



## My Life with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى

### An Interview with Sahibzada Mirza Safeer Ahmad

Sahibzada Mirza Safeer Ahmad is the son of Sahibzada Mirza Muneer Ahmad and is married to Sahibzadi Shaukat Jehan, eldest daughter of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى. He enjoyed a very close and loving relationship with Huzur and accompanied Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV on numerous trips aboard. He was also fortunate enough to have spent a great deal of time in Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى company staying with him throughout his period of migration in the UK. He also immersed himself in serving our beloved Huzur رحمه الله تعالى during his period of illness.

#### Early memories of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى

Before Khilafat I did not know Huzur رحمه الله تعالى very well. There was one occasion I recall at our home when my mother was sewing something and I was sitting on a chair by the sewing machine. Chacha Tahir came into the room and he saw me. He found this all rather amusing and coined the name "Darsi" (tailor). From then on during my childhood he always called me Darsi and used to ask my mother "where is your darsi beta.?"

Before my marriage to Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى eldest daughter, indeed a long time before, my mother had seen a dream where Huzur رحمه الله تعالى gave my mother a 25 paisa coin and she takes this and places it under her pillow. Indeed, my mother was to relate this dream to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and at that time he had said nothing.

Many years later when my proposal and subsequent marriage took place with Shauki, Huzur's eldest daughter, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى reminded my mother of her dream and said this meant "that one of my daughters would marry into your house."

#### 1980 -1982

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was very simple and humble in every way. Before Khilafat he used to come to our house in Jhelum, at times without informing us. On one such occasion he arrived and said "Let's all go to Muree" to which both Shauki and I agreed. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had brought a van in which we travelled up. We left for Muree and as it was winter it was bitterly cold. It had also been snowing so rather than travel anywhere else we went straight to the hotel. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said that we would first



**Right:** A visit to Islamabad  
**Left:** Sahibzada Mirza Safeer assists  
 Huzur رحمه الله تعالى in archery

offer prayers then we would eat. We went to the hotel reception to ask for a place for prayers. I remember the bathroom where we were to perform our ablutions was very damp and cold. I started rolling up my sleeves but the water was ice cold. I immediately said to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى I am not going to do wudhu. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى found this amusing saying that the water was not that cold. Nevertheless, he did not insist rather he told me just to perform tahyummun.

Before Khilafat, in fact just 2 days before, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى came to our house en route to Islamabad to see Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى. Almost upon arrival he announced he had to leave so to be by the side of his Khalifa who was very ill at that time. As it was late I suggested he stayed in Jhelum and travel the next day and besides Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى would be asleep by now " but I have informed Huzur رحمه الله تعالى already" he insisted. On hearing this I then suggested that he could telephone Islamabad and convey details of this change of plan to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said he had no intention to do so, but if I wanted to that was up to me. I rang Islamabad and asked for a message to be conveyed that Chacha Tahir is at my house and I wanted to know if I may ask him to stay for the evening if Hadhrat Khilafatul Masih III was agreeable. Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى had received the message and said it was fine. At that point I remember we tried to give Huzur رحمه الله تعالى our bedroom but Huzur رحمه الله تعالى refused and said that he would sleep in the hallway and that's where he slept. It was shortly after his arrival in Islamabad the next day that we learnt that Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى had passed away.

The next few days were very hectic, I remember we went with the funeral cortege as it passed through Jhelum to Rabwah. I recall it was June and it was very hot. Even with air conditioning in the car you could not feel the difference. When we arrived at Rabwah my wife and I opened the house whilst Huzur رحمه الله تعالى went to Qasri Khilafat. In the afternoon when he

returned I was sleeping on the floor. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked "why you sleeping here?" I said it was more comfortable on the marble flooring as it was so hot. However Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would have none of it and insisted that I went to with him to his room and slept on his bed beside him.

When Huzur رحمه الله تعالى left there were lots of people coming and going so we did not have much time to talk. I remember Chaudhry Zafrullah Khan sahib rang and he had said that he needed to speak with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى urgently. When Huzur رحمه الله تعالى came I informed him of the call from Chaudhry Sahib and he told me to inform Chaudhry Sahib to come a little later. That was when Chaudhry sahib recounted a dream to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. I remember serving tea to Chaudhry Sahib but when Chaudhry Sahib started the dream Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had asked for me to leave them alone. The dream was related to Khilafat.

After being elected Khilafa and taking the Bai'at Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had proceeded to Qasri Khilafat where the family was waiting. Hadhrat Amtul Hafeez Begum Sahiba, daughter of Hadhrat Promised Messiah عليه السلام placed the ring of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام on Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى finger. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى then took the bai'at with the members of the Promised Messiah's عليه السلام family.

The next day whilst Shauki and I were at Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى home the door opened with a big noise and there was a lot of commotion. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى came in looking quite anxious. He came on a bicycle without telling anyone and all security were running after him. He asked my wife to make him some strong tea as he did not like the tea that was served to him earlier. He was however preoccupied and searching for something. It was only when we went to Qasri Khilafat later that we learnt Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had misplaced his ring and had literally gone into Sajda. I heard him praying in a very emotional state to God "if I can not look after a ring how can I look after Khilafat."



For my family and I it was very confusing. Suddenly from having a very frank relationship a new formality emerged and it took me some time to come to terms with the new situation and even a few days for me to say anything to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. We had always laughed and joked and we could say anything but now it was different. How to address Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, from Chacha to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى took some time.

We suddenly realised after the second day that, we had lost a great friend as everything changed... how to talk to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى how to sit in front of him, it was almost overnight. After we returned to Jhelum, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى wrote us a letter, saying he had also enjoyed staying with us during his different trips, but felt that this may no longer be possible for him as he had a far more important role to fulfill. However, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى expressed his desire that we should retain our close and frank relationship with him as this was something he cherished and he desired that our frequency of trips to Rabwah should increase.

### **Relationship with elders in the family**

For the elders in our family in their lifetime it was for them the third Khilafat and they knew how to handle the situation. For me it was the second lifetime change but previously we were too young to understand. You had to change in many respects. To be frank, I was generally quite relaxed and also spoke from my heart, but now I had to become careful in how I expressed myself due to my relationship with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and people

**Above:** Traveling from Portland to Calgary during 1987.

**Right:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى visits Apenhaul Monkey Park, Apeldoorn, Holland.

misconstruing situations, through no fault of anyone. I became very conscious of what I said and how I behaved with others.

My family and I remained in Jhelum ...and we used to go to Rabwah every few months for marriages and Jalsa so there was some sense of normality.

### **1983 Jalsa**

In response to growing agitation against the Jama'at Huzur رحمه الله تعالى always expressed himself with total honesty he was never afraid of any man made pressure. He taught us that if you want to say something which has the truth behind it then you should not be afraid any person; the only one to be afraid of is Allah. After 1983 Jalsa we returned to our normal life in Jhelum.

### **1984**

I remember one evening I was informed by Mirza Idris Ahmad Sahib, elder brother of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V **أبده الله تعالى بنصره العزيز**, that we have to go to Kalher-khar near Chikwal. This was because the Kafla was coming and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was going to Islamabad and we had to meet kaafila along with the Khuddam. The Kafla arrived whilst we were waiting on the road but rather than stop, it proceeded to Jhelum



with our car as the escort. When we arrived at my father's house and Mirza Munawer Ahmad Sahib came out of the car we knew that something was going on. We all felt strange and I went home and told my wife what had happened. After this I went to lie down for a while. As I was snoozing and thinking of what was going on I saw a very clear vision. I was entering an old mud house and someone else is with me. When I walked into the house I noticed that someone was lying on the bed covered by a black blanket. I asked who is it? The person with me says Hadhrat Rasullah ﷺ has migrated and this is Hadhrat Ali رضي الله عنه. I immediately told my wife about this and said that I felt that it meant Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had migrated. She said no this is impossible. At that time Mirza Anas Ahmad Sahib arrived at our home and I asked him has Huzur رحمه الله تعالى reached safely? He appeared surprised by my question and he left immediately without any tea for my fathers house which was nearby. We also followed and whilst we were there the telephone rang informing us that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had arrived safely in Holland. My reaction was not one of surprise as I had seen this vision and dream. This was so clear. I have never seen such a dream my whole life.

### London

We arrived, that is my family, in London on 29 May a month after Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. Brigadier Wakilul Zaman Sahib and informed us that Zia Ul Haq is now after the children. We were therefore the last of the immediate family to leave Pakistan. We had travelled with Mirza Mubarak Ahmad Sahib and Masood Jhelmi Sahib.

This was the first time my family and I had come to London. We went straight to see Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and met him in the office. My wife was not well and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was very concerned about his daughter. Initially, we were told that we were going for 6 months. I remember the same year, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked my father " that if you do not need Saifi in Pakistan may I keep him here ?" My father said as long as you like. However, it was very tough for the whole family and it was as if we were starting a new life altogether in Gressenhall Road.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was very pleased to see the family but you could notice the strain he was under. The Jama'at was under a lot of pressure and he wanted to make sure that the new structure and set up in London would function efficiently in London.

For a long time we perceived this migration to be temporary, but as time passed it became obvious that the migration was not short. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى missed Pakistan immensely. For few years in the 1990's he always used to talk about Pakistan and even in the food he ate, he would say this vegetable is nicely cooked but tastes different from Pakistan.

### Trips

At the beginning in 1984 I used to drive Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى car. Trips used to be quite hectic. I was astonished that whilst most of us, if not all, were totally shattered from the travelling, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى used to have great reserves of energy. His schedule



was one of the busiest imaginable yet he enjoyed these trips greatly and liked to engage himself fully in activity. There are some incidents one can recall. On one occasion we had travelled to Italy to look for some land for the building of a mosque. When, after another rather gruelling day of travel we stopped, we rested at a hotel. Many of us were complaining about our early starts and long days and perhaps in expressing our sentiments we had failed to notice that we were standing underneath Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى balcony. The next morning Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said that perhaps we should take it slightly easier and leave at 9 am rather than 8 am as he had suggested previously. Such was Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى considerate nature.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى loved travelling and visiting places and was fascinated by places we visited. Often he would talk about the historical buildings we passed, the wild flowers, which grew. On one such trip in Norway whilst we were on a boat, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was intensely staring at the water. Out of curiosity I went and stood by Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and asked him what he was looking at. " Look Saifi in the lake you can see all these little whirlpools forming and their small waves extend all the way to the end of the lake" His power of observation was incredible.

### **Meeting others**

In many respects Huzur رحمه الله تعالى viewed the Majlise Irfan sessions he held as a form of relaxation. He enjoyed meeting the Jama'at members as he felt he would be able to help them in addressing concerns and solving their problems. Moreover, on a personal front, he at times felt greatly entertained by his interaction with different people.

### **1991 Centenary Jalsa Qadian**

I was fortunate enough to accompany Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to Qadian in 1991. In Delhi the trains were fully booked and no first class tickets could be booked so Huzur رحمه الله تعالى travelled second class instead. But in all the joy of Khilafat returning to Qadian, on a personal front Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was passing through a great deal of anguish. Begum Sahiba was very ill but had travelled to India to be with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. Unfortunately, she was too ill to travel to Qadian and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was very anxious as to what would happen. When we were in Delhi Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had summoned a specialist who had advised that it was

best that she returned to London for treatment. She was suffering from cancer and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى knew the gravity of her illness. Yet the Jama'at came first before family. He loved Begum Sahiba dearly but he sacrificed everything for the sake of his faith and for his Jama'at. My wife and I volunteered to stay with her in Delhi and we as a family travelled to Qadian two days later by car when she her health had shown improvement.

In Qadian though Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى joy knew no limits. He was overcome with emotion and happiness, especially when he arrived at 'Umme Tahir's' house, as this was where Huzur رحمه الله تعالى lived as a child.



**Left:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى walking in Holland

**Above:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى walking in Norway

### Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and his family

He had told his daughters and son in laws that taking messages from people was not their responsibility and such matters should be routed through the Private Secretary. He did not like for his children to become involved, because he felt that on occasions people make seek to influence him through his family and this was something he did not approve of at all. He even told us that if we received gifts we should let him know, and at times told us to return items as they were from people who were in dispute with Jama'at and were perhaps seeking to influence him indirectly through his family. He was also conscious that any joint gifts from Lajna Imaillah to his wife or daughters, were often based on donations from members and may have been a burden on the ladies of the Jama'at. He always asked for these to be returned immediately.

When Begum Sahiba passed away, Eid followed two days after the funeral. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was greatly affected by the loss of his wife but did not wish for a festival of God to be impacted. He therefore told everyone that they should celebrate the Eid Festival in the normal way and despite being broken as a

husband and as a father Huzur رحمه الله تعالى concealed his heartache. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى sought to show a brave face. Yet in the loss of Begum Sahiba his role especially where his two youngest daughters, Mona and Tooba were concerned, had doubled. He was now their mother and father. Yet what was exemplary in this holy person that was Mirza Tahir Ahmad was that despite these pains the Jama'at remained his priority. I cannot recall Huzur رحمه الله تعالى missing a Jama'at function on the basis that his family needed him.

The whole family rallied round and tried to lessen Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى burden and shoulder greater responsibility, but Huzur رحمه الله تعالى did not want to burden his own family and felt they should not suffer on his account. My wife Shauki assumed a role to clean Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى room and she continued to perform this task for many years. It is noteworthy that he had told Shauki that if she was to find any letters in his room she was not to read these as people had written these to him in confidence and he held these in trust on their behalf.

