



Friday Sermon: Blessed and Successful European Tour

Friday Sermon delivered by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad(aba), Khalifatul Masih V, Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community -21st October 2011

Full Transcript

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Key for Abbreviations:

(saw) means SallAllaho alaihe wassalam= Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him

(as) means Alaihe Salam = upon whom be peace

(ra) means either RaziAllaho Taala unho/unha meaning Allah be pleased with him/her

or (ra*) means Rahmullah alaih= Allah's Mercy be upon him

(aba)means Ayyad Allaho Taala be Nasril Azeez = Allah's Help and Succour be with you

After reciting Tashahhud, Ta'awwudh and Surah Fatihah, Hudhur (aba) said:

"For the past approximate month or so, I was on a tour of various countries of Europe. Germany, Norway, Holland, Denmark and Belgium were all included within this tour. Through the Grace of Almighty Allah, at every single moment during this tour Allah's Grace was witnessed. As is always the case, where on the one hand devotion, sincerity and loyalty were displayed in the Jama'ats, on the other hand, through Allah's Grace, the Jama'at's impact on the non-Muslims, the efforts of the Jama'at to create and maintain relations with non-Muslims, and also the extraordinary inclination of the non-Muslims to try and understand Islam were all visible to a greater degree than before. Thus, it is the special Grace of God Almighty that every step of the Jama'at is taken towards progress, more so than our own endeavours and efforts. The introduction of the Promised Messiah(as) and through him, the conveying of the true message of Islam that is being propagated is leading to positive results. This sign of the truthfulness of the Promised Messiah (as) further strengthens an Ahmadi. If this was limited to human efforts, then we, from a worldly perspective, are a very small community and nobody would ever have even noticed us. Therefore, this inclination and attention towards us, this progress and advancement, are promises of God that are being fulfilled and we are witnessing their fulfilment. The Promised Messiah (as) states: *God Almighty has made immense promises regarding the Jama'at. No human intellect, no far-sightedness or no resources of the world could enable us to meet these promises.*

The Promised Messiah (as) speaking about the opponents says: *Those who are opposed to us perceive in their own thoughts that from a worldly perspective that this [i.e. the Ahmadiyya Jama'at] is also a worldly sect that has formed.*

This is how that the majority of the Muslims perceive the Jama'at. Or the Muslim 'Ulema (clergy) have led the majority of the Muslims to believe this way regarding the Jama'at, that perhaps it is also a worldly organisation or endeavour. And in every possible way they defame the Promised Messiah (as) and slander him with various names. They hurt our sentiments. Anyhow, whatever these people may perceive, the Promised Messiah (as) states: *'I am aware that it is God Who has established this movement and through His Grace, this movement is spreading and flourishing. The reality is that until Allah's Will is not present, no people/nation can progress or advance and nor can it grow and flourish. However, when Allah so Wills it to be, then those people are like a seed; just as no one can comprehend the potential of the growth in the seed and its effects before its time; similarly, they believe the progress of this nation to be impossible.'*

This is God's Community. At every moment we witness the help and Succour of God with the Jama'at. Observing the progress and advancement of the Jama'at, people of the world and also opponents of Ahmadiyyat have become confounded and bewildered to an even greater extent. It is for this reason that animosity and hostilities against the Jama'at have intensified so much. In the previous weeks' sermon I also alluded to this. As the Promised Messiah (as) stated: *This is the promise of God, that the Jama'at will progress and that the triumph and victory of Islam will occur through the Jama'at of the Promised Messiah (as)—this will occur. All the endeavours of the opponents and their animosities will wither away and come to nought and every sincere person will come into the fold of this community, InshaAllah (God willing).*

Nevertheless, as is customary after every tour I undertake, I provide brief details of the circumstances of the tour. Today also I will provide details of my tour. The details of the tour will be presented in the report in *Al-Fazl* to a certain degree, and some accounts I will mention now. The Grace and Bounties of Allah that are being demonstrated are shed light upon in these reports.

During these tours there is a benefit, naturally, of meeting Ahmadis. However non-Muslims and worldly people also are also benefitting from these meetings in the manner in which they are being inclined towards Islam. An opportunity is gained to present the true picture of Islam to them. Many educated people, and also some politicians or government officials, perceive and believe that perhaps, in order to gain some worldly advantage, or to improve the surrounding environment or atmosphere, within their own vicinities, Ahmadis mingle with influential people and present to them the message of peace and love and portray Islam as something beautiful.

