam International Publications. The translation was based on the one volume commentary with select footnotes presented in abridged form and some others were not included. When the second edition of the translation was considered, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V (may Allah be his Helper) guided us as follows:

All the footnotes of one volume commentary must be included without any deletion or abridgement; the entire footnotes must be included in the new translation. Introduction to the chapters must be included based on the one volume commentary. Reference books and the list of Arabic words and expressions should be included. Based on the style of One volume commentary, cross-references must be included.

This new project of second edition translation was assigned under my supervision to Mohammad Owise Koyobashi and Ziaullah Mubashir. He sincerely and diligently undertook this task and came to Pakistan and stayed many months between the ends of 2009 to 2014. Ziaullah Mubashir Sahib remained closely associated with him both in Japan and Pakistan. He followed Huzur's directions and added all footnotes without abridging them, introduction of chapters, all the references of the books and Arabic expressions and phraseology were included in the second edition. During this translation project, Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V had an audience with Mr. Koyobashi and Ziaullah Mubashir and after reviewing certain sections of the first edition of the translation, Huzoor made the following remarks:

Review the entire translation and footnotes of the

of Noor Hospital in Qādiān. A large number of Ahmadi Muslims and Non-Muslims attended the special event which was held at Bustān-e-Ahmad, the new Jalsa Gah near Nangal Baghbana.

The Function commenced with the recitation of Holy Quran. Maulana Mohammad Inam Ghorī presided over the function. Maulana Hameed Kausar addressed the gathering. He said that Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at is not working for the power or publicity. It is serving the mankind only for Humanity. Several dignitaries, including Mr. Balwinder Singh Ladi, Member of legislative Assembly Punjab from Shri Hargobindpur constituency; Professor Darbari Lal, Ex Speaker Punjab Assembly and Jarnail Singh Mahal, President Municipal Committee Qādiān, addressed the gathering.

first edition closely, check each and every verse and review the footnotes so that no confusion or doubt remains and the translation becomes smooth without any flaws.

Reviewing the classical but difficult Japanese of the first edition Huzoor directed that footnotes should be in modern Japanese so that they can be easily understood and is free from all errors.

In this arduous task of translation and revision, 19 members of Japanese Ahmadi's who have command on the language offered their services with great love and sincerity.

### Salient Features:

- New decorative title cover page with a border and clear inscription of Quran in English and Japanese language
- Revisions were made in 4500 verses and 1200 footnotes were added.
- Cross-references were added wherever these appeared in earlier edition.
- Arabic phraseology and *Tajweed* were properly translated into Japanese
- Complete subject index was translated as appeared in the One Volume Commentary
- The number of pages increased from 1025 to 1826
- Foreword written by Ch. Hamidullah, Wakil-e-A'ala Taḥrīk e-Jadīd is added.

(Ch. Hamidullah, Wakil-e-A'ala Taḥrīk-e-Jadīd, Rabwah)

## Sinhala translation of Quran gifted to Sri Lankan cabinet minister

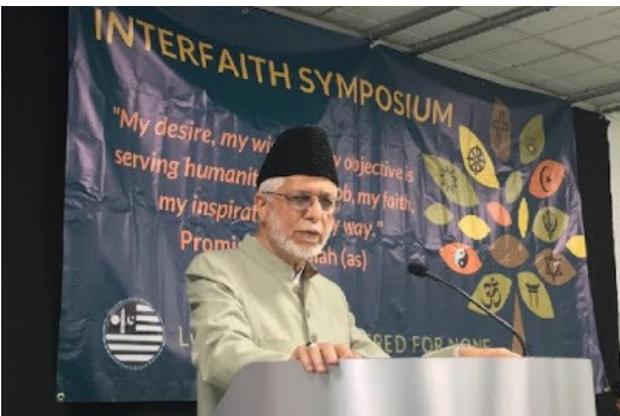


A three-member delegation from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Sri Lanka (AM-JSL) comprising Mr. A. Abdul Aziz, Press Secretary and National Director Faith Outreach –AMJSL, Maulawī A.B. Musthaq Ahmad –

Chief Missionary (AMJSL), and Murabbi Javid Raheem, visited Ministry of Justice and met Justice Minister of Sri Lanka Honorable (Mrs.) Thalatha Athukorale in Colombo recently. The translation of the Holy Quran in Sinhala was presented.

Introducing Ahmadiyyat to the Minister, it was pointed out that the Ahmadiyya Community is the only sect in Islam which has universal leadership established by God almighty. The delegation went on to say about the tireless efforts being made by the Khalifa and the Ahmadiyya worldwide leader, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, by spreading the true teachings of Islam through various means, particularly addressing lawmakers at Capitol Hill, EU Parliament, UK Parliament, Ireland Parliament, New Zealand Parliament, Dutch Parliament, Canada Parliament and several others.

## Mosque in Croydon UK holds forum on religious unity



The Ahmadiyya mosque in Croydon was lit up with debate Friday evening, as a public forum celebrating religious diversity and interfaith awareness took place.

About thirty people attended the event at Bait-us-Subhan Mosque; several speakers took to the podium to address religious diversity. The main event of the night was dueling addresses by an Ahmadiyya imam and local Christian church leader.

Speakers spoke at a silver podium, straddled by poster boards. One featured the Islamic Shahada, explaining the concept of a monotheistic God held by Muslims, another an explainer on the Holy Qur'an.

Does religion cause unity or division was the big question asked at the forum? Both Christian and Ahmadiyya perspectives were given. Charles Wood, an active member of the West Croydon Baptist Church, described in his introduction as having a long history of building relationships with Muslims in Croydon, gave the first of two responses to that question.

## Tooting Ahmadiyya Muslims held third peace conference



The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Tooting held its third Peace Conference on 13th Oct 2017 to promote loyalty, freedom, respect and equality.

The theme of this year's conference was "United Against Extremism" and "Pray for the World Peace" and was attended by Marsha de Cordova (Shadow Minister for Disabled People & MP for Battersea), Councilor Simon Hogg (Leader of Wandsworth Labor), Mrs. Sunita Rai (President of the Tooting Hindu Society), Ven PM Bhatsakorn Piyobhaso (President of the Buddhapadipa Temple), Wandsworth Police, Revd. Dr Andrew Davey (Vicar St Augustine & Holy Trinity Church & Representative of BATCA), Councilor Marsie Skeete (Mayor of Merton) and many more faith leaders and Wandsworth councilors. Speakers addressed various aspects of peace in society. MP Marsha de Cordova spoke on togetherness in communities and

how to organize and promote peace and harmony. Ahmadiyya Muslim Tooting President Shakeel Ahmed gave a brief introduction about the community and expressed the organization's gratitude to attendees for

their work in the community. Imam Ata Ul Mujeeb Rashid of London Mosque spoke about on Islam's teachings on neighborhood, peace, tolerance and brotherhood.

## Ahmadiyya Muslim Conference in Saskatoon

The 37th annual Ahmadiyya Muslim convention took place in Saskatoon over the weekend, bringing thousands of people together from across western Canada. Rebekah Lesko reports.

