



THE MUSLIM HERALD

A MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
THE CAUSE OF ISLAM

In this issue:

THE GLORY OF QURAN

by Maulana Dost Muhammad Shahid

Secret of Adam's slip and fall Revealed

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A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED
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The "Muslim Herald" is the official organ of the London Mosque, which is open for discussion on topics relating to different religions, on the role of Islam in the modern world and on the problems facing mankind and their relationship with Islam.

The glory of Quran

(The talk given by Maulana Dost Muhammad Shahid at the 82nd Annual Gathering on 26th December, 1974 at Rabwah and rendered into English by M. A. K. Ghauri)

The most precious blessing

The most precious and the choicest favour from among the innumerable favours that have been showered upon the Muslims by the Gracious God through our noble master, the Khaatam-al-Nabiyyeen the Chosen and His most beloved servant Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) is the unique and the unparalleled gift—the HOLY QURAN. This incomparable blessing was granted by the GOD OF MUHAMMAD. I say this because:

“Although there is one God, but on the basis of the supreme and highest manifestations and the supernatural favours that He granted to His most beloved servant, the GOD OF MUHAMMAD stands apart and excels in every respect”. (Chashma-i-M’arifat: p. 333)

Place of revelation

The Holy Quran was revealed on the most sacred land extending from Mecca to Medina wherein stands the earliest House of God—the Centre of HIS favours and the recipient of HIS blessings on the one end and the metropolis of the Prince of all Prophets, the beau-ideal of all the Messengers, Muhammad, on the other end. There is a distance of about 250 miles between the two cities and the whole land in between these two most sacred cities is sanctified. Every particle of land lying there is holy because it had been trodden under his holy feet and has thus been exalted to the pleides. It was for this reason alone that the most humble of his slaves—the Mahdi of the Muslims—has described the holy city in the following verses:

“The Sun of Guidance rose for us from Mecca and the Fountain of Wisdom and Learning began to flow from the cave called Hira in such force that even now the stony plains of Medina exuberate with Divine manifestations that are daily experienced. (Karaamaat-us-Saadiqeen; p. 50)

Gabriel's manifestation in its zenith

The Holy Quran was revealed in Arabic, the mother of all the tongues, and the befitting language for Divine revelations. It was Gabriel who brought these revelations as is mentioned in the ‘Traditions’ by Bukhari that one day the Holy Prophet was coming back home from the Cave of Hira when he suddenly heard an awe-inspiring sound. He looked all around him but could see no one. Then he looked skyward and saw the same angel who had appeared to him with the Word of God in Hira Cave. He saw him seated in his full glory on a throne.

The Mahdi (peace be with him) has referred to this incident in the following words:

“God has blessed you exceedingly in revealing and granting the most wonderful Book of Law, like the Holy Quran, for you . . . Therefore, Give due honour to this sacred Book. This is indeed a most wonderful gift—a very great treasure . . . The Quran is a book against which no other book could ever contend and all the other scriptures look faded in its presence. The Holy Spirit that brought the Gospels came in the shape of a mere pigeon which is a weak and frail bird and which even a cat could catch easily. That is the reason why the Christian faith got daily deteriorated and has now become totally bereft of spiritualism. But the Quran was brought down in a manner most majestic and grand—Gabriel came filling the whole expanse of the heavens”. (Kishti-i-Nooh: 1st Edition: pp. 24-25)

The light of Muhammad and the light of the Quran

Since every revelation conforms to the nature and exaltedness of the recipient, it appears quite reasonable that the perfect

and inimitable Quran could have been revealed only to him who was unsurpassable and the most perfect elite of mankind. That person without the least doubt, is our noble master the Khaatam-al-Anbiya (the Final Law-giver); the Prince of the righteous, the Chiefest among the Messengers and the Pride of all the Prophets, Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him) whose pure and scintillating heart is the most deserving seat for the Throne of Almighty Lord God.

The Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement wrote:

“Since the Holy Prophet, in respect of his purity, piety, clear-heartedness, modesty, virtue, his trust in God, his fidelity and in every other respect excelled all the other prophets and was undoubtedly superior, supreme, elite, purest and wholly unrivalled, God the Lord, anointed him with the perfume of total perfection and granted him a heart which was holier and purer and more full of love and fidelity than the others and who was truly matchless and inimitable in all respects; and far far superior to those who had preceded him and also those who shall come after him. For this very reason it was most deserving that he should be granted the revelation which was to supercede all the other Books in every respect. All the revelations that had preceded him and the revelations that shall follow him and serve as a pure, clear and spacious mirror to reflect clearly all the Divine attributes”. (Surma Cashm-i-Arya; pp. 23-24; foot-notes)

The one who was Quran personified

The Holy Prophet was totally illiterate. But he adapted himself to the Quran so perfectly that he became Quran personified. His every movement, his every thought and his every intention was strictly according to the dictates of the Quran. He followed its teachings so meticulously that he had actually become its living commentary. The Quran shone through the light of his eyes and his talks resembled the most attractive and fragrant flowers from the Garden of the Quran.

The prophecy of Moses

A great prophet like Moses, a law-giver, had also predicted the advent of a new Law-Giver.

“He said, ‘The lord came from Sinai, and dawned from Seir upon us; He shone forth from Paran; he came from the ten thousand of holy ones, from his right hand went a fiery Law for them’”. (Deut.; 33:2)

“Paran” is a word from the Arabic language which means ‘two-runners’; because the Prophet Ismail and his mother Hagar came running to the valley of Mecca, it was for this reason that this part of the country began to be called “Paran”. (Handbills from Promised Messiah; Vol. 2: p. 240)

The Geographers agree with this fully. Even the Bible also confirms this.