In many places I feel that such people want to hear what Ahmadiyyat is directly from me. Despite the fact that Ahmadis may have already informed them of Ahmadiyyat, for their own satisfaction and reassurance they desire to hear this direct from me. Therefore, through these *Mulaqats* (meetings) with non-Muslims, aside from discussions on other matters and also building up rapport, this becomes an opportunity

to remove doubts and also misunderstandings about Islam particularly in the minds of the well-educated people.

As I stated before, and on several occasions I have related this, that the Germany Jama'at by the Grace of Almighty Allah are making exceptional efforts in preaching and also in building up rapport and contacts. Their endeavours to this effect are far greater than before. It is for this reason that the message of Islam and also the introduction of Ahmadiyyat is profusely and abundantly being propagated in Germany. This time as well through these connections that we have formed arrangements had been made for many well-educated people to meet me. In fact, it should be said in other words, in Frankfurt it was our youngsters who had organised for the two university professors to meet me. Through the Grace and Bounty of Allah, in Germany, for quite some time, I have noticed that the youngsters are very active. Their connections and contacts are increasing and there is an inclination in them towards preaching. Anyhow, I will relate the accounts of a few of these meetings here and also the other functions of the Jama'at.

In Frankfurt, there is a Marburg University. Two of the professors from this university came to meet me. Both of these professors are PhD doctors; Dr Pierre Hecker and Professor Albrecht Fuess. Both are professors of Islamic studies at the University. They are both familiar with Arabic and possess deep knowledge of Islam. One of these professors had specialised in Turkey and the Turkish language and his subjects were of Islamic History.

There were also discussions held with him regarding Islamic history. I said to him that do not rely on only your historians or those historians who are influenced by Western historians. Do not only read their books. Rather, read and study the books of Arabic; those historians who use original sources or other sources, such as the Hadith. In the same vein, there is a book by Hadhrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad(ra), *Seerat Khatamun Nabiyyin, The Life and Character of the Seal of the Prophets*. One volume of this has been translated. I said to them that this book should be obtained. By reading it, you would be able to decipher how, first of all, the life of the Prophet(saw) has been (excellently) related and also how the allegations have been replied to. Anyhow, may Allah enable the rest of the book to be translated soon. This is an excellent book in particular for those people who along with studying the life of the Prophet (saw) can also acquire replies to allegations against Islam.

I said that the Five Volume Commentary of the Holy Qur'an and also this book, *Seerat Khatamun Nabiyyin, The Life and Character of the Seal of the Prophets*, which has been translated into English, should be given and *InshaAllah* these will be provided.

I also told them to watch MTA, because by watching MTA many righteous and sincere people have come to know of the reality and truth of Islam and its correct teachings. So he replied that, "have you ever held any discussions in Egypt with Al Azhar University?" So I responded that once a few years ago we held discussions with one of the professors and the people of our Arabic desk Shareef Odeh sahib and some others prepared a book to send there. This book was sent to them. But anyhow, they have hearts of stone. But those who are righteous, those who are sincere, if they read this book, then their hearts

are opened. So this was quite a lengthy discussion that took place that occurred with these people. They left with a positive impression.

Two mosques in the surrounding vicinity of Frankfurt at some distance, when I say at some distance then one is just over 150 km and one is about 80 km away. So the foundation stone of two mosques in the surrounding vicinity were laid. In one of the foundation stone laying ceremonies, the deputy mayor arrived as a representative of the mayor. There in that function he expressed a few words and I also said a few things with reference to the mosque.

Now look at this perception that is not something from only olden times. Even in this enlightened era, this perception still exists in Europe. After, during our discussions, he said that I have heard that a non Muslim is not permitted to either read or look at the Holy Qur'an, and that this is a crime in Islam! I said who told you this? You have just heard the recitation of the Holy Qur'an. You heard its translation as well. The Holy Prophet (saw) came for the entire world. He came for all mankind and this was proclaimed through the Prophet Muhammad (saw) by Allah and the Holy Qur'an is a mercy and also a source of healing for pious natured persons. Therefore, what you heard was entirely wrong. We have published translations of the Holy Qur'an and these will be provided to you. So this is the concept and perception of the Holy Qur'an that is presented in certain places. And for Ahmadis who are striving to publish the Holy Qur'an, hindrances are placed before them.

