A New Markaz: Reflections of Waaqifaat-e-Nau on the Blessed Move to Islamabad
Pearls of Wisdom

A Waaqifat-e-Nau said she finds it difficult to do Tabligh to Hindus and Sikhs, while such is not the case while talking to Christians and Jews, because she can give references from the Bible and the Torah. She expressed that she does not know how to do Tabligh to Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists.

In reply to this question, Hazur-e-Anwar[sa] replied that you should read ‘Deebacha Tafseer-ul-Quran,’ a book written by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II[ra]. You have not read the literature of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II[ra], if you do then you shall see that all the literature will lead you to tabligh. There is another book ‘D’awatul Amir’ (Invitation to Ahmadiyyat) by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II[ra], which should be read by Waaqifeen-e-Nau. In this book, all issues and prophecies of the present era are discussed very precisely. The English rendering of the book Deebacha Tafseer-ul-Quran is published as ‘Introduction to the study of the Holy Qur’an’ and is available at every bookstall. Hazur[sa] advised her to buy it and also advised every Waaqifat-e-Nau to read the book. Issues relating to Hindus, Jews, Buddhists and Christians etc. are all discussed in the first 50-60 pages of the book, such as what they are lacking and the need of Islam, which is discussed later on. The second part of this book consists of the life and character of the Holy Prophet[sa]. The end of the book discusses the need for the advent of the Promised Messiah[as]. Hazur[sa] said if you read these two books ‘D’awatul Amir’ and ‘Deebacha Tafseer-ul-Quran’ by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II[ra], you should be able to answer at least seventy-five percent of the questions asked, Insha’Allah. (Class Waaqifat-e-nau, Australia 7th October 2013)

A Waaqifat-e-Nau said that when we do Tabligh to non-Ahmadis and give any references from the Holy Qur’an, they sometimes reply that our translation of the Holy Qur’an is not the same as theirs and that we translate the Holy Qur’an according to our own interpretation.

Hazur[sa] asked which verse in particular do they consider to be wrong? There are only two or three verses wherein the translation is different. There is the verse pertaining to the death of the Messiah[as] (Jesus). They translate that he did not die but was resurrected, while we translate that he has died. Therefore, apart from a handful of verses, the rest of the Holy Qur’an has been translated the same. Hazur[sa] said that saints who have passed away prior to the time of the Promised Messiah[as] have translated them in the same manner as we have and we have provided their references in our literature. If you take a look at the Tafseer of the Holy Qur’an by the Promised Messiah[as] or if you study the Tafseer of the Holy Qur’an by Hazrat Khalifatul Masih II[ra], these references are also enlisted there. Hazur[sa] said that you can also find a small booklet in which topics such as Wafaat-e-Masih[as], Hayat-e-Masih[as], (Life and death of Jesus[sa]) and second coming of the Messiah have been aptly discussed. Apart from this, there is other literature of a smaller proportion. This should be obtained by Secretary Waqfe-Nau or Lajna Imaillah. In the UK, they have started to print English translations of such literature. Here in Australia, it should also be obtained and printed so that you may obtain the proofs. (Class Waaqifat-e-nau, Australia 7th October 2013)
From the Editor...

In the present social climate an increasing number of people place more importance on materialistic affairs, such as attaining money and gaining worldly success. Social media seems to have become a mode to compare ourselves with others, by portraying a certain image of ourselves in which validation is required about everything we do. Little to no thought is given to religion and spiritual reflection. However, by the Grace of Allah, as members of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat, we are incredibly blessed to have a shining guide to help us find the path of righteousness amongst the temptations that surround us. This shining light being, the blessed guidance of our beloved Hazur-e-Aqdas, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khilafatul Masih V. May Allah be His Helper.

As Waaqfaat-e-Nau we have an increasing responsibility to live to the highest moral standards and be true representatives of the Ahmadiyya Jamaat. In a Friday Sermon specifically for Waqfe-Nau, Hazur-e-Aqdas(a) gave the following guidance:

"Waqfeene Nau, as I said are very special. But they will have to prove that they are ahead of others in their relationship with Allah; only then they will be called ‘special’. They will be called special if they have fear of God more than others. They will be called special if their standards of worship are a lot higher than others. They will be called special if they offer supererogatory prayers along with the obligatory ones. It is a sign of being special if their degree of general conduct is extremely high. There is a marked difference in their language and talking manners. It is clearly observable that there is a genuinely trained person who prefers faith over worldly matters. Then they will be ‘special.’" (Friday Sermon 28th October 2016)

May Allah enable us to follow Hazur-e-Aqdas's guidance and fulfil our roles as Waaqfaat-e-Nau to the best of our abilities Ameen.

