

# ‘عفت الديار كذكري‘

(p. 6 inside)



*I see cities falling and inhabited places in ruin. [ Ahmad, the Founder  
of the Ahmadiyya Movement ]*

## **THE QUETTA EARTHQUAKE A MIGHTY DIVINE SIGN**

*Being an English Version of a Pamphlet on the Subject*

BY

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**QADIAN**

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*Take a city of 80,000 and consider it suddenly deprived of all its amenities, no government, no police, no traffic facilities, no food, no water, no electric current, no shops, no bazar, and, in addition, the imminent terror of no law. This was Quetta at three minutes past three o'clock on the morning of Friday, May 31..... The tragedy of Quetta's desolation is complete.....The earthquake has done its worst to obliterate every trace of habitation.*

[The Civil & Military Gazette].

*Quetta's death-roll is approximately five times that of Bihar in an area one-twelfth of the size and almost all the inhabitants have been rendered homeless and destitute..... Quetta is a city of death and despair.....Hours of intensive bombardment could not have as completely wiped out a town as a few seconds' shaking of the earth's crust.*

[The Statesman].



اعوذ بالله من الشيطان الرجيم

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم، نحمدة ونصلى على رسوله الكريم  
خدا کے فضل اور رحم کے ساتھ  
هو الناصر

## I

Ye who fear God! How long will you tarry before you accept the truth ?

God made man to give expression to His own attributes. He made him, so that, through his visible life, the beauties hidden in the divine attributes, should become known to the world. But the Devil set himself against the divine plan, and strove to obscure the attributes of God from the sight of man. He determined that the beauty of God should not become manifest, so he began to work for his own dominion and his own superiority over man. This is the eternal battle which has been raging from time immemorial. Prophets of God, appearing from time to time, seek to establish His glory. Friends of the Devil, on the other hand, seek to keep people away from Him, and lead them into a dangerous heedlessness. These friends of the Devil attribute to the prophets the evils which belong only to themselves, and paint the prophets black, with the blackness which is in their own hearts. But, do you think, the Lord of the Heaven and the Earth, would leave His servants thus? Would He allow His own Light to be extinguished, or even to let it be surrounded by darkness? No. God would come to the assistance of His lone and helpless messengers, with mighty signs. To raise them to eminence, He would spare not even to level down the eminences of the world.

Alas, how tragic is this struggle that has been going on ever since the world came into existence! There is God, the Creator of the heaven and the earth, Master of the universe, Who has power over all things, and Who can, by a gesture, destroy all His mean creation. This God, calls man to Himself, to honour and exalt him. He wants to give him the blessing of His nearness, and to offer him the cup of His love. He seeks to give him fellowship, and opens to him the gates of His grace. He prepares for His humble creature a great feast of His favours, and to call him, sends out to him, His beloved and holy servants. But man, foolish and lazy, refuses the call of God, and listens, instead, to the call of the Devil and his children. He fills himself with sloth and filth with avidity, and refuses contemptuously all the clean and wholesome food offered to him. He refuses the Bounty of God, and in spite of a vision of His radiant face, turns away from Him. Cruel man! How long will you thus reject the Divine gifts? How long shall the gates of heaven remain open, waiting for you to come in? How long will you remain in the company of your enemy, the Devil, drinking of your own blood, and killing your own soul? When will your eyes open? When will you take the life-giving cup from the hands of your Beloved? Yes, the cup, which He has been holding tenderly for you, for so long?

Behold, God has again called you to Himself. He has sent the Messiah, whose advent had been foretold by prophets of old, and of whom, we have had tidings from his own lord and master, the greatest of all the prophets and saints of history, the Holy Prophet Muhammad, on whom be peace and the blessings of God. The Holy Prophet, it was, who said, 'Blessed are my community, who would have me in the beginning, and the Promised Messiah, at the end.' But, how did you receive him? Did you stretch out to him, the hand of your love? Or, did you cast stones at him? Did you say to him, 'Hail thee'? Or, did you say, 'Avaunt'?

