

The Ahmadi Muslim Community

Who are the Ahmadi Muslims and what do they believe? Waqar Ahmad Ahmedi gives a brief introduction to the Ahmadi branch of Islam

Who are the Ahmadi Muslims?

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was founded in 1889 by Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad who claimed under divine instruction to fulfil the major prophecies contained in Islamic and other sacred texts regarding a world reformer who would unite humanity. He announced to Christians awaiting the second coming of Jesus, Muslims anticipating the Mahdi, Hindus expecting Krishna and Buddhists searching for Buddha, that he was the promised Prophet for them all, commissioned by God to rejuvenate true faith and lead a spiritual struggle against evil.

He also reaffirmed that Islam was the final law for humanity revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, and that true essence of Islam had become lost through the centuries which needed reviving in these times. This is why the Ahmadi Muslims also see themselves as leading the renaissance of Islam.

How many Ahmadi Muslims are there, and where are they based?

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has tens of millions members in 190 countries with most followers living in the Indian subcontinent and Africa. It emerged from the Sunni tradition of Islam and remains the fastest growing denomination within the faith. The Ahmadi Muslims were among the earliest Muslim communities to arrive in Britain, building London's first mosque in Putney in 1924. They also opened Western Europe's largest mosque, Baitul Futuh, in Morden, Surrey, in 2003. Currently in Britain there are 18,000 Ahmadi Muslims.

What do Ahmadi Muslims believe?

The Ahmadi Muslims believe in all the five pillars and articles of faith required of Muslims. They differ from other Muslims mainly with respect to the status of their founder, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, as a Prophet within Islam, and their view that Jesus survived the attempted crucifixion, traveled in search of the remaining lost tribes in the East and died in India. They believe that Jesus is buried in Kashmir.

Ahmadi Muslims also believe in the continuation of divine revelation. This applies primarily to the Khalifas whose authority derives from God Himself.

Ahmadi Muslims live by a code of peace epitomised by the community's motto "Love for All, Hatred for None". From their origins they inculcated the meaning of Jihad as striving to free oneself of impurities for the pleasure of God. They have condemned all violence in the strongest possible terms, and have nurtured a spirit of allegiance to the country in which they reside.

Religion | 26.05.2008

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,3361279,00.html>

Germany's Ahmadiyya Muslims Celebrate 100 Years



Großansicht des Bildes mit der Bildunterschrift: Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, the Caliph of the Ahmadiyya movement

Muslim missionaries found in Western cities are often part of the messianic Ahmadiyya movement. The peaceful beliefs of Ahmadis, who can be found in small numbers in Germany, are seen as heretical by most Muslims.

It's been 100 years since Mirza Ghulam Ahmad founded the Ahmadiyya Muslim faith. The controversial Indian religious figure claimed to be the promised messiah awaited by all the major religions, whether Christian, Buddhist Jewish or Muslim.

His followers believed that within 300 years most of the world will join the Islamic brotherhood, which will usher in an era of peace. That goal implies worldwide missionary work, which has lead Ahmadis, as the members of the Ahmadiyya community call themselves, to proselitize the world. They've even ended up in the unlikely Berlin neighborhood of Pankow-Heinersdorf.

With a new mosque under construction and 100th anniversary parties planned, Mirza Masroor Ahmad will travel to Berlin on Tuesday, May 27. For his followers, the caliph is for followers a representative of the promised messiah. He is democratically elected by the council of the Ahmadiyyas and serves for life.

Misunderstandings persist

The title of "caliph" has been misunderstood by many in the West, said Islamic scholar Stephan Rosiny.

A caliph is the political head of state in an Islamic community. While the practice of the worldly and spiritual leadership being united in the person of the caliph has its origins in the Middle Ages, modern Islamists have used the idea as well.

A recent example was the so-called Caliph of Cologne, Metin Kaplan, who, until his movement was outlawed in 2001 dreamed of starting an Islamic regime in Europe.

“To equate the Ahmadis with something like that is pure sensationalism,” Rosiny said.

Rosiny sees a perception problem due to people in the West viewing radical forms of Islam as the norm rather than an exception.

Rosiny said that Islamic beliefs need to be taken in context. Caliph means successor and “jihad” for the Ahmadiyya movement, as for most Muslims, does not mean holy war but rather a struggle to improve oneself or society.

A peaceful movement

The Ahmadiyya movement stresses the peaceful aspects of Islam. It condemns Islamist violence and spoke out against the Fatwa against author Salman Rushdie for his novel “The Satanic Verses.”