In this Issue of Maryam Magazine our readers can enjoy articles including ‘The Role of Khilafat in Propagating Peace’, ‘The Life of Hazrat Umme Haani’ and a special feature; ‘A New Markaz: Reflections of Waaqfaat-e-Nau on the Blessed Move to Islamabad’. I pray all Waqfe Nau read this Issue and benefit from its content.

Hina Ahmedi
ENGLISH EDITOR

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And who is better in speech than he who invites men to Allah and does good works and says, ‘I am surely of those who submit?’ And good and evil are not alike. Repel evil with that which is best. And lo, he between whom and thyself was enmity will become as though he were a warm friend. But none is granted it save those who are steadfast; and none is granted save those who possess a large share of good.

(English translation by Hazrat Maulvi Sher Ali sahib*)

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Hadith: A Saying of The Holy Prophet ﷺ

(May Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon Him)

Guiding a Person to Islam is Better than all Wealth

Translation: “Hazrat Sahl bin Sa’d® narrates that the Holy Prophet (may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said to Hazrat Ali®: “By Allah, if Allah guides a single person through you it is better for you than (the most precious) red camels.”

(Muslim Kitaabul Fada’il Al-Sahabah - Chapter: Fada’il bin Ali bin Abi Talib)

Commentary: In his Friday Sermon on 20th April 2018 Hazur-e-Anwar® stated, whilst speaking on the topic of Tabligh, related that the Promised Messiah® stated: “Let it be known that there is no better way to increase one’s longevity in that one should sincerely and devotedly occupy himself in spreading the word of God and serve the faith. This method indeed is most effective in this age, since the faith is in need of such sincere servants.”

After relating the above Hadith Hazur-e-Anwar® explained; “In those days, red camels where considered to be extremely valuable. A person who possessed red camels was considered to be rich and affluent. Thus, the Holy Prophet ﷺ stated that the wealth and fortunes of this world are of no value as compared to if one did Tabligh and he became the means through which one attained guidance. Therefore... you should also devote some of your time towards Tabligh. Though I have said that you should give one or two days but in fact you should give more than this. In this way you will be able to acquire the worldly wealth and God Almighty will also be pleased with you.”

(Taken from the Summary of the Friday Sermon delivered on 20th April 2018)
Propagation through peaceful and respectful discussion

“The best way of holding religious discussions is not to criticise a religion foolishly but to put forward one’s objections respectfully on the basis of the accepted and authentic books and writings of that religion. There should be no mockery or derision or insult and all discussion should be conducted wisely. Nor should such objections be raised against a religion with regard to which the objector’s own faith is open to criticism... Every research scholar can put forward objections pointing out the mistakes of doctrine of any sect in a reasonable and respectful manner. An effort should be made that all objections should be of a scholarly nature so that people may benefit from them, and it should not create any disorder or provocation.”

[Kitab-ul-Bariyyah, Ruhani Khaza’in, vol. 13, pp. 15-16]
(The Essence of Islam, Volume 4, p.307)
Caesar and Chosroes Invited to Islam
We have already mentioned that with the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, a new era began in the history of Islam and the life of the Holy Prophet(saw). This new era cannot be thought of as a complete era of peace at all, because many tribes of Arabia were still at war with Islam. However, among the Arabs, since the tribe of the Quraish was generally looked upon with greater reverence due to their guardianship of the Ka’bah, and since the war against Islam was also instigated by this tribe, an agreement of peace with the Quraish did however, result in a kind of temporary peace in one part of the country. After this partial peace, the first step taken by the Holy Prophet(saw) was a remarkably magnificent achievement in preaching his God-given office of prophethood. We refer to those letters of invitation to Islam, which the Holy Prophet(saw) sent to the kings and chieftains of various sovereignties immediately after the Treaty of Hudaibiyyah, and thus furnished practical evidence that the central point of the attention of the Holy Prophet(saw) was the propagation of Islam. That is, to convey this everlasting and final truth to all the people of the world, which the God of this universe revealed through the Holy Prophet(saw). However, prior to the mention of these letters inviting the world to Islam, it seems incumbent that a fundamental note be written with regards to Islam being a religion of preaching, so that readers may be informed as to the perspective of the Holy Prophet(saw) on preaching and the broad sphere upon which the purpose of the commission of the Holy Prophet(saw) was spread. (The Life & Character of the Seal of Prophetsaw, Vol.3, p.175)