Noble man! I ask you, in the name of God, of One, Who holds your life, in the hollow of His hand; I ask you, if the vile abuse, which has been hurled at this messenger of God, has ever been hurled, at any other person? If it has not been, do you think God, jealous of the honour of His loved ones, would remain silent at all this? Would He not repay this wicked abuse, with all the dire consequences which are its due?

## II

God declared at the very advent of the Promised Messiah—the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement :

‘A warner came into the world, but the world accepted him not; God, however, will accept him, and establish his truth, by mighty signs.’

These great words were spoken by God, to the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement, about 60 years ago, and were published by him, at the very time.

Now, ye who think and, ye who have been endowed with a spirit which loves the truth! Think and say, if this revelation has not been literally fulfilled? Is it not true, that the world rejected the claims of the Promised Messiah? Is it not true, that God showed thousands of mighty signs to show His favour to His servant? Did He not show these signs, in the same manner, as He had shown them before, in the day of Adam, of Noah, of Abraham, of Lot, of Moses and of Jesus (on whom be peace)? Let me not talk of other signs, at this time. Let me only refer to that terrible sign, which has appeared recently, in the form of the Quetta Earthquake, the earthquake which has claimed about 60,000 souls, as its toll, and in which, about 80 per cent. of the population of Quetta has been destroyed, and as a result of which, houses and other buildings have been almost completely demolished. The shocks still come at Quetta, while about 20 to 25,000 human corpses still lie decaying under the debris, without having had their last rites per-

formed for them. So fearful is this sign, that the hardest of hearts would melt before it. But, alas, the people of this age do not seem to heed even this mighty sign.

Exactly 31 years ago God vouchsafed to the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement, the revelation :

عفت الديار محلها ومقامها ، انى احافظ كل من فى الدار

*i.e.*, “ God will send wide-spread destruction over the world. This destruction will involve not only towns, where men dwell permanently, but also holiday resorts, where people take up only a temporary residence. But, at the time of this calamity, God will protect those, living with you in your house.” (June 8, 1904, *vide Alhakhm* 1904, Nos. 19-20). The first part of this revelation was also vouchsafed to the Promised Messiah separately, on the 1st of May, and both of these revelations were published by him at the time they were received. About a year after their publication, that is, on the 4th April 1905, came the great earthquake which shook the whole of the Kangra Valley, and which claimed about 25,000 deaths as its toll, the number of those who were injured, not being known at all. Now, ye who fear God! Pause for a moment! How clear was this sign! In this revelation, it was clearly laid down (1) that an earthquake would come; for, only an earthquake can destroy a whole area; (2) that the earthquake would come in places where people go for rest and recreation; Dalhousie, Dharmsala, and Palampur, are all places whose population is composed largely of men on holiday from outside; (3) that the area destroyed, would be in the vicinity of Qadian, but Qadian, the home of the Promised Messiah, though situated within the earthquak area, would be protected by God. This also came about. Qadian was on the edge of the earthquake area, yet it remained safe. In fact, it is significant that Amritsar and Lahore which, from the earthquake area, were even farther than Qadian, by about 50 to 70 miles, had thousands of buildings damag-

ed, and had hundreds of people killed, but Qadian and particularly the residence of the Promised Messiah, in spite of being so dangerously near the earthquake area, remained completely unaffected.

### III

People laughed at this, and said that it was but a coincidence and that often enough even things said casually come out to be true. But God said at the time: 'Tarry a while. If you profit not, by this sign, then We have other signs in store for you, and these will come in such abundance, that you will doubt no longer'. God again sent the warning that He would send earthquakes to all parts of the world, one following the other, and so severe would they be that their coming would be like the coming of the Day of Judgment. For, thus wrote the Promised Messiah :

*"Thou O Europe ! art not safe. Nor thou, O Asia ! And ye that dwell in the islands ! No self-made deity will assist you on that day. I see cities falling, and I find inhabited places in ruin. He, the One and Only God, remained silent for a long time, while hateful deeds were done before His eyes. He remained silent, but now He will show His face with terror. Those who have ears, let them hear that the time is not far off. I strove to collect all of you under the protection of God, but it was ordained that the writing of fate should be fulfilled. I say to you truly that the doom of this country is drawing near. The days of Noah will you witness over again, and the destruction of Sodom will you see with your own eyes. But God is slow in His wrath. Repent that mercy may be shown to you. One who forsakes God, is a worm not a man, and one who fears Him not, is dead not living."* (Haqiqat-ul-Wahi, May 15, 1907, page 257).