“He lived in the wilderness of Paran (Genesis; 21-21)

Prophet Solomon gives the name of “MOHAMMADEM” to the one who came among the ten thousand holy ones (Songs; 5:10-16; Heb.) This verse has clearly disclosed the secret of the “flaming fire” or the “fiery law” which is nothing else than the Holy Quran.

A wise and sagacious point

The Promised Reformer has explained:

“My own view is that when Moses was given the glad tidings on the Mount Sinai regarding the Holy Prophet, he got to learn that a very great prophet was going to be born after him. He would naturally wish to know about the manifestation that was going to be granted to that prophet and he made a request before God in these words, “O my God, do please let me also witness a little from the manifestation which shall be awarded to that great prophet”. The answer he received to his request was that he could not

witness that manifestation. 'Everyone is treated according to his own deserts' ". (Tafseer-i-Kabeer; Vol. 3: pp. 965-966)

The pattern of the Revelation

God has described an aspect of the Quranic revelation in a very masterly and rapture-inspiring manner. He says:

"Then he drew nearer to God; then he came down to mankind. Then He revealed to his servant what He revealed". (53: 8-10)

In other words, the Holy Prophet witnessed the uneasiness and the anxiety of mankind, he made an effort to meet God, and God also condescended to come down to meet him. It then goes on to tell us that GOD and the Prophet adopted a position like the chord of two bows—nay even comparatively a nearer position. Then HE revealed the QURAN to HIS perfect Servant, Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him) about whom HE had made HIS intention from the very beginning of eternity.

In this connection the Promised Messiah says:

"Real effort is not made to publish and disclose the true elegance and beauty of the glorious Quran to the general public. Otherwise the perfection and grace, its bloom and brilliance and its inherent beauties, possess so much attraction that people would turn to it spontaneously". (Al-Hakam: 31st May, 1903)

And then he adds:

"The Holy Quran is such a sparkling ruby and such a bright Sun that the rays of its truth and the gleam of its Divine origin are not only evident from one or two aspects, but are quite vivid through its numberless aspects". (Minan-ur-Rahman: p. 1)

Names in the Quran are the key to its beauty

After having scanned a little of the beauties of the Quran

let us now grasp its worth and understand its value in the sight of Him Who has sent it.

To appreciate the real beauty, and to open the hidden perfections and treasures of the Quran, words have been placed in the different names that are scattered over the whole text. As for example we shall take the word "Quran". The Promised Messiah has said:

"It has been disclosed to me that this word "Quran" carries in itself a great prediction. This "Quran" is really the only Book worth studying; and in the future it shall be read very widely and many other books shall also be read in its accompaniment. At that time this shall be the only book which shall really be worth reading in its own defence If you use the Quran as your weapon of defence and attack, you are bound to achieve victory. No darkness could ever stand its brilliant light". (Malfoozaat; Vol. 1: p. 122)

The Quran itself proves its own importance

"Read the following" says the Promised Messiah, "extracts from the Holy Quran which give a short description of its attributes. Read these carefully and then ponder over them and consider with fairness whether it would be correct and advantageous to go elsewhere making a search for truth and seeking another book of guidance and an arbiter".

"This is the Quran which guides to the most straight path. In it there is guidance for those who truly are worshippers and it serves as a reminder for the righteous for perfect righteousness". And verily it is the certain truth". "This is the light upon light and is a cure for the hearts". "It is the gracious God who teaches the Quran". "He has sent down a Book which is truth personified and serves as a balance to weigh the truths". "It is guidance for the people and expounds all guidances". It discriminates between truth and falsehood with sound reasoning and is truly a trusted judge in which there is not the least doubt". "We

have not revealed this book to you but to make it clear to those that have differed about it; and there is guidance and mercy in it for those who do believe". It contains all the commands and teachings which had been sent down in the past and were lying scattered". There is not an iota of untruth in it". "There are sparkling signs in it for those who believe and for them there is guidance and mercy in it". "Then in what things and what signs will they believe hereafter?" "Say to them that by the Grace and Mercy of God this Quran is a most precious treasure. Accept it, therefore, with alacrity and pleasure. It is much superior to the treasures that you collect". This is a pointer to the truth that no treasure is better than truth and divine wisdom". (Izala-i-Auham; pp. 653-656)

Six excellent merits of the Quran

The general study of the Quran as a whole, and particularly the study of its attributes, will, no doubt, bring us to the conclusion that the "Glory of Quran excels over every other glory". (Khutba-i-Ilhamia)

There are unlimited beauties in the Holy Quran, but we shall restrict ourselves to describing only six of these which are easily discernable:

1. The Holy Quran is the Book very Complete and Perfect.
2. The Holy Quran is a 'Living' Book.
3. The Holy Quran is 'Limitless and Unbounded'.
4. The Holy Quran is an 'Incomparable' Book.
5. The Holy Quran is a 'Universal' Book.
6. The Holy Quran is a Book that revolutionises all ideas.

The most perfect book

The first importance of the Holy Quran, as given above, without any doubt, is The Most Perfect Book as is also verified by God Himself. He has stated:

“This day have I perfected your religion for you and completed My favours upon you and have chosen for you Islam as religion”. (5: 4)

A permanent festival for the Muslims

It is given in “BUKHARI”—the Book of Traditions—that the Jews, when the above verse was revealed, had said that we would certainly have celebrated as a festival the day on which such a verse had been revealed to us.