Islamic Perspective on Preaching
Firstly and foremost it should be known that Islam is a proselytising religion and its Holy Founder has been instructed to convey to the people all such truths revealed from the heavens through Islam, and nothing should be hidden by him; and to expound each and every one of its aspects. As such, God the Exalted addresses the Holy Prophet(saw) in the
Holy Qur’an saying:

"O Messenger of Allāh, clearly convey to the people what has been revealed to thee from thy Lord; and if you do it not (hiding a portion thereof, and conveying another), then know that thou shalt not be deemed as one having conveyed God’s message." 3

Moreover, this obligation of preaching has not been confined to the Holy Prophet 7 saw alone. Rather, the same duty has been enjoined upon the followers of the Holy Prophet 7 saw as well, in that they convey the truths of Islam to others. As such, the Holy Qur’an states:

كنتم خيرأمة أخرجت للناس تأمرون بالمعروف وتنهوون عن المنكر. 2

"O Ye Muslims! You are the best people raised for the good of mankind. Your task is to invite people to the good of Islām, and forbid them from evil which is against the teachings of Islām." 2

Then, at one step further, it enjoins that a party of the Muslims should always remain devoted to the service of preaching Islam, and should wholly devote themselves to the service of religion. Therefore, He states:

ولتكن منكم أمة يدعوون إلى الخير و يأمرون بالمعروف و ينهون عن المنكر. وأولىكم ممن المتقون. 3

"And let there be among you a part of the community who remain devoted to thepropagation of truth. Their task is to invite people to goodness, teach virtue and forbid evil; And the truth is that it is these very people who shall prosper." 3 (The Life & Character of the Seal of Prophets 7 saw, Vol.3, p.176-177)

**A Ring Prepared for Letters of Preaching**

As it has been mentioned above, after the Treaty of Ḥudaibiyah, as a result of the agreement with the Makkans, the Holy Prophet 7 saw found himself somewhat free from Jihād by the sword. Making use of this opportunity and in light of the universal mission of Islam, the first undertaking of the Holy Prophet 7 saw was to propose that letters be dispatched to the leaders of various kingdoms inviting them to Islam. In this manner, the message of Islam would be conveyed to these leaders and through them, to the common people. For this was the primary purpose of the mission of the Holy Prophet 7 saw. As such, immediately after his return from Hudaibiyah, the Holy Prophet 7 saw consulted his companions on this matter. When it was mentioned to him that the common practice of worldly leaders is that they do not give regard to letters which have not been attested with a seal, the Holy Prophet 7 saw had a silver ring prepared, which had the words Muḥammad-Rasūlullāh engraved on it. 4 With the thought of keeping the name of God the Exalted, superior and prominent, the order of the words as set by the Holy Prophet 7 saw were that the word Allāh was written at the very top. The word Rusūl was engraved in the middle and the word Muḥammad was placed in the lowermost line. 5 Furthermore, since these letters were meant to take an imprint of this ring, to facilitate this purpose, these words were
reversely engraved on the ring itself, so that when its imprint is put down, the words appeared straight, like the printing of a press.  

Therefore, this ring of the Holy Prophet saw always remained on his finger and after his demise, Hazrat Abū Bakr ra, the first Caliph wore it on his finger. After him it remained on the finger of Hazrat ‘Umar ra, the second Caliph and then Hazrat ‘Uthman ra, the third Caliph, until one day it fell from his hand into a well named Arīs and was lost. Hazrat ‘Uthman ra’ and his companions searched for three days, and emptied the well of all its water, but the ring was nowhere to be found. (The Life & Character of the Seal of Prophets saw, Vol.3, p.181-182)  

**Use of Wisdom in Discharging the Obligation of Preaching**

By this strategy of the Holy Prophet saw to have a ring prepared, by consultation of his companions, fundamental light is shed on how the Holy Prophet saw would employ all such ways in the work of preaching, as were necessary in attracting his addressee towards him, and in producing a positive effect on his heart. Obviously, as far as sheer preaching is concerned, having or not having a ring is an irrelevant matter. A true word is just as cogent without a seal, as it would be with one, but since the Holy Prophet saw was told that the rulers of this day and age do not give any significance to a letter without a seal, he did not wish to ignore any such aspect as would give rise to a condition of indifference in the heart of the addressee. For this reason, the Holy Prophet saw very particularly acted upon this minor detail, so that no flaw was left in his preaching that would render it ineffective. Indeed, this is the practical example of the Qura’nic verse:

> جَا دُلُّهُمْ بَيِّنَىٰ هُمْ أَخْسَنَ.  