Now, ye who have in their hearts the fear of God! and ye who have not entirely forgotten your approaching end! Ponder over these words, and behold how clearly the earthquakes that have come in Japan, in Bihar, and in Quetta, were prophesied in these words, and how, besides these earthquakes, many other earthquakes have also been prophesied? Earthquakes which will work havoc in the world,.....which will destroy the peace of human beings, and the tranquility of their hearts? And this, because the people have not heeded the call of their Creator, and have instead, accepted the lead of the Devil; because they have expelled the love of God from their hearts, and have made room in it for the love of the world; because they abused one who strove for their own good; and, because they made their enemies their leaders. Would that they opened their eyes, and saw where their *Ulema* were leading them; whether they were leading them to truth or to falsehood; and whether they taught them good morals or bad ones! Would that they repented, and accepted the messenger of God, purified their hearts, and practised virtue! Would, that they realised, that nearness to God was not attained by abuse and vain talk, but only through humility and self-abasement! If they had but done so, they would have found the gates of the Kingdom of Heaven opening for them, and God Himself descending to their aid.

#### IV

Friends! One of the prophecies which the Promised Messiah published regarding earthquakes, declares

عفت الدنيا ركذ كرى

(Sept. 13, 1905, *vide Badr*, Vol. 1, No. 24, p. 2) *i.e.*, a whole area, consisting of towns and cities, will be blotted out from the surface of the earth, just as men have blotted out God from their thoughts, having forsaken His Worship and His Book, the Holy Quran. This prophecy implies, that of the coming earthquakes, at least one would visit a Muslim area and would blot out its population, just

as the population had blotted out God from their daily lives. Now, ye who love the truth! How many Muslims are there, who say their appointed prayers regularly? Or, how many of them give any of their time to a reading of the Holy Quran? Not more than about 10 to 15 per cent., you will agree. And while you bear this in mind, ponder over the details of the destruction that has come upon Quetta, and its surroundings. Those who have remained safe number only about 10 to 15 per cent., and those who have been either killed or injured number about 85 per cent. of the whole population. Think of this, and mark how clear this prophecy has been. It foretold not only the locality of the earthquake, but even suggested the number of its victims.

Not only this. Consider along with this, another revelation of the Promised Messiah

پہر بہار آئی خدا کی بات پھر پوری ہوئی

*i.e.*, 'Spring came again and again was the word of God fulfilled' (May 9, 1905 *vide Badr*, Vol. 1, No. 6). Here, we have the time of the earthquake also laid down. For, according to the revelation, the earthquake was to come in the spring, and spring, in the North, lasts for the various areas, from the 1st of January to the 31st of May. In hot countries, it comes in early, and goes early: while in cold countries, it comes in late, and goes late. This definition of spring, has been laid down by our Founder himself. In *Al-Wasiyyat* (7th ed., p. 15) he writes that the duration of spring is from the beginning of January to the end of May. Accordingly, in Bihar, which is a hot country, the earthquake came on the 15th of January. In Quetta, on the other hand, which is hilly and cold and where the sprouts come out rather late, the earthquake came just on the 31st of May, the last day of spring.

For those who weigh and consider, is not this sign mighty enough to strike terror in the hearts? At least, would God ever show signs of this kind, in support of an imposter? Would He

not rather, put such a one to shame, and expose his imposture? And yet for the sake of the Promised Messiah, He has sent signs and visitations, without number. Is it not time, that people should ponder over the question, accept the warning, enter the protection of God, and become heirs to His Grace?