### 1992-2000

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى immersed himself totally in Jama'at activities after Begum Sahiba passed away. Life became busier. Rest was not a word one would associate with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. Often Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would eat after Isha sometimes as late as 11.30pm at night after which he would return to his office. Yet

this did not mean his mornings were any less busier. They would commence with a morning walk after Fajr and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was unrelenting in his work. He would never let it be known as to whether he was in pain or tired. The word "rest" was totally out of bounds. This is not to say he spent no time with the family. He took great joy from his grandchildren and enjoyed sitting with them and looking through family photographs.

### **2000 - Onwards**

I was truly blessed in that during the last three years of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى life I had the opportunity to serve him very closely. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would at times leave Fazal Mosque and walk round to our house and would just relax and read books. Yet he was so conscious that he was perhaps being intrusive that he repeatedly asked whether he was burdening us? He joked that we should create a special room for him in our home so that he would not have to bother us all the time but his company was something we cherished. He enjoyed the change of scene and environment and he seemed to be relaxed.

### **2002 Jalsa Salana**

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said to me during this Jalsa " you know Saifi I asked my dear God for so many bai'ats and he has given me double the amount I prayed for. Now I have been blessed with these perhaps the time has come that my function in life is at an end. What is in store for me next I do not know? But I know that God has given me more than I ever asked for."

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was not well during that Jalsa but he felt that the whole Jama'at had come to see the Khalifa and he could not put his health before their hopes and wishes. He did not want to disappoint or upset anyone. Many amongst his family begged him passionately and desperately not to put himself through the gruelling schedule of the Jalsa, but Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would not have any of it. In fact he became determined not to let the Jalsa or the Jama'at suffer due to his ill health.

It was difficult for us. We saw our father our Huzur رحمه الله تعالى in so much pain yet he continued to put others before himself. As a family we were totally broken into pieces as we saw Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى pain but sought to put on brave faces, as it was Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى wish. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was someone who could not sit down. He could not bear idleness, he loved to be occupied. Rest was not a word he knew or entertained. His enjoyment was in communicating with people.

### **Last mulakat**

My family had planned a holiday for a week and were uncertain whether to go. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said that whilst he was sad that he would not see us, he was insistent we should go and enjoy our holiday. My sister in law, Mona (wife of Karim Khan) saw a dream over 2 years earlier, that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had passed away when none of his daughters were with him. This proved to become a reality on April 19th 2003. Mona was later to say it was the first time she too had gone away without thinking about her dream.

We received the news from Bashir Sahib and upon receiving this most tragic of news we left immediately and returned to London that evening at around 7pm. I remember seeing the blessed body of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and was comforted that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was at rest, indeed his face despite his long illness, showed a true servant of God at peace with his maker. Words cannot do justice at the perfect expression of peace and happiness which radiated from Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى blessed face.

Looking back I spent more time with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى than my own father. He filled the void of my parents and I sought to fulfil whatever responsibilities he assigned to me. He often referred to me as his Personal Secretary!

I learnt so much from this wonderful man. Above all else he taught us to always speak the truth. Never to lie. "By adopting this simple principle in life" said Huzur رحمه الله تعالى "would protect you from unimaginable loss." As a final thought I recall the 2000 Jalsa and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked me for some fruit. There was an abundance of fruit available of all types and varieties. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى picked up one fruit and cut it in half. As he shared this piece of fruit with us he said;

" Eat this fruit for it is a fruit derived from the blessings of Hadhrat Promised Messiah عليه السلام . It is because of him that today we enjoy these fruits in all corners of the World".







## My Life with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى

### An Interview with Sahibzada Mirza Luqman Ahmad

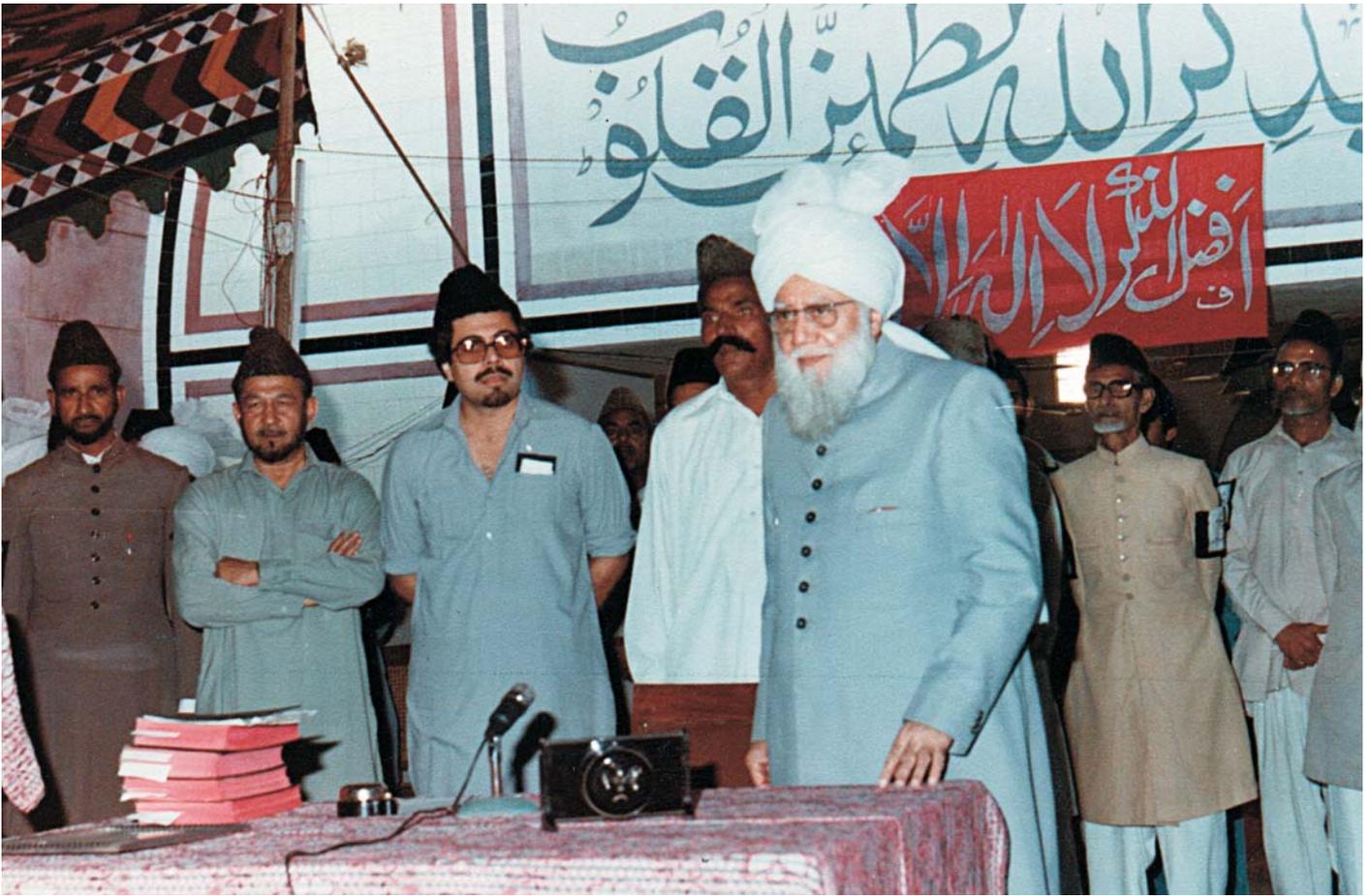
An Interview with Sahibzada Mirza Luqman Ahmad, who is the son of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى and also nephew and son in law to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى. He had the honour to attend to Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى personal needs during Khilafat-e-Rabia and had a unique opportunity to observe Huzur رحمه الله تعالى very closely throughout his life. Mirza Luqman Sahib had the honour of serving our revered imam (in his) final days on this earth.

#### **Please tell us about some of your early memories of Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad before his Khilafat?**

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II رضي الله عنه was a major influence on all of our lives. His sheer presence was overwhelming when we were small. We were aware of his high stature in the community but did not truly comprehend the significance of the office of Khilafat. Later on, when Hadhrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad رحمه الله تعالى became Khalifatul Masih, my mother came to me and told me that my father was now the Khalifa and that I needed to change my behaviour towards him. She told me quite a few things as to (how to behave and how not to behave) what to do and what not to do. I remember listening to my mother wondering that my father might be a Khalifa but he is still my father, why then all these instructions? She also realised that she had failed to convey the message. I remember her grabbing me and saying to me crying, "Luqman, Aba Huzur is not dead, he will never die. My husband and your father has left us last night when he was elected as Khalifa, and the man who until yesterday was your

father is now Aba Huzur. So you must behave in the same manner as you used to behave with Aba Huzur" (Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II رضي الله عنه). That was the first and unforgettable lesson, which was given to me by my mother at that time about the status of Khilafat and I have treasured it since. When my father passed away and my paternal uncle, father-in-law and friend became the 4<sup>th</sup> Khalifa, (the message imparted to me by my mother) ran through my mind once again and I wept, for, not only had I lost my father, but I was also about to suffer the loss of Mirza Tahir Ahmad رحمه الله تعالى. He was now our Aba Huzur.

In my view because Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Sahib رحمه الله تعالى was a future Khalifa and Allah was planning to put great responsibilities on his shoulders, this fundamental teaching and discernment was given to him by Allah Ta'ala and in all my life I witnessed him implementing that teaching on his personal and Jama'ati life.



**Left:** The wedding of Sahibzada Mirza Luqman Ahmad. Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad رحمه الله تعالى is showing Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى a polaroid photo. **Above:** Ansurallah Ijtema, 1981

*You have asked me about Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى time before Khilafat so I'll give you some examples here.*

#### **Love of Khilafat**

At the time of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II رضي الله عنه , my father and Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad Sahib رحمه الله تعالى were holding various Jama'ati offices. As we all know Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى had great gravitas and he always expressed his opinion with passion and conviction. I remember observing at Jama'ati meetings that Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى voiced his views in this passionate manner. As a child I remember that I used to feel that the members of the meetings were fighting but as soon as my father became Khalifa, Mirza Tahir Ahmad Sahib was a totally changed person. There is a saying that people change overnight; he did not even take that long. He himself told me once when reminiscing of the past, that what he used to do before my father became Khalifa was to force his views onto others not for the sake of winning the argument. He used to do it because of his love for Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II رضي الله عنه (he also mentioned this in his first Friday Sermon as Khalifa). This was so due to the fact he believed that his opinion would best serve the Khilafat. However, when Hadhrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad Sahib رحمه الله تعالى became Khalifa it did not even take him a second to transform and to lay his soul on the foot of Khilafat e Salsa. After performing Bai'at at

the time of the passing of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II رضي الله عنه , his love and obedience for Khilafat was unique.

One particular incident, which I can relate, although small in nature, is in my view of significantly importance. When Mian Tahir Ahmad Sahib رحمه الله تعالى was in charge of the Ahmadiyya Student Union he was holding their Majlis e Amila meeting in Lahore. On a certain matter all the members including him took a certain stance on a particular issue, with one dissenting voice. This dissident was also the youngest amongst the members of the Amila. Despite the many efforts of Hadhrat Mian Sahib رحمه الله تعالى to try and convince him to toe the line of the majority opinion, the young man resolutely refused to stray from his firm conviction. The decision was however adopted by the majority, but in his report to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih, Mian Sahib, with great honesty, did not fail to mention the dissenting view. Having heard the report in full, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى rejected the views of Hadhrat Mian Sahib's رحمه الله تعالى and the majority opinion and approved the views of the lone voice that had put up a great struggle in arguing his corner. Mian Tahir رحمه الله تعالى not only happily accepted this decision, but also wrote a very charming letter to this boy. In this letter he apologised and said that you were right and I was wrong and maybe during that discussion I was a bit hard on you and I apologise for that.



Above: Huzur رحمه الله تعالى a few years before Khilafat

My mother become ill in late November 1981, the day before that Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad رحمه الله تعالى left for Karachi for some Jama'at duties and also for a brief vacation. Two days later my father رحمه الله تعالى inquired from me when Mian Tahir Sahib رحمه الله تعالى was due back and I replied that he was scheduled to be in Karachi for another 9 days as he had taken permission for 11 days of leave. I could see that my answer had greatly saddened my father رحمه الله تعالى. After this my father رحمه الله تعالى inquired many times throughout the same day the date of Mian Sahib's رحمه الله تعالى return. It was quite obvious that he desired Mian Sahib رحمه الله تعالى to be in Rabwah during this period. In order to remedy the situation I offered to call Mian Sahib رحمه الله تعالى in Karachi but my father رحمه الله تعالى did not approve of the suggestion, for Mian Tahir رحمه الله تعالى was on holiday and had taken in whole family with him. However due to intense look of desolation etched across my father's رحمه الله تعالى face, I contravened his orders and called Mian Sahib رحمه الله تعالى anyway and told him about the state of my mother's health and that my father رحمه الله تعالى had inquired about him a number of times. I also said that my father رحمه الله تعالى will never call you back, but he needs you, therefore the decision rests with you. After a brief silence, he replied "if Huzur رحمه الله تعالى needs me in Rabwah

than I cannot stay in Karachi. I will leave straight away". Within a few hours he had caught a plane and was soon back in Rabwah, despite the fact that he had travelled to Karachi by car and his family was there with him he left everything there and returned. When I was sure that he was returning, I gave this news to my father and still today after 23 years I can clearly see happiness and shine on his face as suddenly all anxieties had gone and he was very relaxed. It was the look of a mother who has been reacquainted with a lost child

On his return from Karachi Hadhrat Mian Sahib رحمه الله تعالى came to Qasr-e-Khilafat straight away. My father رحمه الله تعالى was very excited and asked him to sit on the chair, but Hadhrat Mian Tahir Ahmad Sahib رحمه الله تعالى wanted to avoid eye contact with my father رحمه الله تعالى as he knew of his present sorrow and therefore decided to seat himself on the floor with his head bowed down. My father رحمه الله تعالى started telling him about my mother's health and asked for his advice with regards to homeopathic medicine. Then after a little pause my father رحمه الله تعالى said "Tahir", in a trembling voice, Mian Tahir Sahib رحمه الله تعالى had to look up and when he saw my father's رحمه الله تعالى anguished face, he could no longer contain his emotions and began to weep like a child (Hadhrat Mian Tahir Ahmad Sahib رحمه الله تعالى). My father رحمه الله تعالى forgot about his own pain, stood up, held Hadhrat Mian Tahir Sahib رحمه الله تعالى by his shoulders, pulled him up, and said "Whatever Allah so wills". He then looked towards me, and instructed me to provide my father-in-law with a cup of very strong tea and a place to rest for a few hours. One can see not only the fondness and high esteem, Khalifa-Salis رحمه الله تعالى held Hadhrat Mian Sahib رحمه الله تعالى, but also the intense love Hadhrat Mian Tahir Sahib رحمه الله تعالى had for his brother and Khalifa.