When this talk of the Jews was reported to Omar, he told all those who were present then, that the above verse was actually revealed on a Friday during the ‘Arfat’ and God be praised, both these days are very important for us and are indeed the days of Festivals. (Durr-i-Manthur; Vol. 2: p. 258)

There is not the least doubt in it that there could be no better festival for the Muslims than the day on which such a perfect Book was declared to be complete and made perfect.

“Had I even ten million lives, I would have sacrificed them all for the Holy Prophet:”

“For there is no counting of, and no limit to the favours that have been showered upon us through him”.

Explanation

The Promised Messiah has, in most simple words, explained the importance of the Holy Quran and its perfections. He says.

“The European nations, whenever they make pacts and draft protocols, they frame these in such words that even after the lapse of a long period of time, these documents do provide certain whys and wherefors for further protocols. In the same way the Holy Quran contains unlimited guidance for every kind of human needs”. (Malfoozaat; Vol. 2: p. 332) And he further stated:

“The Holy Prophet was born among the Arabs, not

only as a Messenger of God, but he was later made their temporal king also; and the Lord God perfected the Holy Quran in such a manner that it has in it all the codes--guidance in matters of revenue, and in matters of crime, in matters dealing with social problems and cultural requirements, etc., etc. (Chashma-i-M'arifat; p. 242)

“O my God THY ‘Furqan’ is a complete world in itself;

“Because we do not find therein everything that is needed by us”.

The Promised Messiah has laid a very great stress upon the point that:

“Our Lord God knew perfectly well that new knowledge and new sciences shall be discovered in our age and what strange notions shall become current even among the Muslims themselves. All these are mentioned in the Quran together with their remedies and solutions. There is no modern discovery or knowledge before which the Quran would shrink shy: and there is not a truth which may have become known or newly perceived which is not mentioned in the Holy Quran”. (Malfoozaat; Vol. 10: p. 400)

And the Promised Messiah has given the undermentioned challenge to the world:

“If anyone would dare deny this miracle of the Holy Quran, we are prepared to prove its truth from every aspect and shall make it absolutely clear that the Holy Quran is the embodiment of facts and truths”. (Malfoozaat; Vol. 1: p. 84)

And he further adds:

“If anyone could find fault with the teaching of the Holy Quran even to the extent of a thousand part of an atom or could prove the worth of any of his own books in comparison with the Holy Quran and which teaching may

be contrary to and be better than the teaching of the Quran, we would gladly be willing to accept even the capital punishment for us". (Baraheen-i-Ahmadiyya; p. 262: footnote No. 2)

The famous modern philosopher, Arnold J. Tynbee, firmly believes that in the near future, either the different religions shall have to compromise with each other or one of these shall supercede and supplant all the other faiths. This idea he has forwarded in his book "A Study of History" and which is edited by D. C. Somerwell.

But the Promised Messiah, under revelation from God, declared to the world:

"I tell you truly, as compared with the teachings of the Holy Quran, I never found any other teaching to come up to their mark or vie with them in the matter of faith or domestic economy or political science or in the matter of righteousness. I do not claim this simply because I am a Muslim; it is the facts which compel me to declare this. It is the bare facts which compel me to utter the truth. And this my statement is not at all untimely. On the contrary this my statement is very timely indeed, because everywhere there is a great tussel going on between all the different religions of the world. And I have been given the glad tidings that in this tussel Islam shall, at the end, come out victorious. I do not say this from worldly or materialistic point of view. No that is not so. I am not a man of this world. I only say that which has been put into my mouth from above ... Be it remembered that nothing happens in this world unless it has been already decided in the heavens; and God of the heavens has made it known to me that Islam is going to conquer all the hearts". (Paigham-i-Sulha; p. 12)

"It is very long since infidelity had overpowered the true faith;

It is now going to be the turn of the true faith to vanquish infidelity".

The living Book

The second great merit of the Holy Quran lies in its being the 'LIVING BOOK'. This is because God has Himself said in the Quran:

"Verily We have sent down this exhortation, and most surely We will be its guardian". (15: 10)

Therefore, whereas all the other books have been distorted and had been tampered with, the Holy Quran, even after 1400 years, stands unchanged in its pristine purity. Not one jot or a tittle has been changed or can ever be changed even up to the end of days.

The evidence of a most bitter enemy

Even a very bitter enemy of Islam like Sir Willian Muir was very reluctantly forced to admit in his book, "Life of Muhammad". He says:

"There is otherwise every security, internal and external, that we possess the text which Muhammad himself gave forth and used". "Why should not Islam enjoy a distinction from all the other religions of the world? Because their faiths are shut up within the pages of books only while the Muslims have their Quran preserved in their hearts".

