



# Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى

**By Ataul Mujeeb Rashed**  
**Imam of the London Mosque**  
(Translated from Urdu by Mrs Shermeen Butt)

It is certainly not an easy task to attempt to write about the personality and the blessed life of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى. In bestowing His grace in an exclusive way on Huzur, Allah the Exalted had blessed him with tremendous brilliance and a supremely courteous nature. So, it is midst some concern that one picks up his pen to write about Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, wondering from where to find fitting words that would do justice to such a personality.

Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى was indeed unique. The likeness of his magnitude comes around rarely; a sacred figure that history shall never forget. In private, he was a most charming and delightful individual and as a Khalifa he was a person of extraordinary stature and historic significance. His auspiciousness and blessed achievements shall continue to impress and enlighten the world for a long time. He came and brought incalculable blessings and grace with him.

He lived life to the fullest. The Love of God was the sustenance for his soul; The love of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم was fused in his being; he was passionately committed to Islam and had adoration for the Holy Qur'an. A Khalifa with physical and spiritual



**Above:** A Question and Answer session in Germany

connection with the Promised Messiah on whom be peace, his persona bore the most prominent and luminous imprints of the blessed life of the Holy Prophet ﷺ and the Promised Messiah عليه السلام. He was a glorious commander of Islam, who served Ahmadiyyat sacrificing his entire being in its service and propagation. He spent his days and nights enlightening the world with knowledge and erudition thus illuminating sources of guidance. He was most magnanimous in his love for one and all and his love continues to illumine each Ahmadi's heart.

Thus, spending his days and nights in serving Islam and expending each and every particle of his being in this sacred cause, this chosen man of God, having been blessed with the eternal treasure of Nafse Mutmainnah (soul at rest) met his Maker. His affectionate memories are indeed unforgettable, it would never be possible to chronicle his services in a satisfactory manner, and the sphere of the worthy inferences of his beneficence will continue to grow. Although he has physically departed from this world, yet by virtue of his great achievements his is an eternal spiritual life. With reference to his magnificent, historic services and their lasting global effect, his name shall live forever. His love will live forever in the hearts of those who loved him and he shall continued to be remembered:

زندہ جاوید آقا! رحمتیں تجھ پر مدام  
جا کے بھی جانے نہ والے! برکتیں تجھ پر مدام

**Your glorious memories**

**My ceaseless treasure, my master!**

**Eternal blessings on you**

**O you who has departed**

**Yet, has not quite left us!**

**Eternal benedictions on you!**

(A Poem by Ataul Mujeeb Rashed)

Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ migrated to Britain from Pakistan in 1984 arriving in London on 30th April 1984 and it was on 19th April 2003 that he met His Maker. The period of migration was thus nineteen years. With Allah's immense grace and blessing, I had the opportunity to closely serve dearest Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ for this entire period with humble devotion. My very soul is filled with a sense of profound gratitude for this great favour of Allah. I do not have the words to thank Allah, I am tongue-tied with deep gratitude and my pen does not have the capacity to articulate what my heart feels!

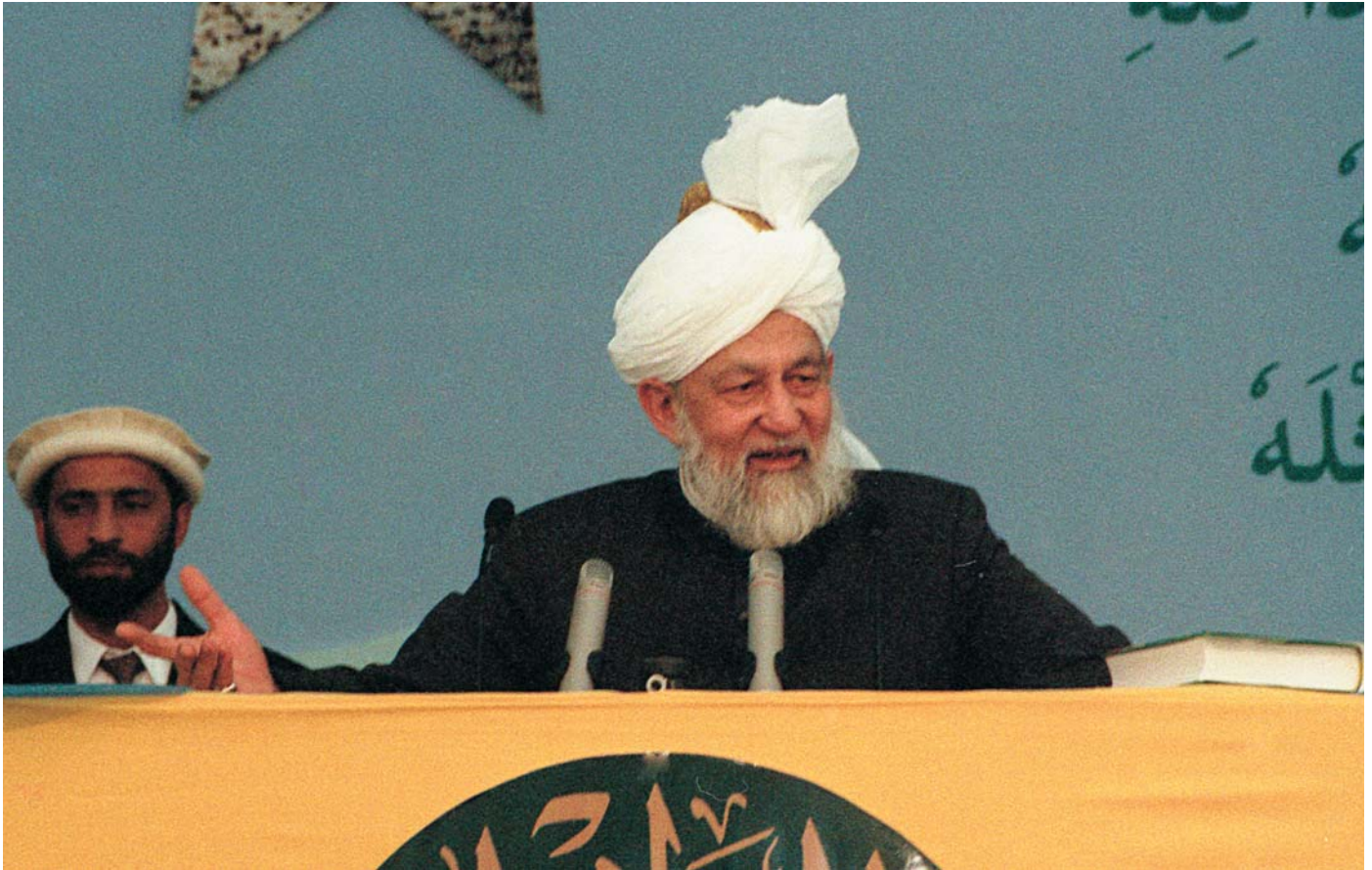
وہ زباں لاؤں کہاں سے جس سے ہو یہ کاروبار

**From where do I bring the tongue that would serve this purpose!**

(Duree Sameen)

He was a resolute and historic Khalifa; one who will be remembered by generations to come till the end of time. To spend one's life under the auspices of such a sacred Khalifa is such a privilege that worldly honours should be sacrificed for it! It was an additional favour of Allah that I was enabled to see Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ very





Above: Jalsa Salana UK

closely, I observed his supreme courtesy, was present at his Majalis-e-Irfan and had the privilege to carry out tasks in compliance with Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى instructions. I was always conscious of my deficiencies and lack of inclination and many a time was acutely embarrassed at my weaknesses, but how charming was the master that he always encompassed it all in his discretion, his consolation and delight. He was always most loving and affectionate; overlooking each mistake and error and fondly appreciating each trivial endeavour and service.

### Genius

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was a genius; a being that was one of a kind in the world. Volumes will be written about his life, his services and his noble attributes and this spiritually inspiring account will thus continue to rouse hearts. I too wish to share with everyone what I saw, heard and observed for this faith-inspiring chronicle is our commonwealth. To begin with, I shall relate some assorted incidences; these are like some flowers that have been picked in no particular order. Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى life indeed was like a bouquet of flowers, rather it was like a beautiful, enchanting garden that was ever fragrant with his supreme propriety and decorum.

### Divine assistance

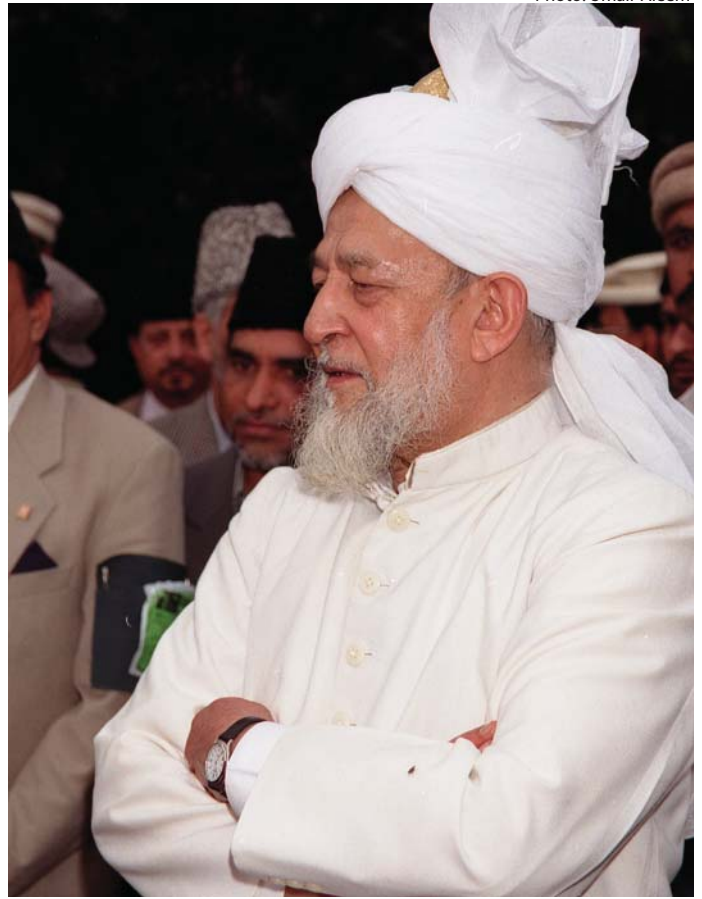
Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى entire life was spent in the shelter of Divine assistance. Every step of the way Allah provided succour and protection to Huzur, guiding him at each difficult phase in his life. Perhaps the most difficult point in Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى life was his migration from Pakistan to Britain. He travelled the long journey of

Rabwah to Karachi by road; these were extremely sensitive times when the enemy was on the lookout with spies waylaying all along. It was as if at each stage of this journey angels guarded him. Each danger was averted and despite their utmost efforts, the enemy was not able to get hold of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. Let alone catch him, the unapprised enemy could not even know till the very end as to when Huzur رحمه الله تعالى left Rabwah, which route he took, when and how he reached Karachi and then from Karachi airport, in his usual way, in his familiar clothes, using his own passport he negotiated the entire departure procedure miraculously unhampered and unchallenged.

This is how, with Allah's help, he reached his destination safely. The enemy, with all the worldly resources at its disposal came to know about his departure from Pakistan only when he had reached London. This journey of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى is reminiscent of the Holy Prophet's صلى الله عليه وسلم migration to Medina. It was after learning of this extraordinary account of Divine assistance and discovering about other astonishing narratives of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى life that his British biographer, who is a Christian, chose to entitle the book 'A Man of God'. Indeed he was a great man of God; utterly devoted in the love of God, one who was a beloved of God himself, one who received Divine beneficence every step of the way.

### Allah's help

I shall now present an example of how Allah's help and guidance was bestowed on Huzur رحمه الله تعالى on every occasion. When Huzur رحمه الله تعالى first migrated to London, he did not have a regular



**Above:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ with the late Aftab Ahmad Khan Sahib Ameer Jama'at UK, and Maulana Ataul Mujeeb Rashed Imam of the London Mosque and Missionary Incharge UK. **Right:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ at Jalsa

private secretary. Allah granted this privilege to this humble one in that for about one month I was enabled to take instructions from Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ and implement them or have others implement them. About two days after Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ arrival, a representative of the Urdu section of BBC World Service rang and asked to interview Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ. I asked him what would be the duration of the interview and he replied that their popular programme 'Sairbeen' is twelve minutes long and they could give three to four minutes of this time to Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ interview. I told him that this time length was most inadequate but he insisted on this duration. When I presented his request to Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ his first question was how long would the interview be. As soon as I told him, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ said to decline the offer and apologise. When the phone call came the next day, I made a suitable apology, at which he kept silent. I then added that although I had conveyed Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ message to him, but my personal opinion was that if they wished to interview Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ they should at the very least give the full twelve minutes to Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ so that he could answer their questions in some detail. I did add that this was my personal view and perhaps they could think about it. In response he repeated that it was not possible for them to give more time. The next day he rang again and said that after further intensive consideration they had decided if 'Hadhrat Mirza Sahib' agreed to the interview, they would dedicate the complete twelve minutes, that is the entire duration of the programme 'Sairbeen' to

him. I told him that I would pass on his message to Huzur. When I conveyed the message to Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ, he smiled and said with delight that he had thought that it would be right if they could give this much time. An appointment was made for him to come to the London Mosque the next day and he arrived at the exact time.

The meeting took place in the library, adjacent to Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ residence. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ met him with great cordiality, telling him that he felt he knew the journalist in an unseen way for he had often heard his voice on the radio but was seeing him in person that day. After tea the reporter felt that although he had brought the recording equipment, the library was not completely silent, so if Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ approved he could visit the BBC studios and that way the quality of recording would be very good. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ agreed without hesitation. Before departing he said that he would mention the questions that he had thought of asking. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ replied that he could do so if he wanted to and asked me to note down the questions. He gave me the questions in Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ presence, which I quickly took down. The interview was fixed for the next day in the afternoon.

On the following day I presented the questions that I had now neatly written to Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ, who had a quick look at the paper and returned it to me. In the afternoon, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ went to the BBC studios as planned with a few Khuddam. Amongst the BBC representatives, were some Urdu-speaking Englishmen who greeted Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ. One of them introduced himself as the person in-charge of the BBC Overseas Service and said that although Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ had come to give an Urdu interview his request was that Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ also give an interview in English.





Above: Jalsa Salana UK

Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ accepted this request and said that he wished to give the English interview first. This interview was recorded off the cuff and lasted about twenty minutes. After this Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ came to the Urdu Section and went to the studios for the interview. There was a large table in the studio with two microphones in the middle, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ sat on one side and the Urdu service interviewer on the other. There was a glass partition in the studio from behind which we could sit and hear and look at the proceedings. After some opening talk the interview began. I was amazed when the first question was asked because it was not among the questions that were given the day before and were still in my pocket. The second question was different as well and so was the third. In short all the questions asked were different from the ones given the day before. I was quite amazed at this situation and a little worried as well, although I was most grateful to Allah, due to the precise, specific, and forceful replies that Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was giving.

I remember one question was on the lines that if the government of Pakistan has legally declared you as non-Muslim why don't you simply accept this. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ gave a detailed and powerful reply to this in which he also mentioned that this was on par with someone saying to a decent person that he considered him a dog rather than a man and since he had now called him a dog, it was incumbent on that person to consider himself a dog and start barking. This befitting reply by Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was received most popularly in Pakistan. At the end of the interview Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ got up and came out. At this an Urdu-speaking English officer drew the interviewer's attention to a question he had forgotten to ask. Apologising, he requested Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ to return to the studio,

Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ obliged. This extra question too was not from those given the day before!

Before getting in the car to return home Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ called me, touched me on the shoulder and most graciously said, 'you remember the questions he mentioned yesterday?' I replied in the affirmative and that the paper was still in my pocket. Moreover, I was amazed that he had not asked even one of those questions and had asked entirely new questions. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ replied, 'Exactly, that is what has happened; however I am delighted that he asked me different questions. The fact is I wanted him to ask me the very questions, which he did today. This has turned out very well indeed!' I was amazed to hear this from Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ, wondering at the extraordinary way in which Allah had conferred His help and the interviewer had asked the exact questions that Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ had wanted him to ask. This is not the normal way of press representatives; normally they ask the pre-arranged questions, maybe adding a question here and there. This situation was most extraordinary, but as it was revealed later it was a source of enhancing one's faith that behind this sudden change was the focus of a man of God and Divine help.

### Extraordinary knowledge

Allah had conferred upon Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ extraordinary knowledge, discernment and sagacity. He was a masterful and a dynamic orator. His speech and manner of delivery had a mesmeric quality to it. His highbrow writings and thousands

of Question and Answer assemblies held by him were a testimonial of his vast erudition. Allah had endowed Huzur رحمه الله تعالى with an exclusive dexterity to give replies that would reduce the objections of the opponents to silence in these assemblies. There were numerous instances of this great quality of his in the Question and Answer assemblies. I shall relate one such example here.