I should also relate that in the last few days in Delhi, India there was an exhibition held of the Holy Qur'an. This exhibition was in a very affluent area and the exhibition itself was large scale. The exhibition was organised in a beautiful way and it was regarding the teachings of the Holy Qur'an. Hindus, Sikh, Christians and also other well educated Muslims came to attend that exhibition. This was a three day exhibition. On the first two days, the '*Ulema*, (so-called Muslim clergy) raised such a storm and they placed so much pressure that the government were worried that disorder would break out. Thus, on the third day the government requested the Jamaat that this exhibition should be shut down. Major newspapers praised this exhibition, that this was a brilliant exhibition and that they were unaware of the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and its wisdom entailed before. They came to know of it now. Some Muslims even made the comments that "we were unaware of the beauty entailed within the teachings of the Holy Qur'an before coming to this exhibition." However, there are Muslims who always place difficulties for us. There are such wrong conceptions and perceptions about us that it is astonishing.

This reminds me that I was looking at my mail yesterday or the day before. A person wrote to me from Pakistan said that "I went to offer my condolences at the house of a non Ahmadi friend of mine. There we were discussing about something or the other, when one person present there said that 'I have heard that the manner of becoming an Ahmadi is that prior to becoming an Ahmadi, they lock you in a room. There they place the Holy Qur'an upon a cupboard. Then they say push the cupboard and shake it, if the Holy Qur'an falls, then consider that you have become a strong and firm Ahmadi.'" These are the misconceptions and fabrications formed. Apart from sending curses upon these

people, what else can we do? They have formed the nation into such fools that they have no capacity left to think on their own.

Anyhow, some accounts were being related with reference to Germany. So in Germany during my stay in Frankfurt, as you would have seen through MTA as well, I attended the Ijtimas of Khuddam, Lajna and Atfal. Through the Grace of Almighty Allah, my decision to go there and to take part in the Ijtimas was infused with profuse blessings of Allah the Almighty. For the first time within the Ijtema, I separately addressed the Atfal according to their level of understanding. Right after, I started receiving letters and feedback from them, that "we will implement the advice and counsel you have imparted, pray that may Allah the Almighty enables us to do this." I also gave the examples of those people, for example, the habit of keeping mobile phones, or sitting permanently in front of the TV or on the Internet, in fact they remain glued in front of the television screen and in front of the internet, so they promised to refrain from this. The actual matter is moderation. Our elders and our children should be aware that even every permissible action should be carried out in moderation, and forbidden and immoral actions should not be carried out in any case. So if this spirit is infused in our youngsters and our children, then the future of these children and youngsters will be safeguarded, and also there will be progress in the collective *Tarbiyyat* (moral training) of the Jama'at as a whole.

Similarly, for the manner in which Khuddam ul Ahmadiyya obeyed me and displayed a positive reaction, may Allah the Almighty Grant them the ability to implement this perpetually and also reward them that they promptly and immediately obeyed what I asked of them.

There was also a very good programme held by the Lajna; I related this previously as well. However, I would like to draw the attention of Lajna there towards a certain matter. In fact, I would like to draw the attention of all the Lajna worldwide to this. With reference to this sermon, one lady wrote to me that in the main hall there was a very good environment. People listened to your sermon attentively and quietly, but in the hall for children, although there was noise emanating from the children as normally occurs to a certain degree, but the ladies, because they were far away from the main hall, were talking profusely. Hence, in the separate marquee or hall that is provided to the ladies who have children with them, they should take care that the children to the maximum extent possible should be kept quiet through gestures, and the women themselves should give attention towards the proceedings. This hall is not given to them so that they sit there gossiping and chattering. For the next time, they should give attention towards this, and the administration should pay a special heed to this.

There were also other functions of the Jamaat held there in Frankfurt. As I said, these will be mentioned in the report (to be published in *Al-Fazl*). This was approximately a two weeks stay there. After this, we left for Norway from Frankfurt. As you would have heard in the Friday Sermon, in Norway, the inauguration of Masjid Nasr took place. *Masha'Allah*, it is a very beautiful mosque. Many people went there from London, and they would have seen the Mosque. It is a very large Mosque. In fact it is not a very large Mosque of only Western Europe, rather I believe after Masjid *Bait ul Futuh*, rather I do

not just believe, I am sure, most certainly after Bait ul Futuh, that mosque is the largest mosque in Europe. The Jamaat there is very small. However, when one looks at this mosque it would appear that the Jamaat there is very large, or that the Jamaat there consists of very wealthy people. However, both these assumptions are incorrect. Neither is there a large Jamaat there, nor are there many wealthy people within the Jama'at Norway. It is only that there was a realisation that needed to occur. When they realised, then they gave attention towards this.