It was a weekend of faith, reflection and learning for Saskatoon's Ahmadiyya Muslim community during their 37th annual convention at the Henk Ruys Soccer Centre. The convention hosted 3,000 attendees from across western Canada, with some coming from as far as Vancouver. "This two day gives another boost to the Ahmadiyya Muslim community members to recall and refresh their belongings and their core duties as citizens," organizing committee member Hammad Sharif said. Mobile Tabligh exhibit played a special role at the convention. (Lal Khan Malik, Amir Canada)

As the Muslim population in Saskatchewan grows,

members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community are looking to strengthen its community relationships. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Canada held their annual western Canadian conference this weekend at the Henk Ruys Soccer Center in Saskatoon. "Every now and then we want to refresh our values," said Lal Khan Malik, national president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at of Canada. "We want to remind our members that these are the values for which we stand: We refresh our spirituality ... and we develop friendships."

This year, the community extended conference invites to Indigenous peoples, and Malik said he hopes that will help create a special relationship between the two cultures. (By Alex Johnson, CBC News Posted: Oct 07, 2017 7:47 PM CT Last Updated: Oct 07, 2017 7:47 PM CT)

## Activities of Jamā'at Ahmadiyya New Zealand



Faith leaders representing Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism and Islam, provided their views and those of their faith, and explained to the audience how loyalty to both to faith and state is possible if one follows the teachings of their religion earnestly. The speakers also acknowledged the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamā'at for providing a forum to discuss such topics. Ms. Tayyaba Khan, Manager Community Engagement from the Office of Ethnic Communities, chaired the well-attended session.

Members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association were in Camrose on the weekend hoping to dispel inaccurate stereotypes and characterizations of

their faith. The group held a Qur'an open house at the Camrose Public Library on Saturday afternoon, giving interested members of the public an opportunity to ask questions about their faith and any misconceptions they may have. "Our goal here today is to present the true teaching of Islam and the Holy Qur'an," said Abdul Khawaja, a missionary with the group. "We're here to spread the true message."



The group had a 15-minute presentation and translated copies of the Qur'an on hand. It was a unique opportunity for Camrosians to find out a little more about the religion and some of the inter-faith issue the world is dealing with. There are 24 churches listed on the City of Camrose website, but the closest mosque is in Edmonton.

## First Jalsa Sālāna Mexico

In brief chat with the Imam (leader or pastor) Azhar, he said that he and his team have traveled several states of the Mexican Republic, to give informal

lectures where people can clear your doubts and learn about Islam. He explained that his Ahmadiyya Muslim community has three mosques in the country, in Mexico

City, one in Chiapas and the third in Merida, Yucatan, with a small membership of about 200 people. He said he knew that there is a small Muslim community of no more than 20 people and they have a prayer center in this state, but he does not belong to their community and have had little contact with them in Aguascalientes. "Our job is to teach Islam, to invite people to the religion of Islam and to improve their life through these teachings, to fulfill the rights of God through Islam, so if someone wants to convert, we will try to help that person in their journey to God," said the Imam. He

acknowledged that one of the concerns that most people have with respect to Islam and especially towards Muslims is that they are considered extremists and linked to terrorist activities, but "the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (as there are several communities in the world), is the leading Islamic organization to categorically rejects terrorism in all its forms. More than a century ago, Ahmad, the founder, emphatically Imam Azhar Goraya declared a jihad by the sword and aggression has no place in Islam."

## North Bengal Peace Treaty



To maintain unity and harmony in the society, a religious organization named the 'Ahmadiyya Muslim Community' organized an Eid Milan gathering in the Upper Chengamari area of Nagrakata Block.

Secretary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Mohammad Fazal Sarki, shared that Ḥaḍrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad founded the religious body in 1889. The community has its branches in the entire world.

Many dignitaries, including Missionary In- Charge Siraj Ahmed, were present at the celebration.

## P.M. Tanzania attended 48th annual convention



48th Annual Convention of Tanzania was held Sept 29th to October 1, 2017. High officials including the Prime Minister and other Ministers attended the Jalsa.

The conference was attended by about 4000 members from, many African and European countries.



## Leave aside all laziness and weaknesses for you are assigned the execution of a great task

### Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (rh)

Prayer is the True Weapon for Tabligh - Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV (rh) says, "Prayer is the real thing. I have been involved with the work of calling people to Allah for a long period of time and my experience is, and this indeed is the reality also, that the efforts of even the very greatest of scholars does not bear fruit unless he is fundamentally a virtuous and prayerful person. And I have seen some very totally illiterate people who possessed nothing very great by way of religious knowledge but in their discourse piety and righteousness was to be found, they were habitually engaged in prayer and they proved to be greatly successful in the work of Tabligh. Thus, the real weapon, prayer is that which every Ahmadi possesses then why does he wait for other things." Friday Sermon

# The Demise of a Servant of Ahmadiyyat

Muhammad Abdul Momen, LA West, California

"We belong to Allah and to Him we shall return."

Even after acknowledging this inevitable truth, it still ends up being the most absolute painful truth to accept. Let me elaborate about a father who was born on December 31, 1948, at *Chantara* village in *Tangail* district of Bangladesh. He accepted *Ahmadiyyat* in 1976 and was the founder and headmaster of a High School in his local district.

Before taking Bai'at he was fortunate enough to see the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) in a dream. Once visiting an Ahmadi family in another city, he saw a photo of the person he dreamt of and asked the owner of the house, who that person is. He was told that this is the photo of Imam Mahdi and the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). He went onto explain how he saw this same man in his dream. Afterward, he contacted the Ahmadiyya National Headquarter of Bangladesh in Dhaka and after extensive study for several months he took Bai'at and established a new Jamā'at in Chantara, of which he was the first President. Due to his prayer and efforts, as much as 100 people took the divine Bai'at and joined the heavenly Jamā'at of Ahmadiyya, by the extensive grace of Almighty Allah. In 1986-1988, Chantara Jamā'at faced severe persecution, Anti-Ahmadīs threatened to kill him many times and during these two years he, most of the time, stayed outside of his home. Unable to see his family, wife, and children, he filed a case with the police for the safety of all Ahmadīs in his village but Anti-Ahmadīs were so powerful- instead of providing the needed safety to Ahmadīs, police arrested him along with four more Ahmadīs. He was in jail for several months; thus, he became an Aseeran-e-Rah-e-Maula (imprisoned for the sake of Allah) of Bangladesh.

One afternoon during the time when he was in jail, some Anti-Ahmadi fanatics, led by the Imam of the local mosque, came to his house with a huge pile of thorny branches of trees. They locked out his wife and children from their own house and made a hedge of those thorny branches surrounding their home. Oh, what a brutal measure that was for his wife and children to face! Thorns were spread on the road of the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) by the *kafirs* and the same so-called followers of the Holy Prophet spread those thorns around their house that day. Were they truly the real followers of the most Beloved prophet of Allah or were they the same *kafirs* that made the Prophet bleed?

During that same day, his wife and children fled to save their lives and sought shelter with their grandparents in the middle of the dark night. After he was released from jail he moved to Dhaka city with his family. Later Amir Sahib of Bangladesh, Mustafa Ali, offered him the job of the national accountant of Ahmadiyya Jamā'at Bangladesh. In 1992, several hundred *mullahs* attacked our National Headquarter in Dhaka and the attackers hit this same man severely on the back and front of his head. He was hospitalized for several days. But after that incident, his health condition deteriorated day by day. As he never fully recovered-he eventually developed Parkinson's disease. At one point, he was even offered to be the Chairman of his village where he used to reside if he agreed to give up *Ahmadiyyat*, but he always stood his ground in service of *Ahmadiyyat* despite whatever was said or done to him. He used to do *Tabligh* wherever he went; he was a *dai'illāh* till the end of his life.