*O Messenger! In the matter of preaching Islam, follow the course which is most effective in influencing the heart and mind of your addressee.* (The Life & Character of the Seal of Prophets saw, Vol.3, p.183)  

**References**

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2. Āl-e-’Imrān (3:111)  
3. Āl-e-’Imrān (3:105)  
4.* Šaḥīḥul-Bukhārī, Kitābul-Ilm, Bābu Mā Yudhkaru Fil-Munāwalati Wa Kitābu Ahil-Ilmi Bil-Ilmi Ilal-Buldān, Ḥadīth No. 65  
5. Šaḥīḥul-Bukhārī, Kitābul-Jihādi Was-Siyar, Bābu Da’watil-Yahūdiyyiyi Wan-Naṣrāniyyiyi..., Ḥadīth No. 2938  
6. Sharḥul-’Allāmatiz-Zarqānī ‘Alal-Mawāhibil-Ladunniiyyah, By Allāmah Shihābuddīn Al-Qusṭalānī, Volume 5, p. 3, Wa Ammā Mukātabatuhū ‘Alaihiṣ-Ṣalātu Wa-Salāmu Ilal-Mulūkī Wa Ghairihim, Dārul-Kutubil-’Ilmiyyah, Beirut, Lebanon, First Edition (1996) – (Note: This reference is authenticated by the letter of the Holy Prophet saw to Maqauqis of Egypt, the original of which has been discovered, and we have included its facsimile in this book ahead.)  
7. Šaḥīḥul-Bukhārī, Kitābul-Libās, Bābu Khātamil-Fiḍḍah, Ḥadīth No. 5866  
9. An-Nahl (16:126)
Every Ahmadi Should Become A Preacher

Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih IVth’s khilafat commenced with the acceleration of preaching activities of the Jama’at, with consecutive Sermons warming the hearts of the Jama’at towards preaching.

**Every Ahmadi should become a Preacher**

During his Friday Sermon at the Aqsa Mosque in Rabwah, on 28th January 1983, Hazur’s urged the entire Jama’at to become ‘Dai Illallah’ (Callers towards Allah). He said: “I caution Ahmadis throughout the world through this announcement that if they were not preachers before, then after today they must become preachers. The spread of Islam over the world presents vast demands, and this is a huge burden on the Jama’at. After today, every Ahmadi should know that wherever he is, his efforts to earn an income should also include efforts to call people towards Allah. If today every Ahmadi determines that he will sacrifice his self in order to become a ‘Dai Illallah’, then the revolution that seems to be escaping us will be brought about. Thus, members should resolve to become ‘Daileen Illallah’. May Allah enable us to do so.” (Al Fazl 26th April 1983)

**Call the World towards Allah**

On 25th February 1983, during his Sermon at Nasirabad, Sindh, Hazur said, “I draw the attention of all members to call all human beings towards Allah. Call the East and call the West. Call the blacks and the whites, Christians and Hindus, people who have gone astray and atheists, the countries in the East and the West. This is today your responsibility.” (Al Fazl Rabwah 23rd May 1983)

**Children, the Old, the Sick - All should become Preachers**

During his Friday sermon at the Aqsa Mosque on 4th March 1983, Hazur said, “Now even children will have to become preachers. The old will have to become preachers. Even the bedridden will have to become preachers.” (Al Fazl 31st May 1983)

**Create a Revolution in the World**

In connection with the call towards Allah, Hazur said “Courtesies is an essential part of preaching and is a powerful weapon in bringing preaching to fruition. There is no denying this. But courtesy alone without the spoken word is neither the way of Prophets, nor is it something that can be accepted by a reasonable individual. Yours will essentially be a life of sorrow until you revolutionise the world through preaching. Either accept a lifetime of sorrow and degradation or revolutionise the world through preaching. There is no third way. This is the position and the status of the Ahmadiyya Jama’at. Every Ahmadi, wherever his reach extends to, in his sphere, should preach in a revolutionary manner as a devotee. Then will he be true to his honour.” (Friday Sermon, July 19th 1985)

**Need for a Connection with God**

“It will be a difficult task if I ask you to become preachers based on your knowledge. But when you decide that you want to belong to God, God becomes yours. Love for Allah and not knowledge is the basic need. Pay attention to this.” (Friday Sermon, 20th September 1985)