## V

Ahrar propagandists and newspapers are misleading people, by saying, that the prophecy about earthquakes was already contained in the Holy Quran, and that, therefore, it could not, possibly, be regarded as that of the Mirza Sahib—our Founder. But they see not, that although the prophecy had been in the Holy Quran, for well over 1,300 years, yet nobody was able to take it out, and offer it as a sign of his truth. Our Founder, however, did not merely prophesy about earthquakes; he also claimed that the Quranic prophecy about them related to his own time. He proved thus that he himself was the Promised One of the Holy Quran. How else, can we account for the fact that as soon as our Founder announced his prophecy about earthquakes, the prophecy contained in the Holy Quran began to fulfil itself? Does it not prove that the very same God, Who revealed the Holy Quran, sent the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) into the world? Indeed, it was because of this, that as soon as time was ripe, God informed His messenger, that the ancient prophecy of the Holy Quran was at last going to be fulfilled.

We must also remember that the Holy Quran has itself taught, that its secrets are never revealed, except to those who are pure of heart. If the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) derived the prophecy from the Holy Quran, and if he published it, without himself having had any revelation about it, then corrupt and sinful as he was—God forbid—according to the Ahrar, how is it that he was able, against the clear teaching of the Holy Quran, to prophesy from out of the Holy Book, the time, the place and even the magni-

tude of the earthquake? And how is it that these *Ulema* who profess to sit in the seat of the Holy Prophet (on whom be peace), remained entirely ignorant of its contents, and were able to derive nothing at all from it? The Promised Messiah claimed to have derived everything from the Holy Quran. If prophecies about earthquakes are to be found in the Holy Quran, how does this fact, at all, prejudice the Promised Messiah's own prophecies? Was not his claim only this, that through a fresh revelation, God had vouchsafed to him, the details hidden in the prophecies of the Holy Quran? And if this claim be false, would the 'heirs' of the Prophet say, who, if any, from among them, was able, even out of the Holy Quran, to prophesy, for example, about the Kangra earthquake, as early as, or even later than the Promised Messiah was able to do? Or, who, from among them, was able to prophesy, regarding the Bihar earthquake, and foretell its time, and the direction of its reverberations? Or, who, from among them, was able to prophesy, regarding the time, the place, and the character of the Quetta earthquake? If nobody but the Promised Messiah was able to do so, is it very honest, to make such lame excuses, after the prophecy has been fulfilled? Is it not rather a mean effort to keep men away from the truth?

And, further, do they not see that in the Holy Quran, the prophecy about earthquakes (99:1—5), is followed by the prophecy that when the time of the earthquakes comes, God will warn the world afresh through a new revelation. Thus:

بَا رَبِّكَ اَوْحَىٰ لَهَا

In other words: 'Earthquakes will come because God will then have sent a new revelation about the earth.' (99: 6.)

We also read in the Holy Quran

وَمَا كُنَّا مُعَذِّبِينَ حَتَّىٰ نَبْعَثَ رَسُولًا

*i.e.*, 'We never send visitations on earth, until we have first raised a Messenger.' (16: 17).

If, therefore, Quetta is a visitation from God, and a visitation such as has been foretold by the Holy Quran, then, according to the Holy Quran itself, it is evidence of the advent of a true Messenger of His. For, visitations, says the Holy Quran, do not come without messengers. And now that the visitations have come, why look you not about for the Messenger of the Age? And finding him, why do you not bow down, in obeisance to him, and cease mocking at him?

## VI

There are those who say that, since the earthquake came after the death of our Founder, it could not be a sign of his truth. How utterly blind are those who say so! They admit that prophecies about earthquakes, fulfilled now, were made by the Holy Quran, over 1,300 years ago. And yet they haggle about an earthquake which has come only 27 years after the death of the Promised Messiah. A position as contradictory as this shows how far these *Ulema* have deviated from the truth. If a prophecy fulfilled 1,300 years after his death can be a proof of the truth of the Holy Prophet (on whom be peace), why cannot a prophecy made by a servant of his, and fulfilled 27 years after his death, be a proof of the truth of the servant?

Some say, again, that the Promised Messiah had himself said that these severe earthquakes would come in his life-time. But they ought to remember another revelation of his:

رب اخر وقت هذا

*i.e.*, 'O my Lord, put off this earthquake.' (March 27, 1906 *vide Badr*, Vol. 12, No. 13).