It makes me so proud and breaks my heart at the same time to say- that man was my father, Master Abu Bakr Akanda, who passed away on October 23, 2017. *Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un*. On that day, they stopped us from entering our own house with thorns at our doorstep, but today Allah opened the doors of the entire world for us, *Al-Hamdu Lillāh*.

Deceased was a *Muqsi*. He left behind his wife, three sons, three daughters-in-law and four grandchildren. His youngest son, Mahmud Ahmad is the current *Sadr Majlis of Khuddamul-Ahmadiyya Bangladesh*. His second son, Muhammad Abdul Momen has served as *Sadr Majlis Khuddam Bangladesh* from 2011-2015 and is now currently residing in California, USA. His eldest son Sultan Ahmad is a Mechanical Engineer living in Belgium, who has worked for MTA Bangla UK from 2002 to 2006. This is how Allah has rewarded us for the sacrifice of our beloved father for *Ahmadiyyat*, otherwise such negligible people like couldn't have ever dreamed of these blessings.

May Allah help us to inculcate all his good virtues in our lives and spread it into our next generations as well and may He elevate his status in *Jannat-ul-Ferdaus, Aameen*.



# An Islamic State's Illegal and Un-Islamic Verdict

Sahibzadah Tahir Latif

It is indeed very sad that a Pakistani Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and the Parliament, due to a tremendous pressure from Mullahs (clerics), declared in September 1974 that Ahmadīs are non-Muslims. In other words, their religion is not Islam. Pakistani Mullahs and the public celebrated this shameful, un-Islamic and illegal verdict. Even the educated people remained indifferent and did not raise a voice that members of a parliament have no right to decide about the faith or religion of millions of believers of a faith. This incidence is unique in the history of mankind. Only the Pakistani parliament members and Mullahs made this horrible verdict. Religious freedom is the basic right of every human being according to the Qur'anic teachings and the constitutions of all the civilized countries.

Here if we take a pause and suppose for a minute that Islam is not the religion of Ahmadi Muslims then a question arises as to what is the religion of Ahmadīs? Will the Mullahs and the parliament of Pakistan propose some religion for Ahmadīs? It is indeed a ridiculous and laughable situation. Elected Prime Minister, the parliamentarians or the Mullahs cannot become judges of Ahmadīs faith.

Some Ulema and Pakistani citizens claim that the majority of the parliament has made the verdict. But they do not realize that even a majority has no right to change the religion or faith of one person or millions of people. This is not a worldly or a political act. In a religion, a person's faith in his heart is related to God the Almighty and every human being is entitled to

have this basic human right. This is called freedom of religion. Even the 1973 constitution of Pakistan clearly addresses the freedom of religion in Part 2, Chapter 1, Articles 20 and 8 as given below:

20 (a): Every citizen shall have the right to profess, practice, and propagate his religion.

20 (b): Every religious denomination ...shall have the right to establish, maintain and manage its religious institutions.

8 (1): Any law, or any custom having the force of law, in so far as it is inconsistent with the rights conferred by this chapter, shall, to the extent of such inconsistency, be void.

It is crystal clear from the above-mentioned laws that the government of Pakistan, the Parliament and the Mullahs has violated their own constitution and has denied Ahmadīs the freedom of religion.

So, the Pakistani constitution provides freedom of religion to every citizen. It also states that if anyone makes any change in the basic human rights, e.g., freedom of religion, ownership of property, etc., (mentioned in the article) then that change will be null and void.

The Holy Quran describes the condition of such people in verse no. 8 of Surah Al-Baqarah: "Allah has set a seal on their hearts and their ears, and over their eyes is a covering; and for them is a grievous chastisement"

After the Second World War, almost all the nations of the world agreed to sign "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" under U.N.O. in 1948. The Government of Pakistan also signed on this agreement along with other

nations. This agreement consists of 30 articles. I am writing down briefly three articles related to the freedom of religion.

Article 18: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right includes freedom to change his religion or belief...

Article 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression...

Article 20: Everyone has the right to freedom of assembly and association...

The government of Pakistan, being a signatory of the agreement, has a moral obligation to act upon these articles and provide freedom of religion to Ahmadīs.

Declaring Ahmadi, as non-Muslims in 1974 did still not satisfy the Mullahs. So, the dictator General Zia and the Mullahs came up with a worse possible ordinance against Ahmadīs. According to this new ordinance, an Ahmadi cannot call himself a Muslim, cannot call Adhān (which is glorifying the name of Allah and a call for prayers), cannot read the Holy Quran, cannot say As-Salamu Alaikum, cannot call mosque a Masjid and so on. If an Ahmadi Muslim does any one of the above, he will be sent to jail for three years. So, the cruel Dictator and the Mullahs ignored the teachings of the Qur'an and disobeyed life practice and saying of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). The Holy Quran mentions the freedom of religion in clear language. In Surah Al-Kahf, verse no. 30, Allah addresses the Prophet: "O Prophet: "It is the truth from your Lord; wherefore let him who will, believe, and let him, who will, disbelieve." So, there is a clear

message in the Quran for mankind about the freedom of religion. In another verse, no. 100 in Surah Yūnus, God, the Almighty, says: “And if thy Lord had enforced His will, surely all who are on the earth would have believed together. Wilt thou, then, force men to become, believers?” And then there is that famous verse no. 257 in Surah Al-Baqarah. Allah says: “There is no compulsion in matters of religion.” This verse consists of a charter of freedom of conscience which has no parallel in all other religious teachings. There are also quite a few other verses in the Quran about the freedom of religions. I want to point out here that it is truly sad and shameful that there is freedom of religion in western countries who do not believe in Islam but there is infringement of freedom of religion in Muslim countries.

General Zia’s ordinance has forbidden Ahmadi Muslims to call themselves Muslims. Allah says in 22:79, “Allah has named you Muslims in this book and also in previous books.” In another verse, Ḥaḍrat Ibrahim (may peace be upon him) prays to Allah and says: “Our Lord, make us submissive to Thee and make of our offspring a people submissive to Thee” (2:129) All the believers of a Prophet of God, starting with the advent of Ḥaḍrat Adam (may peace be upon him), have been called Muslims in the Quran.

Ahmadi Muslims believe in all the prophets. So, who authorized the general or the mullahs to declare Ahmadīs non-Muslims? Let me mention a pertinent incident here. In Medina when census of Muslims was prepared, Prophet Mohammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) instructed that whosoever calls himself a Muslim must be included in the census.

General Zia’s ordinance has also forbidden Ahmadi Muslims to call their

places of worship as Masjid. In fact, the Christian’s place of worship has also been called Masjid in the Quran.