“Love for all, hate for none” is their motto.

Yet the Ahmadiyya movement is considered heretical by mainstream Islam. For most Muslims, Mohammed is the last and most important prophet, while Ahmadis believe that he was followed by others. That has won the movement enemies. In 1974, Pakistan declared followers not to be Muslims and legitimized violence against them. The caliph moved to London.

Long history of missionary work

The group has been preaching in Germany since the Weimar Republic. In Berlin's Wilmersdorf neighbourhood the splinter group called the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement opened a mosque in the 1920s. It is an architectural gem which remains Germany's oldest mosque.

Since the beginning of the systematic persecution in Pakistan, many Pakistani Ahmadiyyas came as asylum seekers to Germany. Worldwide there are between 10 and 80 million Ahmadiyyas.

In Pankow-Heinersdorf in the northern part of Berlin there are almost no Muslims, much less Ahmadis. The neighbourhood was chosen for the 100th anniversary celebrations because the group's first mosque in eastern Germany is being built here. The shell has just been completed after a long and vehement opposition from some of the public. There were demonstrations and initiatives against the construction. Later, a truck parked at the construction site was burned, police believe it was arson.

“I can understand the fear the people have,” said Abdullah Wagishauser, a German convert, has been head of the group in Germany since 1984. “There is a fundamental distrust about Islam.”

Wanting to be neighborly

But his experience with other mosque projects is that dialogue and information can overcome this antagonism.

“After one of two years we always have a fully normal neighbourly relationship,” he said.

In the meantime they have tried to smooth things over with their neighbors. In August the mosque will be opened and the first Muslim will move into the area. He won't be a missionary, but rather the Mosque's Imam.

<http://old.thejakartapost.com/detaileditorial.asp?fileid=20080526.F05&irec=4>

The Jakarta Post - Indonesia

Ahmadis should remain steadfast

For a long time great injustice and cruelty has been perpetrated against our Jama'at (community) in Pakistan. Currently, Ahmadis in Indonesia are also being persecuted. Thus injustices against our men, women and children are being allowed. Our properties are being burned down.

The root cause of this persecution is the influence of the mullahs and because the government is fearful of losing its own power, so it bows down to their demands. The mullahs have always created disorder in the name of religion and by doing so they continue to disobey the true teachings of Islam.

I say to all Ahmadi Muslims who are subject to persecution that they should always remember that their helper is God the Almighty and so they should always continue to remain strong in their faith.

Members of the Ahmadiyah Muslim Community in Indonesia have been subjected to great cruelty in recent months. Recently, a mosque owned by the community in the town of Sukabumi, West Java, was burned down. Further a religious advisory panel recently recommended that the community be banned in the country.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim community is committed to promoting a message of love and peace for all of mankind. The community's motto is: "Love for All, Hatred for None".

HADHRAT MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD
Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community
London

100-year milestone

Article Created: 05/24/2008 06:56:21 PM PDT From USA.

http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_9372005

We offer our congratulations to the local Ahmadiyya Muslim community, this weekend celebrating the 100th anniversary of that denomination's Khilafat, a spiritual period which they believe to have begun the day after the death of the founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, established in 1921, was the first American-Muslim organization and is the only Islamic organization to endorse separation of mosque and state. This progressive branch of Islam, not recognized by mainstream Muslim sects, categorically rejects terrorism in any form.

Imam Shamshad A. Nasir of the Baitul Hameed Mosque in Chino is the local leader of the Ahmadiyya community, which will mark the centenary Monday in Rancho Cucamonga. He is a peace-loving, outgoing religious leader who reaches out to other religious organizations and secular institutions.

Ahmadis espouse a message of peace, love and tolerance. They reject armed jihad, following their religious leader's teaching that "if anyone attacks us we must not attack him and should love him."

"The Khilafath Centenary Celebrations" of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat to be held in Hyderabad year long

Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, IND, 2008-05-26 15:13:06 (IndiaPRwire.com)

<http://www.indiaprwire.com/pressrelease/other/200805269786.htm>

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, a Punjab based 119 years old secular Muslim Community, spread in over 177 countries with 12 crore membership across the globe embarked on a year long Celebrations of "**The Khilafath**".

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was founded in 1889 by Hazrath Mirza Ghulam Ahmed in Qadian, Punjab / India. After the demise of the Promised Messiah, a system of successors called Khalifathul Messiah commenced in Ahmadiyya Muslim Community with Hazrath Moulvi Hakim Nooruddin Ahmed in 1908.