During the era of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV, the Fourth Khalifa (ra), the land for this mosque was purchased. At that time, a hall was made in the shape of a basement. Perhaps they wanted to construct a basement of the mosque at that time. The blueprint was later changed. But anyhow at that time the Markaz gave three or four million Krone, or approximately four or five hundred thousand pounds, to support that project.

Then they were told that they would need to make the mosque with their own resources. In 2003, I drew their attention towards this, and since then reminded them about this, but the Norway Jamaat would do nothing at all. Sometimes one issue would arise and other times some other issue. They pestered me so much that ultimately I said do whatever you may please; make a small mosque if you cannot construct a large one, purchase some other smaller land then. So at one time, the Norwegian Jamaat started pondering selling this plot. Some people advised them that the land should not be sold, but anyhow finally it was decided that it was actually a very suitable area. The road from the city that goes to the airport passes by this mosque and it also it is an elevated area, therefore, they should not sell it is what they believed.

When I went there in 2005, coincidentally, the hall that was provided for the Friday Sermon that I led there was adjacent to this plot. During that sermon, I drew their attention [towards the building of the mosque] at that time that *InshaAllah* (God Enabling) mosques will continue to be constructed in Norway. Not only would one or two mosques be built, but rather, mosques would be built everywhere in this country, because this is the decree of Allah that He is going to spread this Jamaat. However, your future generations, when they will pass by here, they will say that this land, this opportune place, this beautiful area, in one era was acquired by our forefathers, they then lost this, they let it slip from their hands, so fear God somewhat at least. This resolution, this intention that you have undertaken, try to fulfil it. But anyhow, in more or less these words I drew their attention, that before your children, before your future generations establish your own examples, and become the means of becoming the recipient of their prayers. But anyhow, this is the beauty of the Jamaat of the Promised Messiah (as) that they listen to whatever is stated by the Khalifa and they strive to obey him and fulfil (his instructions). There is a passion, fervour and zeal that develops within them. This is why the Promised Messiah (as) stated that 'observing the devotion and sincerity in the Jama'at, even I am astonished at times.'

Anyhow, when the Norwegian Jama'at made a resolution and their eyes opened after they were reminded, then they also established examples of sacrifice. This in itself is a lengthy narrative. I mentioned this somewhat in my Khutba regarding Norway. They made sacrifices of approximately 100 million Krone through which this mosque was

constructed. Some people are not familiar with the [Norwegian] Krone. This would be equivalent to 12 million pounds, not 1.2 million pounds but 12 million pounds. The (total) amount is just above this. As I stated, the people of the Norway Jama'at are not exceptionally rich, but when they were reminded towards the building of the mosque, when their attention was alerted, that what examples were they going to leave behind for their future generations, then they not only displayed a temporary or short term zeal or fleeting passion, in fact, piety passed through their veins, such that is always found in an Ahmadi. If it was just a fleeting passion or temporary zeal, then after a year they would have tired and done nothing. Although times did arrive when the administration became concerned and would write to me. After they were reminded, then again they stopped. But then after sacrifices of five or six years, this largest mosque there, through the Jama'at of only eight or nine hundred people, was constructed.

As I stated, that on the way to the airport, this beautiful mosque is visible. Even the Prime Minister admitted that this mosque is a beautiful addition to this motorway. On a daily basis, approximately 80,000 or 90,000 cars etc. pass through this road which see this mosque. It is said that once somebody has the taste for something then to obtain that he makes every single possible effort. It seems that our Norway Jamaat also developed this taste and this state developed in the majority of the people of the Norway Jamaat. Either the state was such that they searched for excuses for 10 years whether the mosque would be constructed or not. They would present a list of difficulties they were facing. But now, on the other hand, they say that there is another place, there is another city called Kristiansand. The Jamaat there is very small and they say that they would like to build a mosque *there* as well. The cost of building the mosque there is quite high because in Norway expenditure is high. I said to them that you have just completed constructing this mosque, how will you immediately start building a new mosque? But now, *Masha'Allah* they have become so bold that the Aamla and also other people there have personally reassured me that, *InshaAllah* (God enabling) we will construct this mosque; Allah will bestow His Grace on us.

This is the fervour and zeal that is found within an Ahmadi. Once they make a resolution then after that there is no impediment for them. If your intention is pious then all hindrances come to naught, every obstacle is removed. And all of this is not a result of any individual or just a few members of the Jama'at who work wonders. This is actually the favour and bounty of Allah that He infuses his blessings and transforms the state of the hearts of people. This is also the proof of the fulfilment of the promises to the Promised Messiah (as).