A few years after Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى arrival in Britain, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Society of Cambridge University invited Huzur رحمه الله تعالى for a lecture, which Huzur رحمه الله تعالى graciously accepted. The lecture was entitled, 'Jesus Christ in the Holy Quran'. I was privileged to work under Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى guidance to prepare some notes for the lecture. On the day Huzur رحمه الله تعالى went to Cambridge with a few Khuddam, including this humble one. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى delivered a comprehensive and in-depth speech on this important subject in English and in a most articulate style detailed the Quranic statements about Jesus on whom be peace. Towards the end of the speech Huzur رحمه الله تعالى also mentioned Jesus on whom be peace escaping the cross, migrating to Kashmir and dying a natural death and referred to verse 51 of Surah Al-Mu'minun. He reasoned that the verse refers to Jesus on whom be peace and his mother Hadhrat Maryum may Allah be pleased with her being given a refuge at a safe place at a time of great danger.

After this eloquent and scholarly speech the audience were invited to ask questions. Among the audience a few Arab students seemed to have an air of confidence about their linguistic prowess of Arabic and their tenor was that as Arabic was their language no non-Arab could have a better knowledge of the language than them. This is the nuance with which a young man stood up to ask a question,

rather made an objection that in the Arabic words:

أَوَيْنَهُمَا

'aawa inna humaa' (*We rescued both of them*) of the Qur'anic verse 23:51, Jesus on whom be peace and Hadhrat Maryam may Allah be pleased with her are not referred to, rather the reference is only made to Hadhrat Maryam may Allah be pleased with her at the time when she was expecting Jesus on whom be peace and that the verse referred to an event that took place long before the crucifixion. He said that the reference was about Hadhrat Maryum may Allah be pleased with her going from a hazardous place to another and that it was not a reference to the migration to Kashmir.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى dealt with this question in a most imposing and spirited manner, he first disproved the objector by citing the historical perspective and then with reference to the idiom of Arabic language said that in Arabic the term 'aawa inna humaa' is used for two people and not for a pregnant lady with child. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said with complete conviction and certainty that in Arabic the plural-tense is not used for a pregnant lady; he challenged the objector in that Arab linguists would never use this turn of phrase. That was some spectacle! There was this objector who, over-confident of his Arabic lingual prowess, had objected insolently but a non-Arab man of God whose reasoning totally silenced the brash objector. This was a most inspirational manifestation of the greatness of the theological scholarship presented by the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى tremendous power of reasoning.

Photo: Umair Aleem



Above: Jalsa Salana UK





**Above:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ in an affectionate embrace

### **Love and Affection**

It did not end here. As the objector stood there dumbfounded, not able to say anything in his defence, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ adopted another tactic to further reinforce his point. In the audience sat an Egyptian language expert, a sincere Ahmadi, Mustapha Sahbit Sahib. Directly addressing him, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ said, 'You are Egyptian and are an expert of Arabic language, please tell us do Arabic scholars and linguists use the plural-tense for a pregnant woman?' Mustapha Thabit Sahib stood up, all eyes in the hall turned to him, wondering what the Egyptian scholar was going to say. Everyone believed that his testimony would strengthen Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ forceful reasoning and the point would be proven. Mustapha Thabit Sahib gently replied, 'Yes Huzur, Arabs do that.' This response stunned the audience, in particular the Ahmadi people. They were astounded that an Arab scholar had given testimony contrary to Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ stance. While everyone was still in a state of shock, Mustapha Thabit Sahib completed his reply after a pause, '...if they are ignorant and uninformed of Arabic.' A roar of laughter followed this reply and the Ahmadis were much relieved! This most excellent and sagacious style of response certainly silenced the objector for the rest of the event.

Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was an embodiment of love and affection. This most beautiful aspect of his blessed nature was manifested at every step of his entire life. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ maintained such a bond of great love and affection with every member of the Community that each Ahmadi is a living testimony to this fact. There is probably not a single Ahmadi today who did not partake of this great love and affection directly or indirectly. There are hundreds and thousands of those who got to, as it were, plunder this wealth of love yet this treasure trove of love never diminished! This great love emanated from the love of God and was thus everlasting. Even today when this beloved person has passed away, the memories of his love and affection are alive in each Ahmadi's heart. His fond memory brings tears to the eyes. Love begets love. Dearest Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ love had filled the hearts of Ahmadis with love. The tears that one sheds for his love are indeed a testimony to his tremendous love. By virtue of his everlasting love and affection, this sacred person shall indeed live forever!

The series of individual/family mulaqats that started during the Fourth Khilafat were one of a kind. On the appointed day of the mulaqat a sense of delight would begin from early morning in the

family home. Children would wait eagerly for the time of mulaqat. Once the mulaqat was over, people would come out elated; having gathered a deep sense of satisfaction and delight from the meeting, the memories of which would then be relished for a long time. Those few moments of the mulaqat would encompass lifetime's happiness. I have seen this spectacle numerous times myself; people emerging from the mulaqat room beaming with delight, tears of adoration and happiness rolling down their faces. Photographs taken during these mulaqats today adorn Ahmadi houses. Looking at these photographs, it seems as if the source of this most loving and affectionate beneficence is still around. So great and tremendous was his love for everyone that each person really assumed as if they were the favoured one. I have tried to put this across as follows:

”مجھ سے ہی پیار وہ کرتا ہے“ یہ تھا سب کو گماں  
اس کا پیار ایسا تھا ہر دل میں بسا رہتا تھا

***'His love is exclusively mine' each person would imagine!  
Such was his love that it inhabited each and every heart!***

(A Poem by Ataul Mujeeb Rashed)

This boundless sea of love certainly had no dearth of precious pearls! I shall relate one episode as an example. The Ahmadiyya Community commemorated the completion of its first century with a great sense of gratitude to Allah midst an amazing spiritual ambience. The Community issued various commemorative

souvenirs at this occasion; among them were colourful balloons with the Jubilee logo imprinted on them. Once during those days, as Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ came out of the London Mosque after Asr Salat he saw a little boy, around three years old, playfully happy as he hung by the railings of the boundary wall. When Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ passed the boy he waved and said Assalamoalaikum to him. Huzur answered him, and as he came nearer the little boy asked, 'Huzur do you have a balloon?' Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ smiled, realising that this was not a question, rather a sweet demand. Perhaps in order to see how the boy would react, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ replied, 'Yes I do.' The boy came down from the railing and very casually asked, 'Huzur can I have a balloon?' Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ said yes he could. On this the boy held Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ hand and eagerly started walking along. This was a most pleasing sight, an innocent little boy having become the object of his beloved master's love and affection walked with him to his office. Huzur v took the boy to his office where he always had a supply of chocolates in his desk drawer to give to children. Let me mention here that it was Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ custom to give a gift of chocolate to all the children who came for mulaqat. Often this would consist of two packets of chocolate. But it was not just children who received chocolates from Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ, unmarried visitors also received them. This was Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ unique interpretation, in his eyes anyone who was not married was considered a child. Those young people who were about to be married would be affectionately told by Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ to receive their last gift of chocolate from him!

So Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ took the little boy to his office, opened his desk

**Above:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ at a dinner for VIP guests during Jalsa Salana UK





drawer and gave the boy a balloon, which he took most keenly. Then, in his innocence he made another demand, 'Huzur can you blow air in it?' One can only guess how much Huzur رحمه الله تعالى must have enjoyed this spontaneity of the child. It was the marvel of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى love and affection that children could say these things to their compassionate master in such a candid manner. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى sent for some string and most graciously filled the balloon with air, tied on the string and handed the other end of the string to the child. As was his custom, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى also gave the little boy some chocolates, which he held in his other hand. How fortunate was this little boy that he emerged from Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى office with packets of chocolate in one hand and a balloon in the other!

### Helping the persecuted

During the height of trouble in the Balkans, when severe brutality was taking place in Bosnia and the innocent Bosnians were forced to leave their motherland and take refuge in other countries, a huge number of Bosnians came to Britain. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had urged prayers for them and had instructed to help the persecuted, victimised people as much as possible, purely with the objective of human kindness and no other motive. In compliance with this, Ahmadi's worldwide gave full support and help to these persecuted people in their own countries. With Allah's grace, in Britain too, the Ahmadi's were enabled to be of great service in this respect.

The Luton Jama'at was at the forefront of this. Once a member of this Jama'at brought a group of Bosnian friends to the London Mosque. A special programme was organised at this occasion and a dinner was arranged for these distraught honoured guests. They

were given a tour of the Fazl Mosque. The concluding part of the programme was the most significant, a mulaqat with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. The Bosnian group was all male and they met with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى in his office. Turn by turn Huzur رحمه الله تعالى embraced them all, warmly shook their hands and generally made them feel welcome with great love and affection. All of them sat on chairs facing Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. These were early winter days and some Bosnians were not adequately dressed for the weather. Many had visible injury marks on their arms and faces. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked them a little about the persecution they had endured. He encouraged them and advised them never to forget their homeland, to maintain Islamic values and to protect themselves from the ill effects of the bad atmosphere. Huzur told them that no matter how dire their financial situation got, they should always give something in the way of Allah so that Allah may keep on blessing them. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى counselled them in a most affectionate way and they listened to him attentively. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said that the brothers should be given some monetary help. This was quickly arranged and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى gave them envelopes with gifts of cash with his blessed hand midst his sincere prayers for them. He then asked them to wait, saying that he would return shortly and then he left the room to go upstairs to his residence. I imagined that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had perhaps gone to get some sweetmeat or some other food. I did however wonder why Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had not sent any Khadim for the task. It was while I was still wondering that the door opened and we all saw a most incredible sight! Huzur رحمه الله تعالى entered the office carrying bundles of clothes; there were so many clothes that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى could barely carry them in both his arms. It was with great affection that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى then distributed these clothes among all the Bosnian brothers and asked them to put them on. They all immediately donned the clothes;



Shahid Abbass



**Above:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ holds cuttings from the clothes of the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام

**Left:** Kings attend the Jalsa.

some exchanged the clothes amongst themselves according to their sizes. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ looked on most affectionately and was delighted at their need being fulfilled. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ again got up and saying he would return shortly went upstairs again. After a while when Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ returned he was carrying a lot of clothes, with him were one of his grandsons, a granddaughter and a son-in-law carrying more clothes. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ gave these clothes to those brothers. Apart from a few items, all these clothes were from Huzur's personal wardrobe; the best woollen coats, valuable sweaters, etchkan (long coat), woollen hats, shirts and new socks. As Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ gave all this away to the brothers I looked on in amazement at the great good fortune of the Bosnians that they had received these new and barely used clothes in excellent condition from the blessed hands of Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ. How sacred and blessed were these clothes that belonged to the Khalifa of the 'Imam of the age,' who had been informed by God that:

بادشاہ تیرے کپڑوں سے برکت ڈھونڈیں گے

**"Kings shall seek blessings from your garments"**

I thought that Allah's decree had brought these victimised brothers on par with kings and they had been given these blessings. The

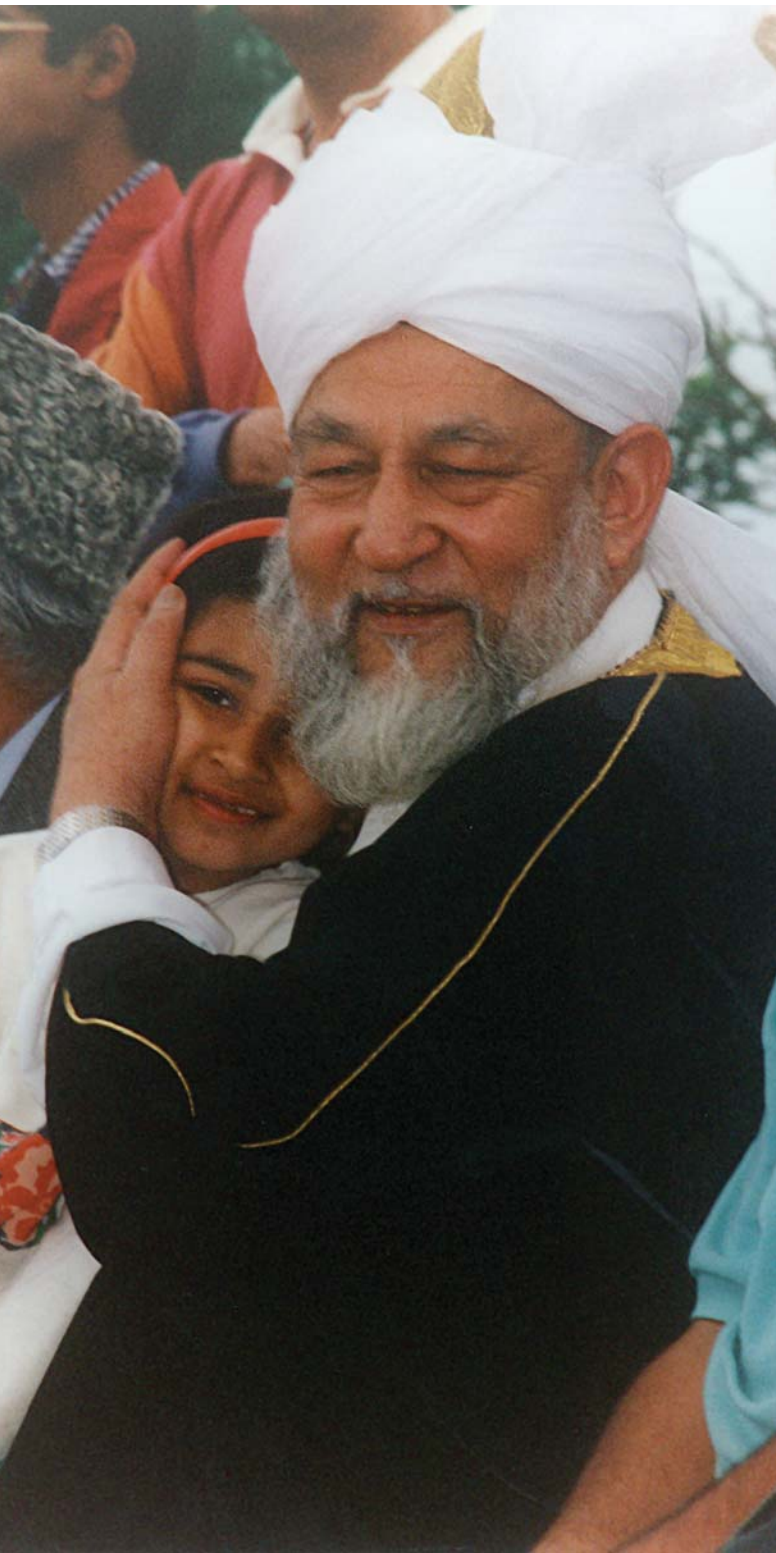
faces of the Bosnian brothers were beaming with happiness at this time and Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ face too had a glow of satisfaction and of gratitude in that he was enabled to meet the needs of disadvantaged brothers. The Bosnian brothers expressed their gratitude and Huzur simply did not want to hear any of it. This faith-inspiring sight that I beheld that day is imprinted on my mind forever. This gathering concluded in a most emotional manner. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ once again embraced all of them and bade farewell to them with loving prayers. These fortunate 'kings' left Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ office attired in the blessed clothes of the Khalifa of the day!

I cannot but mention one point here. This is that it is as if this is a trust that I have held and it is essential that I honour it now by relating it. That day Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ gave his clothes to the brothers in such abundance that I believe his winter wardrobe would have been emptied. This impression of mine is corroborated by the fact that for about two months after that day Huzur wore the same etchkan every day that he had worn on that day. The memory of this incident moves me to tears even today. Rahemahulla ho Ta'ala wa jaza hu Allaho ahsanal jaza.

#### **His Personality**

Allah the Exalted granted our beloved master Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ a charming personality. His life was replete with lofty ethics and Allah had bestowed upon him so many qualities that whoever met with him would be enchanted by his charismatic personality. Meeting him once would draw one to his spiritually inspiring company time and again. Such was his captivating charm





**Above:** Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى love for children

that people from within the Community as well as from outside would be in wonder of his personality. The Ahmadis simply adored him; they were absorbed in a passionate love for their beneficent master, whilst being utterly devoted to him and quite rightly too! For Allah had conferred on them a most affectionate and prayerful master in the person of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى who would share all their sorrow and grief and his encompassing love had become a part of their existence.

From among the attributes that Allah had bestowed on this blessed person, one was his sense of global communication. In His Perfect Power, Allah had invested Huzur رحمه الله تعالى with the dignity of the office of the Khilafat at a time when means of communication had greatly advanced. Utilising all these resources, he formed a widespread rapport with the Community spread in the four corners of the earth. A rapport that was truly unique. The Khalifa of the day is a nucleus for the entire Community and each member of the Community wishes to be connected and linked to him like an appendage. However, sometimes physical distances come in the way and this connection becomes very limited and difficult. In the current era, Allah the Exalted granted us exceptional expansion within these resources and the Ahmadiyya Community fully benefited from these means of communication.

One way to communicate with the Khalifa of the day is through letters and this has been prevalent from the beginning. During the fourth Khilafat the Community expanded most extraordinarily in terms of numbers. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had made particular arrangements for each letter to be replied individually in a personal and intimate style rather than in a formal way. He would try and reply to his letters in the same language that they were written in. For this he had set up and organised a complete operational system.