#### **Huzur رحمه الله تعالى served as Sadr Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya (markazia) what do you recall about this time?**

You asked me about Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى role as Sadr Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya. At that time I was very young and not involved in the work of Khuddamul Ahmadiyya but I still remember there was immediately a surge in the activities of Khuddamul Ahmadiyya following Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى appointment. A new zeal and motivation engulfed the organisation. He served in this capacity from 1966-69. His attention to detail was incredible and he paid particular attention to the administrative aspects of the organisation. This was a very crucial time for both the Jama'at and Pakistan, and my father رحمه الله تعالى had full trust in him. I remember him visiting my father رحمه الله تعالى many times a day and my father gave us instructions that whenever Mian Tahir comes, even if I am resting or engaged in work, you should inform me straight away. And I remember them walking up and down in the veranda and discussing important matters. I was inspired by Hadhrat Mian Tahir's رحمه الله تعالى energy. I never saw a trace of tiredness on his face. Sometimes he used to come straight to my father from Lahore or Islamabad to discuss the matters of the day and at

times my father رحمه الله تعالى would instruct him to return immediately to the respective destination from which he came. On other occasions he would instruct him to rest before making another journey. I remember him working extremely hard and it was because of his sense of duty and his love of Khilafat. Otherwise, I think he might have felt tiredness on some occasions.

He saw the importance of involving the youth in all spheres of Jama'at activity, believing that this would assist greatly in the moral and spiritual training of the Khuddam. He encouraged the Khuddam to be proud of who they were and never to conceal the fact that they belonged to the Ahmadiyya Jama'at. Mian Sahib رحمه الله تعالى had a great passion for Tabligh even whilst he was Sadr, and indeed, it was during this period of his life that he began developing the skills of conducting question and answer sessions, which were to become a salient feature of Khilafat-e-Rabia. The question and answer sessions he conducted were also a great aid to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى. On the occasions when Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى was busy in other Jama'at duties, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى used to meet Non-Ahmadi visitors for short time and then used to say now Mian Tahir رحمه الله تعالى will sit with you and answer your questions. For the last few years of Khilafat-e-Salsa this became routine.

He was also very disciplined and under no circumstances would he tolerate anything being said or enacted against the Nizame Jama'at.

In 1978, when I was in England, certain circumstances arose and Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى asked me to appoint someone as my representative. For me Hadhrat Mian Tahir Ahmad Sahib رحمه الله تعالى was the obvious choice as I saw in him someone who would deliver justice with the fear of Allah. When my father got my letter, he was very surprised but also very happy with my decision. Soon after that Hadhrat Mian Sahib رحمه الله تعالى came to London for the Deliverance from the Cross Conference and from that point because we had to discuss that matter in detail we started understanding each other. Within days we became very close and sincere friends.

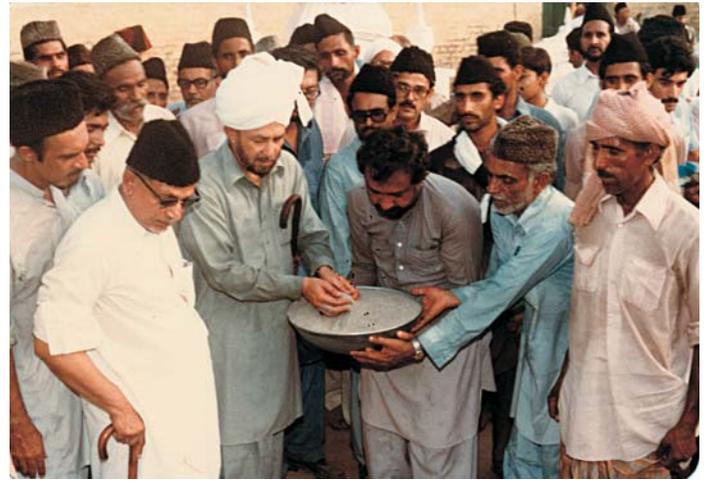
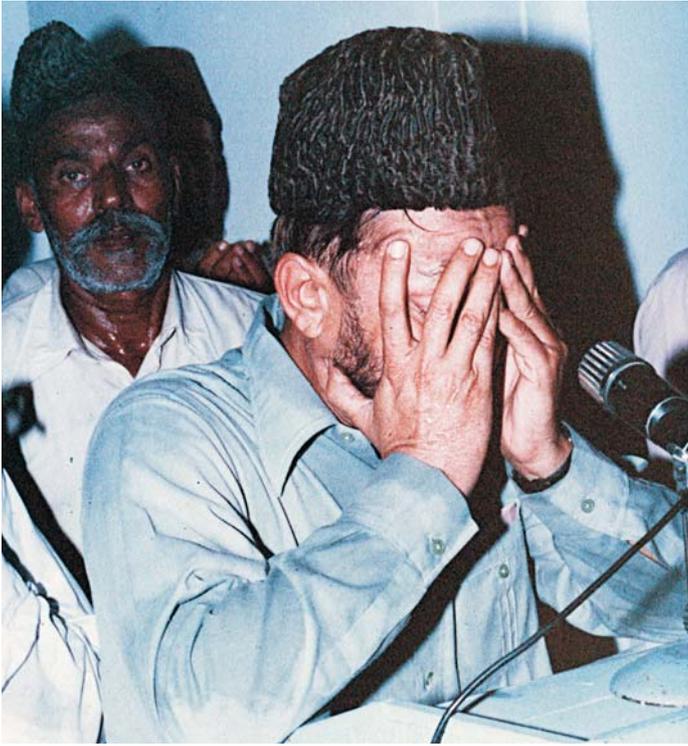
#### **A dream of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى**

In March 1982, my father saw a dream, which he told at the Majlis-e-Shura. In that dream he saw his own funeral and from his body there emerged a shadow, which rose from his feet and proceeded to reach the sky. Then the shadow pointed to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى's body and declared that he was also the Mujjadid. Usually those who interpret dreams mentioned the rising of the shadow from the feet means that the child of that person will succeed. Yet after the passing of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى it was his brother who became Khalifa.

Now I will tell you something very interesting in relation to this dream. A few days before his departure for Islamabad (this was Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى last journey), Huzur رحمه الله تعالى invited his children and Apa Tahira (second wife) for dinner at his farm in Ahmad Nagar. I was making arrangements for this dinner.

Because Hadhrat Mirza Mansoor Ahmad Sahib used to accompany Huzur رحمه الله تعالى whenever Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would go to Ahmad Nagar or other such places, I invited him to this dinner party as well without taking the liberty of informing Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. At lunchtime Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked me about the preparations and whilst I was telling him about different things I also told him that I had extended an invitation to Mirza Mansoor Ahmad Sahib. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى instructed me to immediately call Mian Sahib and cancel the invitation. I was a bit embarrassed to do that. But Huzur رحمه الله تعالى explained to me that he desired that only his sons accompany him on this. Having made the required phone call, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى then instructed me to call Mian Tahir and invite him to the dinner. I reminded Huzur رحمه الله تعالى that he only wanted his sons to attend it with to which he gave the firm and passionate reply, "Yes, I only want my sons to attend this dinner, so go and invite Mian Tahir رحمه الله تعالى." At this point Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was announcing indirectly that he considered Mian Tahir رحمه الله تعالى to be his son. Now when you relate this incidence with the dream of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى, the true significance of the dream can be clearly understood.

It is my opinion that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was sure that his time was near. A few days later Huzur رحمه الله تعالى left Rabwah for Islamabad in preparation for his visit to Spain. On the 26<sup>th</sup> May 1982, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى fell ill. Dr Noori was called to attend him and performed an ECG and also advised Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to take a few days of rest. However, after a few days Huzur رحمه الله تعالى suffered a massive heart attack. I immediately called Mian Mansoor Ahmad Sahib, Nazir-e-Ala and briefed him about the situation. I requested him to send some senior Jama'at representatives to Islamabad. Hadhrat Mian Sahib told me that Mian Tahir Ahmad رحمه الله تعالى and Hameed Nusrullah (Amir Jama'at Lahore) had already left for Islamabad to obtain visas for Spain, I was told by him to make contact with them in Islamabad. I phoned Major Maqbool Sahib to find out about Hadhrat Mian Tahir Sahib رحمه الله تعالى. Major Sahib told me that he had just arrived and that he was preparing tea for him. I asked Major Sahib to pass this message that he was required at Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى side, as Huzur رحمه الله تعالى may need him. When Hadhrat Mian Sahib رحمه الله تعالى heard the message, he immediately left without having his tea despite having just undertaken the arduous journey from Rabwah via Sheikhopura. During this time he stayed in the same house with us, though he went to Rabwah for one night. The greater part of his time was spent in prayer; praying and reciting the Holy Qur'an. There were so many guests in the house but I still prepared a room for him, he admonished me for this, saying that he only needed a quiet corner in which he could pray. There was a locked dining room, which we used for special meetings at that time. He asked me to put bed sheets around the dining table as we do in Iteka. He used this room as a makeshift bedroom. He also spent his time searching for appropriate homeopathic medicines and taking care of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى medical needs, as well as meeting those anxious Ahmadis who were gathered in the guesthouse in their hundreds, enquiring about Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى health and offering their services. Mian Tahir رحمه الله تعالى comforted them and took care of them as if they were his personal guests. Later Sahibzada Mirza Khursheed Ahmad Sahib, now Nazir-e-Ala came to



**Above:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى leads the first prayer after being elected as Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV. **Top right:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى first address after Khilafat: **Right:** The burial of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى. To Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى right is Sahibzada Mirza Mansoor Ahmad, father of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V أيداه الله تعالى بنصره العزيز

Islamabad as Anjuman representative.

During this time, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى was frequently enquiring if Mian Tahir Ahmad Sahib was present, and felt comforted and reassured by his continuing presence.

When Huzur رحمه الله تعالى passed away, the nominated members of the Jama'at, which included Hadhrat Mian Tahir Ahmad Sahib رحمه الله تعالى, gave ghusal to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى body. When the 'Jinaza' was about to leave for Rabwah, the Anjuman representative, Mian Khursheed Ahmad Sahib suggestively looked at Hadhrat Mian Sahib رحمه الله تعالى as if asking him to lead the prayers. But Hadhrat Mian Tahir Ahmad Sahib رحمه الله تعالى immediately announced that Mian Khursheed Ahmad Sahib would lead the silent prayers. The Jinaza then proceeded to Rabwah where the next day the Intikhab of Khilafat took place and the burial of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى.

### The Intikhab for Khilafat

I recall that after my father رحمه الله تعالى passed away, when his body was being bathed, I went to Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى bedroom and suddenly I felt that I was in the control of some power, which is very difficult to describe. In this state of control I took Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III's رحمه الله تعالى turban, placed it inside a pillow case and put it in my car where it remained until we reached Rabwah.

The Intikhab-e-Khilafat took place after Zohr Namaz. Mirza Tahir Ahmad Sahib رحمه الله تعالى was elected as Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV. During this time I was outside the mosque near the Mehrab, the atmosphere was quite indescribable. There was a sense of sadness and sense of responsibility, locked amidst a feeling that a new era was about to begin, which would in fact be a completion of the previous era. I remember my heart was beating very fast and then suddenly I heard the rhythm of Bai'at breaking the painful silence, with everyone dropping in Sajdah. This was the moment when the two periods of Khilafat met. Happiness rained down upon our hearts and souls and our tears fell on the soil of Rabwah. It was a hot June afternoon, but the expression on the faces of the children of Khilafat was an indescribable memory that I will never forget.

After the delegates took Bai'at and the doors were opened for the public, my brothers and I were called to the Mehrab and the first public Bai'at took place in which we gave our hands into Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى hand and the rest of the public held onto us. After the Bai'at Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked people to prepare themselves for Asr Prayer. At that point the same power held me again and asked me to give the turban of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى in the mosque. I immediately fetched the turban from the house. When Namaz finished Bahadur Sher who was the then security in charge, opened the Mehrab door for Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to leave the Masjid, for security reasons it was the practice that after Namaz the members of the security team stood between the Mehrab and

the first row. When I entered the Mosque, Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى was sitting in a kneeled position; no one saw me entering the Mehrab. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى looked at me with surprise as I was holding a turban and I detected a degree of embarrassment on Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى face. I told Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى that this was the turban of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى and I request you to wear this. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى leant forward and took his cap off and I placed the turban on Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى head. After wearing the turban instead of leaving the Mosque, Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى turned towards the people gently pushing aside the bodyguards.