**Develop a Longing in your Hearts for Preaching**

“There should not be a desire but a longing in the heart. I have drawn the Jama’at’s attention several times to preach with the goal of gathering spiritual offspring. Create within yourselves a mother’s longing for offspring. Decide in your heart that you want to become spiritual parents.” (Friday Sermon, Pedrobad, Spain, 4th October 1985)
A New Markaz

Reflections of Waaqfaat-e-Nau on the Blessed Move to

Islamabad
**Hania Ahmad**

By the Grace of Allah, I was able to move to Islamabad the same day as Hazur\(^{aba}\), not missing out on any blessed moments, Alhamdulillah. Hazur\(^{aba}\) moving to Islamabad was a very special moment for the whole Jama’at. I feel that my responsibilities have grown living so close to the Markaz because as Hazur\(^{aba}\) said we should look after our neighbours. This is important so that they do not feel any problem due to us moving to this area. Being so close to the Markaz is a true blessing, I am able to go to Islamabad every day and read namaz behind Hazur\(^{aba}\).

**Sanobar Sardar**

When we first found out that our beloved Hazur\(^{aba}\) will be moving to Islamabad in the near future, we were quite sad and upset that we will not be able to go read namaz behind Hazur\(^{aba}\) whenever we feel like it, or that our children will miss out on the blessed opportunity on growing up close to Khilafat.

We then decided to move close to Islamabad and by the Grace of Allah everything happened so smoothly and quickly.

Since Hazur-e-Aqdas\(^{aba}\) has moved to Islamabad we have been taking the kids for namaz whenever possible and feel so blessed that our kids are growing up close to Khilafat. You forget everything else when you’re in Islamabad, it has a very spiritual and nice atmosphere not felt anywhere else.

My two year old wakes up every morning asking, ‘Mama are we going to the masjid today?’ Or whenever he sees Mubarak Mosque on the TV he says ‘Mama this is my masjid’. My 5 year old comes home from school and asks me, ‘Mama can we go to Islamabad? I want to see Hazur\(^{aba}\)’. When we get to the mosque they run towards the gate waiting for Hazur\(^{aba}\) to come out. It makes me so happy and I can’t thank Allah enough for it.

Both my husband and I are blessed to be part of the security team and our daily routines revolve around our duty commitments and prayer timings. I would not want to trade this daily routine with anything else in the world, Alhamdulillah. May Allah enable us and our children to remain steadfast and to become humble servants of the Jama’at. Ameen.
Rizwana Ahmad

The realisation that our beloved Hazur sba was actually moving to Islamabad with his family and this was going to be the new centre, was completely overwhelming. I suppose the emotional rollercoaster started when my father was graciously designated a new home in Islamabad, it was almost disbelief but the nerves and excitement soon took over. I had taken a week off work to finally start moving, little did I know that beloved Hazur sba would move into his new home in the same week and I would be immersed in the duties and responsibilities of the new centre. The moment Hazur sba arrived in Islamabad, the emotions were running high. Men, women and children were radiating love, waving to him and reciting prayers, witnessing history being made. That was when I felt how lucky and blessed I really was, I didn’t do anything to deserve this. It was my father’s commitment to the Jama’at, beloved Hazur’s sba kindness and most importantly God’s Grace. Alhamdolillah. Can you imagine glancing out of the window and seeing our beloved Hazur sba walk past?! Surrounded, of course, by a buzz of excitement at his presence and wonder of where he will go next, how long will he stay amongst everyone. The first two weeks coincided with the Spring holidays so you can picture the atmosphere in Islamabad, like a mini Jalsa! I see new and old faces every day, with the same eagerness and excitement to see beloved Hazur sba. Their expressions of gratitude and tears of joy are particularly humbling. My life has definitely changed, I’m able to pray behind beloved Hazur sba every day and I have new responsibilities, in particular with the ladies security team. It isn’t always easy but I pray that Allah enables us to carry out our duties to the best of our abilities, Ameen. Islamabad has always been special and for me it’s always been home, but now it is home for our beloved Khalifa and a sort of home for the whole Ahmadiyya Jama’at. It’s like stepping into a different world, breathing a different air. It’s somewhere we can all find peace and spiritual comfort. May Allah always safeguard the Jama’at and grant our beloved Khalifa a loyal following wherever in the world he may be. Ameen.
**Salmana Mahmood**