There is a mention of mosque in the Quran in Surah Al-Haj right after a few months of the claim of Prophethood by the Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him). There was no separate regular mosque built anywhere at that time. In the Holy Quran, the parts of one’s body that go down in prostration, e.g., the forehead, the hands, the feet etc. that touch down the prayer rug or floor are also called mosque or masjid. While talking about the mosque I might as well quote one verse no. 115 of Surah Al-Baqarah, Allah says, “And who is more unjust than he who prohibits the name of Allah being glorified in Allah’s temples and strive to ruin them?” Just after Zia’s ordinance, the Mullahs incited the public and burnt many Ahmadiyya mosques and erased Kalima Tayyiba from some mosques as well. So, the Mullahs did exactly what is forbidden in the Quran.

As described above, the general’s ordinance prohibited Ahmadi Muslims from Adhān, the call for prayers. In other words, he forbade Ahmadi Muslims from glorifying Allah’s name and his messenger’s Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). Let me present here one Hadith to show the glorious example of our beloved prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him). As Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him) was returning to Mecca from Battle of Hunain along with a small contingent, he stopped at a site to offer prayer. The Prophet and the companions started preparing for prayer and one companion gave Adhān. Abu Ma’dhūra who was not a Muslim at that time related this Hadith. Abu Ma’dhūra relates that when he along with 12 young friends heard the Adhān, we also

started giving Adhān copying jokingly and to ridicule it. Abu Ma’dhūra states that we thought that the Muslims have conquered Mecca, so we must leave Mecca and go to some other city. As they were talking to few companions of the Prophet, he suddenly came and asked them that the Prophet of Allah wants to talk to all of you. So please come with us. They could not refuse and they were all presented to the Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him). The Prophet asked them, “Who among you has a loud and sweet voice.” All of them replied that Abu Ma’dhūra is the one with loud and sweet voice. The Prophet told them that all of you may leave and Abu Ma’dhūra must stay here for a while. As the others left the Prophet addressed Abu Ma’dhūra and said, “Abu Ma’dhūra! Go ahead and say Adhān with a loud voice.” Abu Ma’dhūra started loudly in his sweet voice “Ashhadu An-La Ilaha Illallahu Wa Ashhadu Anna Muhammadar-Rasoolullah (I bear witness that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad (may peace be upon him) is His servant and prophet).” The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was extremely pleased since a non-believer announced loudly that Allah is one and that Muhammad (may peace be upon him) is His prophet. The Prophet took out a small bag full of silver out of his pocket and presented it to Abu Ma’dhūra and said to him, “Abu Ma’dhūra, go ahead, you have my permission to announce Adhān loudly in the streets of Mecca. You may also say this Adhān in Kaaba.” This was the glorious example of our beloved prophet. But contrary to this, the Pakistani Mullahs went to General and requested him to forbid Ahmadi Muslims from saying Adhān. The General not only agreed about the prohibition of Adhān he also added 3 years imprisonment if an Ahmadi says Adhān before a prayer. This was Zia’s Islam in complete

contrast to our Prophet's example.

Let me briefly mention here that our dear third Khalifa Ḥaḍrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad (may Allah showers His mercy on him) appeared in Pakistani Parliament for 13 days at the request of Pakistani government. This great champion of Islam answered the Parliamentarians and Mullahs' questions with references from the Holy Quran and from the practices and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (may peace be upon him). In this way he made them aware of the true teachings of Islam. All these questions and answers were published in a book called "Mahzarnama," memorandum. Copies of this book were given to all the Parliamentarians and the Mullahs but, due to fear, the government and the Mullahs did not inform the Pakistani public about our Khalifa's answers, because they knew that a lot of people will come to know the true teachings of Islam and they will accept Aḥmadiyyat. Our beloved Khalifa gave the government a strict warning not to declare Aḥmadīs as non-Muslims, otherwise you will not only destroy the peace in Pakistan but the violence will spread to other countries as well. This is exactly what happened. Terrorism started in Pakistan and the Taliban declared the Pakistani government, the military and the people of Pakistan infidel. They then started killing mercilessly innocent Pakistani people

everywhere, in mosques, in Ziarats, military personnel, people in crowded markets and even young children in schools.

Concluding this very sad topic let me point out that the foolish Mullahs and some Pakistani governments conspired, made secret plans to destroy Aḥmadiyya movement in Islam. In 1974, Prime Minister Bhutto and king Faisal along with other Muslim heads of states got together and planned to destroy Aḥmadiyya Khilāfat.

Later, in 1984 General Zia persecuted innocent Aḥmadīs even more and came up with a shameful un-Islamic ordinance and tried to arrest our beloved fourth Khalifa Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (may Allah shower His mercy on him). Our dear God watched all the atrocities inflicted upon Aḥmadīs and He got hold of all the heads of those Muslim states and destroyed them one after another. And now the whole world is witnessing the great progress of Aḥmadiyya Jamā'at all over the world under the wonderful leadership of our dear fifth Khalifa, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (may Allah support him). Alhamdulillah. God Almighty has stated in the Quran the Godly tradition in these words: "Kataballahu La-Aghlibanna Ana Wa Rusulee," Allah has decreed: 'Most surely I will prevail, I and My Messengers' (58:22) The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) has also mentioned in Persian couplet, "It is the decree of god

destined to be fulfilled." There is no doubt that we saw the suffering of our Jamā'at in a cruel and arrogant dictators' time. But then we saw the anger of God Almighty to destroy the general. We also saw how our God fulfilled His beloved Khalifa, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad's couplets word by word in the following part of his poem (from Kalam-e-Tahir):

ظالم مت بھولیں بالآخر مظلوم کی باری آئے گی  
مٹاؤں پر مکر کی ہر بازی اٹھائی جائے گی  
پتھر کی لکیر ہے یہ تقدیر مٹا دیکھو گر ہمت ہے  
یا ظلم مٹے گا دھرتی سے یا دھرتی خود مٹ جائے گی  
اک روز تمہارے سینوں پر بھی وقت چلائے گا آرا  
ٹوٹیں گے مان تکبر کے بکھریں گے بدن پارہ پارہ  
مظلوموں کی آہوں کا ڈھواں ظالم کے اُفتن کھلا دے گا  
نمروڈ جلائے جائیں گے دیکھے گا فلک یہ نظارہ

"The transgressor must not forget that their turn will eventually come. Every effort of evil plan will turn against them. The line drawn on stone is destined; try to erase it if you have the courage. Either the transgression will be erased from the country or the country will be destroyed by itself. The saw of time shall cut your chests one day. Their arrogance will be ruined and their cut bodies will spread in pieces. The oppressed person's deep grief will cause ruin of the transgressor. Nimrods will be burnt and the sky will witness this scene."

Note: Please check Urdu section for Urdu version of this article.

## Do you have Past Issues of the Muslim Sunrise?

The Muslim Sunrise team is looking for the last remaining issues that it has not preserved digitally in its "Past Issues" section of muslimsunrise.com. We ask that you please go through your older issues (before 2006) and compare them with the list online. If you have a missing Past Issue, please write to us at archives@muslimsunrise.com. Jazakumullah, and thank you for helping to preserve this rich history for generations to come!

# Ḥaḍrat Ch. Muhammad Zafrulla Khan

Rashid Arshed LA (Inland Empire)

I was 11, when I first learned about Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan Sahib. Qā'id-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Founder of Pakistan appointed him first Foreign Minister. His photograph appeared on the front pages of the newspapers and one of the newspapers circulated in the Ahmadiyya Masjid Tehal, District Gujarat, where we lived.