Allah the Almighty said to the Promised Messiah (as) "*men whom we shall direct from heaven will help you.*" So when the intentions were pious, when the resolutions were righteous, when attention was given and they gave heed towards prayer to Allah; then God Almighty opened their hearts such that they became always ready to help and they continue to always be ready to provide help. The Promised Messiah (as) said to introduce Islam, construct a mosque. When in order to further this mission and ardent desire of the Promised Messiah (as) there are such people who construct mosques and who worship in them who implement the commands of Allah and His Messenger; then Islam is introduced in such a beautiful manner that the world, witnessing the beauty of Islam they becomes bewildered and astonished. Thus, the members of the Jama'at, in

order to perform a pious act strove to reform themselves. Subsequently, Allah the Almighty infused incredible courage, spirit and also ability to perform the task and Allah the Almighty is also infusing this elsewhere in the world.

This time during my tour, I observed that the members of the Jama'at had greatly increased in their devotion, sincerity and also faith. May Allah Almighty go on always increasing their faith and sincerity and may He continue strengthening the faith and devotion of every Ahmadi.

Norway is amongst those European countries where usually there great need to pay heed towards *Tarbiyyat* (moral issues). There is a lot of inclination towards materialism, however on this occasion after I counseled them, that is the men, the women, the boys and the girls, I saw in their eyes modesty, shame and also regret. I saw a resolution and intention that 'we are going to remove our weaknesses.' In particular in the Waqf-e-nau and the Waqfaat-e-nau when during their class I explained to them what their responsibilities were, the Waqfaat-e-nau and Waqf-e-nau expressed great resolve and they said that they would transform themselves and promised to reform their surrounding society. They also expressed regret and shame that there were any shortcomings in their Purdah, their attire and in their dignity and honour of an Ahmadi girl.

They said that not only would they remove these shortcomings, moreover in both the society of the Jama'at and the external society, they would become role models. May Allah the Almighty grant them the ability to achieve this and may He enable every Ahmadi boy and girl to become a proper role model for Ahmadiyyat, because if our girls and women reform themselves, then this would guarantee the reformation of future generations, because God blesses them as well.

Anyhow in these 5 years in the Norway Jama'at, I have seen great improvement in many respects. The various programmes that were held with non-Muslims in Norway, I shall relate these briefly as well. Before that, I would also like to thank the Norwegian government, who due to the prevailing circumstances in Norway when in July there was an incident that took place there, and also as they may have had prior intelligence - excellent arrangements for security were provided, permanently, in the mosque and wherever I went. May Allah reward them for this.

There, in the parliament house there was a Member of the Parliament who arranged a visit there. Four or five Parliamentarians were also present. There was a small reception also held, the programme there went well. The Parliaments' President, who here is known as the speaker of parliament, his name is Anderson, and I also met him. The opportunity was also attained to introduce him to the Jama'at in great detail. The purpose of the advent of the Promised Messiah (as), the Prophet Muhammad (saw)'s prophecy regarding the Promised Messiah (as), all these things were explained in detail. He then asked "what is the difference between you, Shi'ahs and Sunni's?" Through this other avenues of discussion opened up and in this way the discussion continued.

Similarly, various newspapers, radio and TV channels interviewed me. Norway is a small country. The entire population consists of 5 million people. The circulation of the newspaper that interviewed me is 350,000. The interview was taken in a positive environment, they asked about the purpose of the mosque, the teachings of Islam and also the objectives Jama'at Ahmadiyya.

All these people who asked these questions in the interviews published it in the newspaper, or aired it on radio or showed it on television. Good time was taken up by these interviews. Then they asked about the relationship between the Khalifa and the Jama'at. They also asked me what I had come there for; I provided detailed answers to their questions.

They also witnessed this themselves. When they would leave, they would ask the members of Jama'at about the relationship between the Jama'at and the Khalifa. When they saw that personal and emotional connection with the Khalifa and when that was relayed by them they would become deeply affected by how this is one united Jama'at where the Khalifa and the Jama'at are like one entity. Nonetheless, the remaining discussions were in reference with Muslims. They asked, "what do Muslims believe in and what do you believe in?" and "why do they not allow you to call a mosque, a mosque?" and "why do they not consider you as Muslims?" The details of this will come in the reports that will be published.