Since I was a little girl, I was blessed enough to always be close to Khilafat. I remember going to Fazl Mosque everyday with my mum and siblings for namaz and classes. Waiting outside Nusrat Hall before namaz and waving to beloved Hazuraba was amazing. Today being ever so close to **Islamabad and Hazuraba**, I am able to pray behind beloved Hazuraba every day is a feeling which is truly irreplaceable. On the day we officially moved to Tilford (23rd April 2019) just a few days after Hazuraba had moved, I was lucky enough to have a Mulaqat with Hazuraba. I was so nervous, excited and happy at the same time. Hazuraba said to me ‘**tum toh humsaye mein agai ho**’ meaning “you’ve come to the neighbourhood”. When Hazuraba said that it literally gave me a lump in my throat, knowing that Hazuraba knows where I live and that I am so close to him. But also reminded me how much of a responsibility I have to serve whenever and wherever possible, as someone who lives in the markaz. May Allah enable us to do so in the best manner possible, Ameen.

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**Afiya Sami**

The thought of not having beloved Hazuraba and Aapa Jaan so close anymore used to make me feel deeply upset. I could go and meet Aapa Jaan every week, I could see Hazuraba 5 times a day and I could spend my free time by doing security duty at Fazl Mosque. However, all this was about to change. At the same time I was very happy that Hazuraba and Aapa Jaan had found a better place. Alhamdulillah I feel very lucky to still live very close to Markaz. Before Hazuraba moved to Islamabad I decided I will still carry on with my duty and will still meet Aapa Jaan every week. However at the same time I was slightly worried that a 2/3 minute drive will now change to a 50min-1hr drive but Alhamdulillah the journey doesn’t feel long at all. The blessings I have always received from Allah because of all the Jama’at work are enormous.
Hafsa Qadir Jadran
We moved near Islamabad a year ago, and during that year we were praying that may Allah make the move of our beloved Hazuraba safe and blessed, and help us serve as much as possible. The day our beloved Hazuraba moved to Islamabad was a day of happiness and emotions...it felt like the entire area had brightened and filled with embellishment. In my excitement I was thankful to Allah that he enabled me to serve in the new Markaz...
Living close to the Markaz was our dream and I thank Allah every moment of my life that he helped us and enabled us to live close to the Markaz. Alhamdullilah we feel blessed that we can serve the Jamaat. I have 2 kids; 7 and 3 years old, they are already so attached to the new Markaz that they don’t even like to go anywhere...
Any time I am not on duty in Islamabad, the children eagerly ask me when I will be on duty next. Our priorities have changed; my husband, my kids, our entire family prefer to serve the Jamaat first and we feel blessed and thank Allah that he has given us opportunities to stay so close to our beloved Khalifa and to our new Markaz. May Allah enable us to serve the Jamaat more and more Ameen.

Husna Butt
I was very overwhelmed when Hazuraba moved to Islamabad. I am so grateful to Allah that he blessed me and my family the opportunity to be part of such a historic milestone in the history of our Jamaat. Being so close to the Markaz is a blessing that cannot be described in words because not everybody has this opportunity and we can see this from when Hazuraba goes on tours and people come to the UK to meet him; how their emotions are in regards to this, how they feel about meeting Hazuraba and how they say that people who live here are so fortunate as they can come and see him and offer their prayers behind him whenever they like. Alhamdulillah I am now one of those people and couldn’t thank Allah for it enough. Being so close to Hazuraba means that we are constantly receiving blessings from his presence. For all the people living close to Markaz, Hazur’saba presence also means that we now have more responsibilities. By the Grace of Allah, I am able to go to Masjid Mubarak every day not only to offer my prayers but also to welcome and serve the guests that come to the Markaz as I am part of the Lajna Security Team. This has enabled me to contribute to the Jamaat and establish a closer relationship with Khilafat. Alhamdulillah.
Ambreen Saboor

When I was younger, my family and I would make trips to Islamabad every now and then, to pray at the blessed grave of Hazrat Khalifatul Mashi IVa and to also enjoy the peace and nature of the countryside. Islamabad was one place I would love to continuously visit because of its mesmerising serenity. One day as we were leaving Islamabad, I was amazed by the amount of stars there were in the sky and I couldn’t help but pray that I get to live in the town of Tilford too! Little did I know that this prayer was soon to be fulfilled...

In the following years as I was growing up, I started hearing of speculations that Kasr-e-Khilafat may move to Islamabad in the coming years. At the time I wouldn’t dwell on this much as I thought this would take a good few years. However, time flew by, and by the year 2018, so much progress had been made in terms of the renovation and building work within Islamabad!