Unabrogatable

The Holy Quran is a 'living' Book. One proof for that is that there has not occurred the slightest possible change in its text; even an iota, a jot or a tittle is not permitted to be cancelled, shifted or changed. The Promised Messiah has said in this connection:

"The Holy Quran is the final and the finest divine Book and even one jot or a tittle from its laws, limitations and commands could not be altered or abrogated. Now no revelation from God could ever be received in future which would amend or alter its laws or could ever change it". (Izaala-i-Auham; Vol. 1: pp. 127-128)

The Modus-operandi for preservation

Another proof of the Quran being a 'living' Book is that under the Divine arrangement, godly sages and reformers continue to come on and off who maintain and keep in tact the real and true interpretation and the correct meanings of the text. This is a recurring arrangement and shall continue to exist till the end of the world. Among these sages and Reformers were many who, through dialectics and polemics, permanently established the glory of the Holy Quran. These venerable sages, through acting upon the teachings of the Holy Quran and through walking in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet had performed miracles in plentitude and thus became the living exponents of the glory of the Holy Quran and proclaimed its undeniable superiority publicly. In this connection the Promised Messiah wrote:

“Right from the time of our beloved master, the Holy Prophet (s.a.w.s.) there have lived in every century, godly men through whom God had proclaimed the superiority of Islam and drawing adherents to it by means of heavenly signs. Among these are listed Sayyad Abdul Qadir Gilani, Abul Hassan Khirqani, Abu Yazid Bustami, Junaid Baghdadi, Mohyud Din ibn-i-Arabi, ZunNoon Misri, Mu'inud Din, Mu'inudDin Chishti of Ajmer, QutbudDin Bakhtiyar Kaaki, FaridudDin of Pakpattan, NizamudDin of Delhi and Sheikh Ahmad of Sarhind (may God be pleased with them all). This list could easily be prolonged to many thousands”. (Kitab-ul-Bariyya; pp. 73-74)

In this connection he says further:

“In the middle ages, in spite of the hypocrisy, impiety and innovations that prevailed, there had been a stream of such godly persons in Islam”. (Tohfa-i-Golraviyya; p. 81)

And then he declared it with the utmost confidence that:

“These perfect teachings are ever ready to turn thousands into the likes of Jesus Christ and has already done so”. (The Answers to the Four Questions of SirahudDin, the Christian; p. 22)

“We once used to believe that the ‘Rod of Moses’ was the true Discriminator of truth and falsehood; but it has now become fully clear that every word of the Holy Quran was really the true life-giver and the reviver”. (verse from Promised Messiah)

Boons and blessings

Another great reason for the Holy Quran to be a ‘Living Book is that its followers are blessed with heavenly favours the details of which we could better learn from the writings of the Promised Messiah, as the one that I give below:

“It has come into the personal experience of millions of saintly persons that the blessings of God are showered upon one’s heart by following the Holy Quran. A wonderful connection is formed with God Almighty and His inspirations and revelations begin to rain at one’s heart; and they begin to utter talk of great wisdom and sagacity. They are granted a most wonderful type of unwavering faith and trust in God and taste a very strange kind of love for their Creator because He comes down very near to them. They get so enamoured of His love that if their bodies were pounded in the mortar with the pestle of trials and be totally crushed and minced and if an essence of their bodies were to be extracted, nothing would be obtained except the essence of the purest love and fidelity for their God. The materialistic world does not know such men. Because they are far above them and keep themselves far away. But God’s relation with them is extra-ordinary. They are the ones who serve as the only means of knowing God and His existence. They are the ones who really know that there is only one God. When they pray to Him, He listens to their prayers; when they seek refuge with Him, He rushes to them for help and is more kind to them than their own fathers and showers a rain of blessings on their dwellings. They are, therefore, recognised through His physical, moral and spiritual support. He comes to their succour in every field, because they all belong to Him and He also belongs to them”. (Surma Chashm-i-Arya; pp. 24-31)

Propagation of the Quran in modern times

God has sent the Promised Messiah to provide a practical proof of the Holy Quran being a 'Living' Book and that its fruits are readily achievable. The Promised Messiah declared to the world in a forceful manner:

“I have been sent to prove to the world that Islam is the only religion which really is a living religion. I have been endowed with supernatural powers from God. This is the province in which men of all the other religions cannot stand against me. I could show to all and every opponent of Islam that the Holy Quran is the only Book which is a living miracle—a miracle far greater than any other book could show in respect of its teachings, its wisdom, its deep knowledge and its perfect eloquence. It is a miracle far greater than the miracle of Moses and a thousand times better than the miracles of Jesus. I say it again and again and proclaim it from the housetops that to have true love for the Holy Prophet and to follow the Quran truly would exalt one to spiritual heights and miraculous powers; and the doors of hidden knowledge are open for such a man and none from other faiths could even compete with him in this respect. I declare it because of my personal experience... To acquire a direct connection with God is not possible unless one embraces Islam.. Do come to me so that I might tell you where the 'Living' God is and what people does HE side with? He is by the side of Islam. Islam now is the Mount Sinai of Moses where God speaks now. The God Who used to talk to His prophets in the past and had since then kept quiet, is talking in the heart of a Muslim now”. (Appendix Anjaam-i-Aatham; pp. 61-62)

“May THY peace and grace be showered on the Chosen Prophet for we have inherited this light only through him from the great God.

A book of boundless grace

The third great excellence of the Holy Quran is that it incorporates in itself innumerable perfections and is the embodi-

ment of wisdom and knowledge beyond measure and is a treasure which could not be exhausted even till the Day of Judgement. The Lord God Himself says:

“And if all the trees that are in the earth were pens, and the ocean were ink, with seven oceans swelling it thereafter, the words of Allah would not be exhausted. Surely, Allah is Mighty, Wise”. (31-28)

The Promised Messiah has expounded the above verse in the following words:

“All the trees that are on the earth, if all of these were cut and not a single tree be left standing in the forests and the gardens and were made into pens; and if the ocean was turned into ink and to which may be added even seven more oceans, the meanings and interpretations and comments were to be written with these pens and ink, all the pens would get broken and the ink of the seven seas shall be completely exhausted, because the Lord God is Mighty and Wise”.