Addressing a press conference here in Hyderabad today Mr. Syed Tanvir, Press Secretary --India and Mr. Arif Ahmed Quereshi, President of Zamaat Ahmadiyya Hyderabad said as part of these year long celebrations of Khilafath, 500 of its members have taken up the Cleaning of Osmania General Hospital on 24th May and distributed fruits to the patients at Government Maternity Hospital on 25th.

Tomorrow morning at 10am the community is also organizing a Convention at Masjid-ul-Hamd at Saidabad in Hyderabad. The program will start with hoisting of community flag and the national flag by President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat. Later in the afternoon at 3pm, I.S.T Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmed Khalifathul Masih 5th will address the Jamaat worldwide on Muslim Television Ahmadiyya International live from London.

The community has the privilege of translating the Holy Quran in more than 50 languages including many Indian languages. It has been striving to promote Peace and Universal Brotherhood in the world with the motto "Love For All, Hatred For None". In a society where fighting among each other is on the increase, where people fight for religion with each other and hate religion for personal reasons, Ahmadiyaa Muslim Jamaat has spearheaded a peace initiative all over the country. It has also established its own noncommercial TV Channel MTA International(Muslim Television Ahmadiyya International) in the year 1994, which operates and broadcasts various religious and educational programs round the clock.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is declared as Kafir(non-muslim) in Pakistan for rejecting the concept of 'Jihad' understood by majority. Instead the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is involved in Jihad by Pen and Jihad against oneself, which is true Jihad permitted in Islam.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is also noted for its active engagements in social welfare and in meeting the medical and educational needs, not only for its own members but also of the communities in which they reside. The community has also opened up many medical clinics and hospitals that offer free medical assistance around the globe. In this connection the community has established a UK based Charitable Trust--Humanity First, under the banner of which the community has assisted the victims of wars and natural disasters like earthquakes and Tsunami. It promotes and safeguards the preservation of life and dignity. It is a nonpolitical, nonsectarian international relief and development agency that works with communities around the globe to improve the quality of life for some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Members of the community serve humanity through selfless sacrifices, devotion and love.

It has earlier organized a World Peace Day, in city where different religious heads of different beliefs shared a common platform for world peace . His Excellency Shri Surjeet Singh Barnala, the then Governor of Andhra Pradesh graced the function. Religious heads from different religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Jainism, Christianity participated in the same.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat which was founded in 1889 by Mr. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmed who subsequently regarded as the Promised Messiah and Imam mahdi and Divine Performer. It made a humble beginning with a small group of 40 people pledging their faith in the same. His preachings were apposed, people took objection to his claiming to be the Promised Messiah. Just like any Divine Messengers, the Promised Messiah was also severely opposed. But he had the community backing, which helped him reach more than four lakh people by the time of his demise. After him, his worthy successors have carried on his message. I.S.T Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmed Khalifathul Masih 5th heads the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat organization all over the world.

According to Mr. Syed Tanvir, Press Secretary, Ahmadiyya Muslim India 'it is our endeavour to propagate religious tolerance towards other religions. The organisation is striving to promote peace and universal brotherhood in the world. Several eminent scholars like Sir Muhammed Zafarullah Khan, former President of International Court of Justice, Hague; Professor Abdus Salam, Nobel Laureate in Physics and Mr. M.M. Ahmad, Chairman of World Bank were member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat has come a long way in its existence of 119 years. While many have embraced its beliefs and concepts, others have outrightly rejected. It is considered non-Muslim by a country like Pakistan. However, it's journey continues. It keeps propagating the universal peace.

- End -

Muslim sect expects thousands at convention in Harrisburg

by MARY WARNER, Of The Patriot-News

Thursday May 22, 2008, 5:00 PM - USA -

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2008/05/muslim_sect_expects_thousands_a.html

As many as 10,000 Ahmadiyya Muslims from around the country will come to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg next month for their annual three-day national convention.

The public is invited to join them for an Indian and Italian meal and talk about peace.

"This is a message of peace. We can agree on peace," said Zaki Kauser, an imam from Silver Spring, Md., and spokesman for the Ahmadiyya community in the U.S.

The sect teaches that a Messiah promised by the Prophet Muhammad came to India in the late 19th century.

The public event is set for 3:30 to 6 p.m. June 21. For more information call 202-380-2083.