At this time my husband, who is serving the Jama’at as Murabbi silsila in one of the Markaz offices, told me that the Markaz would move to Islamabad soon. I was shocked and began to think that there was a chance that if we weren’t posted anywhere else, we would be moving close to Islamabad too. In 2019 we received a statement from Markaz to start searching for a home near to Islamabad as Hazuraba was to move in the following months. I was absolutely elated and remembered the prayer I had made as a child and couldn’t believe that it was turning into a reality. It felt strange that Hazur’saba home would be in a completely different place than the one we were used to. But I mainly felt happy because I knew that there was most definitely unseen wisdom of Khilafat moving to Islamabad.

After viewing houses a good few miles away from Islamabad, we managed to view one which was very close and therefore in high demand. It seemed impossible that we’d get this house as we found out that somebody else had already put an offer in.

We began to pray and sought guidance from beloved Hazuraba and miraculously by the Grace of Allah and Hazur’saba prayers, the landlord decided to accept our offer! Living so close to Markaz is truly a blessing, and it feels like Islamabad is my home. Praying behind Hazuraba in Masjid Mubarak is amazing, and I feel blessed beyond imagination to have Khilafat in my life. I pray that this new Markaz and home of Khalifa-e-waqt is truly successful in continuing to propagate the message of Islam Ahmadiyyat.
Aalia Rehman
I grew up very close to Masjid Fazl, with Hazur\textsuperscript{aba} being only a 10 minute walk away. And for as long as I can remember, we would wave to Hazur\textsuperscript{aba} before and after every namaz. Then at Fajr after Hazur\textsuperscript{aba} went back home, we would wait a little longer until he came out for his morning walk. So, on Hazur’s\textsuperscript{aba} last official day at Masjid Fazl I felt very emotional. However a few days later, I was able to travel to Islamabad and wait for Hazur\textsuperscript{aba} just before Asr namaz. There are no words that can describe the feeling when Hazur\textsuperscript{aba} stopped and waved at us again, this time only a few meters away! The happiness it brought me seeing our beloved Hazur\textsuperscript{aba} happy in the new Markaz was indescribable and I felt incredibly blessed to have witnessed such a historical event.

Atekah Hafeez
When Hazur\textsuperscript{aba} arrived in Islamabad, it felt surreal that the day everyone had been waiting for had finally arrived. I felt incredibly lucky and humbled to witness a new era of our Jama’at. Just like the Jama’at flourished and spread immensely after Khalifatul Masih IV\textsuperscript{m} migrated from Pakistan to London. Insh’Allah with the new Markaz in Islamabad our Jama’at will continue to succeed and prosper. I feel incredibly blessed to live near Hazur\textsuperscript{aba}, see him every day and offer prayers behind him daily. Our daily routines now centre around Masjid Mubarak and our beloved Imam.
Recipe for Peace

(Main Ingredient: Love)

Imaan Ibrahim

There is enough love in the world, like all of the oceans pearls
If our love is strong, we can never go wrong

We should hold each one dear, all far and near
We should all love our world, from the mountains to the ground

May there be peace in our hearts, so it doesn’t tear apart
For the people who we care for, show them we’re at every door

Ready to encourage them, even at the very end
We should always be standing and for all the grief and broken hearts better get mending.

Love for the glue, sweetness to shine light, kind words for each other, and friendship
to make it bright

The turmoil on the land is dreadful, but the ocean is the opposite, so peaceful
It holds peace, full of bubbles and colourful animals and corals with cuddles

I will also work to make peace and love will be in one piece
As I grow older I will still love, with blessing from up above

So, to make the world a better place just follow this recipe in place
Sow the seeds of love at first, then the fruit of peace will begin to burst

But remember that love should be strong itself, so nothing can fade away its flavourful wealth
Raise the standards of your worship

“To truly fulfil the rights of worship, you must always keep at the forefront of your mind that you are bowing before Allah the Almighty, Who is All-Powerful and All-Hearing and you are presenting your heartfelt hopes and desires to Him. Certainly, the foremost aspiration of any member of Waqf-e-Nau, indeed of any true Muslim and of any person who has pledged their life to the service of Islam, should be to attain the nearness of Allah the Almighty. Consequently, it is of absolute importance that you always try to raise the standards of your worship.”

Islam is a religion of today, tomorrow and will remain until the end of time

“All Waqf-e-Nau must entirely eliminate from their minds the belief that Islam is an old-fashioned religion or somehow backward. Instead of being a religion of the past, it is a religion of today and tomorrow and will remain until the end of time, Insha’Allah. Accordingly, no matter what allegations or criticisms are levelled against Islam, you must never feel any embarrassment or complex over your faith. There is no allegation and no criticism that cannot be refuted. The reality is that Allah the Almighty has provided the answer to every charge or accusation made against Islam, whether by non-Muslims or non-religious people, in the Holy Qur’an itself.”