“Since He is Mighty, He has granted such an immense magnitude to its meanings, implications and its purport that even if all the trees are turned into pens and all the seas are converted into ink and these were used for writing commentaries and interpretations, these would never end. But magnitude may sometimes be base and noxious also... But the Lord God has made it quite clear that any kind of baseness could not be implied here. Because, in spite of all the magnitude in the meanings of the Quran, there is nothing base about it, and nothing therein is absurd and useless. This is because it is the WORD of the WISE GOD... There is not a single thing unseemly or useless. On the contrary everything within it is commendable and praiseworthy”. (Sair-i-Roohaani; Vol. 1: pp. 107-109)

“It is the constant desire of heart ever to kiss Thine Book over and over again; and always keep going round it as it is the Kaaba of my heart”. (Verse: Promised Messiah)

Holy Prophet's saying—pregnant with meanings

Hazrat Ali has reported that once the Holy Prophet said,

“Once the angel Gabriel came to me and said, ‘O Muhammad! your followers after you, shall face a temptation’. I then asked him, ‘O Gabriel! how could they be saved from this? And Gabriel replied,

“Through the Book of Allah, which tells you about the people of the past as well as the people who would follow later. Quran is the only means through which they would be able to solve all the difficulties and problems they might have. It is the rope of Allah and the straight path which leads you straight to God. To a certainty it is the authentic law and the final code. It is certainly not the law which falters or may prove worthless. Quran is the book with which even an erring tyrant could not afford to be indifferent. If he does so and follows another code, he is bound to be completely annihilated and shattered into pieces: and whosoever seeks favours from anyone besides Allah, he shall be denounced by Him as one of those who go astray. The Holy Quran could never become obsolete. It is a boundless ocean the wonders of which could never come to an end”. (Masnad Ahmad bin Hanbal; Kanz-al-Amaal: p. 45; Hyderabad Edition)

The view of a great sage

In the light of the above Tradition of the Holy Prophet, a great sage of the 5th-6th century Hijra has hinted at a nice point which is very instructive and worth remembering. He says,

“The Holy Quran could be classified into four different sections i.e.:

(1) the text; (2) the pointers; (3) the complex and intricate; and (4) lastly the complicated facts.

These four sections have been classified by this sage into four different categories of the readers of the Quran. According to him the ‘Text’ is meant for the common folk:

the 'pointers' are for those who are endeared in the sight of God; the complexities and the intricacies are for the sages and the saints of Allah and lastly the complicated facts are meant only for the prophets of God". (Araaes-al-Bayaan; Vol. 1; pp. 3-4)

Quranic facts that have come to light in modern times

The Promised Messiah has, under the direct guidance of God, brought to light many subtle and evasive points of the Quran. I shall only relate a few faith-inspiring instances. The first is:

"All the stories in the Quran, right from the time of Adam up to the time of Jesus, are in actual fact pure predictions about the future happenings". (Aacena-i-Kamaalat-i-Islam; p. 234: footnote)

Then the Promised Messiah tells us about the aims and objects of his advent.

"Now God does not describe religious facts in mere stories. He has now brought religion to conform to sciences. It is for that very reason that the present age is the age of bringing facts to light and things are given an academic tint. I have been sent for this purpose that I may expound Islamic teachings and the Quranic stories according to the modern way of thinking". (Malfuzat; Vol. 3: p. 235)

It was in the year 1897 that the Promised Messiah, on his return from Multan, stayed with Sheikh Rahmatullah, proprietor of the Bombay House. During this stay in Lahore the people of different religions and sects used to come to him and went back much richer with the treasures of the Holy Quran. During these visits some of the Christians raised the point that all the stories mentioned in the Holy Quran have been borrowed from the Bible. At this the Hazrat gave a wonderful discourse advancing many arguments and stated very forcibly.

"Like as the grass and the fodder after entering the stomach of the cow and the buffalo first turns into blood

and then comes out in the shape of milk through the teats, in the same way the stories of the Torah and the Gospels turn to light and wisdom through the Quran". (Mujaddid-i-Azam; Vol. 1: p. 561)

The prediction in the chapter 'Al-feel'

In the Chapter 'Al-Feel' the story of Abraha's attack on Mecca has been mentioned. But the Promised Messiah has disclosed that:

"The destruction of the elephants through the birds is in actual fact a prediction which shall continue to happen again and again till the last day. Whenever in the future the 'likes of the People of the Elephants' shall gain power and rise against Islam, God the Omnipotent shall cause them to witness a fall and shall make them face total destruction".

And again he said:

"An attack has now been made on Islam like the invasion of the 'People of the Elephant'. There are a horde of weaknesses among the Muslims who are very weak and poor and the 'People of the Elephants' are at the height of their power. But God is going to do the same as HE did before, and shall make the 'little birds' repeat the same". (Malfoozaat; Vol. 1: pp. 172-173)

The Quran, philosophy and the sciences

The Promised Messiah has pointed out another truth about the Quran, which is:

"The more progress and development there is in the physical sciences, the more beauties and grandeur of the Quran shall also come to light". (Malfoozaat; Vol. 1: p. 80)

And he added further:

"Not even a jot or a tittle of the Holy Quran stands in fear of any damage from the attacks of the philosophies of the past, the present and the future. The Holy Quran is the rock which will shatter anything on which it may fall

and anything which falls on it shall also be shattered into pieces". (Acena-i-Kamaalat-i-Islam; p. 257: footnotes)

A few days prior to his passing away, the Promised Messiah was staying at Lahore when a well-known scholar of Astronomy, Professor Clement Regg who had a great liking for the sciences, came to meet the Hazrat and asked him a number of questions. In all the answers that the Hazrat gave him, he all the time referred to the Holy Quran. In the end the professor said:

"I am so pleased that your religion also conforms to the sciences".