Local Ahmadiyya Muslims have gone door to door with fliers in city and suburban neighborhoods to invite the public. And invitations have been issued by phone or in person to churches near the Farm Show and to churches the Muslims know through neighbors.

The Rev. Lilly McMullen said she has the event on her calendar.

"I'm a peacemaker myself," said McMullen, co-owner of a new store and coffee shop called ChurchWorld Plus in Harrisburg and pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Marietta.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community to mark a momentous occasion in Islam's history - the celebration of the centenary of the establishment of its institution of Khilafat (succession)

From Canada - <http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/May2008/22/c3623.html>

MAPLE, ON, May 22 /CNW/ - Thousands of members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community worldwide await the celebration of a momentous occasion in the history of Islam. On Tuesday May 27, 2008, tens of millions of Ahmadi Muslims will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the institution of Khilafat (succession) in their community (1908-2008). Many municipal governments across Canada have declared May 27th to be "Khilafat Day".

Celebratory events are also being held in legislatures across Canada.

Throughout Canada, on May 27, 2008, the members of Community will mark this momentous occasion by gathering together to perform pre-dawn prayers to be held at 3:30 AM, by listening to an address from the head of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad to be delivered live via Community's 24 hour Global Satellite Service (MTA International), and participating in a number of celebratory activities throughout the day.

In the Greater Toronto Area, families will gather at the Baitul Islam Mosque in Maple, Ontario where additional marquees have been erected to accommodate 10,000 members. The festivities, to be held over a five-day period commencing on Friday, May 23, 2008, will include various community activities and events, including competitions for children and adults, fundraising for charities, as well as devotional remembrance and prayer sessions.

"Children, adults and seniors have all taken a voluntary day-off from their schools, universities and employment to participate in these celebrations. The excitement is visible as each family prepares to engage in a full day of prayers and demonstrations of gratitude to God, as well as for social community gatherings and various activities for children's learning and enjoyment," said Naseem Mahdi, Senior Vice President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Canada.

"The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has a system of leadership in its Khilafat that successfully unites the tens of millions of Ahmadi Muslims spread across the world. It is this leadership that teaches us how to maintain and to live in accordance with our motto of 'Love for All, Hatred for None'.

The Ahmadiyya Khilafat and its vision for peace is the only hope for Muslims in this world," said Lal Khan Malik, the President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Canada.

Mr. Malik added, "Our unblemished history is evidence that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community continues to exist in accordance with the teachings of its Founder, who demonstrated, making direct reference to the Holy Qur'an and the life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), that Islam is a peaceful and peace-loving religion. Based on the Qur'anic injunction "There is no compulsion in matters of faith" (2:257), the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community denounced the extremist and violent interpretations of jihad (holy struggle) well over a century ago, long before it became fashionable to do so after the atrocities committed on September 11, 2001."

In addition to advocating a non-violent interpretation of jihad, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community promotes patriotism and allegiance to the country of one's citizenship on the basis that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) taught that, "the love of your country is a part of your faith."

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has been repeatedly praised and honoured for its generosity and philanthropy, particularly in the poorest regions of the world, as well as for facilitating and encouraging peaceful and constructive interfaith dialogue and understanding throughout the world.

Later this summer, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Canada will be inaugurating its new mosque in Calgary, Alberta. When inaugurated, this mosque will be Canada's largest.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was founded under divine guidance in 1889 by Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) of Qadian, India, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi whose advent was foretold by the Holy Qur'an and by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). In his famous book "Al-Wasiyyat" (The Will), Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad prophesied that, after his passing away, his community would behold God's second earthly manifestation (the first earthly manifestation being prophethood) which would be akin to the Khilafat which was established after the passing away of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) which saw Hadrat Abu Bakr Siddiq elected as the first Khalifa of Islam. Indeed, on May 27, 1908, Hadrat Maulvi Nooruddin was elected as the first Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and, presently, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad is the Khalifa.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is established in almost 190 countries and its membership is numbered in the tens of millions.

Members of press and media are cordially invited to visit the community at 10610 Jane Street, Maple, Ontario, on May 24, May 25 and May 27, 2008.

In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Ever Merciful.

Assalamo Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah,

The Al Islam Team extends its warmest congratulations and best wishes to all Ahmadi brothers and sisters around the world on the auspicious occasion of the Khilafat Centenary Jubilee. One hundred years ago, on 27th May 1908, the institution of Khilafat was established to guide the Promised Messiah's small number of followers. This 27th May, 2008, tens of millions of Ahmadi Muslims will join Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V (at) in celebrating one hundred years of the Second Manifestation of Allah's Power. May this day be a source of pride and joy for all - but most importantly, may it remind us of our duty to serve Allah and His humanity and obey our Khalifa.