In 1949, I attended the first Jalsa Salana, after partition that was held in the desert called Rabwah, District Jhang. I do not recall seeing Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan Sahib at this Jalsa, but did see him almost in every subsequent Jalsas, sitting at the stage or delivering a speech.

In 1953, during the mullah-instigated riots and violent mob attacks on Ahmadīs, he visited Rabwah for consultation with Ḥaḍrat Musleh Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him). Considering the danger to his life, the Government had dispatched a truckload of armed police contingent that followed him wherever he went. The meeting that was also attended by Ḥaḍrat Maulana Jalal-ud-Din Shams Sahib took place in the mud built residential quarters of the Khalifatul Masīḥ. The police contingent, mindless of their duty, waited and relaxed outside in a vacant mud built shed. After the meeting, Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan Sahib and Ḥaḍrat Maulana Jalal-ud-Din Shams Sahib came out. Unconcerned about their safety and security, they briskly walked towards Masjid Mubarak. By the time the lazy guards woke up, the person they were supposed to guard had already walked a block away.

In 1959, a society in Lahore invited Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan Sahib to give a lecture on Islam. YMCA Lahore was the venue of that lecture. The topic given to him, to the best of my memory was "The Position of Islam in the Modern Age." I remember his opening remarks; "The position of Islam in the modern age is the same as in any other age."

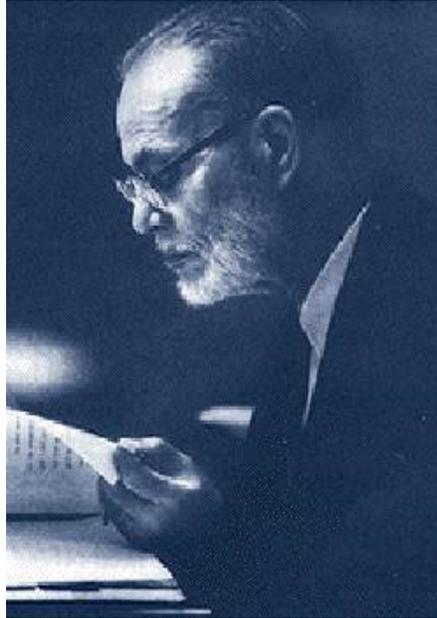
When Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan Sahib was serving as the President of the UNO, he happened to visit Aden.

Aden was a thriving peaceful seaport then. My elder brother late Dr. Muhammad Ahmad, who had settled in Aden had the honor of hosting him. One morning, on seeing Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan Sahib polishing his shoes, my nephew, Anwar Ahmad leaped towards him and asked if he could polish his shoes. Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan Sahib declined the offer and gave him a short discourse on simple living and self-help. He said, that the UNO authorized him to travel with a guard and a personal attendant. But he did not allow the staff to travel with him, as it would be an unnecessary burden on the treasury of the UNO. My nephew also learned that Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan Sahib traveled only with two shirts in his suite case.

In 1982 or so, the New York Jamā'at extended an invitation to Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan Sahib. He had visited the NY Jamā'at earlier when a house in a crime ridden Brooklyn neighborhood was used as a Masjid. Once a thief broke into the Masjid and took away \$20 from the jacket of late Maulvi Masaud Ahmad Jhelumi. That was the total amount a missionary received in those days. Again, an Ahmadi was robbed in front of the Masjid while going for Juma prayer. Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan was aware of the situation and he replied that he wouldn't visit the same place again, and NY Jamā'at should make an effort to get a better place. Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan accepted the invitation and his reception was arranged at a High School building in Queens. He was 84 then.

After the lecture and Salāt, Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan Sahib went at the back where he had left his shoes. He sat on a standpipe and struggled to put on his shoes with his feeble hands. On seeing this I rushed towards him to help him out. He stopped me signaling firmly by his hand.

Ḥaḍrat Ch. Zafrullah Khan was not a poor person in any sense of the word, but what he treasured most was his piety, simplicity and a disciplined life.



# Meeting Samee Sahib

Syed Sajid Ahmad

Whenever I am in town, I try to meet some of my old acquaintances there. One of them is Samee Sahib. We used to meet often when I lived there with my family. It is a pleasure to meet him always. He also is willing to make time for me to get together. I usually go there on business. If I have enough time in the evening, I try to go to their home. When I do not have enough time in the evening, he makes time and comes and meets me wherever I am staying overnight. Their family has been very gracious to host me at their home when I am not traveling on business.

I developed a corn on my toe. I went to local drugstore and found some remedies. I tried them one by one to no avail. In some cases, the corn deteriorated. In others, the corn temporarily disappeared but reappeared after a while. I could not wear my favorite shoes anymore because of the corn and gave them away to goodwill and bought a wide-sized pair to wear.

I happened to travel and see Samee Sahib. I mentioned my corn problem. He said that the best way to deal with a corn is to get a pumice from a department store. Skin is soft after a warm bath. That is the right time to scrape the corn softly with pumice. It will go away and never come back. That also is the right time to scrape dead skin off the heels and around toes.

After I came back from the trip, I followed his instructions. The corn went away in some days. It has been many years and the corn has never come back. Now again I can wear my favorite shows without any problem.

He also told me that some people need special shoes due to the shape of their feet and there are companies that make custom shoes.

We talk about many things. I know somethings and he knows some other things. I know some aspects of a subject and he knows many other aspects of the same subject. When we share our ideas, we benefit each other. We get to expand our knowledge and appreciate the value of meeting each other.

Samee Sahib is a real person. This is not a fictional story to make a point.

Meeting Samee Sahib has taught me many things over decades. All of us can learn more and make our lives better and solve many of our problems if we meet often. Each one of us is an embodiment of a Samee Sahib who can benefit someone through his knowledge however small it may be, even treating a pesky corn on the toe. If you ever had one, you know how painful it can be and what a relief its disappearance can bring.

## ATTENTION MŪSĪS

### SCHEDULE C FORM SUBMISSION - FY 2017

Per Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya's Wasiyyat Rule no. 69, "It shall be obligatory for every Musi to submit to the Office at the end of every year a declaration as set out in Schedule C in respect of his/her payments toward Hissa Āmad. In case such a declaration is not received, the matter will be put for consideration before Majlis Karpardaz."

Financial statements and related documents for FY 2016-17 were earlier sent to respective local Jama'at Wasaya Secretaries in the first week of August for immediate delivery to Musis.

After due completion, please hand over your Schedule C form to your local Jama'at Wasaya Secretary. Do not submit directly either to National Wasaya office or to Markaz. *Jazākumullāhu Aḥsanal-Jazā.*

National Wasaya Secretary. USA Jama'at.

**Note:** Schedule C form can also be downloaded by using the following web link.

<http://www.ahmadiyya.us/departments/wasiyyat>

# Ten Fabrications

## Muslim Leaders Need to Stop Making

### About Ahmadi Muslims

Qasim Rashid

Visiting Fellow, Harvard University's Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal School of Islamic Studies

It is no secret I've been critical of Muslim leadership for their deafening apathy and silence over the 125-year worldwide persecution of Ahmadi Muslims. To add insult to injury, every time a new atrocity emerges I'm bombarded with standard anti-Ahmadi talking points in a shameless attempt to justify the violence. Just recently in Gujranwala, Pakistan where four Ahmadi Muslims (including three young children) were murdered when their homes were burned down, insults followed the anemic condemnations. Those who bothered acknowledging the attack refused to recognize Ahmadis as Muslims, thus holding the same view as those who attacked and murdered the young children in the first place.