The Hazrat replied:

"That is the very reason for which I have been sent. I have come to prove to the world that no teaching of Islam contradicts any proved and established truth of the sciences". (Zikr-i-Habib; p. 420)

The Professor was so much impressed that in the end he embraced Islam.

The treasure of knowledge

The Promised Mahdi (peace be upon him) has also disclosed another truth of the Quran before the world of religions. He said:

"There lies hidden a great treasure under each and every verse of the Quran, which the hostile hand of the unbeliever wished to destroy through false allegations". (Arba'een; 4: p. 15)

Claim backed by reason

The Promised Messiah disclosed this Quranic truth also, that this Divine Book does not merely make an empty claim but always backs its claim with sound reason and irrefutable argument. These two always go along with the claim like two perennial streams in the Quran. He also proved the truth of this statement on the occasion of the Great Religious Conference held at Lahore in the year 1896, when even the friend and the

foe acknowledged spontaneously the ascendancy of Islam over all the other religions. The 'Civil & Military Gazette' of Lahore, Siraj-ul-Akhbar, Lahore, 'Fourteenth Century', Rawalpindi, 'Mukhbir' of Madras and 'General wa Gauhar Aasafi' of Calcutta and many more paid very commendable tributes to the incomparable Champion of Islam and acknowledged his triumph over all the other religions. As for instance the paper 'Fourteenth Century' wrote:

"The Mirza Sahib gave his answers to all the questions from the Quran only. He very ably expounded all the main teachings of Islam in the most convincing manner with proper and logical reasoning under metaphysics supported by relevant verses from the Holy Quran. All this presented an admirable and glorious scene...

...The Mirza Sahib, not only expounded the philosophical background of the Quranic Teachings, he also referred to the philology and the philosophy of the words as well. In short the talk given by Mirza Sahib, taken as a whole, was a complete and comprehensive exposition elucidating the beauties and innumerable illustrations and allegories and the hidden treasures that sparkled like pure pearls. All metaphysical points and issues were interpreted in such a masterly manner which made the people of all the religions and scholars of all faiths marvel greatly".

"That day even the bitterest enemies of Islam paid homage to the talk and were very eloquent in approbation of the lecture. ... All praise is due to HIM that on that day Islam excelled all the other religions and the representatives of all the other faiths were forced to acknowledge Islam's superiority over them all". (Chaudhvin Sadi; 1st February, 1897)

The newspaper "General wa Gohar Aasafi" of Calcutta in its issue of 24th January, 1897 wrote:

"The veritable truth is that it was clearly proved on that day that if there had been no talk from the Mirza Sahib, the Muslims would have made a poor show and

would have suffered an ignominious defeat at the hands of the non-Muslims. But the Mighty hand of God saved them from a humiliating disgrace, and on account of this talk granted them such a victory that not only their well-wishers, but their adversaries also, had no recourse but to admit frankly that Mirza Sahib's talk threw all the other talks into the shade and his talk undoubtedly held supreme".

Another very great truth that the Promised Messiah expounded was:

"This is the Book which incorporates in itself every detailed information... It also contains predictions for the future and the past history as well". (Khutba-i-Ilhamia)

An ever-running stream

In Ludhiana there lived a sage, Munshi Ahmad Jan by name, who later wrote his review on the famous book 'Baraheen-i-Ahmadiyya'. Once in the year 1882 he wrote to the Promised Messiah suggesting that there should be no exaggeration in the matter of the praise for the Holy Prophet and also the Holy Quran. And the Hazrat wrote in reply:

"I could not really make out your meaning of what you wrote. This book is in the praise of the Holy Prophet and the Holy Quran. Both these are like two never-ending streams. The question of exaggeration could never arise in this connection. Even if all the sages and the scholars and the wise of the whole world joined together and begin writing in their praise, they would all not be able to do justice to it. The question of exaggeration could never even arise". (Mak-toobaat; Vol. 1: p. 3)

The Promised Messiah described the Holy Quran to be the torchbearer of truth and declaring it to be a practical proof of the laws of nature, he said:

"If we were to try to find out about the nature and the build of a mere fly, our research would not end till doomsday. We must, therefore, ponder and realise that the

divine and sacred Book, the Holy Quran, could not lag behind a fly in its making. We shall be forced to admit that the wonders of the Quran far exceed the total build and make of the rest of HIS creation". (Izaala-i-Auham; pp. 677-678)

"How could then man's word ever compete with the Word of God Who is the Lord of Might and Power, while man is most insignificant and the difference between the two is ever apparent";

"Man cannot even create the leg of a tiny insect; how could it possibly be easy for him to create the Light of Truth?"

Unbounded signs and clear miracles

The Promised Messiah further added:

"The clear signs and miracles of the Holy Quran which could be discerned by men and scholars of all lands and nations, and through which we could easily approach the whole of mankind, whether he be an Indian or a Parsee, a European or an American or he may belong to any other nation, could easily be convinced of its truth. The unlimited beauties of the Quran with its countless treasures of wisdom and knowledge, keep on manifesting themselves in every age according to the need of the time. They can hold their own in the defence of the truths of the Quran like a fully armed soldier . . .