Another facility that was rarely accessible beforehand was direct telephonic communication. The arrangement of mulaqats (audience with Huzur) was so widespread that in my observation there is hardly an Ahmadi who came to see Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and was not given the privilege of a mulaqat. Even during various other engagements, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would make an exception to the rule and graciously grant people the privilege of a mulaqat. Men, women and children of the entire Community abundantly partook from this beneficence. The profusion with which the arrangement of mulaqats carried on during the fourth Khilafat was a reflection of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى extraordinary affection and love.

In this era the facility of communicating via fax had also brought people of the Community very close to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. When faced with grief or difficulty, an Ahmadi living in far off corners of the earth would promptly request Huzur رحمه الله تعالى for prayers via fax and would receive the blessing of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى prayer instantly. This facility to communicate with the Khalifa of the day is a great blessing of Allah that Ahmadis living far and wide are taking full advantage of.

Another feature of communication on a global scale was that after his migration from Pakistan to Britain Huzur رحمه الله تعالى toured various countries to such an extent that is unparalleled in the history of Ahmadiyyat. In particular, around the centenary year of Ahmadiyyat he toured all the major countries of the world. Thus those helpless and powerless people, who due to financial and other restraints could not present themselves to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, were granted the privilege of mulaqat by Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى visits to those countries.

Fortunate indeed were those deceased eminent Ahmadis and those who had sacrificed their lives for Ahmadiyyat and are now

buried in far off countries that even they were not deprived of mulaqat with the Khalifa of the day. During these tours Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى graciously visited the graves of these valiant men and made them the recipients of his prayers. This took place in Sierra Leone and in Mauritius. Envious indeed are these esteemed people that they were granted the nearness and the prayers of the Khalifa of the day even at their eternal resting places!

The greatest source of communication indeed was MTA, through which as if, Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى graced each Ahmadi's living room. Day and night, through sermons, Question and Answer sessions and various other programmes the blessed sound of Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى voice could be heard in Ahmadi homes.

#### ***A child's love for his Khalifa***

Young children too were deeply in love with this beloved master. Seeing his blessed face on TV they would jump with joy, innocently calling him 'Hajoor' in their childlike lisp. The closeness to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى that the Ahmadis were granted through MTA is an incomparable experience and a great blessing of Allah. Reflecting on all this one can say with deep conviction that out of His special munificence, Allah granted Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى extraordinary means of global communication and maintaining close contact and thus the entire Community was privileged to gain amazing closeness to Khilafat.

The qualities of love and affection, appreciation and encouragement were most prominent in Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى. There are hundreds of thousands of Ahmadis worldwide who were the recipients of the grace of these qualities of Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى and are today overcome by feelings of gratitude at the memory of these incidents. This most humble servant of Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى is also among those fortunate people who received this grace. While leaving aside incidents of purely personal nature, I shall mention two incidents here that are in essence primarily about the Community.

#### ***A debate***

Perhaps it was in 1987 that this humble one had a debate with Christian priests on the divinity of Jesus عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام. The situation for this came about when in a Q & A session with Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى a Christian friend put a few questions to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى. Huzur replied to these in detail and I remember that most of the time in that assembly was spent in answering questions of this

particular Christian friend. Towards the end the questioner took on an argumentative tone. On this Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى explained to him that it was not an occasion for debate and that he had answered the questions in principle, however if the Christian friend wished to discuss it further, signalling to my humble self, Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى told him to contact me. Later when I talked to the friend, the matter progressed on the lines of a plan for a debate on the topic of divinity of Jesus عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام. I had kept Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى informed as the matter had developed and the discussions were progressing on Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى guidance. When the matter had reached to the point where a debate was planned, Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى said, all right, hold a debate but only after agreeing on proper conditions. I

**Below:** Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى at a Question and Answer Session





presented the conditions suggestion by the Christian friend to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. After looking at them, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى accepted them all; the topic of the debate, the arrangement of the speeches, the time and venue and various other features were all accepted. However, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said that it was not acceptable that the debate was to be presided by a representative of the Church and said that a neutral dignitary should be selected for this. When the local Mayor was approached for this, he happily accepted.

To cut a long story short the debate was held in a Christian Church. Half of the audience were Ahmadis while the other half were Christians. Alternative speeches were followed by Question and Answers after which, concluding speeches were given. All praise belongs to Allah that He granted His assistance and help and the debate was held successfully. Prior to going to the debate I had repeatedly requested Huzur رحمه الله تعالى for prayers and on return had submitted a brief report. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى expressed delight at this. It seems Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was told about the details of this debate from other members as well. The next day while going for Salat, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى commented that I had not given him a video of the debate. I replied that I had not considered it worthy to be presented to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, on which he said no, a copy of the video was to be given to him. I presented this to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى the same day. After a few days Huzur رحمه الله تعالى told me that he had watched the video and that its copies should be made and sent to all African countries. I was overwhelmed with this great encouragement, appreciation and approval. In addition, during an assembly after a few days, while addressing Mustapha Thabit Sahib,

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى spoke most favourably about this debate and to some extent compared it to my late father's celebrated debate held in Egypt and published later on as a book "Cairo Debate". Alhamdulillah (All praise belongs to Allah). On the instruction of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى the 'Audio Video Department' dispatched videos of the debate to African countries. Some missionaries later told me that they had benefited hugely from the video and had found it very useful. All this was the blessing of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى graciousness and kindness.

### ***Managing his time***

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was an extremely busy person. As far as I have seen him closely I can say with full conviction that I have not seen another person in the entire world who was as busy as Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. He made full use of time and spent every single minute doing good, virtuous work. Allah had informed the Promised Messiah عليه السلام in a revelation; 'You are that esteemed Messiah whose time will certainly not be wasted'. History bears witness that the Promised Messiah عليه السلام indeed employed each moment of his life in tremendous service of faith. Based on my own observation, I can testify that as far as being occupied and making excellent use of time is concerned, this was also the state of the life of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. He had a specific schedule planned for each day. One could determine from this how occupied he would be on any given day. His day would start very early with Tahajjud prayers and the engagements carried on late into the evening. There would be very little time for rest. He had a passionate love for service of faith and this was his norm day and night. He had a practice of not even wasting a single moment. He once said, 'when I get tired doing

**Below:** A Scene from Jalsa Salana UK



Photo: Umair Aleem



**Below:** Silent prayer during the Jalsa Salana UK

a particular task, my method of taking a break is to start another task'. In this way the body gets a break when the type of task is altered. Weariness is alleviated, but continuity of work continues. He also said that with Allah's grace he could manage three tasks simultaneously, for example while taking tea, he would read the paper as well as watch TV; thus making complete use of time.

Once a reporter took Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى detailed interview, which was based on his daily engagements. When Huzur رحمه الله تعالى

detailed his daily schedule the reporter was astonished at its elaborate nature that spanned from early morning till late night, packed full of work engagements. When this interview was published, the magazine [Sunday Times magazine 16th August 1989] chose to alter the title of their regular column in which Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى details were printed from "A day in the life of..." to "A life in the day of Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad". With this apparently minor altering of the words the newspaper made a most eloquent statement. The reality is that each single day of Huzur's



رحمه الله تعالى life was full of life as well as enhancing life for others.

I remember once explaining one feature of his engagements, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had said that he kept busy even during mulaqats by doing light work, for example in the very brief time between one person leaving after mulaqat and other coming in, he would sign letters. Another facet of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى active nature that I observed was that he would even make full use of time during journeys. Probably for this reason he preferred to travel by road. Within Britain he would always travel by road as well as when travelling to Europe, whether it was a short journey or a long one. In practice, as soon as the car would leave the London Mosque, Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى office would open in the car. He would start reading papers, magazines as well as his post. He would give instructions regarding the letters as he read them, or he would make brief notes of replies himself. Even during the short journey between the London Mosque and Islamabad, Tilford, he would keep busy in the car. Some members of the Community would send their requests or poems recorded on audiotapes. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would listen to these tapes during his travels. In short, he would keep himself busy at all hours and would say that the best time is that which is spent in the service of faith and is spent in doing something useful.

### **Letters, books and Mulaqats**

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would receive hundreds of letters every day. He would read them all. He would write notes or instructions on each letter while writing personal replies to many letters. There are many fortunate members all over the world who were granted personal hand-written letters by Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. His routine was that the letters he intended to respond to personally would be kept to one side and as soon as he got a small break between two engagements he would pen them with his blessed hand.

Apart from books, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would scrupulously study important articles and newspaper cuttings received from all over the world and would give necessary instructions. He would make a meticulous study of the newspapers and magazines published by the Community and was always encouraging about them as well as drawing attention to any amendment needed.

Another aspect of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى engagements was the series of mulaqats that would take place on a daily basis. There would be official mulaqats with those who worked in a variety of departments and organisations of the Community. Then there would be mulaqats with visiting Umara of various countries and other Community workers. If required, these mulaqats would be extremely lengthy. There would also be mulaqats with people outside the Community, sometimes these would develop into extended question and answer sessions that would last hours. Assorted journalists and media representatives would also be granted meetings with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. Family mulaqats with members of the Community took place on a daily basis. Usually these were allocated evening time for the convenience of people. These mulaqats would usually be brief, however at times they would also extend in duration. In the few minutes allocated to family mulaqats, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would converse with all the members of the family in one way or the other and would make them so happy that when they came out after the mulaqat their

faces would be beaming with delight. At times there would be tears of happiness and an overwhelming sense of self-assurance at their good fortune. In addition to this, there would be worldwide communication maintained via fax and telephone and instructions were given day and night. This is a mere glimpse of the official engagements that I have presented based on my observation. The truth of the matter is that Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى engagements far exceeded all this.

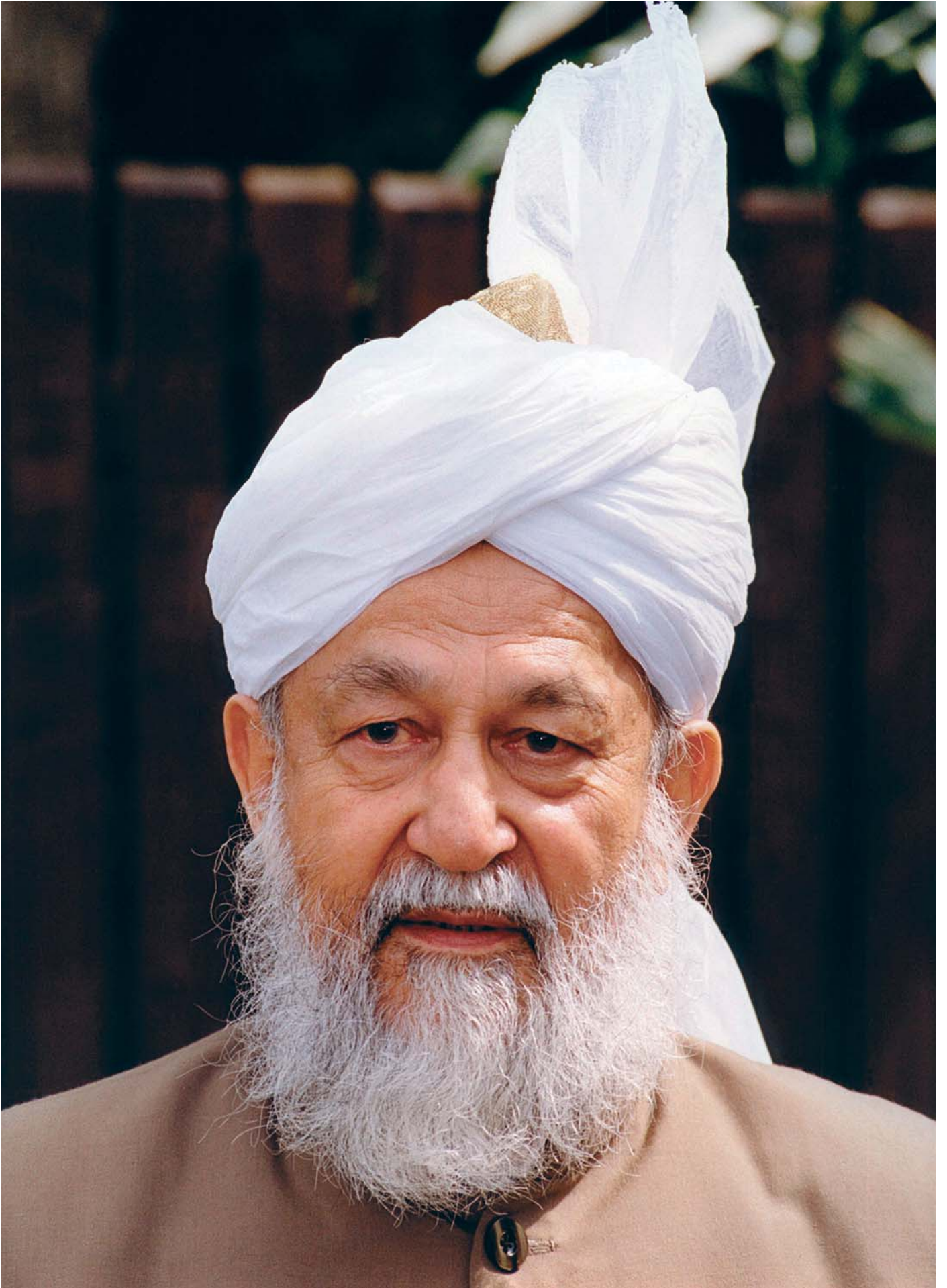
### **Prayers**

He would lead the five daily prayers at the mosque, prepare the Friday Sermons, addresses, messages and participate in the MTA programmes, all this he would do on a regular basis. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى travelled to numerous countries of the world. During these travels his engagements remained just as eventful. Individual as well as communal mulaqats, meeting the press, Q & A sessions, speeches and who knows what other religious engagements that would go on day and night.

Allah had granted Huzur with extraordinary strength and courage. Despite this hectic schedule, he would always have a most appealing smile and an attractive glow on his face. The more I reflect on the energetic and busy life of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى my amazement increases as to how alert and fresh Huzur رحمه الله تعالى always appeared despite all these engagements. I am further amazed by the fact that concurrent to these heavy engagements Huzur رحمه الله تعالى continued with his writings and wrote many highly commendable, voluminous and scholarly books. At times a busy person finds it difficult to make time even to write a brief article. It is astonishing how Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would make time for these erudite and research tasks; Urdu translation of the Holy Quran, complete review of an English translation of the Holy Quran, the writing of the momentous book 'Revelation, Rationality, Knowledge and Truth' and a long list of various other scholarly and research books. Those who have had an experience in writing can make a very good inference as to how much time is spent on such distinguished scholarly writings and research work and just how much hard work is needed. I believe that is it an extraordinary and miraculous accomplishment for the busiest person in the world to be able to write these books despite all his engagements. These books shall continue to be a blessing for all times, Insha'Allah.

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih's IV رحمه الله تعالى personality was a beautiful amalgamation of lofty ethics and noble virtues. Allah had granted him numerous qualities. His is an all-embracing episode that shall always remain glorious and its faith-inspiring references shall continue to be mentioned, like a fragrance that spreads in all direction.

For the moment I shall suffice on this brief note and I pray that may Allah enable us to follow in the footsteps of this most blessed person and to derive lessons from his virtuous model. Ameen.







NordKap, Norway. The sun shines 24 Hours a day

# The Best Chauffeur Job in the World

*A personal account by Nabil Arshad*

I have been asked to write an account of my personal experiences as a driver of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى, a blessing from Allah the Almighty which I was so fortunate to have. I will always remember 1984 as a pivotal moment in my life as it was the year when Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى arrived in the UK, and a unique experience and opportunity to serve Khilafat began for me. It started back in April 1984 when I was able to receive Huzur رحمه الله تعالى at Heathrow Airport, London, after his departure from Pakistan. I was 19 years of age, and was one of the drivers in the "Kafila" and drove the car behind Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى car, which was driven by Khalifa Falah-uddin Sahib. The Kafila is a term used to describe Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى convoy and those people who travelled in it. After that, Allah enabled me to offer my services for many years as a driver in security duties and also in serving food during private dinners of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى with various VIPs.

When I was 22 years of age I was invited by Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to drive his car to Europe in August 1987. After this trip, Allah blessed me with further opportunities to drive Huzur رحمه الله تعالى on at least another 15 tours. I also accompanied Huzur رحمه الله تعالى on the World Tour in the Centenary year of 1989. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى visited North America, Guatamala, Canada, Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Japan. When we were in Japan, especially in Tokyo, there was a great deal of traffic on the roads and travelling anywhere by car took a really long time. Therefore, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى opted to use the city Metro (underground) system when going shopping. On one occasion, he even used it to attend an official Jama'at dinner organised for Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and Japanese guests.

In 1991, I was further blessed by Almighty Allah to accompany Huzur رحمه الله تعالى on a trip to South and Central America, which included the countries of Surinam, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala, Mexico, and North America. This trip was particularly memorable and one that I enjoyed a great deal because there were only six people who accompanied Huzur رحمه الله تعالى in the Kafila. The other five were Major Mahmood Ahmad Sahib, Malik Ashfaq Sahib, Muneer Javeed Sahib – Private Secretary, Karim Hayat Sahib and the Late Mubarak Saqi Sahib who was taken ill in our first country of call. In Trinidad and Tobago, I shared a room with Karim Hayat Sahib, which was next to Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى room in the house of an Ahmadi Family. Sometimes Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would come into our room and request if some ironing could be done for him. During our stay there, nearly every night, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would pop his head around the door and wish us "good night and sweet dreams". Allah further blessed us in that we were able to have all of our lunchtime meals and evening dinners with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. The Ahmadi family who we stayed with specialised in making a tasty home made coconut ice cream that they served every night. This was a favourite delight of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and all of us.