But what resonated loud and clear were classic anti-Ahmadi talking points from Muslim leadership. As one Sunni Muslim friend confessed—his own family told him “not to worry about it” because Ahmadis were “wajib ul qatl” (required to be killed) anyway.

This misinformation and prejudice must stop. If the Muslim world expects to advance in pluralism and tolerance, we must embrace principles over prejudice. This must start from the top, i.e. from Muslim leaders; otherwise Muslim youth have little hope of developing into positive well-rounded individuals. So, let's take things one-step at a time. While this list is certainly not exhaustive, here are ten of the most common fabrications Muslim leaders must stop espousing about Ahmadi Muslims.

#### **Fabrication 1: Ahmadiyya is a new religion:**

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a sect of Islam. It is not a new religion. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qādiān founded it in 1889. Ahmad claimed that he was the awaited Messiah and Mahdi prophesized by Prophet Muhammad and foretold by the Holy Qur'an. Muslims who believe in the Messiah, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qādiān, are known as Ahmadi Muslims. We adhere to the same Islamic declaration of faith, “There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger. We likewise observe the same 5 Pillars of Islam and same 6 Articles of Faith.

The only difference in belief is that Ahmadi Ahmadiyya Gazette

Muslims believe the awaited Messiah and Mahdi has come in the person of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qādiān, while the rest of the Muslim world is awaiting Jesus Christ's physical descent from heaven (a concept Ahmadi Muslims reject based on their understanding of the Qur'an and Aḥādith).

Bottom Line: Ahmadiyya is not a new religion; it is a sect of Islam.

#### **Fabrication 2: Mirza Ghulam Ahmad claimed to be greater than Prophet Muhammad:**

In an effort to arouse anger in the minds of unlearned Muslims, clerics make this fabrication often. In reality Ahmad considered himself insignificant compared to the grandeur and majesty of Prophet Muhammad. Ahmadi Muslims believe Prophet Muhammad was the Seal of the Prophets, and therefore God's greatest creation. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad famously wrote, “The Prophet is Muhammad, the chosen one, who is higher and more exalted than all Prophets and is the most perfect of Messengers and is the Khatam-ul-Anbiya, and the best of men.”

Bottom Line: The Messiah Ahmad was clear that Prophet Muhammad was the greatest of God's creation. You can read Ahmad's extensive writings in praise of the greatness and perfection of Prophet Muhammad here.

#### **Fabrication 3: Mirza Ghulam Ahmad insulted Jesus Christ:**

As with the previous fabrication, this is a common allegation some Muslim leaders espouse to create anti-Ahmadi Muslim sentiment. As Islam requires Muslims to love and revere all God's prophets, Jesus Christ is no exception. Ahmadi Muslims love Jesus more than we love our own parents or children. However, this has not stopped antagonistic clerics from promoting this fabricated claim that Ahmad insulted Jesus. Worry not, however, as Ahmadi Muslim scholars literally wrote a book to debunk this misconception.

Bottom Line: Ahmadi Muslims love and praise Jesus as a pure prophet of God.

#### **Fabrication 4: Ahmadi Muslims consider anyone who doesn't accept Mirza Ghulam Ahmad as a kafir (infidel):**

For the record, Ahmadi Muslims consider anyone a Muslim who recites the Kalima or Islamic declaration of faith that Prophet Muhammad taught, "There is no god but Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger." Thus, far from passing *takfir* (declaring infidel) on anyone, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the world's only Muslim sect that has categorically rejected the poison of *Takfirism* since its inception in 1889. Over a century ago the Messiah Ahmad declared even about those who did not accept him, "...my belief from the beginning has been that no person becomes a kafir or antichrist by denying my claim. I do not apply the term *kafir* to any person who professes the Kalima..."

On the contrary, in 1974 Muslim leaders from each of Islam's 72 other sects convened in Pakistan, and in a collective act of *takfir*, unanimously declared all Ahmadi Muslims to be "non-Muslim." This unprecedented pronouncement led Pakistan's Parliament to pass the Second Amendment, formally declaring Ahmadis to be non-Muslim. To date, Muslim leaders the world over rely on the 1974 amendment to practice *takfir* against all Ahmadi Muslims.

Bottom Line: Ahmadi Muslims consider a Muslim anyone who recites the Kalima—as this is precisely what Prophet Muhammad taught.

#### **Fabrication 5: Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a British or Jewish conspiracy:**

Any reasonable mind will agree that this conspiracy theory claim is utter nonsense. Since inception, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has never relied on a single penny from any government, non-profit organization, or from a person who was not a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The only people permitted to contribute to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community are members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Every donation given is recorded and a receipt is returned.

The real reason Muslim leaders make this allegation is because Ahmadi Muslims have spread peacefully to 206 nations worldwide and have done so without a single act of violence. Rather than recognize our expansion is due to following Prophet Muhammad's peaceful example, they baselessly claim that we are agents of western governments. In other words, their hatred for us exceeds their love of Prophet Muhammad. It is a shameful position such Muslim leaders take, but that won't stop us from continuing our peaceful and rapid growth. Indeed, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is the fastest growing sect in Islam.

Bottom Line: The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a divine community that relies only on God and not on any worldly or secular organization.

#### **Fabrication 6: Ahmadi Muslims don't accept Muhammad (peace be upon him) as the Seal of the Prophets:**

As I mentioned earlier, Ahmadi Muslims proudly celebrate Prophet Muhammad as "Khatam-un-Nabiyyin" or the "Seal of the Prophets." Rather than delve into a lengthy discourse, I'll make just two points.

First, every year at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's international Jalsa Salana in UK, His Holiness the Khalifa of Islam, Mirza Masroor Ahmad, accepts Bai'at, i.e. initiation, from every member of the community. It is an annual pledge. Part of this pledge declares in no uncertain terms, "I solemnly pledge that I believe Muhammad is God's Prophet and the Seal of the Prophets." Thus, every adult Ahmadi Muslim has recited this pledge dozens of times, and every person who joins the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community affirms this pledge in writing with his or her signature.

Second, if you still do not believe me, here is an excellent book written by two Ahmadi Muslim scholars titled, "With Love to Muhammad, the Khatam-un-Nabiyyin." You can buy the print book or download it absolutely free at the link provided as an e-book. If, after reading the book, you still do not believe me that Ahmadi Muslims consider Muhammad as the Seal of the Prophets, drop me a line and we'll chat.

Bottom Line: Ahmadi Muslims proudly declare Prophet Muhammad is Khatam-un-Nabiyyin.

#### **Fabrication 7: Ahmadi Muslims provoke violence to gain sympathy from the West:**

As shameless allegations go, it doesn't get much worse than this one. Here's the history. Several things did not happen, that should have happened, in the aftermath of the horrific May 28, 2010 Taliban terrorist attacks on two Ahmadi Muslim run mosques in Lahore. No Pakistani government leader or worldwide Muslim leader condemned the attack. No effort was made to apprehend the culprits. No steps were taken to prevent future attacks. To this day none of these things have happened, despite the fact that these horrific attacks left 86 Ahmadi Muslims dead.