To commemorate this, the Al Islam team has released new banner graphics illustrating the concept and implementation of Khilafat at the home page <http://www.alislam.org> - the new graphics depict the Ahmadiyya Khulafa and invoke divine promises made by Almighty Allah. Articles and sermons explain the need for Khilafat and its history. And a comprehensive archive provides Friday Sermons delivered by Khulafa for all to read and comprehend.

A special centenary message of Hadhrat Khalifaul Masih V (at) on this auspicious occasion will be released on 27th May 2008, at 12am GMT (8pm EST/USA - 26th May) on Al Islam website. Huzur will also address the worldwide Jama'at through Muslim TV Ahmadiyya from London at 10:00am GMT on 27th May (6am EST/USA).

Standing at this milestone and looking back the 100 years of Ahmadiyya Khilafat, we can surely witness to the fact that all progress of Islam now lies with Khilafat and all blessings are in this divinely established institution. May this Khilafat Jubilee be the beginning of many more centuries of divine guidance. May the leadership of Khilafat truly be now and forever.

Once again, Mubarak and Congratulations to be part of history.

Wassalam,

Humbly - The Al Islam Team - www.alislam.org

The official Website of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

www.lankaweb.com - 27/05/2008.

Centenary Khilafat Ahmadiyya (1908 - 2008)

AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMA'AT - SRI LANKA 619/4, Baseline Road, Colombo 9, Sri Lanka.

The system of Caliphate in Islam, in one form or another, lasted some 626 years after the death of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The period of the four successors (Caliphs) of the Holy Prophet namely Abu Bakr, Umar, Uthuman and Ali, is known as the Pious Caliphate. This was the most critical period for the state of Islam. The transition from the absolute authority of the Messenger of God to the authority of an elected successor was not easy for the Muslims.

The Pious Caliphate which lasted 29 years, was notable for the remarkable expansion of the Islamic State and the democratic election of the Khalifas (Caliphs). However, this Caliphate was also riddled with internal dissension, apostasy and fictional strife.

To believe and to do good works through obedience to Allah, His Messenger and His Caliphs are the TWO prerequisites for this blessing to be everlasting. If one prerequisite fails to materialize, this blessing (system of Caliph) will be taken away. We have seen how in the past, in the early Islamic era, when the Muslims became disobedient to the Caliph, they were deprived completely of the blessing of Khilafat (The System of Caliphate). They were believers. They believed in Allah. They believed in the Holy Prophet (PBUH). But they failed to do good works. They failed to obey the Caliphs and the result was that Allah's blessings of appointing a Khalifa was taken away and thus the Pious Caliphate (Khilafat-ar-Rashida) came to an end.

Allah says in the Holy Quran:

Allah had promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear: They will worship Me, and they will not associate anything with Me. Then whoso is ungrateful after that, they will be the rebellious. (Surah Al-Nur, Verse 56).

As promised in the above verse of the Holy Quran, after the demise of the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (Promised Messiah and Mahdi), a system of Caliphate (Khilafat) was instituted in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat on May 27, 1908, which is similar to the Pious Caliphate (Khilafat-i-Rashida) that followed the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, peace be on him, under divine command founded the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at in March 23, 1889, and began to accept initiation into the Jama'at. In 1890,

under Divine Revelation he claimed to be the Promised Messiah as well as Imam Mahdi. He also claimed to be a subordinate Prophet of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) commissioned by Allah to serve the religion of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

The Holy Qur'an and the history of Islam are replete with examples that whenever Almighty Allah sends a Prophet, the purpose is to bring about a change in attitudes of the people. This requires time and continuous effort, which cannot be achieved in the life time of a single person. Thus, the Prophet has only to sow the seeds. After his death, in order to complete the Prophet's mission, Almighty Allah chooses Successors, one after the other. Each Successor is called Khlaifa, in Islamic terminology. Thus, after Prophet Moses, peace be on him, Yahya was appointed as Khlaifa. After Prophet Isa (Jesus), peace on him, Peter was appointed as Khalifa. Therefore, it was obvious that at the demise of Hazrat Promised Messiah and Mahdi, peace be on him, Allah the Almighty would appoint a Khalifa, and fulfill His ancient Sunnah (practice).