They also ought to remember another revelation which said:

اخيره الله الى وقت مسمى

*i.e.*, 'God has put off the visitation by a certain time.' (March 28, 1906, *vide Badr*, Vol. 2, No. 14), and still another revelation which said:

رب لا ترني زلزلة الساعة ، رب لا ترني موت احد منهم

*i.e.*, 'Show me not, O God, that terrible earthquake. Show me not O God! the death of any of my men.' (March 9, 1906, *vide Badr*, Vol. 2, No. 11).

These further revelations show clearly, that earthquakes which were destined to bring some little loss to Ahmadis, had been put off by God, and they were now to occur, some time after the death of the Promised Messiah. In view of these revelations, therefore, the objection that the Quetta earthquake occurred after the death of the Founder, is of no avail at all.

## VII

Some, again, say that as earthquakes are a common phenomenon, how could any one of them really serve as a sign of anybody's truth? But, I ask, if earthquakes are a common phenomenon, and if a prophecy about them is no prophecy at all, then why did God reveal, in the Holy Quran, a whole chapter—the Chapter of the Earthquake—as a warning about earthquakes? If you say, that the warning contained in that chapter, is a warning about the Day of Doom, then what about the assertion you made, that the present earthquakes have already been foretold by the Holy Quran? If the present earthquakes have been foretold by the Holy Quran, they must be a significant phenomenon and a prophecy which foretells about them, must be a genuine prophecy. If, on the other hand, the Holy Quran contains no such prophecy, then at least the assertion by the *Ulema* that our Founder only took the prophecy out of the Holy Quran, and himself had no revelation about it, must be set down as utterly false.

Now ye who love the truth! All of you must have realised that the *Ulema* of your time, do not desire the spread of truth at all. They desire rather its suppression. God has sent

a messenger that He may, once again, draw all mankind unto Himself. And that messenger says nothing on his own behalf. Whatever he says, he says, on behalf of God and His great beloved, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (on whom be peace); he has come only to re-establish the laws of the the Holy Quran, and the glory of the religion of Islam. To oppose him, is to oppose Islam and the Holy Quran. Do you not long that your hearts may be purified, and that you may become the loved ones of God? Do you love these *Maulvis*? Would you not, rather love God, Who brought you into existence? Remember, you have now been warned. Sign after sign, has been shown to you only that you may be guided aright. But, alas, your *Ulema* have prevented you from finding the truth. They have turned you away from God, and turned you towards the Devil. I pray that the Quetta earthquake may open your eyes, and that you and your children may come under the eternal protection of God. Else, I can only repeat what our Founder wrote 28 years ago :

*I see cities falling, and I find inhabited places in ruin. He, the One and Only God, remained silent for a long time, while hateful deeds were done before His eyes. He remained silent, but now He will show His face, with great terror..... I say to you truly that the turn of this country is drawing near. The days of Noah will you witness over again, and the destruction of Sodom, will you see with your own eyes. But God is slow in His wrath. Repent that mercy may be shown to you. He who forsakes God is a worm not a man ; and he who fears Him not, is dead not living.*

Friends! All is not over yet. You may still have faith, and release yourselves from the hold of the Devil. Behold, a

great earthquake has devastated Quetta. Behold also, that its victims—dead or injured—were, about 85 per cent. of the general population, while among Ahmadis, its victims were only about 15 per cent. If you come to have faith, God will show mercy to you. And more, you will help to heighten the glory of Islam.

### VIII

God! Open thou, the hearts of the people! And whether they are Hindus, Sikhs, Christians or Muslims, lead them all to the truth! Let them all accept, inwardly as well as outwardly thy true Faith, Islam. So that, they may become deserving of Thy Grace, and may behold Thy Radiant Face! O God! Let it be as I pray!

واخرد عوننا ان الحمد لله رب العلمين

“ And our last words are :

All praise belongs to Allah  
the Lord of the Worlds.”

19-7-35.

MIRZA MAHMUD AHMAD,  
*Head of the Ahmadiyya Community.*

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