Instead, one shameful event happened that should not have happened. Ahmadi Muslims were accused of provoking terrorists to gain sympathy from non-Muslims. This meritless claim is nothing more than the figment of a anti-Ahmadi cleric's imagination.

Bottom Line: In the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's 125 year history, not a single incident exists where Ahmadi Muslims engaged, approved,

perpetuated—must less provoked—an act of violence. This is a verifiable fact.

### **Fabrication 8: Ahmadi Muslims pay people to join the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community:**

This meritless allegation is yet another conspiracy theory. I'm reminded of a funny story my father, an Imam, related from the early 1980s, shortly after Ahmadi Muslims were declared "non-Muslim" in Pakistan. A young man came to my father and declared his desire to become an Ahmadi Muslim. When my father inquired why, the man expressed his frustration at having to pay the Zakat tax of roughly 2.5%—and that if he were an Ahmadi, he would be exempt as a non-Muslim. Smiling, my father advised that every Ahmadi Muslim willingly contributes anywhere from 6.25% to 33% of his or her income to charity. Upon hearing this, the young man got up shocked and stormed out of the mosque.

The fact is, whenever the Qur'an mentions belief in God, it also mentions giving charity in service of humanity. This is why Ahmadi Muslims readily and eagerly sacrifice their incomes—Islam makes it our fundamental obligation to fulfill as Muslims.

Bottom Line: Far from giving people money to "join" the community, Ahmadi Muslims—new and old—consider it a privilege to contribute their hard earned finances to the service of humanity.

### **Fabrication 9: Ahmadi Muslims have changed the Qur'an and have invented new hadith to suit their needs:**

While no Muslim leader has ever actually presented a single example of Ahmadi Muslims changing the Qur'an or inventing Aḥadīth, this myth perpetuates. In making such an allegation Muslim leaders only succeed in maligning the Qur'an, as the Qur'an itself promises that it will not be changed.

Bottom Line: Ahmadi Muslims wholly embrace the Qur'an and read from the same one true Qur'an revealed to Prophet Muhammad.

### **Fabrication 10: Ahmadi Muslims don't perform Hajj to Mecca:**

As devout Muslims, Hajj is an important part of every Ahmadi Muslim's life. It is a pillar of Islam and an

obligation on all Muslims who are physically and financially able to perform this pilgrimage. The myth that Ahmadi Muslims don't perform Hajj stems from Pakistan, where Ahmadi Muslims are forbidden from performing Hajj.

Pakistan has mandated that anyone who performs Hajj must sign a form declaring all Ahmadi Muslims as infidels, liars, and apostates. Pakistan is the world's only nation that imposes this barbaric and draconian requirement. But, Pakistan does so because they know Ahmadi Muslims won't sign the form. Accordingly, Pakistan forcibly prevents Ahmadi Muslims from performing Hajj. A forcible restriction is a far cry from Ahmadi Muslims choosing not to perform Hajj.

I personally know countless Ahmadi Muslims—even members of my immediate family—who have performed both Hajj and *Umrah* (a lesser Hajj) to Mecca.

Bottom Line: Ahmadi Muslims perform Hajj because it is a pillar of Islam.

### **In Conclusion:**

This list is not exhaustive, but hopefully it gives you a good picture of what unfortunate and meritless allegations Ahmadi Muslims face from other Muslims on a regular basis. This is particularly perplexing considering the growing bouts of *Islamophobia* all Muslims face. One would think that Muslims who suffer through *Islamophobic* hate mongering would actively avoid discriminating against Ahmadi Muslims. Unfortunately, this is not always the case and the hypocrisy is astounding when some Muslims yet discriminate against Ahmadi Muslims while experiencing anti-Islamic bigotry themselves.

In short, if you want to learn about Islam from the Ahmadiyya perspective, reach out to an Ahmadi Muslim personally or visit the official website.

Though Muslim leadership largely remains silent and tacitly endorses the persecution of Ahmadi Muslims while promoting the aforementioned misinformation, the Muslim youth and young Muslim leaders are rising up for pluralism. My hope and prayer is that in the coming years we can continue to work together to dispel misinformation and advance a common intra-faith platform of service to humanity.

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## Mosque Etiquette

1. Mosque is an Islamic place of worship reserved for Prayers, remembrance of Allah, recitation of the Holy Quran and other religion related activities. No activity should be carried out that in any way violates its religious sanctity.
2. There should be no discussion on any worldly matters in the mosques. As far as possible, one should spend time in Prayers, remembrance of Allah and religious discussions. However, national and educational issues can be discussed as necessary as long as Prayers of the worshippers are not disturbed.
3. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) guided us to pray in the following words while entering the mosque:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الصَّلَاةُ وَالسَّلَامُ عَلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ اللَّهُمَّ اغْفِرْ لِي ذُنُوبِي وَافْتَحْ لِي أَبْوَابَ رَحْمَتِكَ

Meaning, I enter in the name of Allah seeking blessings and peace for the Prophet of Allah. O Allah, forgive my sins and open the gates of mercy for me. Amin

4. A saying of the Holy Prophet tells us that one can earn rewards by offering two *Rak'at* as a welcome to the mosque (Tahiyat-ul-Masjid). This Prayer is voluntary and is not mandatory.
5. It is strictly prohibited to pass so close to a person offering Prayer that disturbs his Prayer. If necessary, one should pass a bit further away from the place for prostration.
6. It is quite undesirable to make noise, speak loudly or to engage in an activity that distracts worshippers from their Prayers.
7. Mosque should be kept clean and tidy as much as possible. Occasionally, its atmosphere should be purged with fragrance. Mosque should be kept clear of every foul and pungent smelling material.
8. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) urged that one should not come to the mosque after eating anything that creates unpleasant smell. He used to advise that as much as possible one should come with neat and clean body and clothes and, if possible, use perfume.
9. It is highly undesirable to spit or blow nose in the mosque or on the stairs and pathways that may result in causing filth.
10. Buying and selling or engaging in related conversation is forbidden in the mosque.
11. It is undesirable to make an announcement in the mosque about a lost item.
12. As far as the legal opinion is concerned, shoes can be brought in the mosques subject to the condition that they are neat and clean. Presently the mosques are designed with proper flooring, etc., therefore, under these conditions it is not desirable to bring shoes in the mosques under normal circumstances.
13. It is not desirable that those who reach the mosque after others try to go in front of them by jumping over their heads and shoulders.
14. Such young children should not be brought to the mosque who make noise or make the mosque dirty with their urine or stool.
15. Friday sermon is a part of Prayer. Attendees should listen to the speech of Imam attentively and should not indulge in any dialogue and conversation. If need arises to quiet someone, it should be accomplished using a signal.
16. The Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) guided us to recite this prayer while exiting the mosque اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي أَسْأَلُكَ مِنْ فَضْلِكَ وَرَحْمَتِكَ meaning, O Allah I seek your favor and mercy.