The most important tour of my life was when I accompanied Huzur رحمه الله تعالى on the historic Qadian Jalsa trip in 1991. This was the 100th Jalsa in Qadian and marked the first time a Khalifa had been to India since the Indo-Pakistan partition. In Qadian, Allah blessed me additionally, in that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى announced my Nikah at the Jalsa.

During one of our trips to the German Khuddam Ijtema, they held an event called the "Tahir Kabadi Tournament." One of the matches in the tournament was between the Kafila members and the German National Amila, which also included Amir Sahib Germany, Abdullah Wagasauser. In that year we (the Kafila) lost the matches by one or two points. The following year, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was determined that the Kafila should win and instructed us to practice before the re-match. A practice session was held in the Noor mosque Frankfurt. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى also attended this session and chose me to demonstrate some techniques in Kabadi. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى used special techniques to throw me to the floor a few times and also placed me in various painful body locks. It was very exhausting for me, but everyone was kept amused at what I was going through.

Accompanying Huzur رحمه الله تعالى on a trip to Norway in June 1993 was also one of the most enjoyable times I spent with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. It was a three week rest period for Huzur رحمه الله تعالى where he minimised contact with office work and the outside world. On this trip we used to stop for lunch and dinner and prepared our own food from the supplies we carried with us. Most of the time Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would also help in the preparation of the food. He put spices on fish, stirred food as it was being cooked, and provided advice on what spices to use and how to cook some meals. During this trip we travelled to the most northern point in Europe, North Cap. Any further travel north from there requires a trip to the North Pole itself. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى stayed for two nights and also delivered a Friday sermon from there, which was also a fulfilment of the revelation "I shall cause thy message to spread to the corners of the world".



**Top:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى arrives at the Queen Elizabeth II for an historic address during the 1989 Centenary. The address was later published as the book "Islam's response to contemporary issues"

**Above:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى visits Erfurt in Germany 1989

One of the highlights on this trip for me was that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى decided to travel beside me in the front seat all the way back from North Cap, via Oslo, to London. During this time Huzur رحمه الله تعالى always used to look at me and say, "Nabil, you look hungry to me" and so he used to continuously feed me with food and chocolates. The Tour lasted three weeks during which Huzur رحمه الله تعالى did many things, which included fishing, playing cricket, boating, and walking. The scenery was spectacular and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would say that there was no place like Norway in this world.

On most occasions when Huzur رحمه الله تعالى decided to change his car, I was humbled when he asked my opinion on the colour and choice of accessories. In 1999 I was asked by Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to collect his latest car, a Mercedes S320L from the Mercedes Benz Factory in Germany. Collecting the car on behalf of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى from Germany was a great honour for me.

I was also blessed by being able to serve our Khalifa on my home soil in the UK. In the 1980s Huzur رحمه الله تعالى frequently played squash. He also took interest in clay pigeon shooting, archery, boating and other outward-bound activities which I was privileged



to take part in. I remember one occasion in Wales where we tried to sail in rubber dinghies of the coast of Wales, but were forced to retreat back to the shores because the waves became too high.

In January 1985, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى started going on a morning walk after Fajr Namaz. I used to drive Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to Wimbledon Common on the weekends and Bashir Sahib would drive Huzur رحمه الله تعالى on the weekdays. This continued for approximately 16 years. After Fajr Namaz, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would go to his flat and change into his "morning walk clothes" which was usually a tracksuit or sometimes a shalwar kameez. In order to save time Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would put his trainers on in the car. The walk started off as a 5-6 mile route which Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would walk in around 1½ hours, at a brisk pace and never cutting any corners. He would stop at Queensmere Lake where he would feed the ducks, swans, geese and also a squirrel. Some members of the Jama'at accompanying him would tell him jokes as well. On some occasions in Ramadhan, small girls would sing Nazams to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى at the lake. During some of the coldest winters it would snow and Wimbledon Common would get covered in a pure white sheet of snow which on occasion was quite deep. Despite this fact, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would continue to go on his walks. Queensmere lake would freeze over, and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى used to enjoy the acoustic sounds of stones, which we would throw, would make as they bounced on the icy frozen lake. One year, the lake froze and the ice became so thick that we were able to walk on it; in other years, when we tested the ice with our feet, it would break and our legs would get soaked. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had named certain points along the route where funny things had happened, such as "Filli Hill" (Khalifa Falah-uddin Sahib slipped in an amusing way there),

Khawaja point (Khawaja Sahib wore amazing shoes with absolutely no grip. During one winter he slipped down an entire hill that was subsequently named Khawaja point). And, Sahi Seat, at the base of a tree trunk, which made a good place to sit. There were also many other names.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would organise races around the lake and often the loser would have to hold a "dinner party" at his house for all the walkers. Khawaja Rashiduddin Qamar suggested to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to have a trophy for the loser, but Huzur رحمه الله تعالى in his wisdom decided to form a club for those that lost instead of giving them a trophy. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى named the club "the Khawaja club" after Khawaja Rashiduddin Qamar who was the most frequent loser in the races. Over time more and more of the walkers joined the club and the role of the club changed into a dinner club where everyone would hold dinners for the rest of the club and send a sample of the food to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, who would then comment on the quality of the dinner on the next morning walk. I eventually became president of this club.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى also created a "Nashta Club" (Breakfast club). The Nashta club would hold breakfasts at the houses of various member walkers and the Nashta (breakfast) was served after the walk was completed. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had mentioned that the purpose of the Nashta club and the Khawaja club was to encourage members of the club to go to other's houses, and to strengthen the bond of friendships. He wanted us to get together like people used to in Pakistan. He felt that the pace of life in the UK and the busy

**Below:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى on a boat trip near Guatamala







**Above:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى visits a beach in West Africa  
**Below:** The morning walk on a snowy day.

life-styles of people had unfortunately led to a decrease in this practice.

On many occasions Huzur رحمه الله تعالى used to surprise people by suddenly going to their houses. Several members of the Jama'at were fortunate in this experience such as Dr Iftikhar Ayaz and Arshad Baqi Sahib, Ch Ijaz Ahmad, just to name a few. He would sometimes do this after Fajr Namaz, in some cases to see if they had woken up for Namaz, in some just to surprise them, and in other cases to have breakfast with them.

In the April of 1996, somebody had suggested to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى if he would like to take his driving test. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى agreed, but needed some practice especially in the driving techniques which they might ask in his driving test. After two or three lessons from Bashir Sahib initially, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked me if I would teach him. So we used a Nissan Bluebird which belonged to the Private Secretary's office. I would drive the car to the post office at Southfields, where Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would jump into the driving seat. I would sit next to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, Nasir Saeed Sahib would sit in the back of the car and we would then set off towards Wimbledon Common and use some of the streets around that area for driving practice, which included the usual manoeuvres of reversing around corners, three point turn and the emergency stop, and others. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and I had great fun driving and this went on for two weeks, almost on a daily basis. When the date of the test came along Huzur رحمه الله تعالى called me in to his office, and told me about a dream that he had had which had made him decide not to take the test. He told me that this would be for the





best, which of course, I agreed with.

Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ would often call me to his office to ask for some private things that I could do for him. On one occasion, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ wanted to buy a jacket for a hunting trip which we were due to go on, and at the same time return and buy a new pair of shoes. So I suggested we go to Marble Arch at Oxford Street and shop there. We went together along with two members of staff, to Marks and Spencer to buy the jacket and then onto Bally Shoes to return and buy a new pair of walking shoes.

In 1988, I asked Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ that if he went back to Pakistan, could I please drive his car to Rabwah. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ said that I could, and promised me. For many years after that time, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ would often remind me of my pledge to him.

The above account is but a small drop in the vast ocean of personal memories which Allah blessed me to experience with my Beloved Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ. May Allah Almighty grant me my wish to one day be reunited with my beloved Khalifa. Ameen.



**Top Right:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was a frequent air traveler

**Top Middle:** Gambia 1988

**Bottom:** Clay pigeon Shooting. Major Mahmood Sahib launches the clay pigeons at the bottom of the photo







**Top:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى in Norway

**Bottom:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى visits the site of a ruins in India





# A collection of memories

by Farina Qureshi

When the 'Tariq' approached me and asked if I could write some things for them about our dear beloved late Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, things that were personal but could benefit the wider jamaat, my initial reaction was one of nervousness for the task is awesome, as are the memories themselves.

What has helped me the most was Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى own advice which I couldn't help remembering. Allah's Grace allowed me to work directly with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى for many years. Most meetings tended to start with a little chat about things in general and sometimes things in particular. It was once, during such a moment with him, that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى suddenly leant forward and said that he thought that after his passing away, I would make a good narrator on him. I was completely taken back by his words and their implication and decided to lighten the tone by replying, "But what about my terrible memory Huzur رحمه الله تعالى?" Huzur رحمه الله تعالى remained serious and assured me not to worry for slowly it would all return to me. He added by way of joke that he had seen that my memory never let me down where he was concerned. It was soon after this that I actually started to write things down, either during the meetings as if it were a dictation, or as soon as I walked in through my front door. But those were just a few things, and about the rest, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was absolutely right. So in writing this article for the 'Tariq', I feel in my heart I have been given an opportunity to fulfil Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى own words to me. That, and prayers to Allah for His help have given me encouragement.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was the kindest, most patient, most generous, loving and considerate person I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. He had a wonderful sense of humour that extended to

the practical side as well. Once when Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had heard that we had bought a new car, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى immediately asked to see it. My husband and I, with both our sons rushed to his office. Once there, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked where the new car was and we replied that it was just in front of the gate. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى stood up and announced that as the car couldn't come in, therefore he had better to go outside himself. So we all went outside and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى strode straight out onto the pavement in front of the Mosque gate where we were parked. I couldn't help feeling apologetic to the two security men on duty that night. At first Huzur رحمه الله تعالى just generally asked about the car but then before anyone knew what was happening, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى went out into the road, opened the back door of the car and let himself in. "Chalo phir, ek chakar lagha ke atey hai" (Come on then, let's go round the block) he announced. We were suddenly thrown into shock and questions shot through our minds like who should be driving and was security coming too and should we wait for back-up? I asked Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, "What about the security staff, they haven't got a car tonight?" Huzur رحمه الله تعالى told me not to worry, for they would manage. Then to my shock, he asked me to drive him! I was so nervous, it was the first time I was going to drive this car and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was my passenger. So off we went, initially just around the block. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was sitting in the back with my eldest son, Talhah and my younger son Sarmad (who was in the baby seat next to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى). Each time I looked in the mirror, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was smiling excitedly. He laughed and joked all the time. Fortunately for the security men, a car had just pulled up to drop someone off. I saw in my rear view mirror that they just opened its doors and jumped in. But that was not all, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى then decided to go and surprise someone and we did just that, to the delight of one very lucky local family!

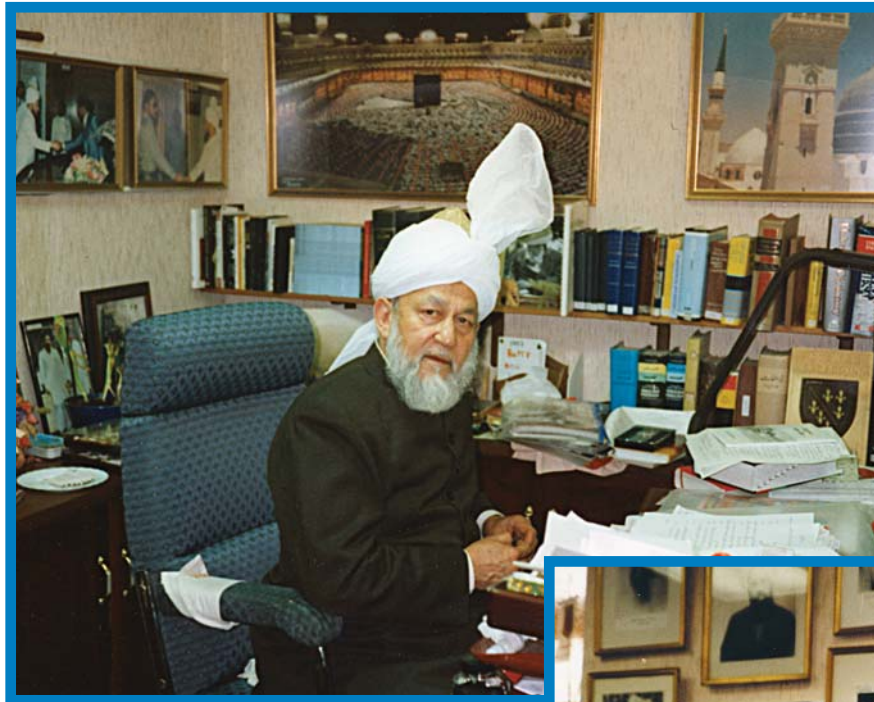
One morning while we were all still asleep (it was a holiday I think) the bell rang four or five times in quick succession (Huzur's trademark ring). My husband went down and called up from the bottom of the stairs in barely a whisper that the figure outside looked like Huzur. We couldn't believe it, Huzur was standing on our doorstep! He so enjoyed the sight of us half asleep. "Are you people still asleep?" he asked as he came in. Huzur explained that he was test-driving a car that he was thinking of buying, and had brought it round to show us. He told us to come outside and tell him what we thought. Outside, Huzur explained all the features of his prospective car and said he hadn't made his mind up yet. And as swiftly as they came, they left. On another morning, Huzur did exactly the same but this time he brought some free-range eggs and things for breakfast in case we didn't have them!

An honour I shall always hold dear is to be a privileged member of the F-Team which was headed by Huzur himself for the

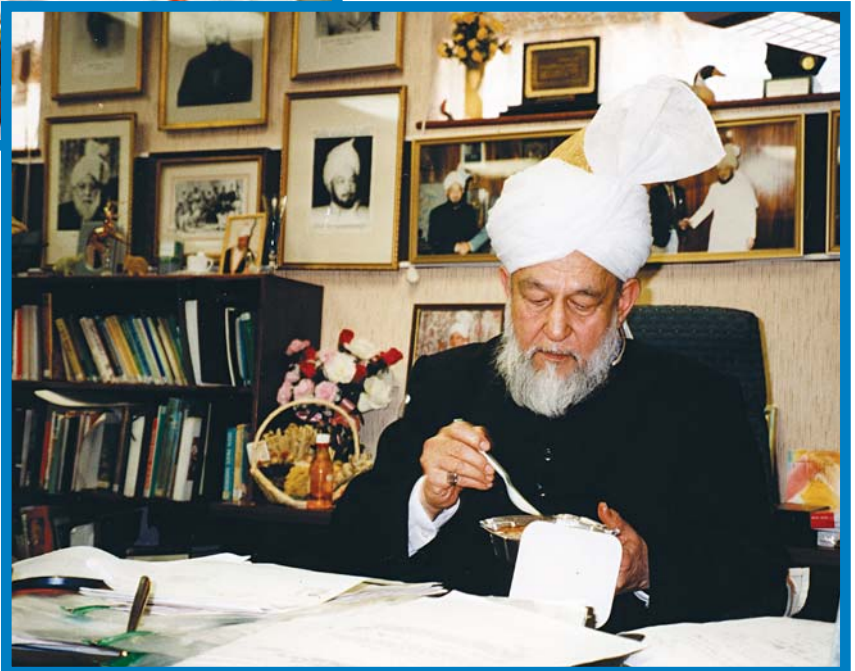
commented how his own name had no "F" in it and how we were to justify his being a member of the F-Team. One of the team members quickly replied that as he was "Ibne Fazle Umar", therefore he was also a member of the F-Team by default. Huzur had nodded with pleasure and joked that now he too was an official member of "their" team. The projects Huzur entrusted to the F-Team included the translation of Hadhrat Masih-e-Maud's Books Fateh Islam (Victory of Islam), Paighaam-e-Sullah (A Message of Peace) and Tauzeeh-e-Maraam (Objectives Explained). Some members also worked on the initial draft translation for the poems in of the first edition of Kalame-Tahir. The second and third drafts of Kalame-Tahir for the second edition containing his full and recent works were entrusted to my humble self from the F-Team and was painstakingly prepared word for word directly with Huzur. It was because Huzur had such intimate knowledge of the translations of Kalame Tahir that he labelled them as the only official translations to be used in public. The most treasureable feature of this work, apart from being in his company, had to be the personal explanation and interpretation of

his own verses that Huzur gave in order to help with its translation. Apart from this, we also had the privilege of translating some of Hadhrat Masih-e-Maud's Poems with Huzur. Once Huzur had given poems the official "F-Team Translation" status, no amendment was permitted on them unless it had his seal of approval.