It was strange for the people because they had observed Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى with a cap before the prayer, yet afterwards they saw Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى in a turban for the first time. At this time there was a ripple and then wave of happiness, which engulfed the mosque. At this point Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى delivered a small speech in which he said that his turban was that of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى that he himself had made.

This incident is of great significance, as two individuals living separate from each other in different times saw dreams about this incident. A long time ago in the late 60's a gentlemen from London had a dream in which he saw that there was a large gathering in Rabwah where the atmosphere is very subdued. They are waiting for the Khalifatul Masih. He sees that Hadhrat Mian Tahir Ahmad Sahib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى is in the middle of the crowd. Then he saw that Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى arrived and went to Hadhrat Mian Tahir Ahmad Sahib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى. He takes his own turban and places it on Hadhrat Mian Tahir Ahmad Sahib رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى head and says that now it is your job to look after this turban. The gentleman recounted this dream in a letter to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى .

Chaudhry Anwar Hussain Sahib also mentioned that a new Ahmadi from Sheikhopura saw a dream few days before Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى became ill. In this dream he was in Masjid Mubarak and someone came, placed the Turban on the head of Mian Tahir Ahmad رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى, and said this belonged to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى .

After this Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى proceeded to Qasr-e-Khalifat where Hadhrat Nawab Amtul Hafeez Begum (may Allah be pleased with her), the youngest daughter of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام placed the ring of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام on Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى finger. I remember Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى being in an extremely emotional state and he was crying as he met his family.

### ***What do you recall about the time leading up to the passing of the Ordinance against the Jama'at in 1984?***

Gradual and important changes were taking place to the face of Pakistani politics during the Khilafat of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih Salis رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى. But after the demise of the Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى, events began to move at a rapid pace and it became quite apparent that something very big was about to occur.

By taking a glance back to the many speeches Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى delivered at the time, one can see that he was most certainly aware of the import of these changes and was therefore desirous of preparing the Jama'at for the road ahead. He put a growing emphasis on tabligh and also on the Tarbiyyat of the members of the Community. On the other hand Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى was keen to do Itema'am Hujat. He held question & answer sessions with not only ordinary non-Ahmadis but also with people who mattered in shaping events. Time constraints prevent me from going into the details of these two years of activities but I will tell you about two very important journeys.

In January 1984, Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى had travelled to Karachi and Sindh. During his stay in Karachi Q&A sessions were held on a daily basis after the Maghrib prayer and were attended by a number of Non-Ahmadi guests. There were also smaller gatherings with academics and intellectuals, which were held for the express purpose of forwarding and discussing the true nature of the, the claim of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام, the political climate of Pakistan and the road to chaos on which the country was heading. Having attended many of these meeting and sittings, I was able to discern and share the feeling of Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى helplessness as he tried to convince the people of the country that his message not only boded well for Ahmadiyyat but for them as individuals and the country as a whole. I remember a retired brigadier, who was by then a freelance journalist and he used to bring to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى many different groups and was very eager to ensure that Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى message reached the maximum number of people. It was a highly charged visit and the message was clearly conveyed to think tanks, authorities and policy makers as representatives of various segments of power who were present asking Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى any type of question. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى returned to Rabwah on 25 February 1984, but by then it was quite clear that the dictator of Pakistan, General Zia had set in motion the cogs in his plan against the Jama'at.

Before the Ordinance was passed, it was apparent that Zia was planning something; therefore the Jama'at published a pamphlet under Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى guidance in which he exposed Zia's plans and answered all the accusations that the Zia regime had hurled against the Jama'at. We knew the government would ban this pamphlet, therefore its publication and distribution was undertaken very secretly. By the time Zia came to know about the pamphlet and sought to ban it, each and every copy had been distributed throughout the country. Although there were only 300,000 copies they were distributed very widely to create the impression that many millions had been published. Zia's embarrassment was such that, one minister himself told me that General Zia was a very cool and level headed character whilst he presided over cabinet meetings, however, on this occasion, he was in a rage and resorted to using abusive language on more than one occasion. He was angry that his plan had reached Rabwah and the Jama'at's massive distribution and printing did not come to the notice of his intelligence and security services.



**Above:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى listens to the recitation of the Qur'an by Mirza Usman Ahmad. On the left of the picture is Chaudhury Anwer Hussain Sahib, Ameer Jama'at Shehkapura

In the second week of April, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had embarked on a visit to Islamabad for 3 weeks. This was Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى last journey to the Capital City of Pakistan. Again, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى made a final effort to convey the Jama'at's message of peace and truth. He could do little more than that to open their eyes. In my view it was Allah's design that he went to Islamabad just before the passing of the Ordinance and his migration from Pakistan to do Ite'ma'am-e-hujjat. Whilst sitting in the very heart of the seat of government.

In Islamabad, every day after leading the Maghrib and Isha Prayers, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would hold question and answer sessions, knowing that many bureaucrats and military personnel were sitting in our mosque and asking questions. In addition, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى held numerous question and answer sessions with non Ahmadis in both Islamabad and Rawalpindi, trying his best to convince them that they were playing with fire. Today when I think back to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى words; each and everything Huzur رحمه الله تعالى warned them about is unfolding in Pakistan.

On the one hand Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was trying his best to take them out of their unseen destruction on the other hand Zia's regime was moving faster to that. Around the 19 April the government official who knew what is going on behind the scene and was a noble and soft hearted man conveyed to Amir Sahib Islamabad, his view to request Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to leave for

Rabwah as soon as possible. He did not want Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to stay in Islamabad until the end of the month. On the other hand some other officials were trying for Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to stay longer by inviting Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to question and answer sessions at the end of the month. When I conveyed his message to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى decided not to return until his planned journey was completed. Two days later he came again and at that point he wanted to meet with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. Amir Sahib called me and I explained that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى is busy and cannot meet at this time. He gave me the same message for Huzur رحمه الله تعالى adding that you do not know what I know. If you let me meet Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, I will even hold his feet to ask him to return to Rabwah. I saw sincerity in his act and conveyed this message to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. It was the afternoon and it was decided that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى should leave Islamabad the next morning.

Immediately after Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى arrival at Rabwah, Kaleemullah Khan Sahib, a friend of the Law Minister came to Rabwah and met Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and showed him notes from a draft ordinance, which the Minister had shown to him. After this meeting, it was very clear that the situation was very grave and the ordinance would be issued soon. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked Kaleemullah Khan Sahib to go to Lahore and meet Hameed Nusrullah Sahib, Amir Jama'at Lahore and gave some instructions for him.

The next few days in Rabwah were very busy planning how to reduce the detrimental effects of Zia's scheme on the Jama'at. I saw Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى crying in a long Tahajjud prayer seeking help and guidance from His Master. He was sad, emotionally very upset but determined and ready to face anything that was going to come his way. He was not worried about himself or his family but for the spiritual children of the Promised Messiah عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام. He told me that he was ready to give his life and the life of his family members for the Jama'at. Those few days were an amazing experience in my life as I was with him most of the time or seated outside his door hearing him pray and hearing him recite the Holy Qur'an. I was seeing two Generals at that time, getting ready to face each other on the field of battle. One was the tyrannical General of Pakistan and on the other hand, I saw a representative of Allah, a humble General leading the forces of Prophet Muhammad صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ. For us it was obvious which of the two would emerge victorious but in Zia's mind he was the obvious winner. The gulf between these two was immense. Every minute Zia was becoming dictatorial and even more arrogant. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى remained the exemplary model of humility and kindness always displaying his gratefulness to Allah.

On 26 April when Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى was leading Isha prayers, whereas his voice was trembling during Tilawat, Pakistan Television was announcing the Anti-Ahmadiyya Ordinance. After the prayers when Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى reached home Mirza Khursheed Ahmad Sahib gave him the sad news. We were not sad for the hardship, which was going to follow but sad for Pakistan.

Just after receiving the news Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى called some Jama'at officials to Qasr-e-Khilafat for advice. I cannot mention the details but many issues were discussed and decisions taken and the meeting ran on until very late. After this Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى went to his room and slept for less than half an hour. He performed ablution and offered Tahajjud prayers, which was very long and extremely emotional.

After this Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى recited Tilawat and went for Fajr Prayer. After the Fajr Prayer he had his breakfast and got ready for the second meeting with a wider group of Jama'at representatives. This remained his routine for the next few days.

#### **Please tell us about the time of Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى Hijrat?**

The next day, was Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April. During the morning meeting the first issue was the Jama'at's request to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى to not lead the Juma prayers, which Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى reluctantly accepted on the request of Mirza Mansoor Ahmad Sahib. It was decided that Aslam Shad Sahib would offer the Khutba and lead the prayers. On the same day Sahibzada Mirza Mubarak Ahmad Sahib conveyed his opinion to us that the option for Hijrat should be kept open. After that this matter was discussed between Hadhrat Sahibzada Mirza Mansoor Ahmad, Brigadier Waqi uz Zamaan and myself. Following the discussion, we decided that before this matter was discussed any further with anyone else, we needed to convey this option to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى.

It was just before the meeting, Mian Sahib asked me to give this message to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى before he arrived at the meeting. Therefore, I went to Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى residence from the Private Secretary's Office and met Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى in the corridor as he walked to his office. In that short period of time it was difficult to say anything, but Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى did see from my face that there was something important that I wanted to say. He got the impression that maybe there it was some sort of bad news. He said that whatever I had to tell him I should do so straight away. I remember that my breathing was though I had just walked up a large hill at this moment in time. I said to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى that Hijrat was one option for him. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى was totally shocked, as he had never thought of this option. I saw so much sadness on his face and I could see he looked very weak, but this weakness only lasted for a moment. Then suddenly I started seeing a change in his expression and body language. He stood straight and firm and he said, "Luqman, if it is Gods will, then what else can we do. If for the sake of Jama'at, I have to bear this burden of leaving the Pakistani Ahmadis then this is what I will do. If the Pakistani Government are prepared to ruin their own fate, then let it be so." It only took us a few seconds to travel from where we had our conversation to the meeting room, but in these few seconds Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى was completely transformed. In my view in this time, Allah unfolded everything related to Hijrat to him. When Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى entered the meeting room, no one could see any anxiety or worry on his face. Hadhrat Mian Mansoor Sahib thought that I had not spoken to him about this. He looked at me with annoyance. But while Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى was sitting down, he looked at Mian Sahib and said I received your message and after a short pause he said "Bhai, do you also think that this is Allah's will?" Mian Sahib very firmly said "yes" and that he would request him on behalf of the Anjuman, as its Nazir-e-Ala to consider this option. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى then delivered a short but very well constructed and meaningful speech about this option, which convinced every one who heard it that Hijrat was indeed the right course of action.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> the meetings continued to discuss different matters. On the other hand preparations for Hijrat started straight away in secret and no one knew that it was to take place so soon. By late morning on the 28<sup>th</sup>, everything was confirmed to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى and it was known only by a select number of individuals. It was decided that Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى would catch a flight on the night 29<sup>th</sup> April. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى left Rabwah on the early morning of the 29<sup>th</sup>. Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى Kafilah consisted of Hadhrat Begum Sahiba, Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى two youngest daughters Mona and Tuba, myself, my wife and my son Usman, Brigadier Waqi ul Zamaan and Chaudhry Hameed Nusrullah – Amir Jama'at Lahore. For some reason it was decided that I and my family leave Karachi two days later. The last meeting was held on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> and lasted until Isha time. In this meeting Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى informed all members that no more meetings would be held until his next decision. That Isha Namaz was Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى last Namaz in Masjid Mubarak. I remember this was a very emotional time and we were very afraid that Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى might say something to the public. The Namaz was very long and Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى and the entire congregation were crying in front of Allah. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى recited from Surah Bani Isra'il Ch 17, Verse 81.

***“And say, ‘O my Lord, make my entry a good entry and make me go forth a good going forth. And grant me from Thyself a helping power”***

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى repeated this portion of the Holy Qur’an 5 times. That was a very painful experience for me, his recitation was full of sadness, but there was also hope in his voice. After the Namaz, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى turned to the people and delivered his last ever speech on the soil of Rabwah where he lived most of his life and which he had helped to build. (Chaudhry Hameed Nusrullah Sahib published this speech in Khalid, Pakistan). During this time, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى also visited Hadhrat Nawab Amtul Hafiz Begum Sahiba (may Allah be pleased with her), Nawab Zainab Begum Sahiba (may Allah be pleased with her) wife of Hadhrat Sahibzada Mirza Sharif Ahmad Sahib رضي الله عنه and Syeda Naseera Begum (may Allah be pleased with her) wife of Hadhrat Sahibzada Mirza Aziz Ahmad Sahib رضي الله عنه.

It was decided that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would go to Sahibzada Mirza Hameed Ahmad’s house. (Mirza Hameed Ahmad is the son of Hadhrat Sahibzada Mirza Bashir Ahmad. He was living in the house that Hadhrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad lived and stayed in during the last few years of his life. Sahibzada Mirza Hameed Ahmad’s wife is Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى sister: Sahibzadi Amtul Aziz.).

At around midnight Huzur رحمه الله تعالى left Qasr-e-Khilafat for the last time and went to Mirza Hameed Ahmad Sahib’s house. Sahibzada Mirza Khursheed Ahmad was driving Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى car and Sahibzada Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was with him. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى stayed in Hadhrat Mirza Bashir Ahmad Sahib’s room where he slept for only a few minutes before waking up for Tahajjud prayers. Just before 4am, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى came out and led a long silent prayer. Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى car and my car left Mian Sahib’s house after the prayers and other cars joined us before we reached Lalian. Chaudhry Hameed Nusrullah was driving Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى car and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was sitting with him in the front seat. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was wearing his Achkan and Turban. Begum Sahiba and Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى daughters were sitting on the back seat. Mirza Mujeeb Ahmad Sahib was driving a second car in which Sahibzada Mirza Khursheed Ahmad Sahib, myself, my wife Faiza, and Usman were sitting. My wife was expecting our daughter Nida, who was born in August in London. She is Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى first grandchild after his Hijrat, therefore Huzur رحمه الله تعالى gave her this name Nida Ul Nasser. The other members of the Kafila were Brigadier Waqi Ul Zaman , Ch Idris Nusrullah Sahib, Malik Farooq Ahmad Sahib (Amir Jama’at Multan), Malik Haroon Sultan and Sheikh Mubashar Ahmad Sahib and Sardar Sami Sahib.