Humble, Mirza Bashir Ahmad, 4 August 1936. Nazir Ta'lim-o-Tarbiyat, Jamā'at Ahmadiyya Qādiān.

(Translated by Dr Mahmud Ahmad Nagi. Columbus OH)

NATIONAL CALENDAR 2018

1 Jan Mon	New Year's Day Long Weekend .....	Federal Holiday	4 Jul Wed	Independence Day .....	Federal Holiday		
6-7 Jan Sat-Sun	Local Jama'at/Auxiliary Activities.....	Jama'at..... Local	6-8 Jul Fri-Sun	JALSA SALANA – Canada			
7 Jan Sun	Review of 2017 and Plan 2018 activities ...	Jama'at..... Local	7-8 Jul Sat-Sun	Local Jama'at/Auxiliary Activities.....	Jama'at..... Local		
12-14 Jan Fri-Sun	Ansar Leadership Conference Chino, CA...	Auxiliary .....	National	20-22 Jul Fri-Sun	Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya Ijtima.....	Auxiliary .....	National
15 Jan Mon	Martin Luther King Jr. Day Long Weekend	Federal Holiday	21 Jul Sat	National Aamila Meeting Bait-ur-Rahman, MD.....			
21 Jan Sun	Seerat-un-Nabi Day .....	Jama'at..... Local	21-22 Jul Sat-Sun	Spiritual Fitness Camp .....	Jama'at..... Regional		
26-28 Jan Fri-Sun	Majlis-e-Sihat Weekend .....	Miami	3-5 Aug Fri-Sun	JALSA SALANA – UK			
3-4 Feb Sat-Sun	Local Jama'at/Auxiliary Activities.....	Jama'at..... Local	4-5 Aug Sat-Sun	Local Jama'at/Auxiliary Activities.....	Jama'at..... Local		
10 Feb Sat	National Aamila Meeting Silicon Valley, CA .....	Jama'at..... National	10-12 Aug Fri-Sun	MKA National Ijtima .....	Auxiliary .....	National	
10 Feb Sat	Regional Refresher Course Silicon Valley, CA (Afternoon).....		18-19 Aug Sat-Sun	Spiritual Fitness Camp .....	Jama'at..... Regional		
19 Feb Mon	Presidents' Day Long Weekend .....	Federal Holiday	22 Aug Wed	Eid-ul-Adha			
23-24 Feb Fri-Sat	Public Affairs Seminar 2018.....	Jama'at..... National	25 Aug Sat	National Aamila Meeting Columbus, OH... Jama'at.....	National		
25 Feb Sun	Muslih Mau'ud Day .....	Jama'at... Regional/Local	1-3 Sep Sat-Mon	Labor Day Long Weekend .....	Federal Holiday		
3-4 Mar Sat-Sun	Local Jama'at/Auxiliary Activities.....	Jama'at..... Local	1-10 Sep Sat-Mon	Tahrik-e-Jadid Collection Campaign .....	Jama'at..... National		
10 Mar Sat	National Aamila Meeting Bait ur Rahman, MD .....		7-9 Sep Fri-Sun	JALSA SALANA – Germany			
10 Mar Sat	Regional Refresher Course Bait ur Rahman, MD (Afternoon).....		7-9 Sep Fri-Sun	Marital Matters Awareness .....	Jama'at..... Local		
16-18 Mar Fri-Sun	Lajna Mentoring Conference - TBD.....	Auxiliary .....	National	14-16 Sep Fri-Sun	MKA Shura .....	Auxiliary .....	National
16-25 Mar Fri-Sun	Tehrik-e-Jadid Pledges Finalized .....	Jama'at..... National	21-23 Sep Fri-Sun	National Ansarullah Shura and Ijtima.....	Auxiliary .....	National	
17-18 Mar Sat-Sun	MKA National Aamila Meeting .....	Auxiliary .....	National	22 Sep Sat	National Aamila Meeting Bait-ur-Rahman, MD.....		
24 Mar Sat	5th Annual National Tarbiyat Meeting – Bait-ur-Rahman, MD.....		28-30 Sep Fri-Sun	Lajna East Coast Ijtima Bait-ur-Rahman, MD.....			
25 Mar Sun	Masih Mau'ud Day .....	Jama'at... Regional/Local	6-7 Oct Sat-Sun	Local Jama'at/Auxiliary Activities.....	Jama'at..... Local		
7-8 Apr Sat-Sun	Local Jama'at/Auxiliary Activities.....	Jama'at..... Local	7 Oct Sun	Tahrik-e-Jadid Day .....	Jama'at..... National		
20-22 Apr Fri-Sun	National Majlis-e-Shura Bait-ur-Rahman, MD.....		8 Oct Mon	Columbus Day Long Weekend .....	Federal Holiday		
28-29 Apr Sat-Sun	Ansarullah Regional Ijtima .....	Auxiliary .....	Regional	21 Oct Sun	Religious Founders Day .....	Jama'at... Regional/Local	
5-6 May Sat-Sun	Local Jama'at/Auxiliary Activities.....	Jama'at..... Local	26-28 Oct Fri-Sun	Lajna Majlis e Shura -TBD .....	Auxiliary .....	National	
12 May Sat	National Aamila Meeting Chicago, IL .....	Jama'at..... National	27 Oct Sat	National Aamila Meeting Atlanta, GA .....	Jama'at..... National		
12 May Sat	Regional Refresher Course Chicago, IL (Afternoon) .....		27 Oct Sat	Regional Refresher Course Atlanta, GA (Afternoon) .....			
12-13 May Sat-Sun	Ansarullah Regional Ijtima .....	Auxiliary .....	Regional	3-4 Nov Sat-Sun	Local Jama'at/Auxiliary Activities.....	Jama'at..... Local	
17 May to 14 June	Ramadan		11 Nov Sun	Seerat-un-Nabi Day .....	Jama'at... Regional/Local		
26 May Sat	Khilafat Day.....	Jama'at... Regional/Local	12 Nov Mon	Veterans Day Long Weekend.....	Federal Holiday		
28 May Mon	Memorial Day Long Weekend .....	Federal Holiday	22-25 Nov Thur-Sun.....	Thanksgiving Long Weekend.....	Federal Holiday		
2-3 Jun Sat-Sun	Local Jama'at/Auxiliary Activities.....	Jama'at..... Local	1-2 Dec Sat-Sun	Local Jama'at/Auxiliary Activities.....	Jama'at..... Local		
15 Jun Fri	Eid-ul-Fitr		8 Dec Sat	National Aamila Meeting Bait ur Rahman, MD .....			
29 Jun Fri	MKA National Aamila Meeting .....	Auxiliary .....	National	.....	Jama'at..... National		
29 Jun–1 Jul Fri-Sun	JALSA SALANA – USA Chicago, IL .....	Jama'at..... National	8-9 Dec Sat-Sun	Fazl-e-Umar Qa'ideen Conference.....	Auxiliary .....	National	
1-8 Jul Sun-Sun	National Ta'leem/Tarbiyat Class Chicago, IL... Jama'at.....	National	21-23 Dec Fri-Sun	West Coast Jalsa Salana Los Angeles (Chino), CA			
			25 Dec Tue	Christmas Day .....	Federal Holiday		
			26-28 Dec Wed-Fri	Jalsa Salana – Qadian, India			