Once in 1995, while working on the translation of Kalame-Tahir, a verse from his poem 'Ajnabi Ghum' sparked an interesting memory. Huzur sat back in his chair, leaned his head on his right hand and with a slight smile recalled that when he was a young man, just entering his youth, he would go up into the hills or climb the mountains. There he would find a quiet spot under a tree or in the shade provided



translation work of certain projects. This was a team of UK Lajna selected by Huzur and trained by him directly. Huzur was always particularly careful and meticulous in the translations thus prepared and taught us to be so also. All work was carried out under the direct supervision of Huzur in his presence (except for some poems prepared for the children's class which were first prepared independently and then approved by Huzur as fit for broadcast). The team was given the name "F-Team" by Huzur after he noticed and thereafter often commented how coincidental it was that all of the names of the team began with "F". For example, Fauzia Bajwa, Farzana Javaid, Fouzia Rashid, Farhana Sadiq, Farida Ahmad, Farina Qureshi, Fowzia Shah, Navida Shahid (honourary), Sofia Safi Mahmood (for having two F's) and Sheila Malik (who had a permanent pet name given by Huzur starting with "F"). Once Huzur



**Left:** Huzur working in his office

**Bottom:** Huzur samples some food prepared for the Urdu Class



by nature itself and lie there, sometimes for hours. He said that those were the most peaceful and relaxing moments he had ever known, and that is where he did most of his thinking, questioning, early poetry such as 'Ajnabi Ghum' (though that was later in his early twenties), and that was where he found many of the answers to the questions people subsequently asked him. (For interested readers, that place was Kashmir Point in Murree, Pakistan as Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ later revealed in an Urdu Class).

During Ramadhan of 1994, the first ever live daily broadcasts of Dars-ul Quran by Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ were due to begin. As part of the Dars-ul Quran support work, I was fortunate enough to be one of two members selected from the Research Team to help and liaise

directly with Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ. These members were chosen mainly on the grounds of availability, close proximity to the Mosque, access to a computer, and capability to conduct the research daily, accurately and immediately on demand. For Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ, who was delivering the Dars and was fasting as well, this was a tense time and the morning before the very first live Dars was particularly tense. We sat silently not saying a word as Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ read through his notes. A few minutes before the start of the Dars, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ excused us and asked us to pray for him. That tension and that request for prayer kept us focused throughout the Dars. When that first historical Dars ended, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ called us into his office along with the Private Secretary. We were fortunate

enough to be the first ones to see Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ blessed face at this historical moment. Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ face was radiant with Noor (God's Light) Ma'shallah and it was noticed by each of us as we all later commented on this observation. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was asking us what we thought of the Dars but the beauty of his face spellbound us all. I can never forget the light on his face at that moment, nor the happiness and excitement in him that held us captive to him.

One time I remember arriving for a meeting with Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was delayed in a Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya UK Question / Answer Session in the Mahmud Hall. After it ended and Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ came into the meeting, he was charged with excitement as it had been a particularly potent session. I asked Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ how he knew the answers to so many different types of questions. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ replied that he didn't. Sometimes someone would ask him a question and just as he began to wonder how to answer it, Allah would suddenly put the answer in his head and he would find himself answering the question that he previously did not know the answer to. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ added that this was when he knew his Allah was happy with him. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ explained that at other times, Allah would tell him the answer beforehand, although he would not know it at the time, through people around him like just the day before when Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ had asked some things by way of general talk and today a person had asked him exactly the same question in the recording. He added with a gentle smile that these were Allah's ways and even he was amazed at the ways Allah found to help him.



Photo: Umair Aleem



Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ with the 'mens team' that assisted him with 'Revelation Rationality, Knowledge and Truth.'

Before I went to Pakistan in 1997, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ said to me that when you go to my bagh (lands) wahan dekhna, ek ek podhey ko mae ne khud dekha hai barre piyar se (you will see each and every plant there I have lovingly tended to myself). Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ also told me that when he finished work, everyone else would go home, but he would take his cycle and go to his farm (Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was smiling tenderly and recalling the sight.) Then he said that he did not think there was even a single piece of land, plant or tree that he had not tended to himself. The work other landowners would get other people to do, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ would do himself.

Sometimes, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ used to work such extensive long hours that it would be time to deliver the Friday Sermon and Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ had not been able to glance at his notes. As a general rule, we did not work on Friday mornings so that Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ could prepare for Jumma instead. But occasionally, particularly while working on Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ book 'Revelation Rationality, Knowledge and Truth' Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ would be in the flow of giving a dictation, or so involved in its amendments that continuity of meetings were necessary. At times when I expressed concern that he had not been able to look at his notes, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ would say Uskee na fikar karro, mujh aadat hae (Don't worry about it, I am used to it). Another time he said Ab Jumme ka waqt ho gaya hai. Allah hee janey mae ney kiya kehna hae kyon ke mainey koi teyari nahin kee aaj (Now it is time for Jumma. God alone knows what I am going to say for I have not prepared anything.) Ma'shallah! On that day, The Friday Sermon was exceptionally wonderful. Later that afternoon when we returned for the work, I complimented Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ on his sermon and asked him how he had managed it. He answered that when he got there, he did not know what he was going to say but as he started to recite Surah Fatihah, Allah just took over, and that it was Allah's Ehsan (Kindness).

Once during a group meeting, I was reading to Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ from his latest book 'Absolute Justice, Kindness and Kinship,' which is due to be published soon Inshallah, in four volumes. It was the incident from the battle of Uhud, where the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم had fallen into a ditch and the bodies of his companions fell on top of him as they were martyred trying to defend him. Written by Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ, it is a very emotional piece, and I was struggling to control my voice and tears. When I reached the end of the incident, I finally glanced at Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ and was taken aback. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ, completely oblivious of us all, had been silently crying so much so that his tears had reached to the ends of his beard. Such was the depth of his love for the Holy Prophet of Islam صلى الله عليه وسلم.

Now let me specifically relate incidents of special significance that happened during the writing of Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ book 'Revelation Rationality, Knowledge and Truth'. Initially Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ only sent the book to me for proof reading, but unbeknown to me this was to become instrumental in the course of events that followed. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ had expected that it would just be a case of casting an eye over it and was a little surprised by the things I had marked for his attention. He asked me to come in with the points I had raised and suddenly, there I was taking dictations from him. A few days later, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ entrusted his whole book to my humble self, and instructed I should co-ordinate it to publication. It was such an immense responsibility and I am sure my face must have gone quite pale as Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ asked me if I was all right.

When the book reached its absolute final finish, we, the team, worked all night on it in the offices at Hardwicks Way. We did not finish till after 7.15am. All through the night, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ kept phoning and checking on us. At 7.30am, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ surprised



us with his arrival at Hardwicks Way laden with a feast for breakfast, more than enough for all of us.

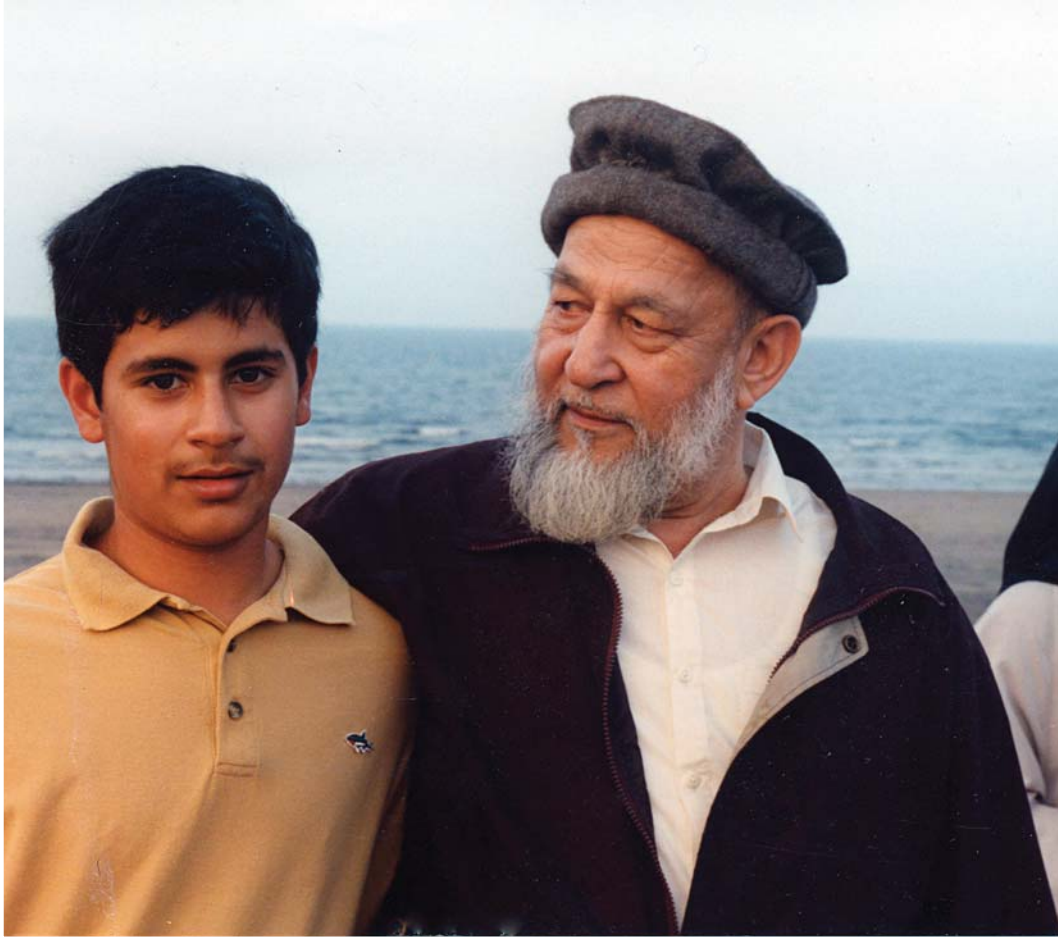
The next day was the day my mother passed away (may Allah bless her soul). At this time Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ said to us that your mother's life was inextricably linked to my book; she could not pass away until it was complete because you would have been affected and that would have hindered the book.

The writing of the chapter 'Unveiling of the Unseen' was indeed a unique experience. I had arrived for work that morning reciting the prayer "Rabbe shrah lee sadri wa yas sirliamri" for there was something I knew I must say and I was afraid of saying it to such an important personage as Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ. "You see Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ," I attempted to explain, "Up until now, I have understood everything you are explaining to us in all the chapters, even the technical and religious discussions that were new to me, but in this chapter 'The Unseen' (as we fondly called it) somehow I find myself confused." "What do you mean confused?" Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ asked. "Well," I stumbled on "I think it's probably just me but I don't understand the connection between the verses contained here and what the text is saying." I held my breath. "What exactly don't you understand?" Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was now leaning quite forward as he asked this. Anyway, somehow God helped me to say the words I was trying to say. The rest of that morning, afternoon and evening were spent in totally chopping, cutting, moving and rewriting the text. By the end, the pile of papers that constituted that chapter looked like a dishevelled bundle. The whole stressful day was spent in tenseness and the worst thing for me was that Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was obviously not happy about it. That night, when I returned home, I could not talk to any member of my family or even to my children beyond the essential, so affected was I that the whole thing

had been my fault. Imagine my surprise when Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ called later and thanked me for saying something and not letting that chapter go as it was. "For if you could not understand it," he said, "then there may be others who might not understand it." He told me that he intended to spend the night praying specifically for this chapter.

The next morning, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was sat at his desk but was very solemn. There was no general chit-chat this morning. I took out the chapter we had worked on the day before, ready to work on it again. Instead, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ directed me to sit down. He only said "Saaf safa nikalo" (Take out a fresh sheet of paper). Then he said, "Likho" (Write). From that moment on Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ rewrote the whole chapter from beginning to end, without a pause for three hours solid. It flowed beautifully in easy to understand language that made complete sense right from the beginning. Occasionally I would glance up at Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ seemed to me to be in a different state. His hands were folded in his lap and his eyes were in a fixed position far away and he did not seem to have any awareness of my being there. He never once paused to think of what word he needed. I knew I was witnessing something amazing here. It was as if the subject was descending upon him. (This was later confirmed by Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ as already mentioned above.) We only stopped when Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ reached the end. At that point, he raised his hand like a stop signal and said, "Buss" (That is all). Then he relaxed back in his chair and smiled as if he was seeing me for the first time that day. "Now Inshallah," he said, "You will not be able to find anything wrong with that."





# Memories

by Abid Khan

**Abid Khan is the son of late Dr Hameed Ahmad Khan and Sajidah Hameed who in the 1980s and early 1990s founded the Hatlepool Jama'at, which at the time had a greater population of indigenous Ahmadis, than Pakistani Ahmadis and this fact distinguished the Jama'at from every other Jama'at in Europe. Dr Hameed and Sajidah Hameed were both intending to return to Pakistan in 1984, but Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى advised them to form a Jama'at before returning home. Once the Jama'at was formed, they no longer had any desire to return to Pakistan, and remained in Hartlepool. Sajidah Hameed passed away in 1994 and Dr Hameed in 2000 and, both were buried in Hartlepool.**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of April Allah took from this world a most magnificent person. A person of intelligence, a person of love, a person of humour and above all a spiritual leader par excellence. Of course the person I refer to is beloved Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV, Mirza Tahir Ahmad رحمه الله تعالى. "To Allah do we belong and to Him shall we return."

I am privileged and honoured to be writing about our beloved Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. The words I use will never be able to do justice to the qualities exhibited by our 4<sup>th</sup> Khalifa, however I shall very

much like to narrate some incidents which I experienced in Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى company that illustrated to me the beauty of his character. One thing that emerged in the days after Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى passing was that everyone who had gathered at the Fazl Mosque could be heard saying that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had treated them personally as though they were his dear friend. It was a unique part of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى character that he could make any individual, no matter what age, colour or creed feel special.





**Above:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ walking in Hartlepool, 1996

One of the things I always found remarkable about Huzur's رحمہ اللہ life was that despite his elevated position as Khalifa, he maintained a simple life. No extravagance, where simplicity would suffice. In 1997 Huzur رحمہ اللہ had just visited my house in Hartlepool with members of his Urdu Class and after this visit he was to embark upon a trip to the Lake District. Most graciously, Huzur رحمہ اللہ invited me for this second part of the trip. When we arrived, Huzur رحمہ اللہ appointed me in charge of serving food and as you can imagine I was quite anxious that everything was adequate for Huzur رحمہ اللہ and his guests. The place we were staying at was a house I had not visited before and so I was frantically pondering as to where I could set out a table for Huzur رحمہ اللہ to eat his meals, where to put the Urdu Class members and where Huzur's رحمہ اللہ Kaafila should eat. Huzur رحمہ اللہ noticing my unease called me over and told me to bring some of the food into one room where he and the Urdu class would eat and then take the rest into another room where the Kaafila would eat. When I came back with the food for Huzur's رحمہ اللہ room I was somewhat taken aback to find Huzur رحمہ اللہ had got all the girls to sit around the table, whilst he was himself sat on the stairs! Happily Huzur رحمہ اللہ ate sitting on these stairs. Also I brought Huzur رحمہ اللہ some water to drink in a bottle and I had forgotten the glasses in the kitchen, so I said to Huzur رحمہ اللہ I would go and fetch him a glass. He told me not to bother and suddenly opened this 2 litre bottle and started drinking directly, simply to save me what would have been a very short journey. When I think of world leaders today, I have images of them sitting round large

Victorian tables with the most extravagant cutlery and unable to even pour their own drinks and yet our Khalifa who was so much greater than any of these so called Statesmen never required any such fancy.

There was another incident on that very trip which I recall. It was getting late at night and I was quite worried as to how I would make Huzur's رحمہ اللہ breakfast as Urdu Class members were sleeping in the kitchen, and also that there was not much to eat at the house we were staying at. Just as I was thinking over this issue, Huzur called me over. He asked me to get a kettle which he always kept in his car and so of course I immediately went and collected it. He said the reason he wanted the kettle was so that he could make his own breakfast. I immediately asked about what else he would require such as tea, cereal etc. Huzur smiled at me and then showed me these polythene bags that he kept. One had tea leaves in, another had milk powder and he had also a tiny pot of honey. Now I was just awestruck, the average person would rarely go to so much detail and preparation, however despite his immensely busy schedule Huzur made sure he kept all essentials with him, so as to at no time be a burden upon anyone else.

So far I have mentioned aspects of Huzur's رحمہ اللہ life that illustrate how simply he conducted his own life. However, I have also seen how when Huzur had guests himself, he immediately became the perfect host. In August 1997 Huzur decided to visit Hartlepool with some extremely respected family guests. Among Huzur's رحمہ اللہ entourage was Hadhrat Mirza Mansoor Ahmad Sahib, the late father of our newly elected





**Above:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى watches a cricket match in Hartlepool, 1996

Khalifa-tul Masih V and the late Hadhrat Mirza Muzzaffar Ahmad, also a first cousin of the Fourth Khalifa. Also among the guests was our current Khalifa, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad and also the daughters of Huzur himself. Now although it was our family who were the hosts, in that Huzur and all the guests were staying at our home, I think Huzur himself felt that all the people he had brought to Hartlepool were *his* guests. As a result of this we all got the most splendid lesson in how to care for visitors. Huzur himself had always loved the Fish and Chips of Hartlepool and therefore wanted his guests to eat the food that he loved. So we all went to the beach and I remember the Fish Shop owner was flabbergasted by the size of our order, it must have been well over 30 portions and then we sat and all ate by the sea. It was in many respects the most brilliant evening.