We went to Karachi through Lalian, Jhang and Multan, Sukkar. Before Sukkar, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked us to buy some lunch from a truck hotel. Therefore, our car stopped at the truck hotel and reached that meeting point a bit later, which was at a canal after Sukkar. Amir Sahib Karachi and some Khuddam also came to that point to join the Kafila. After the lunch, the Kafila left for Karachi. Before we entered Karachi, Kaleemullah Khan Sahib was waiting by the roadside in his car. From there he led the Kafila to his house. I think we reached his house at 7.30pm. Straight away Huzur رحمه الله تعالى instructed us that preparation should be made

for Maghrib and Isha Namaz, which was Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى last Namaz in Pakistan. After Namaz we all had dinner after which we requested Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to have some rest before we left for the airport. The departure time of his flight was 2.35am on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April. Brigadier Waqi Ul Zaman Sahib, Ch Hameed Nusrullah Sahib and Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى daughters left for the airport 3 hours before the departure. As had been previously agreed upon with the KLM authorities, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى arrived at the airport 20-30 minute’s before the departure. The plan was that the KLM representative would take Huzur رحمه الله تعالى directly to the aircraft via the VIP lounge. But when we arrived at the airport, we were told that there was a technical problem with the airplane and that the flight had been delayed. We had no other choice but to wait in the lounge. In the VIP lounge with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and Begum Sahiba was Masood Jehlumi Sahib, Major Bashir Tariq Qaid Karachi and myself, the rest of the four Kafila members which included Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى daughters had already boarded the flight.

Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى immigration was done prior to this. We were told by Brigadier Waqi Ul Zaman that at the immigration desk, the immigration officer tried to prevent Huzur رحمه الله تعالى leaving Pakistan. Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى passport declared that he was Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Head of the Ahmadiyya Community. But the immigration officer had a letter of instruction, directing that the Head of the Ahmadiyya Community should not be allowed to leave Pakistan, but the name on that letter was Mirza Nasir Ahmad – Meaning Hadhrat Mirza Nasir Ahmad رحمه الله تعالى, Head of the Ahmadiyya Community. Therefore, he could not stop a Mirza Tahir Ahmad. They tried to solve this confusion but were unable to do so. It was a worrying and an anxious time for us. We did not have permission to sit in the VIP lounge, as this was not in our plan. But because Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would sit in the lounge on other trips, the VIP lounge manager came with his register for Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and the rest of us to sign. For him it was obvious that we had a permit. Masood Jehlumi Sahib took the register from him and filled in all the details other than the permit number. In the column for the name of the passenger, he wrote Mirza Tahir Ahmad – Head of the Ahmadiyya Community. I am telling you this so that there is no doubt that throughout the journey from Rabwah to London, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى did not hide his appearance or identity. During his stay in the VIP lounge, the airport security in charge came to say Salaam to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى as well as some other passengers who were in the lounge.

Half an hour later the KLM representative came to meet us. He took us all to the airport concourse where his car was waiting and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and Begum Sahiba sat on the back seat. Major Bashir Tariq sat at the front. The KLM representative drove Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to the steps of the plane. Masood Jehlumi Sahib and I waited there until we had seen Huzur رحمه الله تعالى safely enter the aircraft. Again, this was very emotional and stressful time for all of us. Although I was also leaving Pakistan two days later, my mind was occupied with the thoughts of all other Ahmadis who we were leaving behind.

Before his departure, Masood Jehlumi Sahib and I shook hands with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. We waited at the airport until KLM had informed us that Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى plane had left Pakistani



Above: Huzur رحمه الله تعالى during a tour of Europe.

borders. These last few hours were very tense, we were all very worried. Everybody was praying. Because only a few people knew what was going on, the burden of the sense of responsibility was immense. This sense of responsibility and duty for prayers upon all of us who were involved was so great that at times it was tearing us apart. I remember that when we had heard the news that Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى flight had passed the Pakistani point of control we cried with happiness. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى arrived safely in London that same day.

***What do you recall about the time leading up to and during the period of the Mubahala?***

Before the Mubahala I observed that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was very deep in thought. His prayers were longer and one could see some changes in him that are difficult to describe but were very obvious. I discussed this change with Ch. Anwar Hussain Sahib, Amir Jama'at Sheikhopura who was a very close, sincere and long standing friend of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. He agreed with me and said that he too had noticed the change. I remember sharing our feeling with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى smiled and said that you two should just join me in prayers. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said that he was seeking guidance and help from Allah, for a very big miracle, which will take the Jama'at to the next level and will destroy our enemies. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى explained that this process of praying, seeking guidance, thinking and planning was very tough and hard process.

Soon after this, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى issued a Mubahala challenge, which has been very well documented. The immediate result of this Mubahala challenge was that the so-called Maulana, Aslam Qureshi was found alive in Iran and given to the Pakistani authorities in front of the international media. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had been accused by Zia of murdering this man. Furthermore Zia ul Haq who was alive and well, was put to death by Allah in a field in the middle of nowhere. Allah treated these two enemies of the Jama'at very differently, one received life, and the other one received death. When I met Huzur رحمه الله تعالى after Zia's death, he was so happy that I can not quite express his emotions in words. His happiness did not emanate from the fact that Zia had died, but from the way in which Allah helped Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and granted him success in the Mubahala. He kept saying to me, over and over again "dekho Luqman, Khudaa kis terha itni Jaldi merey mudad ko aya, wo mujh'se kitna pyar karta hay, us ko Masih-e-Maud ki kitni Izat hey". (Do you see Luqman, how Allah has so quickly come to my aid to fulfil my prayers, see how much he loves me and how great a respect God has for the Promised Messiah") Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was saying this and smiling whilst tears were flowing from his eyes. In my view the effect of this Mubahala on our enemies is not yet over, we are still witnessing how its consequences for the enemies of Ahmadiyyat.

***The passing of Hadhrat Syeda Asifa Begum – Wife of Hadhrat Khalifatul Mash IV رحمه الله تعالى***

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى bore this great loss in his life with great grace, fortitude and dignity. It was a very testing and trying time yet



**Above:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى meet Wasitullah Khan from the BBC Press Urdu Service.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was resolute in ensuring that his personal loss did not impact his Jama'at activities. He kept to his routine and did not neglect any of his Jama'at duties, he also continued to lead the prayers and accepted that this was the Will of God.

***In the last two years of his life, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى fell ill, but strived to keep up his engagements, particularly where the Jama'at was concerned. Please tell us some more about this.***

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى became very ill in September 1999. He suddenly fell very weak. He was on holiday in Norway at the time (he took Urdu Class for a holiday with him – he was not well but he wanted to fulfil his promise to them to take them with him to Norway), but he had to cut the trip short and came back to London because of his illness. Though doctors advised him to rest, he did not want to reduce his duties. It was very hard and painful time for him. But he managed to continue to perform all his official duties and he also managed to go to the mosque to lead the prayers that was his unbelievable love for Namaz ba Jama'at. During this time, he also visited Indonesia, which was both an uplifting and yet tiring experience for him. In my view one could see from the videos recorded in Indonesia that he was involved in a constant internal fight with his illness. Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى will power was very strong and he was determined not to be defeated by the illness, which was unknown at that time (doctors were not clear what the real problem was at this stage).

After the Indonesian tour, Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى health declined very rapidly. For a few months at the end of 2000 Huzur رحمه الله تعالى slowed down his Jama'at activities, and cancelled his public duties. He continued to receive mail and carried out administrative work at home. However, after a few months, he resumed his normal activities.

In March 2002, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى fell over during his morning walk and after that, his health deteriorated very rapidly. Many Ahmadi and non Ahmadi specialist doctors were called in and a correct diagnosis was made. They remained involved in his treatment until his last day.

During this time, I stayed with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى very closely and I was with him almost 24 hours a day; Most of the nights sleeping in his room.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was very weak during the 2002 Jalsa. The doctors were suggesting that he should not move to Islamabad. It was also suggested that he should go to Islamabad only to deliver the speeches. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى point blankly refused this and said that he would go to Islamabad as per previous years. However, the doctors continued to insist. One day Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said to me that the doctors did not understand his feelings, knowing only his illness. He said that he could not stay apart from the guests of the Promised Messiah who came from far and wide to attend this Jalsa. He said that although he could not meet people as he used to meet them because of his deteriorating health, if he stayed in his house in Islamabad he would feel as though he was with them. And in turn they too



**Above:** Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى meets the Governer General of Gibraltar

would feel that Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى was there with them. Furthermore he said that if he was to stay at the Fazal Mosque and lead the daily prayers, who would go to Islamabad to attend the Jalsa?

So Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى moved to Islamabad on Friday morning and he stayed there until Sunday evening. During this time, he delivered all his speeches and also led the prayers. He met some non-Pakistani delegations and at other times, he would stay at home. However, Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى felt a lot of anxiety over not being able to go for individual mulaqats. I remember he used to walk from his bedroom to his sitting room, continuously for hours. On Saturday afternoon, he wanted to go out. I suggested that we should drive around Islamabad; He was very happy with this and asked me to prepare the cars. I came out and whilst I was telling Major Sahib to make the preparations, I saw him coming out wearing his achkan and turban. I sat with Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى on the back seat of the car, which was driven around very slowly through Islamabad. The people were very happy to see Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى and be able to say their salaam. But Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى joy and happiness was unforgettable. He would recognise and point out to me the guests he had seen who had come from abroad. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى was so relaxed that he took his turban off. Suddenly Bashir Sahib who was driving Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى car suggested that because there was so many people that perhaps it was appropriate to still wear the turban, it

was said out of love to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى as Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى would avoid going into the public without his turban. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى, however replied, "if my Jama'at saw me without a turban then so what?" A little while later, however in order to make Bashir sahib happy, Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى put the turban back on his head and told Bashir sahib that he had accepted his advice. Bashir Sahib was very dear to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى and he also served Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى with a lot of love and affection.

After Jalsa, the doctors decided that Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى should undergo heart treatment before a major operation on a chaotic artery in his neck. A senior heart specialist, Professor Jenkins performed an angiography during which he found some blockages in two main arteries of the heart. Therefore, he performed angioplasty to open one artery. Dr Noori was present throughout this treatment. Three weeks later Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى was admitted to hospital for another operation. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى arrived in the morning and by evening all the tests were done. The doctors decided to operate the following day at 6pm. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى had to stay at the hospital during this time.

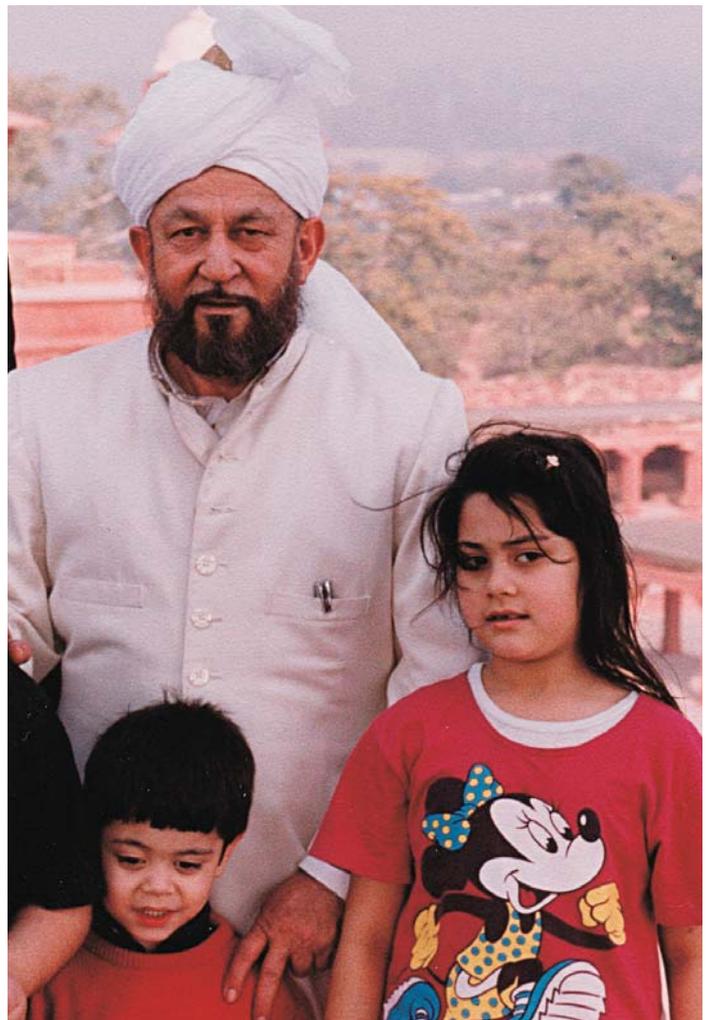
The next morning, Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى had his breakfast at his usual hour and after that there was very little to keep him occupied for the remainder of the day. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى was not in the habit of sleeping during the day so this was not an option for him. All of Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى family visited Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى that day and spent their time with him. I stayed with Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى almost the entire day. We were all very worried though we tried to hide our worries from Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى. But it was always very difficult

to hide anything from Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى. To make us happy, Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى started talking and telling us stories of his childhood and his life as a student. Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib, who came to England with Nawab Mansoor Khan Sahib during his illness, was also present in the Hospital. While Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى was talking to us, whenever he forgot a name of a person, he would ask me to go to Mian Ahmad Sahib and ask him the name of the person. Mian Sahib remembered all those names. Once Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى said that Mian Ahmad is a living encyclopaedia. It was very difficult to pass that time. Many people needed to speak to me to ask about Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى, so I kept my mobile on. Calls were pouring in and I would pass the messages on to Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى straight away and that was also keeping Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى occupied and happy that he was in live contact with people. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى was very happy about the number of people who called. Some of the people who called were non-Ahmadis that had heard the news on MTA. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى did not know that it had been announced on MTA. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى enquired from me how non-Ahmadis

knew of his operation. I told him that it was through MTA. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى smiled and said that if I was asked for permission to put the news out on MTA I would not have granted it. But now I think it was a good idea.

Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى asked me who was preparing the announcements. I replied that it was Mian Masroor Sahib the Nazir-e-Ala, preparing them in Rabwah based on Dr Noori's report. At that point I saw a bit of sadness in his eyes. He said that the people in Rabwah would be very upset and they would be praying a lot. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى said MTA is a miracle and a blessing of Allah. It was difficult for us to give the news about Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى when he was ill, but now a statement from Rabwah was reaching each corner of the earth through MTA. Amongst the non-Ahmadi friends who phoned was Huzur's رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى old friend, Dr Mubashar Hassan Sahib ex finance minister of Pakistan. Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى was very happy to receive his message.

**Left:** Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى meets the grandson of Malawa Mul, a Hindu who remained a friend of the Promised Messiah عَلَيْهِ السَّلَام throughout his life. Here Huzur رَحْمَةُ اللهِ تَعَالَى is presented with a shawl.  
**Below:** A photograph in India





Above: Huzur رحمه الله تعالى at the NordKap, Norway

Chaudhry Hameed Nusrullah Sahib Amir Jama'at Lahore arrived at the hospital as he had heard about the operation. I gave his salaam to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was very happy that someone from Pakistan had come to see him. He asked that Hameed should not leave the hospital until he came back into his room after the operation.

The day progressed and after lunch, I requested Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to have some sleep. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said that he could not sleep in the daylight, as the room was very bright. There were three different types of curtains in the room; I drew them all that made the room perfectly dark as if it had been night outside. My wife Faiza was sitting in one corner of the room and I was standing near the foot of his bed. He said to me that I want to tell you my will. I got very upset to hear this. He insisted on that, so I decided to go out and call the Private Secretary and Mansoor Khan Sahib. I told Huzur رحمه الله تعالى that I would call someone; at that moment I noticed him raising his right arm and pointing at me and said that I should stay where I was and should listen to him. I was surprised that despite the fact the room was so dark, I could see his arm move. But then suddenly I realised that his eyes were shining a light, and within seconds the light that came from his eyes brightened his entire face (only his face seemed to be shining). Then he spoke to me for about forty minutes. What I

can tell you from that is; "if I should die then the Pakistani Jama'at especially those in Rabwah will be very sad because I couldn't return to them. Tell them that I don't want them to cry, because in my life a single tear in their eyes used to give me a lot of pain. For my sake they must not cry."

He said that Jama'at should hold on to the Nizam-e-Jama'at during the interim period before the next Khilafat. He said that it is his wish and prayer that each Ahmadi would form a close bond with Nizam-e-Khilafat. He said that he wanted the Jama'at to obey the Khalifatul Masih as he (Mirza Tahir Ahmad) used to obey the Khalifa during the time of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى. He said that after him Ahmadis should follow his example.

When he stopped talking to me I gathered all my strength and said to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى that Inshallah everything would be fine. I told him that the whole Jama'at, everywhere in the world and our friends were praying for him. In some cases, children did not go to schools, as they wanted to stay at home to pray for him. I said that they love you and they are crying for your health. In a trembling voice he said that he knew the Jama'at loved him a lot and that he loved them too.

Slowly the light disappeared and room became dark again. This amazing experience is still vivid and clear in my mind.



**Above:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى in a moment of contemplation whilst on holiday with his family

A few hours later at 6 pm, the medical staff came with the mobile bed to take Huzur رحمه الله تعالى into the operating theatre. When Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was taken through the hospital to the operating theatre, all the family members and Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى staff, Amir Sahib UK, Mian Ghulam Ahmad Sahib and Mansoor Khan Sahib were standing in the lobby waiting for him. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى conveyed his Salaam to all of them after which Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib made a request to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى for silent prayer. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked Mian Ahmad Sahib to lead the prayers. Mian Ahmad then led a short silent prayer. After this, we went into the Operating Theatre. That was again a very stressful time. Around 8.30pm a surgeon came upstairs and gave us worrying news about Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى condition. The Operation was successful, but he had developed Pneumonia. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى stayed in the Operating Theatre for a while before he was moved to the Intensive Care Unit. Dr Noori and I were permitted to see him whilst he was there. We were shocked when we saw him, as he was in a very critical condition. However, by the grace of Allah, within a few days Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى health improved and an X-ray showed that his chest was all clear and there was no sign of Pneumonia. The doctors said this was a miracle and they had never seen anything like this before.

After the operation, a non-Ahmadi friend phoned the mosque and complained about the announcements regarding Huzur's

health, which were delivered on MTA. His complaint was that, these announcements only requested Ahmadi to pray for Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. He complained that no mention was made of the Jama'ats non-Ahmadi friends not was any request made of them even though there were so many non Ahmadi praying for him. I passed this message onto Huzur رحمه الله تعالى whilst he was still in intensive care, which made him very happy. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked me to pass on a message to Mansoor Khan Sahib who was the Anjuman representative in London at the time that we should always mention our non-Ahmadi friends in our announcements in MTA.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had to stay in the hospital longer than expected. But as he was recovering quickly he came home just 6 days after the operation. He was very weak and he could not stand straight. He was very worried – not about his state of health, but about the fact that he would not be able to lead the prayers in the Mosque.

I thought it would be better if we set targets about his recovery. The first target was that he would lead the Eid ul Fitr prayers that were only 3 weeks away. All the doctors said that this target was to close to be achieved. But again we saw a miracle and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was able to go to the mosque for Eid, after which he invited his family and friends for Eid lunch.

The second target for Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was to start conducting his MTA classes and to start going to the mosque for Zohr



Above: Huzur رحمه الله تعالى on holiday in Norway

prayers. It was a very uphill and difficult task, I was not caring for an ordinary person, but I was caring for my Khalifa and someone who I loved like a father. I had to maintain all due respect and manners for my Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, however on the other hand it was necessary to ensure that he ate enough, exercised enough and took all his medicines. Whenever Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said “no” to me, nothing I tried could make him change his mind. Then, I tried another technique. I asked from him “would you not like to go to the mosque?” This technique always worked and encouraged him to follow the doctors instructions, as all he wanted to do was to get fit to able to go to the Mosque. It was his love for Namaz in the mosque, which was pulling him up. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى then started six MTA recordings a week that lasted for an hour each, as well as the Friday sermon. Six weeks after his operation, the Neurologist Dr Joseph came to visit Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. It was he who had advised that this operation should take place in order to stop the deterioration of Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى health. When he met Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and spoke with him, he was so amazed and surprised that he started laughing like a child who suddenly received a pleasant surprise. I remember him holding Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى hand and laughing; he would feel Huzur رحمه الله تعالى arms and shoulders as if massaging them as though he could not believe that this man was the very same person. He was not expecting such a dramatic improvement in Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى memory and personality –

which was back to normal and everybody was a witness to this. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was still physically weak, but his health was improving every day. All of us know how good his health was in the last few months of his life.

When Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had recovered somewhat, but was still not up to meeting people, I thought it would be a good idea that a message from Huzur رحمه الله تعالى should be read out on MTA for the whole Jama’at. When I went to seek Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى approval, he was very happy with the suggestion and he appointed his private secretary to read that message.

***Please tell us about the Hazur’s final days and the morning Huzur رحمه الله تعالى passed away***

About 10 days before Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى passing, he caught a minor flu, which made him a little weaker. To make sure that this did not affect his heart, Professor Jenkins came to visit Huzur رحمه الله تعالى. He checked Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى fitness levels and found nothing wrong with his condition. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said to Professor Jenkins that he knew that there had been no problem, but he had given him permission to see him because he wished to make Luqman happy.

Doctor Noori came to London a few days before Huzur رحمه الله تعالى passed away and he too was satisfied with Huzur’s رحمه الله تعالى condition (Dr Noori and Dr Mubashar use to come to see Huzur رحمه الله تعالى very frequently during his illness). He used to come upstairs and check on Huzur رحمه الله تعالى twice a day. On



**Above:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى listens to the recitation of the Holy Qur'an during the Ameen ceremony of Mirza Adnan Ahmad  
**Right:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى fishing. **Below:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى on holiday with his family





Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April before the Maghrib and Isha prayer Huzur رحمه الله تعالى sat in the Mosque for Majlis-e-Irfan. After the prayers, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى returned to his flat and was very pleased with the sitting. He told me that he did not feel tired at all. After dinner, I prepared his bed. At around 10pm, my daughter Nida gave Huzur رحمه الله تعالى some fruit yogurt, which he used to eat before going to bed in compliance with the instructions of his doctors. I was in Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى bedroom when he called me over and told me that my daughter had given him his last food and now it was time for bed. I took Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى socks off, and massaged some moisturiser on his feet. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى then went to the bathroom, brushed his teeth and went to bed. I put a quilt over him, and then lay down on the floor at the feet of his bed.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى slept very peacefully that night. The time for Fajr came and I rolled my bed away and said salaam to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى in order to wake him up. He went to the bathroom, performed ablution and then offered his prayer at home. After that, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى sat down at his writing table and recited the Qur'an for about 45 minutes, he stopped his recitation on verse 21 of Surah Baqarah, After this Huzur رحمه الله تعالى went to bed and said to me that "today I am feeling fit again after a long time" When he lay down I sat on the floor and he started talking to me. After a short while he fell asleep bringing to an end our last ever conversation together. I stayed with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى until 8.30am; he was sleeping normally, now it was time to prepare for the day, at 9am, Faiza came to make Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى breakfast. At 9.35 am I went to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى room to wake him up. By looking at him, I could not tell as if anything was wrong. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was lying on his right side and had his right hand under his head. His left hand was on his right elbow. I thought he was not sleeping but had his eyes closed. The only change, which I saw, was an even greater look of innocence on his face and a look of satisfaction. I slowly bent over him and softly said "Assalom-o-Alaikum" Huzur رحمه الله تعالى did not reply, so I said "Assalom-o-Alaikum" again in a louder voice. At that point when he did not respond, an unbelievable wave of comprehension washed over my mind and I realised that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was no longer with us. I held his shoulder and started shouting "Huzur, Huzur, Huzur." I was shaking his arm. My legs were quivering; I felt that there was no life in my legs. This sensation lasted for a few seconds. Then suddenly I felt the required strength I needed at the time. Immediately, I called Dr Noori upstairs, who was ready to see Huzur رحمه الله تعالى before breakfast. At this point Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى body was warm and soft. Within minutes Doctor Noori was there. Immediately after calling Dr Noori I telephoned Amir Sahib and asked him to come immediately for an urgent meeting, I did not however want to give him any news. After a few minutes, Dr Noori told me that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had passed away – Innaillahi wa Innaillahi rajeoon.

Amir Sahib arrived within a few minutes. But as soon as Dr Noori had confirmed Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى death, my first duty was to convey this devastating news to Mirza Masroor Ahmad Sahib - Nazir-e-Ala, Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiyya Pakistan. Amir Sahib came to the residence straight away, I asked him to wait in the library. When I called Rabwah, Sahibzada Mirza Masroor Ahmad

Sahib's wife answered the phone and told me that he had already left the house to attend Zohr Namaz. I requested her to ask Hadhrat Mian Masroor Ahmad Sahib to call me as a matter of urgency. I did not say anything else. After this, A few minutes later I received a phone call from Rabwah, it was Hadhrat Sahibzada Mirza Masroor Ahmad Sahib. It was hard for me to give him this news. He asked me why I had called him. I just said Innaillahi wa Innaillahi rajeoon, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى is not with us anymore. He was shocked and couldn't say anything. After this I gave this news to Amir Sahib UK. After this I went upstairs and gave this sad news to my wife and children. I advised them not to cry, as that was the wish of "Aba" Hadhrat Sahibzada Mirza Masroor Ahmad Sahib called me again a few minutes later, and we discussed everything in detail. He spoke to Dr Noori and then to Amir Sahib. It was decided that the news would be broadcast to the Jama'at on MTA. Rabwah would find out at Asr Namaz.

It was felt that a death certificate was urgently needed as after 12.00pm the offices of Wandsworth Borough Council were scheduled to close for 3 days due to the Easter Holidays. Dr Mujeeb ul Haq Sahib, Naseer Dean Sahib and I went to the Council. We reached there only a few minutes before closing time but managed to register Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى death. I was not aware of the procedure, and then suddenly the officer in charge placed the death certificate in front of me and asked me to sign it. For a moment my mind went blank, my heart felt as though it was sinking and I was thinking over how exactly I could sign it. But it was something that had to be done. I saw as though I was glaring into an open book, the pages of which were turning from the beginning to the end. On the first page I was placing a turban on Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى head and on the last I was signing his death certificate. I felt that 20 years had passed just like that. At that time, I couldn't control myself and tears were flowing down my face.