In the reception following the inauguration of the mosque, approximately 120 local Norwegians came amongst whom 11 were Parliamentarians. The defense minister of Norway, a lady, came as a representative of the Prime Minister and read out a message on his behalf. Prior to this, discussions had already been held in detail with her, she mentioned that I had said to her previously that I had already sent a message that we can empathise with your feelings because Ahmadis are martyred in the same way.

In the same way, the services of the Jama'at in terms of humanitarian efforts carried out due to a compassion for mankind, educational and medical services; all of these things were introduced in depth. She was astonished that there was a Muslims organisation performing all of this work. Then she said "I have only come for a short time" as she was due to return for about 8.45 pm at night. But what happened was that the speaker who was addressing the gathering before me, he went over his allotted time so my speech began at 8.45pm; yet she remained there calmly. The speech was quite long. I have observed that normally in Scandinavian countries, people are not used to listening to speeches of more than 35-40 minutes. I spoke for about 50 minutes and she listened to this quietly and attentively. After I apologised to her but she said "no, today I felt as if I had used my time appropriately". She also sat and ate food. Where she was due to leave at 8.45 pm, by 9.30 pm she did not even feel like getting up and so many things were discussed there.

In the reception, I spoke with reference to the mosque that the reason for building the mosque is to worship the One God. When people come here to worship the One God then there can be no question whatsoever of any terrorism or any thoughts of disorder or lack of peace occurring within it. There are even organisations in Norway who raise

fierce allegations against the Holy Prophet (saw) and also the teachings of the Holy Qur'an. For this reason I wanted to explain and clarify this to them from the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Prophet (saw)'s life. I explained to them that the anguish and the passion of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) was such, that his nights would be spent in anguish in deep and intense prayer that may Allah the Almighty enable these people to tread the right path and to recognise God. I expounded to them, that if in the heart of the Holy Prophet (saw) any sort of notion to conquer the world existed, he would not have prayed in anguish all night. And that his prayers and anguish at night was not only for the attainment of peace for mankind in this world, it was also for the attainment of peace for mankind in the hereafter as well. These prayers which he performed with such intensity and anguish were for that purport as well. Anyhow, it was an excellent programme with reference to the Holy Quran, and the life of the Holy Prophet (saw), which were explained in great detail. Hence, I explained this in that reception.

Similarly, the President of a county came there. In the Scandinavian countries, all the parties, within Scandinavia, are known by one name. They are all sister parties and they all operate under the same name and they all support each other. So the President was also a member of the current political party, which conversely also has a political party in Sweden.

Nonetheless, he also expressed good viewpoints. He has also attended a Jalsa before. He said "I have already attended one of your Jalsas and Jama'at Ahmadiyya is that one community alone that is presenting the correct picture of Islam today. There is no threat from the Ahmadiyya Community whatsoever and that the Ahmadiyya Community are the true standard bearers of peace."

In the same way, one day we received the message that the former Prime Minister was coming to visit the Mosque and that he also wanted to hold a meeting. Nowadays he is the Head of the Human Rights Commission of Norway. A good and detailed conversation also took place with him regarding the services of the Community and also the treatment extended to the Jama'at worldwide.

It is also quite strange the way we were introduced because of the inauguration of the Mosque. There is an organisation that publishes reports about buildings constructed around the world, World Architecture News. This is online. Monthly, they receive ten or eleven million visits. They also have an E-newsletter. This is sent to a number of people and is emailed to them. They include reports about construction, those who are involved in construction, the students and all the construction agencies all of whom are members of this newspaper. This newspaper and this website published a picture of this mosque, and also news regarding the mosque that this is the largest mosque in Northern Europe; that this has been constructed and that to inaugurate this mosque, the Head of the Ahmadiyya Community has come; that the mosque is a national landmark, has been specially designed and that it is a symbol of peace. Such news was provided. Thus in this way, through introduction of the Mosque I have just mentioned, they also presented a detailed introduction to Islam.

Then there is Syscon media, internet technology and media publishing. They have an important standing and publish technology news. They also provided news about the mosque, with reference to the teachings of Islam and also information about the reception and the inauguration. They gave quite detailed reports about this. In fact, they quoted the Norwegian Defence Minister saying: *In the construction of new Norway, a key role is of religion. This is why we should open our hearts for everybody and we would need to bring everyone together; as we are witnessing here today (in the reception of the mosque). Regardless of the fact that this is not my place of worship, I feel true happiness in the mosque.* Then she also provided details of how I had expressed my condolences on the tragedy that occurred in Norway.