The following day Huzur took all the guests to the Lake District and showed them around the parts that he himself enjoyed the most. The day after that we went to the Cleveland Hills, another place that Huzur very much enjoyed visiting. I remember whilst there I offered Huzur a drink, he was not thirsty but immediately started asking me if all his guests had been offered a drink and then telling me to offer them all snacks and drinks. All the time Huzur was looking and making sure that none of his guests were short of anything. That particular visit was only a few days after the Jalsa Salana and of course was an extremely busy period for Huzur as there were thousands of people from around the world who had come to attend the Jalsa. However, Huzur planned the trip to Hartlepool for his guests because he wanted his family to have a wonderful trip to England.

Huzur once invited his Urdu Class with him to Holland for a week. Although I was only a very occasional member of the class I also was allowed to go on the trip. The length to which Huzur went to make sure that every member of the class, which must have numbered at least 80, were enjoying themselves and were cared for was awe inspiring. When we first arrived Huzur went to each bedroom to check if we children had all that we required and were comfortable. Every day Huzur would plan our itinerary. For some events, like the daily bike ride, he would join us himself, but if he could not attend then he would phone up to make sure that we were having a great time. I do not think I have ever eaten as much on a trip as I did that time, because Huzur was always making sure we had something in our hands to eat. His dedication to making our trip enjoyable was something to behold.

Back in the mid-1990's for a couple of years Huzur kindly invited me to go and spend a week with him and his family during Ramadan. Now the first of these visits was just a couple of weeks after my dear mother had passed away, and Huzur out of his intense love obviously wanted to make me feel better. And how much I enjoyed the visit you cannot imagine. I used to wake up and do Sehr and Huzur would eat with us and make sure I ate Parutha and Omelette to my full! Then during the daytime he would take me on his walk. I remember some of the things we used to discuss and I feel really embarrassed that I used to bring up some really strange topics. However, Huzur never used to tire



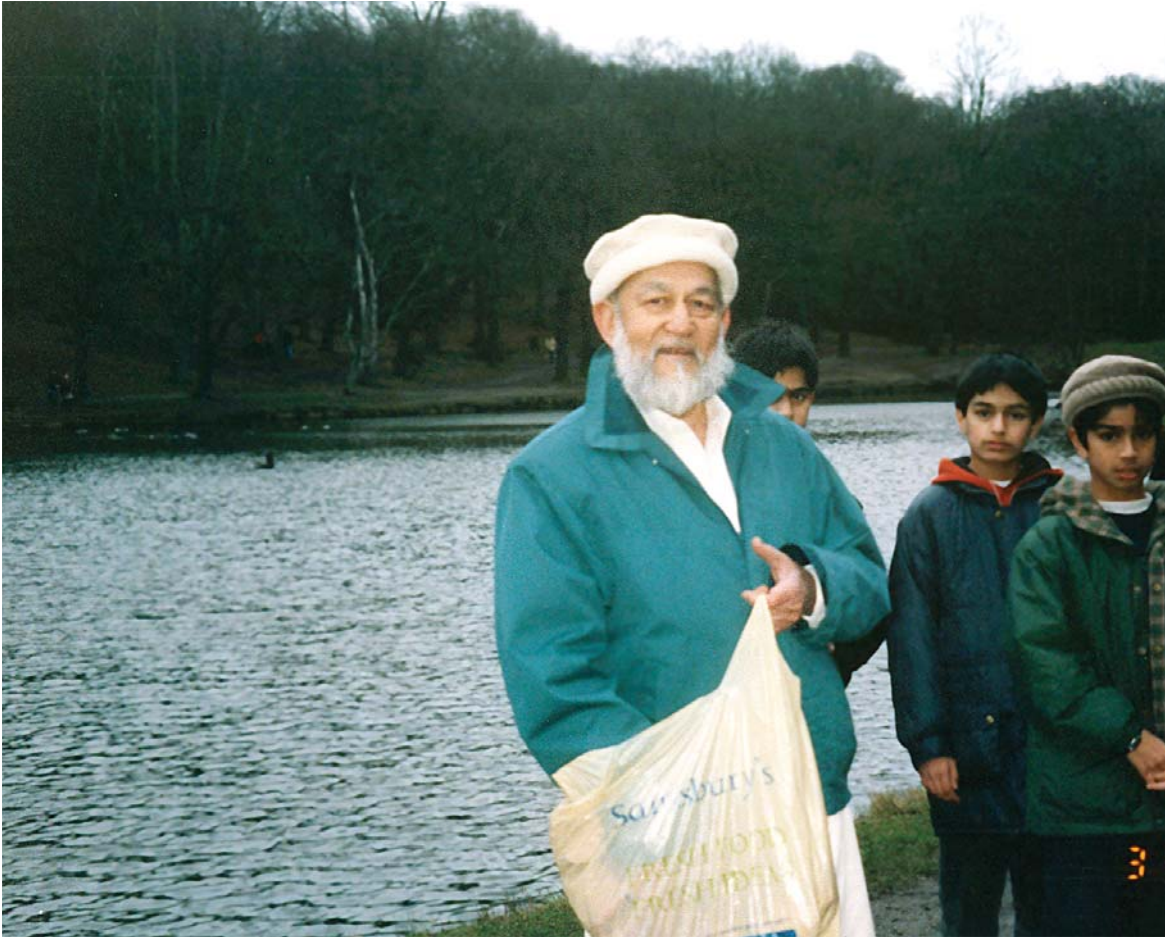
and would in fact laugh and joke. His laugh and his smile most certainly will stay in my memory till eternity. Huzur also taught in such a special way, for example when we used to have breakfast in the morning the first day I came down straight from waking up. Huzur asked me if I had done some Nafal prayers and I said that I hadn't. Now Huzur did not display any anger or upset and continued to be extremely kind. However I knew then, just from his asking that I should never come down for breakfast in Ramadan without previously having performed Nafal. Similarly one day we were fasting and Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى grandchildren and I were playing a board game. Huzur walked in and asked me very softly, "*Is it a good thing to play games during Ramadan?*" Huzur did not have to say anything else, I immediately knew that such games should not be played during Ramadan and in future I abstained. Thus even when Huzur wanted to make a point he made it in such a loving way that no person would ever feel upset.

Huzur of course was a keen sportsman throughout his life. There are a few incidents in particular that I recall which illustrated his passion for sports. I always used to write to Huzur informing him of the latest sporting developments, occasionally about football but mainly about cricket. I remember in 1996 I was actually on a walk with Huzur and the topic of the forthcoming cricket World Cup came up. Huzur said to me that he thought Sri Lanka would be very strong because they had an excellent batting line up. Most politely I said to Huzur that I did not believe they were at all strong enough to win the tournament. Huzur smiled and when asked for my own prediction, I think I said I quite fancied Australia to win the tournament. About three weeks later I wrote Huzur a letter congratulating him on choosing Sri Lanka as they had thoroughly outplayed Australia in the final. You could tell Huzur was very happy as he wrote back to me saying 'Sri Lanka's batting really was masterful!' Speaking of the cricket World Cup, the following World Cup in 1999 coincided with my GCSEs. Now my dear late father was very strict regarding education and so I feared that I would not be able to watch any of the tournament. As I always did I wrote to Huzur to ask prayers for my forthcoming exams, Huzur wrote back to say that he would pray for my exams but he hoped I would still get to watch lots of the cricket in spite of them. I immediately with great pleasure took this letter to my dad and showed it to him, and he never once asked me to stop watching a game thereafter! In 2000 I was in London and at the time Huzur had started playing badminton very regularly with his family in the Mahmood Hall. I was invited to come and join in and I was, as you can imagine, eager to put in a performance of note! I was made even more nervous when Huzur said to me that we would be playing doubles and I would be on his team and we would play Usman, his grandson paired with Bashir Sahib. We played and I was so delighted to see Huzur play, he tended to stay at the net but his touch was exquisite despite the fact that he was over 70 at the time. He had so many delicate drop shots and I personally have a habit of when playing any sport that if a team mate does well I immediately say 'well played' and without thinking quite a few times I did this after Huzur had played a shot. I am pleased to say that Huzur did not mind this at all and in fact every time he smiled and afterwards when I again mentioned to him his brilliant touch you could tell he

appreciated the comment. In fact we were to narrowly lose that match, and I am quite sure that Huzur was somewhat disappointed to lose yet he commended us all for the way we had played.

I would also like to mention one other thing and that is of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى complete compassion. Since 1998 my father was troubled by illness during the worst times literally every day for months Huzur enquired about his health and prescribed new medicines. He used to send my father bouquets of flowers and baskets of fruit which always lifted the spirits. Huzur did everything he possibly could do for us during those days and it is worth remembering that some of the time towards the end of my father's illness, Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى health itself was not great but he still took care of us. About two days before my father's passing he phoned our home and as I was the only person at the house I answered the call. Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى voice very slightly faltered as he said to me that my family should now prepare for my father to pass. He then offered me some comforting words about how Allah would protect us and then hung up. As I sat and pondered what he had told me the most amazing feeling of love and appreciation enveloped my heart. Huzur had just told me that my father was to die and to tell anyone such news must be so difficult but Huzur wanted us to be mentally prepared and thereafter I was prepared and because Huzur had said that Allah would protect us, I did not fear.

Certainly all the people who helped in the days following Huzur's passing, for them it was a great honour as this was no ordinary person for whom they were sacrificing their time, but for a person of such special qualities and love. I remember when I arrived in London on the day of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى passing after a little while I was invited to go and see his face. I went inside and I was completely awestruck by the peaceful and glowing nature of Huzur. I gently kissed his forehead and thanked Allah for giving us such a special person. Alhamdulillah Huzur lived such a full life and we are grateful to Allah the Almighty for granting us in this country the absolute privilege to live in the same country as the Khalifa for the past 19 years. Now we are again blessed that Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad أيداه الله تعالى بنصره العزیز is now with us and we should all be willing to sacrifice absolutely everything to serve our Khalifa, as by doing so we are serving Islam. Let us pray for the Khalifa who has passed, that Allah bestow on him the most choice blessings and elevated status and let us pray for the person who is leading the Jama'at hereafter that Allah grants him a long and prosperous life, Ameen.



# The Khawaja Club

## An Interview with Khawaja Rashiduddin Qamar

*Khawaja Rashiduddin Qamar was born in Qadian in 1933. After the partition of the sub-continent, he moved to Pakistan in 1947 and migrated to the UK in 1958. From 1967 to 1970 he served as Qaid Khuddamul Ahmadiyya, London. During the visits made by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى to the UK, he had the honour of being appointed as Head of Security. From 1985 to 1997 he served as Naib officer Jalsa Gah. He has also served the Jama'at in various capacities including holding Secretarial positions for Tarbiyyat, Finance, Umoor-e-Ama and also General Secretary UK. He is currently working as Secretary UK Islaahi Committee.*

*The Khawaja Club was formed in 1985 by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى. Khawaja Rashiduddin Qamar was its founding member.*

### Morning Walks

I recall an Amila meeting where respected Amir Sahib had expressed concern over the worrying situation in Pakistan, which had led to Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى migration to the UK. He reminded us all that the UK Jama'at should try to keep Huzur رحمه الله تعالى as cheerful and happy as possible during this difficult time. Of course there were many possible ways of achieving this, but I thought I would try something unique: I would try telling Huzur رحمه الله تعالى some jokes!

I was aware that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى regularly went for early morning walks and that some members of the UK Jama'at also accompanied him. I requested Huzur رحمه الله تعالى if I could accompany him as well and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى kindly allowed me. During the walk when Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would reach the lake to feed some ducks, many of us would relate jokes to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would judge the jokes we made and tell us how good or bad they were. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would also often relate to us some jokes of his own, which we thoroughly enjoyed!



### The Khawaja Club

Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ would often organise races around the lake between two or more people for entertainment. There were some members who were more prone to lose in these races than others. After some time, I suggested in a joking manner that a medal could be presented to the members who lost the most races. Upon this Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ remarked that we should establish a club, whose members should be those who lose their races most often!

Since I had lost the most races, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ named the new club the Khawaja Club after me! The purpose of the club would be for members to invite others to dinner by turn. We also invited other guests who were not members of the club. We would send samples of the food to Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ home as well, and would eagerly await Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ comments on the food the next morning. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ would always praise the food he liked, making the host very happy indeed!

### Non Non-Slip Shoes

A particularly memorable incident took place after an evening of snow. The following morning, the snow had frozen to become ice, and I mentioned to Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ during the walk that I was wearing special non-slip shoes. As fate would have it, just a few seconds later I slipped and fell down! I was most embarrassed as I was only walking a couple of feet behind Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ. Initially, I imagined that Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ had not noticed me fall, so I quickly got up and started walking, hoping the slip went unnoticed. But I was wrong - Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ had noticed my fall and from that day onwards my non-slip shoes became famous (or infamous I should say).

At another time, about 10 people were walking on a slippery slope either side of Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was telling an interesting story. I felt suddenly that I was about to slip, so to avoid falling I increased my walking speed, only to find that it increased the speed of my slip, and I finally landed on the floor with a great thud having slipped some twenty feet in front of Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ! Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ and other members laughed

heartily at the scene – indeed, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ laughed more then we had ever seen him laugh. This was most pleasing for me.

### A Time of Prayer

Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ cared and felt deeply for every member of the Jama'at and his affection encompassed everyone. In 1997, a malignant tumour developed on the left side of my tongue. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ advised me to have it removed. On the 24 April 1998, I had a 10-hour operation to remove the tumour, and by the grace of Allah, the operation was a success. Throughout this period, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ prayed for me. I sent regular reports about my progress and received encouraging replies from Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ throughout. As a token of thanks for my recovery from my illness, my family and I requested Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ to allow us to provide the dinner for the Urdu Class on one evening. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ graciously accepted this and the dinner which my family prepared was served on the 27<sup>th</sup> of May 1998. During the class, which was broadcast on MTA, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ told the members:

*"On this happy occasion, they (Khawaja Sahib and family) have invited Urdu Class to dinner. Remember them in your prayers as well. Khawaja Sahib, founder member of Khawaja Club, was ill in hospital. Now by the grace of Allah the Almighty he has recovered. We prayed a lot for him at the lake where this club was formed. Jokes which were told there, I stopped all of them. I said that if jokes were continued then Khawaja Sahib will slip out of our hands, therefore a lot of prayers were said instead. For one month there were no jokes, only prayers were said for Khawaja Sahib and see how Allah has been gracious. Nobody could even think that he would come back, Alhamdulillah!"*

I pray that Allah may shower His choicest blessings on Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ in paradise and that we become true servants of Ahmadiyyat, the true Islam, as he wished us to be. Ameen.

Below: Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ Morning walk





By Mohamed Arshad Ahmedi

*Mohamed Arshad Ahmedi was Sports Secretary (Mohtamim Sehat-e-Jismani) for Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya UK between 1987 and 1992, before going on to serve Majlis Ansarullah UK in the same capacity for seven years. Since 1991 he has been captain of the Muslim Tigers Ahmadiyya hockey team and is now Secretary Isha'at UK.*

## Muslim Tigers Association

When I was Sports Secretary (Mohtamim Sehat-e-Jismani) for Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya UK in 1989, the Jama'at formed a hockey team. This was in view of a tournament that we had arranged in Gillingham in October of the centenary year involving 16 teams. Ours was a team of Khuddam players which did not, at that time, have a name. Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى graced that tournament with his presence and the competition was followed by a grand dinner and presentations. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى mentioned in his speech at the end of the day that it had been one of the best days of his year, if not his life.

During Ramadhan in the summer of 1991, when Huzur رحمه الله تعالى used to go on walks during the day, Dr Fareed Ahmad informed Huzur رحمه الله تعالى that a Russian team from Azerbaijan had come to the UK on tour. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى told Dr Fareed to contact the team and to see if it was possible to arrange a trip to Russia. The team was playing a hockey match in Kent and reluctantly the managers of the team agreed to meet us. We told them that we were representatives of an Ahmadi team living in Kent and that we wanted to invite them to visit us. They agreed, despite being in the UK for only 10 days. So we hastily arranged a match in Gillingham during Ramadhan itself.

Unfortunately, we lost the match 4-1 but they were, after all, an extremely good team with international players. After the game we invited them to Nasir Hall, the Gillingham Mission House, where we presented them with a copy of the Holy Qur'an with Russian translation. The then Amir UK, Aftab Khan Sahib, also attended along with Ravil Bukharaev Sahib from the Jama'at's Russian desk, who had helped in so many ways. The day was very successful and we also received an invitation back to Azerbaijan.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was given a report of the event the following day and was delighted about the return invitation. He said that we needed a name for our team. We suggested that we would love to have the name "Tahir" somewhere. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى did not agree, but instead came up with another idea. He said he would give the team his initials – MTA - and the team would be called Muslim Tigers Ahmadiyya. He also gave us permission to use his

letterhead logo as our crest which was then printed on our hockey shirts and tracksuits.