*If you were to recount amongst all your memories of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and one particular time, which you will always remember what would it be?*

There are millions of memories and out of all these memories, I will tell you the one thing, which is most dear to me. For many months with the grace of Allah I had the opportunity to wash Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى feet when he performed his Wudhu (ablution). I think the time I had washing his feet was the best time I ever spent with him.



**Above:** Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad رحمه الله تعالى receives a gift from Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى .

**Below:** Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad رحمه الله تعالى and Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III رحمه الله تعالى at the wedding of Sahibzada Mirza Luqman with Sahibzadi Faiza Luqman





## My Life with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى

### An Interview with Karim Asad Khan

Karim Asad Ahmad Khan was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on 30 March 1970. He is the son of the late Dr Saeed Ahmad Khan who passed away in 1996 and mother is Selma Mubaraka Ahmad Khan. Karim studied law at Kings College London.

On the 16 April 1993, he was married to Sahibzadi Yasmin Rehman Mona the third daughter of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى and Hadhrat Asifa Begum Sahiba.

#### Earliest memory of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى

My earliest memory of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was in fact before his Khilafat. I think it was in 1980. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى used to host a dinner for foreign guests in Rabwah. My parents had taken us to Pakistan and we were staying at Baitul Zafar which was the former house of Hadhrat Chaudhry Muhammad Zafrullah Khan. My family had a close relationship with Hadhrat Chaudhry Muhammad Zafrullah Khan sahib. I was fortunate in being

particularly close to him. We used to write to each other every week, so even though Baitul Zafar was, by this time, a Jama'at guest house, we preferred to stay there as it had a link with him as well. Anyway, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was having a dinner party at his home and invited us. I remember Huzur رحمه الله تعالى collected us from Baitul Zafar and took us to his home where I can remember watching him. He was very busy serving everybody. I was about 10 years old at the time and I went into the ladies area where I met Begum Sahiba who gave me bottle of Coca-Cola with a



**Left and Above:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى with Kareem Khan and his son Jalise at the Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya Ijtema00

straw inside. At that age, Coke was a real favourite with us children and indeed a delicacy beyond compare!

My second memory was, I suppose, in 1982 when our family travelled to Spain for the inauguration of the Basharat mosque in Spain. In a crowd on the courtyard of Cordoba mosque my brothers and I saw the top of Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى pugari (turban), so we ran towards him and met him, I can remember he seemed so happy to see us and made us feel so welcome – it was very memorable. We also had the great honour of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى coming to our house in Yorkshire when he made his visit to England, prior to the migration.

### Migration

I remember hearing from my father that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had arrived in London. We were all delighted that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had arrived though the news was sudden. I recall that my father said "it was a very sad day for Pakistan," I knew something big had happened but I could not put it into context. I remember going to London and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was addressing the Jama'at that had gathered. He had a very sore throat as loud speakers had been banned in Pakistan, but he appeared upbeat. It was a crisis for the Jama'at but despite that, his presence amongst us made us all feel elated and his attitude to this crisis gave us all heart and a re-newed sense of purpose. I

also remember on other occasions that when we were little, me and my brothers Khalid and Imran, used to come down to London to visit Huzur رحمه الله تعالى during our holidays and we would have lunch and dinner with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and his family in his flat. Sometimes we felt bad that we were intruding so much on the private time of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى with his family that we stayed downstairs to give them a break from us. However when we did thus, he would enquire where we were and ask us to come up.

He once bought a new tent from America which was the latest of its kind. He told us to pitch his tent on the grass area right behind his office. Here we would hold tea parties for Huzur رحمه الله تعالى who would also come and tell us stories and jokes. He never made us feel like we were 'just children.' It is really a great attribute that he always free with his affections and he made everyone – even children – seem special and loved. I also remember that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would like to experiment mixing different types of drinks and foods. I remember one occasion that my brothers and I were in Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى kitchen and he said he would make a special drink for us. It was a 'special recipe' of mixed tea and coffee. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى asked whether we should call it "cofftee" or toffee! We opted for the second!

On another occasion, the milk Huzur رحمه الله تعالى used boiled over in the pan, and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى joked that this is 'men's cooking' and that he should quickly clean it up! Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى nature was so humble, without any pretence, he had love for everybody.



**Top:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى has a light snack at the edge of a river

He would be very informal with us, even though we were young children. He had that magic that it seemed he had time for, and a special relationship with, everyone. This was a feature throughout his life and part of his character.

### Special Memories

There were many memorable occasions and personal moments which I remember and cherish, but one, from before my marriage, which is humorous, involves an incident with my younger brother Imran at a Majlis Irfan session. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had an amazing knowledge and an amazing ability to draw facts from science, humanities, history etc and the Holy Qur'an. He could draw it all together, so it was no longer a series of isolated unconnected facts, but part of a greater scheme of things which showed the veracity of the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم.

On one particular occasion Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was talking about the phenomenon of black holes. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى stated that the more a black hole consumes, the denser and smaller it becomes. Now Imran happened to be there... and he used to be somewhat overweight! On the way back to the residence he told Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, somewhat wistfully, 'I wish I was like a black hole: The more I ate, the smaller I would become!' Huzur رحمه الله تعالى laughed greatly and enjoyed this remark and related

this story on quite a few occasions.

### Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and Majlis Khuddamul Ahmadiyya

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had a great love of the Jama'at and had a great love of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. Through the example of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم he sought to improve the youth as he understood that the youth was the next generation. He did this in a very special way. He would always focus on improvements. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى never wanted reports that were just statistics detailing how many meetings were taking place or how many events were being held. He wanted to know the improvements that were taking place. For example, he wanted to know the increase in the number of people who were offering a single prayer daily where they had previously not prayed at all, or two prayers where there was one and those who were regular in all their prayers where only three or four of the obligatory prayers were previously performed. On one occasion Huzur رحمه الله تعالى instructed that those people who were not coming to the Ijtema or were not so active in the Jama'at should take charge of a second Ijtema held just for them. In that way, instead of feeling like guests, they felt like hosts. This method opened the hearts of those Khuddam and brought about a change in it. They were made to feel central and improvements were seen in subsequent Ijtema's.

I remember in 1989 or so (I do not remember exactly), Huzur رحمه الله تعالى went to Lake District for a few days with his family. He received a message that it was going to be the final session of



**Top:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى serves cake during a tea break in Holand

the National Khuddam Ijtema and there was a request that he attend. He broke his trip and left the Lakes to address the concluding session. His personal time meant nothing; whenever there was a request from the Jama'at, he would sacrifice everything and place primacy on Jama'at obligations.

Before his arrival in the UK, the Jama'at was totally different in terms of size, organisation, work ethic and discipline that it is today. He breathed life into us. We must not forget that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى wasn't solely interested in developing just the Khuddam; he was equally committed to giving time and full rights to the Lajna Imaillah and Nasirat, giving them equal voices and ensuring that they were not to simply sidelined. He took work from everyone and he ensured women held an honoured place in the Jama'at. This is exactly in line with the teachings of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. He tried to involve all people in the Jama'at and consequently brought people closer to God.. He would identify their interests and aptitude and involve them in areas that matched their nature or ability. Ladies were involved in research projects, tabligh activities and MTA from the outset. In this way, he brought people closer to the Jama'at, and ultimately closer to God which is the aim of Khalifatul Masih.

#### Father-in-Law

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had always been exceptionally kind to my

family, even before my marriage.. When I got married, I was never made to feel like an outsider coming in. There was never a barrier with him, or indeed his family. From the first day he and they made me feel like I was a long established member of the family. There was so much love, kindness and attention. My Urdu did not pose a problem as I understand a little Urdu but when there were things I didn't understand, I would say so and Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would translate for me. Of course, his English was far better than mine anyway. But it was his greatness and kindness that though he loved Urdu he never made me feel that I was inconveniencing him or that there was a barrier over language.

My late father really loved Khilafat and was very active in the Jama'at. When he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى prescribed homeopathic medicines and gave him many different remedies. My father also used conventional sources of medicine, he tried the latest treatments in New York and California. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would always enquire about my father. On one occasion when my father was in Yorkshire, he could hardly speak since the cancer had spread to his lungs and he was wearing a respirator. However, when Huzur رحمه الله تعالى phoned, my father took off the respirator and managed to have a conversation with Huzur رحمه الله تعالى with a strength of voice that I could not believe. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had this ability to inspire people to go beyond their limits and give them extra strength and energy. One moment my father struggled to breathe without the respirator and the next moment he was able to speak to Huzur رحمه الله تعالى – he was so elated and so unimaginably happy that his beloved Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had taken



**Top:** The UK Jalsa Salana 2002 International Bai'at Ceremony.

the time and trouble to ring and ask about him. Moments like this can never be forgotten.

I have heard this from so very many people who had been in crisis, near despair or had been bereaved, who had suffered terrible loss and tragedies in their life. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى felt their pain very keenly. This is something people knew, it was not just words, he took their pain as his own pain. His prayers, his message of steadfastness and the great blessing that God gave him conveyed itself to people. It gave them extra resolve and courage to fight and battle and toil as long as there was a fight to fight and it gave them the courage and steadfastness to accept the ultimate Divine Will of Allah with patience when they had done all they could.

I remember when my father passed away in Yorkshire. I called Huzur رحمه الله تعالى from there to inform him. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was quiet for a few moments and then he spoke very kind words to me. He spoke to my brothers in turn and gave us strength, patience and steadfastness to accept Allah's will. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى managed to convey to us a sense of serenity that this is Allah's will and that life goes on.

So all that we can do is live our lives as well as we can, hope and pray that Allah has mercy on us so that we can see our departed beloveds in the next world. It was this serenity and inspiration

from Huzur رحمه الله تعالى that brought everything into context and which I remembered and drew strength from 7 years later when I heard the dreaded news of 19<sup>th</sup> April 2003.

### *International Bai'at*

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said many times that numbers by themselves are meaningless; it is the quality that matters. But, of course, it was historic that so many people were accepting the Promised Messiah عليه السلام all at once. It was a great sign of God's Grace and Mercy on the Jama'at. What I remember is that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى displayed total humility during these times, acknowledging that this was the decree of Allah and he was just an instrument to fulfil that decree. On one occasion I remember at the dinner table, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had some fruits brought by people from different countries from around the world. We were just about to take some fruit when Huzur رحمه الله تعالى turned to us and said this is nothing but the blessings of the Promised Messiah عليه السلام. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى displayed no personal achievement. He took almost every opportunity to remind us that the blessings that were witnessed were nothing except the blessings arising from being a servant of the Promised Messiah and a slave of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. He showed extreme humility to the decree of Allah and gratitude for the blessings of God. They were emotional and great days, but not triumphalist days. They were days of extreme consciousness of the majesty of God, a living God.



### Tours & Visits

Every trip was very special and amazing. When I got married in 1993, I had already taken some time off for the wedding. I recall that I was very new to the Bar and was told that it would be very difficult to take more time off. But Huzur رحمه الله تعالى said to me that the trip to Norway will be a 'trip of a lifetime!' I managed to take unpaid leave and attended this trip. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى spoke greatly about the beauty of Norway many a time and when asking us whether other countries could compare in physical beauty to Norway, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would say "Norway – No way." We travelled to NordKap where we were able to offer Fajr and Isha namaz practically back to back because of the midnight Sun! The midnight sun meant that the day never ended.

One thing should be pointed out is that Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had travelled extensively prior to Khilafat. As a student he had hitch-hiked all over the UK and Europe and he had driven right across the US. He loved travelling and seeing different countries and different people. But when you ask which was his favourite country, or which was his favourite tour, he saw such things through the eyes as a Man of God. He loved those countries most in which the Jama'at was active the most. He was very happy with the Jama'at in Mauritius, for example. This Jama'at was very active and they are a loving people. When the Jama'at was active, Huzur رحمه الله تعالى became very happy. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى never asked anything of anyone save that they become active in the cause of Ahmadiyyat. That is why if you listen to his Khutbat, so much emphasis was placed on Tabligh. The prayers of Huzur



**Top:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى in Norway  
**Top:** Huzur رحمه الله تعالى at the NordKap where the sun shined 24 hours a day. All the prayers were offered in daylight.



رحمه الله تعالى regarding this were never wasted as we can see from the International Bai'at figures . Infact, these were matters ordained by Allah and fulfilments of promises made to the Promised Messiah عليه السلام

I also remember in Mauritius that we persuaded Huzur رحمه الله تعالى to go para-sailing (para-sailing is a special parachute with wing like extensions that lifts a rider in its harness up and through the air when towed by a motorboat) Huzur رحمه الله تعالى carried his grand-daughter, Maleeha, who was about 6 years old in a harness in front of him and over the crystal blue ocean. We all really enjoyed it! When we were getting off the boat and back onto land, I fell into the water whilst holding Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى video camera. I quickly got out and started to apologise for ruining the video camera, but Huzur رحمه الله تعالى did not say anything about the camera, instead he asked me if I was alright. Such grace and kindness was wholly instinctive to him.

The Indonesian Jama'at are exceptionally loving. I remember one place we went to was an Ahmadi village with a beautiful mosque on the hillside. As we made our way to the mosque, we saw people who had lined up in the streets all the way up the hill. I saw young girls approximately 10-11yrs old –even younger perhaps – who were weeping when they saw Huzur رحمه الله تعالى . Their love of Khilafat was so genuine and so real that it was so humbling and moving. It made one realise the blessings of daily contact with Khilafat which we enjoyed and which, perhaps, were far to easy to take for granted.