"O ye men! that are created by the Omnipotent God, remember it well that the unlimited wisdom and knowledge found within the pages of the Quran is such a true miracle that has always proved more effective than the sword. Every age advances its own doubts and uncertainties or claims to have made more discoveries in various branches of knowledge. But the Holy Quran is fully equipped with all sorts of defence. No follower of the Brahmū Samaj, or a Buddhist or an Arya Samajist, and for that matter he may be a follower of any other religion; or even be a free-thinker and a philosopher, shall ever be able to bring forth

the beauties of his own scriptures which are not to be found in the Holy Quran. The wonders of the Holy Quran are incalculable and like as the wonders of nature have not terminated in the past ages and still continue to be disclosed, same is the case with the Divine Scriptures. This is because the similarity between His Word and Deed may also be proved and His Word collaborates with His Deed". (Izala-i-Auham; pp. 305-312)

The incomparable book

The fourth distinction of the Holy Quran is that it is a Book which could not be compared with any other Book. This fact is a standing miracle of the Holy Prophet. For the last fourteen hundred years the challenge of the Quran stands unanswered. There is a challenge for everyone to come forward to produce a book like the Holy Quran or even a small portion like it. This challenge, in the words of God, is:

"Say if Mankind and the Jinn gathered together to produce the like of this Quran they could not produce the like thereof, even though they should help one another"
(17: 89)

Who is there to come and contend?

The Promised Messiah, in his book, "Baraheen-i-Ahmad-iyya", also wrote, after referring to this challenge. He said:

"The Holy Quran is the book that makes a claim and makes it very truly. The claim is about its own magnificence, its wisdom, its truths, its eloquence, its ingenuity and its subtleties. This is not at all a hollow claim and was never made by the Muslims as a mere dress up. Nay, the Quran itself guides the reader to all its beauties and excellence and itself claims to be incomparable to any other creation and openly challenges one and all to come forward and bring anything like it".

"The excellent attributes of the Quran and its deep truths are not only a few in number so that some nit-wit may begin to doubt about them. Nay, its beauties are like

the deep and storm oceans and they shine like the stars and glitter everywhere... This is the undisputed and undeniable fact which stands supreme for the last thirteen hundred years". (Barahin-i-Ahmadiyya; p. 554; footnote)

On another occasion the Promised Messiah said:

"He (Holy Prophet) was exalted to the position of 'Khatam-al-Nabiyyin' and so was the Book given to him called 'Khatam-al-Kutub'. All the highest possible attributes and singularities which could be acquired miraculously by Divine Scriptures, were invested in this Book which has reached to the pinnacle of magnificence and elegance. We may look at it from any angle we shall find it very perfect—in eloquence, in graceful style in elegance and in refinement, in its natural flow and rhythm—in short the Book is inimitable in every respect and is a personified miracle". (Mal-foozat; Vol. 3: p. 37)

Purview of the Holy Quran

The Promised Messiah had said that only the Chapter, 'Al-Fatiha', leave alone the whole text of the Quran, is incomparable. He wrote:

"The Holy Quran is undoubtedly a vast boundless ocean. The first Chapter "Al-Fatiha" is a vast treasure and is generally called the "Mother-of-the-Book". It is the fountainhead of great wisdom and knowledge". (Al-Hakam: 10th January, 1911)

At another place he has stated:

"The Al Fatiha is the abridged compendium of the whole Quran. In other words it miraculously describes all the aims and subjects contained in the Quran". (Baraheen-i-Ahmadiyya; p. 487; footnote)

And again he says:

"Ponder over the Chapter Al-Fatiha very deeply it is the finest gist and the true essence and a miniature picture of the Holy Quran. All the subjects in the Quran are mentioned in this in the most condensed form".

It was for these peculiarities that the Promised Messiah had a very great attachment for this Chapter. For this reason one of his followers wrote:

“Once I saw him (the Promised Messiah) travelling from Qadian to Batala in a bullock cart. Immediately after he got out of the village he opened the Holy Quran and until we reached Batala—a journey of nearly five hours—he never even turned the page. He spent all these five hours in the study of these seven verses”. (Silsila Ahmadiyya; Mirza Bashir Ahmad)

It was 15th February, in the year 1901 that a cricket match was being played at the T.I. High School, Qadian. In his simplicity of childhood, one of the Promised Messiah’s sons said to him, “Daddy, you did not go to the cricket match?” The Hazrat was then busy in writing the commentary on the Chapter “Al-Fatiha”, and he said, “They (the boys) shall come back when the game is finished. But I am playing a game that shall continue till Doomsday”.

Deciding the issue for a reward

The Promised Messiah has written a Commentary of the Chapter ‘Al-Fatiha’ comprising 375 pages of knowledgable exposition. He also put forward a suggestion of deciding the issue in the following manner:

“The Torah and the Gospels have no legs to stand upon in comparison with the Holy Quran. If these two were to be compared even with the first Chapter of the Holy Quran which consists only of seven verses most appropriately placed and composed in a most simple and natural manner expounding truths and religious wisdoms which could neither be found in the Torah of Moses nor the Gospels of Jesus, even though their pages be turned over and over again for the whole lifetime”. (Answers to the Four Questions of Siraj-ud-Din the Christian; p. 41)

In order to settle this dispute, the Promised Messiah even offered a reward of five hundred rupees. The offer was made

in June, 1897. Sixty-nine years later, his third Successor also offered a similar reward in the following words:

“We are prepared to offer an amount one hundred times more than the previous offer. If anyone would come forward and bring from his religious scriptures such truths and talks of superlative wisdom, sagacious understanding and conception full of rational comprehension as are to be found in the Chapter ‘Al-Fatiha’, of the Holy Quran, we shall give him a reward of fifty thousand (Rs. 50,000/-) rupees”. (AlFazl; 22nd April, 1966)

No one, so far, has dared to bring forth such jewels of wisdom from his sacred books as are found in the ‘Al-Fatiha’.