Many years later, during a homeopathy class broadcast on Muslim Television Ahmadiyya, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى spoke of the fitness properties of Arnica and Bryonia 200. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى explained that he had prescribed these medicines to some of the older players of the MTA hockey team. Since some people were a bit confused by the name MTA hockey team, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى explained that the initials were first given to the Jama'at hockey team and later to the satellite station!

For months we had trained hard in preparation for the trip to Russia, but the day before our intended departure we learned that we had not been granted visas. We discovered later that this was due to political reasons. We were very disappointed but Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was determined that our efforts should not go to waste. He instructed us to arrange a trip to Europe instead. Therefore, we spoke to the German, Belgian and Dutch Jama'ats who kindly arranged fixtures for us overnight. Thus we were able to tour for seven days during which our team grew and formed close bonds of friendship.

After that trip, we received an invitation from Kazan, Tataristan, and perhaps this was what Allah was preparing us for. We subsequently played this team quite often, even in Battersea Park which Huzur رحمه الله تعالى himself attended. The match itself was broadcast on Tataristan National TV. When we toured Tataristan, we had the national press following us and enjoyed a great deal of media coverage.

Throughout that trip, Dr Fareed kept in touch with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى who was interested in our results and strategy. He encouraged us to video record our games and watch them later to see how we could improve, just as professional players do today. He would take a lot of interest in our diet, the team sheet, positions and any injuries. Whenever we were on tour, Dr Fareed would phone the results in to the Private Secretary's office. We are told that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى used to wait eagerly to hear our results.





# Guarding our precious Imam

*An interview with:*  
Major Mahmood Ahmad

*Major Mahmood Ahmad served in the Pakistani Army for over 18 years before dedicating his life to the service of the Jama'at. Since November 1984 he has spearheaded security operations for both Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى and Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih*

*أيداه الله تعالى بنصره العزيز*

## **First recollection**

I met Huzur رحمه الله تعالى for the first time in Islamabad in Pakistan 1984 when he called three Ahmadi majors into his sitting room. As we said Salam he held my hand and asked me about my family background. I told him that my father was Malik Barakat Ali, a name he immediately recognised. He then started telling me the names of all my relations! He then asked the other two majors about their backgrounds. After giving some information Huzur رحمه الله تعالى remarked: "You are both relatives!" They were puzzled, looked at each other, and insisted that they were not. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى then replied: "Yes you are, and I can prove it!" Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked them about certain uncles that they had, and then told them that their uncles were brothers, hence proving that they were related. We were amazed. His memory was unbelievable.

I remember one Question and Answer Session when someone introduced himself and asked a question. Before answering the question, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى reminded the person that he had written a letter last year asking Huzur رحمه الله تعالى

for prayers about his illness. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked him how he was feeling now. The person replied that he was fine, to which Huzur رحمه الله تعالى replied: "Is that why you never wrote back?" It was just amazing, that despite the millions of letters Huzur رحمه الله تعالى received, he could single out a person and recall his exact details.

## **Allah is the Protector**

Before travelling anywhere I would issue written instructions to staff. One such instruction was that Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى car should never be left alone and that the security staff would provide protection for it. Upon reading this, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى immediately corrected it and wrote: "God will provide protection!" This is how I was trained by Huzur رحمه الله تعالى.

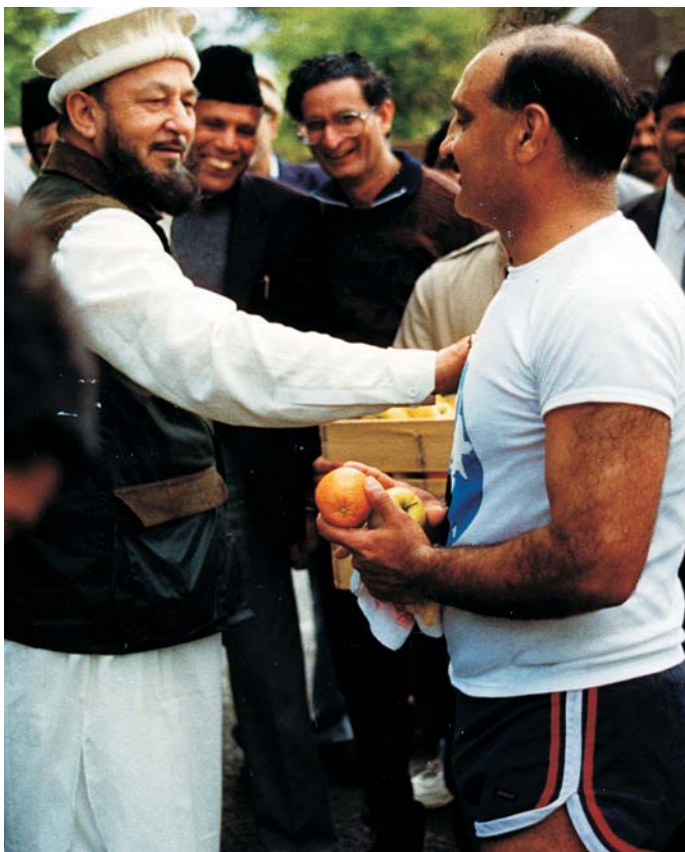
## **Care for Staff**

One thing I realised from the very beginning was how extremely caring Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was towards his staff, including during overseas trips. For example, as part of the Australia tour, we also went to New Zealand and returned



**Above:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ Cycling in Holand

**Below:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ greets the winner of the Ansar Marathan walk, Major Mahmood sahib.



to Australia the very same day. Everyone was exhausted - except Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ who was still feeling fresh. After 'Isha, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ presided over a Question and Answer session. I stayed with Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ whilst some staff left to rest. We got back to the guest house at around midnight. Everyone was sleeping, but Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was informed that nobody had eaten dinner that night. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ asked me to wake everyone up, as they should not sleep without food. I tried to wake them up but to no avail. When I informed Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ he immediately went himself to wake them up! Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ would often ask what we had eaten, and made sure that we had done so properly. During the trips abroad Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ would give some money to every member of his staff for their personal expenditure. He would make sure that they had bought something for themselves and gifts for their family. This is something he insisted we did.

During Jalsa Salana Qadian in 1991, the vast number of people attending meant that arrangements were stretched, and sometimes we were not able to eat. One day Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ called me and the Sami Basri (audio-video) team and asked us where we were sleeping. We replied that we slept wherever we could find a spot! Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ then gave the security staff as well as the Sami Basri and Private Secretary teams one big room in his own house, with an attached bath. He also arranged for food to be delivered to us. I was always amazed that despite such heavy burdens, from Fajr to 'Isha, he would enquire after his staff and ensure we were being taken care of. This was his nature.





**Above:** Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى first trip to Holland

**Below:** Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى visit to Nasir Bagh in its early days. The original theme park attractions can be seen in the background.

### Emotional times

It is very strange, but only a Prophet or Khalifa can show the sort of courage as did Huzur رحمه الله تعالى during Begum Sahiba's illness and demise. She was seriously ill and the entire Jama'at was extremely worried. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى used to visit her daily but his normal routine never changed. A few days before she passed away Huzur رحمه الله تعالى told me to call him immediately if I received a call from Sahibzada Dr Mirza Mubashar Ahmad, who was at the hospital. After receiving the call around midnight I immediately called Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. He came down with two of his daughters. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was quiet and he told the girls to show patience. We all had to bow down to the will of God. So I knew the end had come. He was calm and quiet. We arrived at the hospital where he stayed for about a quarter of an hour. The day after her burial was Friday, when he delivered the Khutba Jumu'ah. It was unbelievable how he carried on performing his duties. That was remarkable.

### Fitness

Something I found amazing was Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى fitness. I had commando training, and considered myself physically and mentally fit, but when I saw Huzur رحمه الله تعالى at work I realised my stamina was no where near to Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى. He never got tired. I noticed this particularly when I came to London. There used to be daily Question and Answer Sessions and everyday after Fajr we went on morning walks for five to six miles, be it raining or snowing. He always looked fresh. I have never seen anyone with so much energy. It was a gift from God.







**Below:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى meets the president of Nigeria

### Morning Walks

He would nearly always go on his morning walks including during trips abroad. The different Jama'at's were briefed beforehand on the type of routes Huzur رحمه الله تعالى preferred and they would make appropriate arrangements. In Holland, apart from morning walks we also used to cycle daily. This was a part of his life that he really used to enjoy. Sometimes before lunch he would cycle for an hour before returning for lunch and Salat. In the evening we used to have tea in the woods. He would normally prepare coffee in three or four thermoses himself. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would personally serve cakes and coffee to everyone. The cakes were prepared by the parents-in-law of a Dutch convert. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى used to enjoy these and named them "in-law cakes"! It was remarkable how he would resume his walks even after recovering from the first episode of his illness. And even after the second episode he would walk, only this time within the complex of Fazl Mosque, even though it proved difficult. He loved walking.

### Amusing incidents

During morning walks Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would organise races between people near a lake. The losers would have to join what Huzur رحمه الله تعالى named the "Khawaja Club". Nabil Arshad became its chairman. It became a very popular club that held dinners at which jokes would be told and poems recited. Many people wished to become a member as Huzur رحمه الله تعالى showed particular affection to the club.

There were many points on the morning walk that were named after people by Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. When it used to snow heavily, there was a point at which Khawaja Rasheeduddin Qamar Sahib would always slip. On one occasion Khawaja Sahib said he had brought "anti-slip" shoes, but when encountering that spot again he slipped down a hill like a bullet! Huzur رحمه الله تعالى laughed loudly and told us to catch him as he was bound to hit something. That place was named "Khawaja Meadows".

There was a hill called "Filli Hill" after Khalifa Falahuddin Sahib, who used to lead the walk for many years. Filli used to have some shoes which were two sizes big for him. His feet used to move around inside the shoes, and sometimes during the icy winter climbing the hill proved too difficult and he would slip back down. He would then step back a few paces, take a run up, and try again. On one occasion Huzur رحمه الله تعالى helped to push him to the top of the hill.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى enjoyed surprising members of the Jama'at who he knew very well by visiting their houses on the way back from the morning walk. On one occasion, we knocked at the door of a family Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had decided to surprise. We knocked many times but to no avail. After a while, when it was apparent that no one was in, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى began to laugh and exclaimed that today they had been surprised by the occupants!





**Below:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ studies a map in Germany, to identify a suitable route.

**Left:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ arrives in Yogyakarta during the Indonesia tour.

**Below:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ in Norway

### *Sporting Life*

Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was fond of all types of sports. He himself was a very good cyclist, walker and kabaddi and squash player. He once asked me to play squash with him. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ had learnt the sport from a famous world number one, Hashim Khan, when Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was studying in London. We found a club near to Fazl Mosque where we used to play, particularly during the month of Ramadhan, when Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ would play squash instead of the morning walks. Once a friend of Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ came to watch a game and afterwards told Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ that he never knew that Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was such a good







**Above:** A tea break in Canada, 1986.

**Right:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى with Khuddam in Gambia

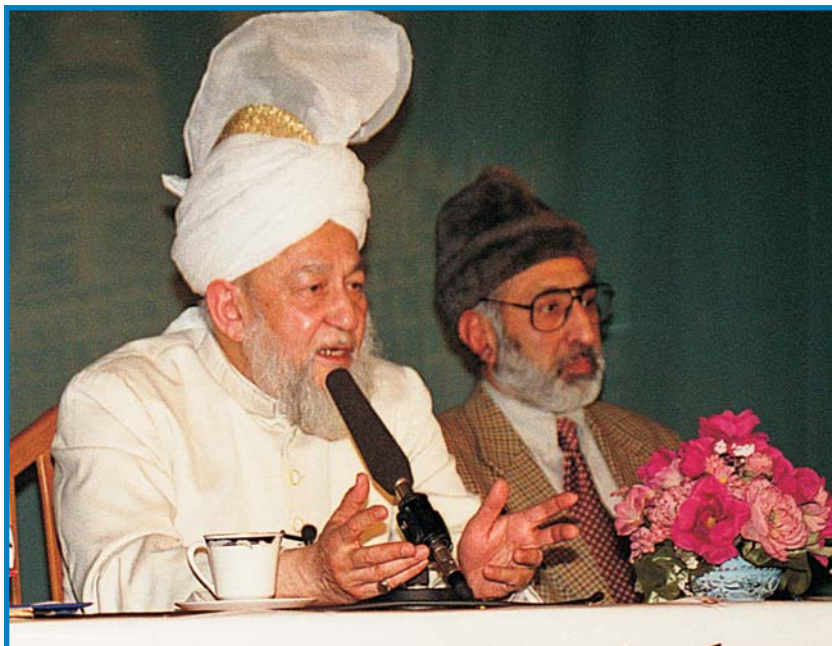
**Below:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and family board a train in Europe

player, to which Huzur رحمه الله تعالى gave an instant witty response, saying that if you don't have "Hussan Zunni" (positive thinking) then what could he do! We all laughed.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى also liked clay pigeon shooting, which he would do in Islamabad (Tilford). He was a very good shot and hardly missed. We also went to Hartlepool for actual pheasant shooting at a registered club. He was also a very good shot with a bow and arrow. Boating was another activity he enjoyed. He had his own boat and we even took it to the River Thames! Once we went to Lake District in winter. It was raining very hard and you could not see much in front, though this didn't stop Huzur رحمه الله تعالى wanting to boat. No one else wanted to participate so in the end it was just Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and me. After 10-15 minutes of rowing it felt like we were in a thick soup. We couldn't see anyone yet we carried on rowing. Not once did Huzur رحمه الله تعالى say we should row back. Only when we ventured so far out did I suggest that we head back, at which point Huzur رحمه الله تعالى agreed. Otherwise he didn't mind how far we went out! When we returned to the banks we could see the relief on everyone's faces!







# My Perfect Patient

*An interview with:*  
Dr Vali Shah

*Dr Vali Shah has lived in England for more than 40 years. He received his early education in both Kenya and in Qadian, India, before moving to Pakistan for secondary and professional studies. He then came to England for his postgraduate education and entered the field of dentistry.*

## First recollection

My first recollection was just after the demise of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى in 1982. My wife saw a dream in which she heard the name 'Tahir', although I had never met him.

I first met Huzur رحمه الله تعالى when he came to England two years later. The events of the day were quite a shock. We got a call at 3.30am that morning informing us of his arrival. I went to the Fazl Mosque where Huzur رحمه الله تعالى reached around 6am. He met the UK Amila and other members of the Jama'at who had gathered to receive him.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was by far the most amazing person I have ever met. You just cannot enumerate the qualities he had - totally sublime and unbelievable - that shone through right from day one. He was very alert and very affectionate although you could see his eyes were red and bloodshot through lack of sleep. But there was a twinkle in his eye and he was very happy and very cheerful. Nothing at all showed what he was going through.

## Amir UK

When I was appointed Amir UK after the sad death of Aftab Khan Sahib, I was in absolute shock. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined looking after a country as an Amir, particularly in the country where Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was living.

I remembered when we went to see Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to offer our sympathies and condolences, to share in his grief as he had lost a very dear Amir. He met us very graciously, and as we were leaving Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said me: "Iss jehaaz ko sambaleh" (take care of this plane!). I looked at Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and thought he was talking to Imam Sahib, who was with me. But he was addressing me. Again I asked Huzur رحمه الله تعالى what he had said, as I thought I had misheard him. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى repeated: "Iss kaam ko sambaleh" (take care of this work). I could not believe what I had heard. He knew I was a very quiet sort of person, and I think he wanted to keep the ball rolling until he found somebody else. To my relief he did when Dr Iftikhar Ayaz Sahib took over after about six to eight months.

## Alertness

There are two incidents that showed the remarkable grasp Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ had immense concentration, love and discretion in his conduct. One was during the centenary year in 1989 when I was Secretary Ziafat. I accompanied Chaudrey Inaytullah Bangvi Sahib, who was Officer Jalsa Salana, to see Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ in order to cover some matters relating to the kitchen. I started reading out some notes that I had made on sheets of paper. While reading them, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ carried on doing his own work. As I didn't want to disturb him I decided to skip a few pages. At this moment, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ looked up and said "Kya?" (What?), which completely shocked me. I realised that I shouldn't have missed those points! I explained that I didn't think they were too important, but Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ told me very lovingly to go back to the pages I had skipped. This showed that although he was doing something else, he was still focused on what I was saying.

The other incident also relates to the kitchen. There was a big freezer and the meat that came in would go to the back whilst the old stock would be brought forward. Unfortunately, on one occasion, someone didn't push the meat to the front and the food went off. I felt very sad at the amount of wastage. I told Chaudrey Sahib who became very annoyed. He said that we had to tell Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ. So we went to Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ, and without even a word, he said: "Yoon hota hai" (it happens) I could not believe that he had forgiven this. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ explained that even at the Jalsa Salanas in Pakistan, whole pots of food would sometimes go to waste, and that these things happened. But we should take every care and effort to see that it does not happen again. I felt so relieved and yet so embarrassed about the waste, because we are so careful in Ziafat, always watching the pennies. But Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was so gracious.

## Bravery

Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was an incredibly brave man as well. Most people fear the dentist, but Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ had absolutely no fear! I knew that certain treatments were painful if you did not have an injection, but he was very keen to have treatment without one.