On the way back, we stopped at Hamburg from Norway. There as well two Parliamentarians came to meet me. They hold good standing in Parliament and they work with relation to human rights. I spoke to them in quite some detail. I told them what human rights are. I also asked them a question, after some time he replied that "this question you have posed to me I have not prepared an answer for it." After, I explained how true peace can be established in the world and what the teachings of the Qur'an are in this regard. I also explained the actions of certain Western countries. Later, when they left, they told the Ahmadi friends who had brought them that "he [Hudhud] has given us a new perspective regarding peace in the world. Now I will reflect on this and we can come to know how peace can be established in the world and what means should be adopted and what we should refrain from doing."

I said to them openly that on the one hand, those powers which are proclaiming peace are the same powers also providing weapons to others, to those countries that are at war. Peace cannot be established in this way. Then on the pretext of peace, you people are going on performing cruelties and oppressing others. There are the examples of Libya and so on and so forth, but anyhow he understood to some extent. Then I said the teaching of the Qur'an is that once peace has been established, you should leave, you should not engage in seeking revenge or attaining personal vested interests. So this is the beautiful teaching of the Holy Qur'an, if you act upon it then peace can be established in the world otherwise it will not be established. Anyhow, he comprehended this to some degree. He said I will reflect on this and convey what you have said to my vicinities.

Then, one day we stopped at the city in Denmark, Nakskov. We have a Jama'at comprising of Albanian and Bosnian Ahmadis, who make up approximately 100% of the Jama'at. No Pakistanis are there in the Jama'at, I believe. So it was my desire that I should go there. It is a Jama'at of great devotion and loyalty. There were many benefits of going there because there were some *Tarbiyyat* problems that I came to know of. Some people there are so devoted and sincere that one becomes astonished. Although I had not met them or seen them before, but from the children to the elders, I met all of them. This proved to be of great benefit. We spent one night there. There is a centre there which the Jama'at purchased some time ago. Congregational and the Friday prayers are undertaken there. That centre has been given the shape of a mosque.

The deputy mayor, who represented the mayor, was present there and also some other well-educated people also came to meet me. There I said that if we were provided land to build a purpose-built mosque, then we would build that. So they have promised, that is the mayor, that there is no reason why we should not give you the land, because we have now come to know that your community is a peaceful Jama'at. This is that same city where a few months previously, that centre, which had been made into the shape of a mosque of ours, the local people opposed to Islam came and painted graffiti and also threw some rubbish there. The local administration and the police supported us to quite some degree. So there is opposition present there, but despite this, through the Grace of Almighty Allah, the message of Ahmadiyyat, the message of Islam that is, is being propagated and the well-educated and the intellectual section of the people are realising that Ahmadiyyat is presenting that picture of Islam which is the true picture of Islam and is the peaceful Islam. And this is providing great benefit. Also, during the tours, when newspapers publish the reports of the Jama'at etc. then this also spreads the message further.

In the same way, on the way back in Brussels, Belgium, I was enabled to lay the foundation stone for the first mosque, Baitul Majeed. *InshaAllah* (God willing), I hope that this will be completed within one year or even earlier than that. A beautiful and good mosque is being built and this will be the first mosque of Belgium. There as well, various parliamentarians, and also the local mayor, came. In this area we have a mission house. The local mayor also came there. Other parliamentarians expressed good sentiments. There were also representatives of other political parties. All of them praised the Jama'at's programmes and also the teachings of the Jama'at most profusely.

In fact, after, the mayor expressed his sentiments. He said first of all provide me with photos and DVDs of the entire proceedings and the function. He said that these beautiful teachings of peace of Jama'at Ahmadiyya and also this mosque, I would like to show to the council and the public. And I would like to show them that in our vicinity there is also a beautiful Mosque and the beginnings of peace should thus be started. So he also stated that my address to them he wanted the proceedings of and he wanted to publish that on the council's website.

Fawad Hayder Sahib who is Moroccan was also there. He is a Muslim and is a member of the Brussels Parliament. He also expressed his sentiments and he stated that the Muslims of the world have no future whatsoever without Khilafat. He also stated the following regarding me: *your sentiments and the message of peace and affection of Jama'at Ahmadiyya I, without distinction will certainly present to my professional friends and also others whether they are Muslims or of any other faith.* In fact, he asked our missionary to come and meet him this week. He has come and met me before and he is sincere and honest man and he has very good connections with the Jamaat. He is very courageous and outspoken person. He expresses his views openly.