“O ye, the bird-hunter! it is not possible for you to ensnare me;

This is because I am a nightingale from the elegant orchard of Muhammad”.

A universal book

The fifth superiority of the Holy Quran is that unlike all the other scriptures, which are strictly confined to a certain time and to a certain place or country, the Holy Quran is a Universal Book with a Cosmopolitan Law. Quran itself verifies this claim.

“Blessed is he who has sent down the discrimination to his servant, that he may be a warner to all the worlds”. (52:2)

And again He says:

“And we have not sent thee but as a bearer of glad tidings and a warner for all mankind”. (34: 29)

A great miracle of the Quran

In the above verse the words ‘All Mankind’ are of miraculous nature, which, like the ‘Staff of Moses’ have miraculously swallowed up what the Baabi and the Bahaaee Movements had feigned and these words have completely shattered and destroyed their magic. The phrase ‘Kaffa-sh-Shai’ would mean to collect

and gather a thing in a manner that no part of it may be left behind (Aqurab).

Therefore, in this verse it has been told, in a straight and simple manner, that some people shall try to introduce a new law in the place of the Law of the Holy Quran. Their claim shall be totally false. Because every man born in this world, even up till the last day, irrelative of the fact where he is born—whether in the east or in the west; whether he may be black or white, whether he may be an Asian or a European or whether he may come from Iran or Turan, he shall be under the Law of the Holy Quran until the Day of Judgement and shall have to come to the fold of Muhammad the Chosen One—the Holy Prophet of Islam. Because all the laws on which salvation depends are given in the Holy Quran as has been explained by the Promised Messiah. He says:

“Those who shall hold the Quran in honour shall be given a place of honour in the heavens above; those who shall give preference to the Quran over every Tradition or any other Saying, shall be given preferential treatment in heaven. There is no book on the surface of the earth other than the Quran for guidance; for the sons of Adam there is now no Messenger and no Intercessor; other than Muhammad (may peace and blessings of God be upon him). (Kishti-i-Nuh; 13)

U.N.O. in the Quran

What better proof there would be for the Quran being the Universal Book than the fact that it contains in one of its chapters an idea for the formation of a universal organisation like the United Nations Organisation. The clue for that is in the chapter “Al-Hujurat”. This idea has been very ably explained by the Promised Reformer in his books “Ahmadiyyat the True Islam” and the “New Order”. This distinction only belongs to Islam which had laid the foundations of the unity of nations fourteen hundred years ago. The Promised Messiah has said:

“The Quran, which is a universal Book, was revealed at the end and it not restricted to any particular nation or

people but is there for all mankind. The Quran was sent down for the purpose of making the human race one flock and one nation. And now conditions have been created in which different peoples shall be united into one great nation. Mixing of different peoples which is the chief cause of unity, has now become very easy and simple. Journeys which in the past took years to complete, could now be traversed in a few days only. Means of communications have also become so simple that the news, which in the former days could not reach in a year from far off lands, do reach now in a moment. The world is being so radically changed now and the trend of progress and culture has taken to the course which clearly points to the truth that it is God's will that all the scattered nations shall now be united and those that had separated thousands of years ago shall be brought together. All this has been foretold in the Holy Quran which says that it has been sent to all the peoples of the world.

The Quran says:

"O ye peoples, indeed I am the Messenger of Allah for you all".

And again it mentions:

"Thou hast not been sent but as a Mercy to all the worlds". (Chashma-i-Ma'rifat; p. 68)

The slippery Jewish state and the Quran

I must here mention one of the greatest Signs and proofs of the truth of the Holy Quran.

The strong and uncompromising hold of the Jews on the present state of Israel might appear to mock at the Muslim claim; and the claim of the Quran might appear dubious in the eyes of the religion-loving circles. Yet I tell you—and I tell you truly that the state of Israel—a short-lived state—shall itself provide a most glaring proof of the truth of Islam and the Quran.

The verse 105 of the Chapter 'Bani Israel' of the Holy Quran says:

"And when the time of the promise of the latter days comes, we shall bring you (the Israelites) together out of various peoples".

And another wonderful prediction is:

"And already have we written in the book of David, after the exhortation, that my righteous servants shall inherit the land". (21: 106)

The people who shall inherit this land shall be pious and righteous servants of the "Khaatam-al-Nabiyyeen" the Holy Prophet Muhammad. (peace and blessings of God be upon him)

Prediction about the Muslim state in Palestine

Exactly twenty years ago, the Promised Reformer had, in this very town of Rabwah, and on this very stage where I stand now, had made the following prophecy:

"This inevitably means that this set up shop contracted with the help of the United Nations Organisation and the United States of America shall, with the Grace of God, be shattered by the Muslims whom God shall again rehabilitate in this land".

"Therefore, the righteous servants of Aliah shall perforce go and settle in this very land. Neither the atom bombs of America and the H bombs shall be of any avail nor the help of Russia shall bring any benefit to them. This is the Destiny from God and is going to happen. Let the whole world exert their utmost against it". (Sair-i-Ruhani; Vol. 3: p. 52)

"If HE ever declares that HE is going to do a certain thing, it must always come to pass; HIS word could never fail because HE is the MIGHTY MASTER". (Promised Messiah)