There was another incident where a large number of Lajna members, many with small children were waiting to see Huzur رحمه الله تعالى , who was involved in some other mulaqats. They sat there, in the heat, in total silence. When Huzur رحمه الله تعالى came out he commented that they were an amazing people, sitting quietly in the heat waiting for him without making any noise at all – and he joked that the only noise he heard was from his grandson Jahan-zaib!

On that trip, as with many others, we also met the President of Indonesia and other dignitaries. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would always say the progress of the Jama'at and the blessings which were witnessed by the Jama'at were the result of the sacrifices of the pioneer Ahmadis and early missionaries. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would visit the graves of pioneer missionaries in their respective countries and pray for them. This age that the Jama'at is passing through is a glorious time it is true. But Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was always mindful to remind us that it was the sacrifices of our forbears, of pioneer missionaries and early converts and the sacrifices of many of our brothers in Pakistan and elsewhere that are being rewarded by Allah.

#### Launch of MTA

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was already very active with Dars and Maljlis-e-Irfan, speeches and book writing. The only difference in Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى lifestyle with the commencement of MTA was the increase in pace and in the diversity of different types of



programmes he used to conduct i.e. liqaa mal arab; Mulaqat with French, Urdu, Bangladeshi and English guests etc. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى worked furiously; he had a work rate which was phenomenal. I have never seen the like. Just when we thought he was working at top speed he would find a way to work even faster and do even more things. It was almost as if one were witnesses exponentially increasing acceleration in the path of Allah. MTA changed the way the Khalifa communicates with the Jama'at. Time and time again he mentioned that the mullahs of Pakistan tried to cut him off from his Jama'at, but instead the links between him and the geographically distant Jama'at's were now stronger than before. Every person could see their Khalifa in their living rooms! These were the great times we were living in. There were so many great signs for anyone with an unbiased and balanced view to see we live in times of a living God.

### Last days

The day before Huzur رحمه الله تعالى passed away he delivered the Friday Sermon and held a Majlis Irfan. He was fully engaged with Jama'at work when he passed away. It was a beautiful ending that was indicative of his life; he passed away fully in the service of God.

On many occasions, I saw that regardless of how Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was privately feeling, whether he was tired or had received some bad news, he would try not to let it show. When he would leave the house, he would joke with people, enquire about people, ask how people were and would never as far as it was possible show

to people any pain or discomfort he was under. Never did he look to others for strength but rather it was he who gave strength and support to others.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى had a complete love for the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم. He led his life as close to the example of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم as he could. When you think why he was so loved by the people, why he is missed so much, one reason is because he knew how to love. Then you ponder how the Sahabi's at the time of the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم reacted when the Holy Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم passed away? How did they manage to cope after losing him? No loss could be greater. Their patience and resolve and steadfastness is truly inspiring and without parallel. Their loyalty and conduct at that moment is actually a great testament to the teachings of the Holy Prophet and his emphasis on the unity of a living and eternal Lord.

Huzur رحمه الله تعالى lived his whole life giving love to people. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى repeatedly said that if you truly love God, you must love his creation. He used to give the example that one cannot love an artist and hate his art or love a writer and hate his books. If one really loves Allah, one is compelled to love His creation. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was totally immersed in the love of God and he truly loved mankind and each Ahmadi knows how much he loved them and how much he loved Allah's Jama'at.



## My Aba رحمه الله تعالى

By Hassan Raza Ahmad

**Written by Hassan Raza Ahmad – In Memory of his beloved grandfather. Raza is the son of Sahibzadi Shaukat Jehan and Sahibzada Mirza Safer Ahmad and and grandson of Hadhrat Khalifatal Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى and Hadhrat Asifa Begum Sahiba**

Affectionately called 'Aba', Hadhrat Khalifatal Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى, my grandfather, was a very special person. His many qualities may be recommended by others far much more fluent at writing and speaking than I. I do not think I could do justice to his memory and his greatness in writing this piece. He isn't an easy person to write about as he was a man of not just one or two, but many special qualities and it is hard to pinpoint just one and elaborate on it. One of the wonderful things about Aba رحمه الله تعالى was that even the small and simple characteristics stood out so beautifully in his person that it always left an impression. His wonderful manner with children and the very special relationship he enjoyed with them, his infectious laugh and wonderful sense of humour, his ability to make it seem as though you were the sole centre of his attention, were all little insights that made him loved by so many. We are all aware of these due to the blessings of MTA, his many classes, Question Answer Sessions, speeches and sermons. In this piece I would like to relate some incidents from my life where I have seen and been recipient of these simple but beautiful aspects of his person.

As small children Usman (Khala Faiza's son) and I used to ask Aba رحمه الله تعالى for some ila'ichi while he would be passing by in his

residence. We would run up to him and request him for some ilachi. If he had a bottle of Shai's "Ilachi, Sweet & Perfumed" in the pocket of his sherwani he would pour out some into our little hands. Occasionally we would be lucky and we would get the remainder of his unfinished bottle. And if we were very lucky we would get a full bottle to ourselves brimful of Shai's finest ilachi.

During our ilachi pinching days, every few months, Usman and I would be lucky enough to get some chocolate from Aba رحمه الله تعالى from that famous drawer. Every so often we would muster enough courage to wait outside Aba's رحمه الله تعالى office for him to come down hoping he would call us into his office and offer us some chocolate. Most times our hopes would come true. He would invite us in to the office, take his seat behind the desk and call us over to choose our favourite from the drawer.

Aba رحمه الله تعالى had a wonderful sense of humour. Sometimes at the dinner table while in the process of telling a joke or funny incident he would be unable to control his laughter and find it hard to finish the story. On such occasions you couldn't but help get carried away with him, and be in hysterics along with Aba رحمه الله تعالى with tears running down your face.



**Left:** Huzur رحمة الله تعالى with his grandchildren, Raza , Maliha and Bilal

**Above:** Huzur رحمة الله تعالى holds baby Raza.

**Below Right:** Huzur رحمة الله تعالى with his Raza and Bilal

On another occasion after dinner, Aba رحمة الله تعالى was on his way down to his office. On his way he saw me, and with a big smile on his face, and a child-like innocent look in his eyes, asked me to tell my mum "Meeri pyari aami mujhe aam khalaidai". Roughly translated it means "My beloved mother please feed me a mango". I am a very shy person and had someone else said this I might have opted not to say it. But it was Aba رحمة الله تعالى who had asked me so I had to say this to my mum! So up I went and in an embarrassingly low voice said "Meeri pyari aami mujhe aam khalaidai" to Ami. Ami had not heard me properly and asked me what I had said, to which I replied, "Can I have a mango please?" And down I sat enjoying this mango that had caused a mini crisis in my life.

Aba رحمة الله تعالى was full of so much love and affection. On meeting him he would often kiss us grandchildren on the forehead and then on both cheeks. On the occasion of the Indonesian Jalsa, on the second day, I suffered from a severe asthma attack. After having gotten over the worst of it, I was regularly drinking warm cups of water with a few spoons of honey added. While sitting on my own on the dining table having one of these cups, Aba رحمة الله تعالى was on the other side of the room watching me. After I had finished my cup, Aba رحمة الله تعالى asked Bashir to make him a cup of this. After taking a few sips from it, Aba رحمة الله تعالى asked Bashir to give the cup to me, to drink from.

On one trip to Spain, the whole family was sitting in the living room of the guest house with Aba رحمة الله تعالى and all the seats were taken. After a while Khaloo Kareem walked in and as

there were no seats free, I got up from my seat and offered it to Khaloo Kareem. Seeing this, Aba رحمة الله تعالى was very pleased with me and so he beckoned me over to sit down on the arm of the chair he was sitting on.

These are some of my fond memories of my beloved Aba رحمة الله تعالى. I have tried my best to put them down in the best possible way I can, and write down incidents that show what a beautiful person he was. Aba رحمة الله تعالى was more than just my grandfather, he was my Khalifa. Every day I remember him and everyday he is deeply missed.





## Hopes Dreams and Wishes

By Nida Ul-Nasser

Written by Nida Ul-Nasser Ahmad – In Memory of my piyaaray Aba and the people of Rabwah. Nida is the daughter of Sahibzadi Faiza Luqman and Sahibzada Mirza Luqman Ahmad and granddaughter of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV رحمه الله تعالى and Hadhrat Asifa Begum Sahiba

**M**an, woman and child were in waiting for a man. Not any man. Oh no! They were yearning back for their friend, mentor, Father. Time passed, and they waited patiently without making any complaints. Over two decades the people of this town laboured hard for the prosperity of their community. Each and every individual saw the region develop before their eyes into full bloom. Their small town had flourished into a beautiful part of the country that they belonged to. Hospitals, Schools, Jamaati services were improved for the love of Ahmadiyyat and in exciting anticipation for this great man's welcome.

In return, this man was as eagerly waiting to meet the people of his town. His heart cried out to set foot on his home soil, just one

more time. One more time would fill his heart's wishes. When friends would visit him from the east, memories would come flooding back. He would cope with his sorrow through writing poems for his beloved people back home.

Both waited for the glorious day when they would meet one another. Each of them must have dreamt of the moment they had been waiting for. The locals of the town must have envisaged how they would greet this Man, how would they control their burgeoning emotions, what would they say to him? Likewise their preceptor must have ruminated his arrival as well over the years, the happiness that would explode inside him the moment he would set foot in his home soil, the anticipation of seeing all those changes

that took place in his absence, being back in the company of his old friends.

2 years passed, 5 years, 10 years... and then almost 20. But quite unexpectedly the great man became ill – how could this be possible? Our Guardian who had always looked over us was now ill. Ahmadies around the world were devastated. All around, Ahmadies raised their hands and dropped their heads and prayed for this man. This extraordinary man was our beloved Khalifa. After giving so much of himself and giving his life to his dearest Jama'at our beloved Huzur رحمه الله تعالى himself was now in difficulty and the Jamaat had now reached a critical point in Khalifah-Rabih's Khilafat which they had to pull through as an even more cohesive community and so now a difficult time swept over our Jama'at.

The Jama'at all over the world became more united than ever because Ahmadies all over had one goal and that was to be in the service of our dearest Huzur رحمه الله تعالى at this critical time for our beloved Jama'at.

As Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى treatment began, Ahmadies everywhere poured their heart and soul to offering prayers for their beloved one. How painful it was to see him in this state of health, the tears flowed down as our hearts were wrest assundered from the pain they felt to see our dearest Huzur رحمه الله تعالى like this, and prayers were not uttered but it were intense emotions which were taking shape of prayers.

Back at home, in Rabwah, the people must have throbbed with painful emotions as Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى treatment went on. How long they had awaited for the arrival of their beloved Huzur رحمه الله تعالى and longed for the day when they would be reunited with him, but the painful news of his illness brought much sadness to all of them – they could not bear to see him in such poor health for in the past they had always seen him full of vigour and energy. I don't think I have ever seen anybody with so much exuberance and life. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى was a kind of person who was always up for a challenge and had to stay constantly active. Even when he fell ill and there were moments of hopelessness, he would be fighting for his health and would not succumb to having a negative attitude but would have a positive outlook on things. Huzur رحمه الله تعالى would pick the right moment for a joke; even the night before his demise he was entertaining us by telling us jokes from his university life. He greatly enjoyed hearing nazms and would always request such people as Wajeeha or Shaukat and others to sing nazms for him in classes. He also loved travelling, another love of Khalifah-Rabih's. One holiday that stands out for me is that of Norway. He was always doing something or another – cooking for us, taking us fishing, hiking, or playing with us. He would never get exhausted. That was what was so special about him; he would go on and on and would only stop when he had achieved what he wanted.

As time went on, Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى yearning to return to his dear Rabwah increased even more so. His heart ached to return back to his home town even if it may be just for one day – one day would make his heart content. In that day he would absorb in everything from the simplest things such as flowers to chats with friends and imprint this memory on his mind never to forget it. One day would be sufficient enough.

The unified spirit of the Jama'at-e-Ahmadiyya, as they prayed and prayed for their dearest Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, was rewarded as Khalifah-Rabih's health slowly began to revive and, with the Grace of Allah, soon he started performing his daily Jama'ati duties again. As time passed Huzur رحمه الله تعالى became more active and more enthusiastic – the vibrancy and buoyancy that used to be in his nature returned. It was smiles all around. In the beginning of April 2003, unexpectedly there appeared prospects for Hazoor to return to Rabwah for a couple of days. So at long last his wish could be fulfilled, not only his wish but the wish of all the people back at Rabwah who had been waiting so patiently and for so long for his coming.

However that was not God's will. On the morning of 19th of April 2003, Allah took our most precious and dearest Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, Khalifah-Rabih into his care. When someone very dear to you passes away and someone as extraordinary as Khalifah-Rabih, Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad رحمه الله تعالى, My Aba, it feels as if a large piece of you has gone missing, like a whole chunk of your life has been extracted from you and with it a whole part of history comes to a cessation; a large gaping hole replaces it, slowly consuming you with emptiness and hollowness leaving behind wishes, hopes and dreams that could have been.

The long wish of my dearest Aba to return to his piyaaray Rabwah and the dreams of the thousands and thousands of people of Rabwah of wanting to meet their most beloved and loving Huzur رحمه الله تعالى came to an abrupt end at Huzur's رحمه الله تعالى demise. When such great wishes are felt in the heart and passed on, I believe they are made to be fulfilled in equally great places and what greater place than Heaven. Such a wonderful and special meeting could only be fulfilled in the best of places and I think that was how God meant it to be.

With every death begins a new life. The passing away of Huzur رحمه الله تعالى, Khalifah-Rabih started a new chapter in his story. Although he no longer remains with us physically, he remains alive in our hearts and thoughts. Hadhrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad's memory and legacy will live on for centuries and centuries to come, because he touched the hearts of millions around the globe – and they will keep the candle burning forever.