Through the Grace of Almighty Allah through my visits the attention of the newspapers is drawn. The attention of the politicians and also the leaders is also attracted. And also other senior people's attention is drawn. So there are many benefits but still these are

just our efforts; the real fruits are actually going to be provided by Allah. May Allah allow these fruits to continue to be provided.

A mayor of an area was there. He said I am extremely delighted to take part in this function. He stated that today a Minister of education of Youth Pascal Smith, was to come to my city for an official visit, and as a Mayor it was necessary for me to be there but I believe at this historical occasion when the Khalifatul Messih has come here then it is most important for me to come and partake in this function and subsequently I have come to partake in this function in front of you. May Allah the Almighty reward him.

Then the deputy Mayor and the councillor of a certain area said because I extended my support and compliance for Jamaat Ahmadiyya to construct this Mosque; therefore, after listening to the speech of Khalifatul Messih I am extremely happy and I say firmly that my decision to help and support and comply with the Jama'at was completely correct, and I was extremely delighted to hear from Khalifatul Masih that this mosque is not only a mosque, but that this mosque will be a symbol of peace and affection for the public here.

Therefore, in every respect this tour was a blessed one. Allah the Almighty infused profuse blessings into this tour. In Belgium, one section that is against Islam; a few days prior they spread profuse literature against the Mosque for this mosque not to be built. But they also set a date to carry out a precession or rally. Two days before the procession took place, on Saturday the foundation stone was laid, and on Thursday the procession occurred. There were only a small amount of people that took part in the procession, very few people gave regard to that. Allah the Almighty transformed the atmosphere such, that the concerns of the administration there, they were completely abated. But anyhow this is all the favour and bounty of Allah the Almighty.

The Promised Messiah (as) states: *"Our efforts are like child's play, neither can we remove the filth from the hearts of people that is spread in the entire world, nor can we infuse the love of God in their hearts. Neither can we cause mutual brotherhood and love to occur between them through which they can all become like one united entity. This is the work of Allah. Allah the Almighty referring to the companions of Prophet Mohammed (saw) and addressing Prophet Mohammed (saw) saying that;*

هُوَ الَّذِي أَيَّدَكُ بِنَصْرٍ وَبِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ * وَأَلْفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِهِمْ لَوْلَا نَفَقَتْ مَا فِي الْأَرْضِ جَمِيعًا مَا أَلْفَتَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِهِمْ

وَلَكِنَّ اللَّهَ أَلْفَ بَيْنَهُمْ إِنَّهُ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ

That God, who through His help and through His believers supported you and who developed such love in their hearts and if you spent all the wealth of the world you will not be able to foster such love still, but Allah the Almighty infused this love in their hearts, He is the God of Power and God of Wisdom. That God who performs this work before, He can carry out this work again. We have trust in this. Those works which are destined to occur are infused with the spirit of God, just as a Gardener waters his garden and that becomes a fresh and lush garden, similarly the movement of the Chosen One, Allah provides it with progress and also freshness. That sect that is formed through human endeavours within a

few days schisms and divisions occurs within them; they progress just for few days but then eventually they stagnate day by day, they vanish because their basis is on human thoughts."

Thus, this is a Community of God, this will progress and this is to continuing to advance. May Allah grant us the ability to carry out what ever trivial and menial efforts we perform, so that we can also partake in this blessing, *Amin*. May Allah the Almighty infuse our endeavours with blessings and also display to us the scenes of progress and advancement, *Amin*.

After the Friday prayers I will lead a funeral prayer in absentia. Khurshid Begum Sahiba, wife of Chaudary Ghulam Qadir Sahib of Sialkot passed away on 4th October;

إِنَّا لِهُ رَاجِعُونَ

Surely to Allah we belong and to Him shall we return.

She served as Sadr Lajna Kheewa Bajwa, Zilla Sialkot for a long time. She would regularly perform the *Tahajjud* prayers. She was also strict in performing the Formal Prayers. She also recited the Holy Quran regularly. She would ensure that her children perform the prayers and also recite the Holy Qur'an. She always made efforts in this regard. She was also a *Moosi*.

One of her sons, Mohammed Iqbal sahib who is missionary in Madagascar, was unable to attend the funeral, so I will lead her funeral prayer in absentia, *InshaAllah* (God enabling) after the Friday prayers.

May Allah the Almighty elevate the rank of the deceased. *Amin*"