I remember the first time I received a call from the Private Secretary who said that Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ had a problem with his tooth. So I went to see him for a quick check-up. When I inspected his teeth, I could see a tooth had broken. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ used to chew bones and one of them had cracked a tooth, which is very painful. That evening he came to the surgery and, without any injections, I removed a nerve and put about 14 screws into the tooth. How I did it I still don't know. I almost fainted, yet Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ sat there calm as ever. He did not even flinch!

## Marriages

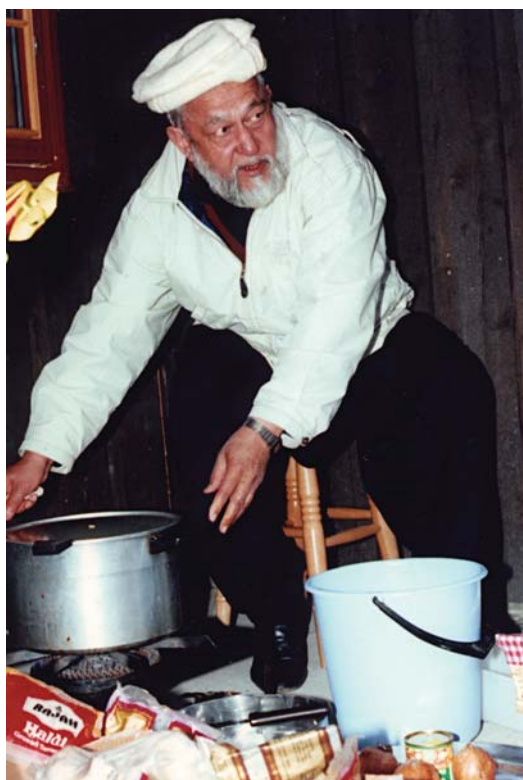
When Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ youngest daughter was getting married, I had the good fortune of attending the wedding and stood behind Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ as a sort of "honorary" guard. It was an instruction from Amir Sahib. We later had a mulaqat with Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ and I informed him that some of my daughters were not yet married, and asked if he could arrange something for them. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ said he would, insha'Allah. A few weeks later Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ became very ill. But, by the grace of Allah, he

made a remarkable recovery. The second or third day after his recovery, he rang us, and asked for us to see him. We had no idea why - perhaps we had done something wrong. When we met him, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ smiled at us and said that he had made a promise to us and that he was going to keep it - "your daughters" he said. We couldn't believe he had remembered. How can the Khalifa, who has millions of things to think about, remember me, Vali Shah, and my predicaments?

Within that year, four of my daughters got married. The last wedding Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ attended was that of my youngest daughter. It makes you think that the Khalifa, who holds the highest office in the world, made a promise to an ordinary person and then found the time and went to all the trouble to fulfil that promise.

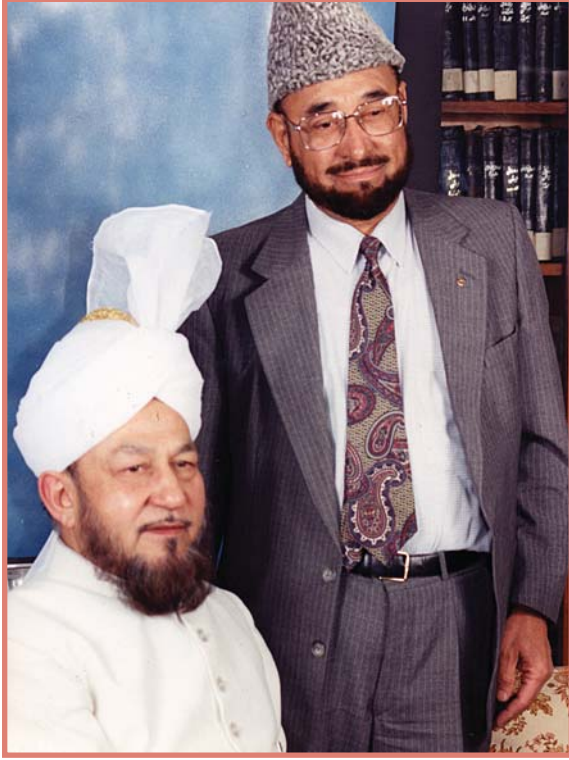
## Affection

Anyone that works in the kitchens will know that the work can be very greasy and a bit mucky at times. I was looking like that once. My wife had arranged a family mulaqat and forgotten to tell me. When my family's turn arrived, a security guard came to call me. I explained that I didn't have a mulaqat and that there must have been some mistake. Then someone from the Private Secretary's office came to tell me that Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was waiting for me. I was stunned. I explained that I was absolutely filthy and could not come, but he insisted because Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was calling me. So I quickly washed my hands and went. When I arrived I apologised to Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ, saying I had just come from the kitchens. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ said that he knew, and this was why it was so important that I should come. He grabbed me and embraced me. Every time I remember this it makes me swell up with emotion. Just imagine the love a Khalifa has for his people. May Allah bless his soul a million upon million times over.



**Above:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ enjoyed helping in the kitchen





# Huzur رحمه الله تعالى a man of God

*An interview with:*  
Bashir Ahmad Rafiq

Bashir Ahmad Rafiq sahib was born in 1931 in the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. In 1945 he moved to Qadian, India to study at Taleemul Islam High School. He joined Taleemul Islam College in 1949 in Lahore from where he obtained his B.A. degree. In 1953 under the instruction of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II رضي الله عنه he enrolled at Jamiatul Mobashireen, Rabwah. After completion of his Shahid degree he was posted to England in 1959. He has served the Jama'at at various capacities including Imam of the London mosque for 21 years, Private Secretary to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى, Founder of the Muslim Herald, Editor of The Review Of Religions, Vakil-i-Tabshir, Vakil-i-Diwan & Vakil-i-Tasneef. He is the author of more than a dozen books both in English and in Urdu on various aspects of Islam and Ahmadiyyat.

## First recollection

The first time I saw Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was during a meeting of Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya in 1945. I was very impressed by him and can still remember meeting him and shaking his hand. We got to know each other and became good friends in Qadian. He was only two and a half years older than me. Following the partition we both studied at Lahore so again used to meet at Jama'at meetings there. It was then that I discovered what a good poet he was. He was shy in reciting his poetry but whenever I requested him he was kind enough to do so.

## Like Father Like Son

On my return to Rabwah in 1979 I had further opportunities to observe Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. He was then Sadr Majlis Ansarullah. He was a dynamic leader, very learned and an ocean of knowledge. Even at that time he would chair Question and Answer sessions involving non-Ahmadi guests. People in the Jama'at would comment how similar he was to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II رضي الله عنه, who was very learned, a great orator and an excellent writer. All these qualities of his

father could be seen in abundance in Huzur رحمه الله تعالى also.

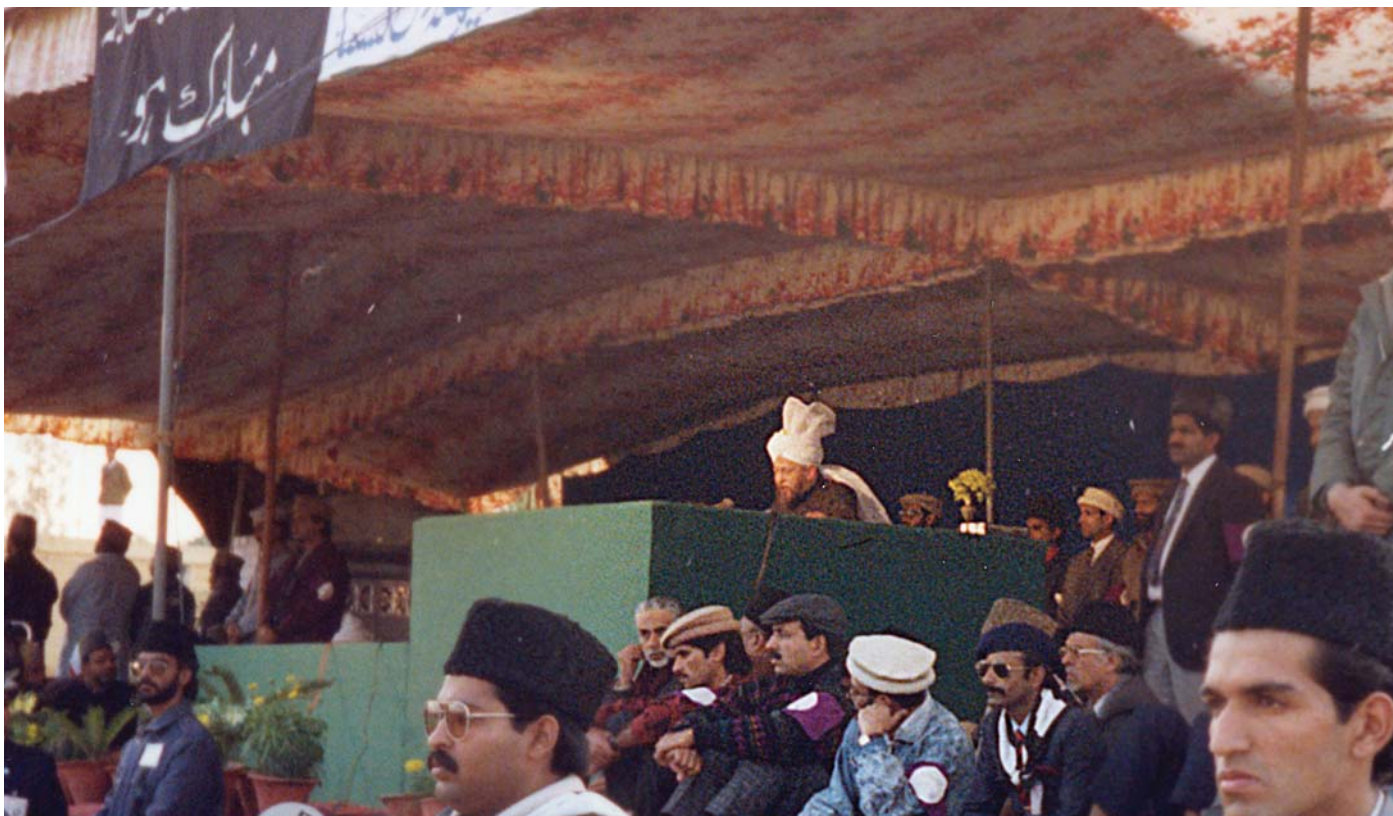
## Migration to London

General Zia-ul-Haq's anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance in 1984 was implemented on a Thursday. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى called an emergency meetings to discuss the matter.

On Juma, we all went to Masjid Aqsa thinking Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would deliver the sermon. We were so surprised when we saw someone else stand up instead, even though Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was present and sitting among the congregation. After the sermon Huzur رحمه الله تعالى led the prayer, in which he was very emotional. When he finished he stood up, still overcome with emotion, and waved to everyone. People were crying, you could hear it all around – I've not seen anything like it since. The next morning after Fajr we were told that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had left Rabwah, the following day we found out he was in London.

## A Man of God

It was in 1979, when we held a function on the Deliverance of Jesus from the Cross,



**Above:** Centenary Jalsa in Qadian, 1991

that I met Iain Adamson, a journalist and former Editor of *The Daily Express*. He promoted the event really well and Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى was very happy with the way he had helped the Jama'at. When I returned to the UK in 1986 as Vakil-ul-Tasneef, it occurred to me that I should again contact Mr Adamson to ask him to write a book about the Promised Messiah عليه السلام. He said that although he did not know anything about the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, he would still be honoured to do so. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى granted permission for the Jama'at to help with material, which culminated in the publication of *Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian* (later republished as '*Ahmad the Guided One*').

When he completed the book I approached Mr Adamson with another idea. I asked him if he could write a book on Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. Again he said he didn't know anything about Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. I assured him, however, that if he was prepared to do it, I only had to go to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى again for permission. I later went to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, assuming that he would welcome the idea – but he flatly refused! Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said he didn't want anyone to write about him. After a month or two, I saw Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and spoke with him on this subject again. I stated that a book on his life would be beneficial to our youngsters who were not so familiar with other Khulafa, as books about them were only in Urdu. Also, it would be beneficial to the rest of the world who knew they had a Khalifa but didn't know much about him. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى again refused.

About a year later, somebody in the USA asked Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to send a life history about himself as he wanted to publish something on Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى put that person in touch with me and I helped with whatever information I had. But I felt that the material was insufficient and again the urge

came to approach Huzur رحمه الله تعالى about my original idea. I explained to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى that people really desired to know more about him. I insisted that Mr Adamson should write this book. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى reluctantly agreed, but on two conditions. The first was that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى wasn't going to revise this book as he would feel uncomfortable reading about himself. So he gave me the full responsibility for every word of it. The second condition was that the Jama'at would not pay a penny towards the writing of the book, as it would give the impression that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was promoting the book. Although Mr Adamson initially had doubts about publishing the book at his own expense, I convinced him that the book would be a bestseller within the Jama'at and that he would get his money back. He agreed and started work on the project.

It was a very difficult task since there wasn't much material available. The first thing I arranged was interviews with Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad Sahib, Aftab Khan Sahib (the then Amir) and other members of the Jama'at. But that was not enough. Eventually the time came when an interview with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى proved crucial. I approached Huzur رحمه الله تعالى stating that justice could not be done to the book unless we spoke to him personally. Although feeling uneasy, he finally agreed to give us time. We conducted 12 sessions in his office, during which we covered a wide range of aspects of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى life. We also obtained his permission to interview his wife and daughters.

When the book was written, there was one more issue to settle – its title. There were various ideas, like *Mirza Tahir Ahmad* and *Khalifatul Masih IV*, but Mr Adamson observed these would only appeal to Ahmadis. "I am a Christian," he said, "so he is not my Khalifatul Masih. However, there is a title in my mind which holds





**Above:** A view of Qadian from Minaratul Masih during the 2001 centenary Jalsa  
**Below:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ on the train to Qadian

a universal meaning – *A Man of God*! I commented that this was a very good title, but also asked how a Christian like him would regard Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ as a man of God? He replied that after all the interviews and closeness that he had built up with him, in his heart he felt that Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ really is a man of God. So we both went to Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ and presented the title for his approval. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was reluctant to accept, saying he was only a servant of God. "A man of God is beyond me," Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ remarked. However, Mr Adamson insisted that the title was not meant to indicate what you think of yourself, rather it is what others think about you. So eventually Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ agreed.

It is interesting to note that for the preparation of this book I accompanied Mr Adamson to Qadian. I must say that although he was a Christian, he came to love Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ just like an Ahmadi. You can sense that love just by reading the book.

### Stamina

Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ really loved his Jama'at. After Fajr he would come out

and shake people's hands and embrace many of them. There was no rest for him. I was fortunate to be a member of Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ entourage on a trip to Scandinavia. In Sweden, where we stayed at the mission house, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ held mulaqats until 11.30pm. After this he would have dinner, and then sleep at 1am. Immediately following Fajr, which was offered at 4:30am, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ left for Norway. So you can see the period of sleep for Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ would only be about two and half hours. To this day I still cannot imagine how he managed this routine. He was a workaholic. Rest was something he knew nothing about!

It was also very difficult to keep up with him. Not only when he was walking but when he was giving instructions! Within 15 minutes he may have given you 20 tasks. The speed at which he worked was sometimes impossible to keep pace with. His memory was another impressive quality. For example, he would remember all those 20 tasks many days later! He remembered everything, and followed up on all the points. This kept you alert at all times!







**Above:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ is bidding farewell to Sahibzada Mirza Waseem Ahmad, Amir Jama'at India.

**Below:** Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ in Indian near the river Biyas with Malik Ashfaq sahib

Another striking thing about his personality was that he was very down to earth. There were no formalities with him. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ had great concern for the poor, not just those within but also outside the Jama'at. He would be moved whenever he saw somebody in trouble or in need. He urged the Jama'at to donate generously to Humanity First and other charitable schemes.

### **Jalsa Salana Qadian**

I was very fortunate to be included in Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ personal entourage to Jalsa Salana Qadian in 1991. I cannot forget that time. When in Delhi we were told that due to fog our flight had been cancelled. It was decided that we should travel by train. There was no first or second class compartment available at such short notice. So we got booked a standard class compartment, which was allocated to Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ and his family. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was very quiet but busy throughout the journey as he was composing a poem for the Jalsa. We arrived at Batala station where we had to change trains. However, train services from Batala to Qadian had stopped after the partition. Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ requested the Indian Government to make special allowances for our journey to Qadian. The Government consented even though it was such a long time since the line had last been used. The interesting thing was that the train started in Qadian on the very day that Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was born!

When the train set off from Batala, Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ was quite emotional. It could be seen on his face. On arrival at Qadian in the late evening, Ahmadis were raising slogans. I saw Huzur's رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ face - it seemed as if he was not of this world. He was in

such an emotional upsurge. For a few minutes he stood there, motionless, in the grip of emotion. The scene is very difficult to describe in words. It was amazing.

From there we went to Darul Masih, the House of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام. When Huzur رحمہ اللہ تعالیٰ walked from his car to Darul Masih, people were standing on both sides. The whole atmosphere was emotionally charged. People were crying and small boys were also weeping, perhaps not even understanding why. All were loudly proclaiming Allah's greatness. That is something I cannot forget.