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, peace be on him, wrote 'The Will' in 1905, in which he informed Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at about the recurrent revelation concerning his demise. He comforted the Jama'at that, "I am a manifestation of Allah's power. And after I am gone there will be some other persons who will be the manifestation of the second Power (of Allah)". He also said that, "it is essential for you to see the second Manifestation too, and its coming is better for you because it is everlasting, the community of which will not end till the Day of Judgment". Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's "Will" to his Community was, "let the righteous persons of the Jama'at who have pious nature accept Bai'at (oath of allegiance) in my name".

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, peace be on him died on May 26th 1908 and on May 27th 1908 Hazrat Moulavi Nooruddin was elected as the first Khalifa (Caliph) by the Ahmadi Muslims of Qadian (Punjab, India) and surrounding areas, who were present in Qadian at that time. Included among these were all the selected Ahmadis and family members of the Promised Messiah and Mahdi. After his election, the first Caliph (Khalifa) took Bai'at i.e. oath of allegiance. Thus, the very first consensus of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at, after the death of its Founder, was in favor of establishment of Khilafat (The system of Caliphate). After the ceremony of taking oath of allegiance, the first Caliph (Khlaifa) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community led the funeral (Janaza) prayer of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad - the Promised Messiah and Mahdi.

In order to continue the efforts for the victory of Islam, on his demise of first Caliph, Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud-Din Mahmood Ahmad (1889-1965) was elected on March 14, 1914, to be the second Khalifa (Caliph) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. On his death in 1965, Hazrat Hafiz Mirza Nasir Ahmad was elected as the 3rd Caliph (Khalifa). And on his death in 1982, Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad was elected as the fourth Caliph (Khlaifa), on whose death Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad has been elected as the fifth Caliph (Khlaifathul Maasih V) of the world-wide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Thus, these holy men are clear proofs of the manifestation of the second Power (of Allah). And what was foretold by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad - the Promised Messiah and Mahdi that, "I came from God as a Manifestation of God's Power. And after I am gone there will be some other persons who will be the manifestation on the second Power (of God)" has been fulfilled over and over again. Alhamdhulillah.

Almighty Allah favoured the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at with the 1st manifestation of the

Second Power in person of Hazrat Moulavi Nooruddin on 27th May, 1908. In May, 2008, this invaluable gift of Almighty Allah is one hundred years old. In order to express our deep gratitude to Almighty Allah, for this invaluable gift and for His favours and beneficence, received through the blessed institution of Khilfat (Caliphate), the Present Caliph (Ameer-ul-Mumineen) of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad has declared that the year 2008 be observed as the year of Centenary Khilafat Ahmadiyya.

As stated earlier, Ahmadiyya Khilafat is in accordance with the promise made by Allah the Almighty in the Holy Qura'an as well as the prophecy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him).

Khalifa (Caliph) is elected through the will of Allah, yet by the act of believers. When an election takes place for the Khalifa the minds of the electoral body are influenced by Allah and Allah only.

The Ahmadiyya Khilafat is the second manifestation and Allah has assured Ahmadi Muslims that this Khilafat will endure to the end of time. Khilafat provides unity, security and progress for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. No other sect in Islam has such a strong leadership, nor enjoys such unity and devotion among its followers.

The term Khalifatul Masih (The Successor to the Promised Messiah and Mahdi is used to the world wide Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The presence of the Khilafat is a great blessing from Allah for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. He is the spiritual leader of every Ahmadi, the beacon of light towards which every member looks for guidance. Whenever, a Khalifah makes a scheme or plan for the community, he does so with divine guidance and assistance. Khilafat is not only a blessed institution, but a higher order of state that requires the utmost obedience. In the present age Khilafat is that light leads Ahmadi Muslims to away from darkness of ignorance. Khilafat is the shade from the heat of sins of this world.

To mark this historical day of the world-wide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Special Message to the world by the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (Khalifatul Masih V) will be telecast LIVE from London, today, the 27th May, 2008, through MTA (Muslim Television Ahmadiyya - (ASIASAT 3S, 100.5 EAST, 3760 Mgh) at 4.00 P.M. local time. His speech will have simultaneous translations in various languages including English and Arabic.

To mark the occasion, a public function is organized on 31st May, 2008 at:

Ahmadiyya Jubilee Hall, Periyamulla, Negombo at 10.00 A.M.
LOVE FOR ALL; HATRED FOR NONE.
AHMADIYYA MUSLIM JAMA'AT - SRI LANKA.

Tel: 0112 687568 / 0777 753440.

Web: www.alislam.org