Every day you should read the books and writings of the Promised Messiah

“Many of you are now in your teenage years, whilst some of you are now adults and have been blessed with your own children. As you have reached an age of understanding and maturity, you must make it a habit to set aside time every day to read the books or writings of the Promised Messiah, as they will furnish you with the necessary means to defend your religion. On many occasions, I have spoken of how Islam’s teachings are extremely comprehensive and far-reaching.”

Feel pride in the knowledge that you have stayed strong in your faith in the face of adversity

“Some people criticise or deride pardah and hijab, whilst others disparage our way of offering Namaz. Unfortunately, some young Ahmadis, particularly teenagers, develop an inferiority complex or feel humiliated and rejected by such ridicule. However, if you are ever mocked for acting upon your religion, you should never take it as a personal humiliation; rather, you should consider it to be a badge of honour and feel pride in the knowledge that you have
It is your duty to propagate the true and peaceful teachings of Islam
“You should disregard any hesitation or fear and stand up with certainty and conviction in the truth of your faith and respond to those who seek to defame its pure teachings. Irrespective of whether you are working full-time for the Jama’at or not, as a member of Waqf-e-Nau, it is your duty to propagate the true and peaceful teachings of Islam through your words and conduct."

You must fulfil the rights of yours parents, siblings and other family members
“All of you, whether you are children, teenagers or adults, must fulfil the rights of your parents, your siblings and other family members. Those who are married must treat their children and spouse with love, fulfil their rights and ensure that their home is a mirror reflection of Islam’s teachings. As I said before, always remember, that fulfilling the rights of Allah the Almighty and acting upon His teachings, which are immersed within the incomparable treasure that is the Holy Qur’an, must always take precedence in our lives.”

You must strive to increase your religious knowledge
“As Ahmadi women and girls, as mothers and daughters, and as Waqf-e-Zindigi you must understand your duties. Even if you are not working full-time in a Jamaat department, you are all Waqf-e-Zindigi and so you must strive to increase your religious knowledge so that you can act upon your faith and instil Islamic values within your children.”

It is necessary to keep Taqwa at the forefront of your mind
“Be righteous. Observe the highest morals. Always speak the truth. Uphold Islamic principles and strive to be better Muslims every single day of your lives. Only then can we ensure that our children and the generations who follow are in safe hands and will grow to be a source of pride for our Jamaat. Always remember that, for both believing men and believing women, it is necessary to keep Taqwa (righteousness) at the forefront of your mind, which means to strive towards attaining every form of goodness and virtue.”

Reminder for the parents of Waqf-e-Nau children
“I also wish to remind the parents of Waqf-e-Nau children that they must continually reflect upon the fact that they have pledged their children for the sake of Islam, and so if they do not set a pious example for their children, they will have failed to discharge their duties. They will be blameworthy for the failure of their children to grow into true assets for our Jamaat. To dedicate your child is to make a lifelong commitment to increase your own standards of righteousness, so that you are role models for your children. Similarly, many Waqfat-e-Nau are now married and have their own children, and so they must solemnly ponder over the pledge first made by their parents, which they have now made for their own progeny, and constantly strive to raise their children in the best possible fashion and set a personal example of piety for them to follow and learn from.”

stayed strong in your faith in the face of adversity. Showing patience and keeping your head held high in such circumstances is the true means of establishing your honour and self-respect in the world. We are the fortunate ones, as we have not forgotten our values.”
MY JOURNEY TO THE LION CITY!

BY ZARA TAHIR AHMAD
THE LION CITY, a tiny little red dot on the world map yet southeast Asia’s most modern city, Singapore. Bordered by the soothing waves of the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea, the island nation’s lush green palm trees and high-rise buildings are a sight to behold. The landmark of Singapore is ‘the Merlion’, which has a fish body, referring to the humble beginnings of Singapore as a fishing village and a lion head representing the name Singapura; ‘Singa’ for Lion and ‘Pura’ for city, in Malaysian and this is also why Singapore is called the Lion City.

My journey to the Lion City started with the marriage proposal that came for me. My then husband to be had already moved to Singapore for work a year before our marriage and although he was a dedicated member of the Jama’at, he was neither a Missionary nor a Waqf. As for any other matter we seek Hazur’saba guidance and so it was imperative for me to seek Hazur’saba guidance for this marriage proposal too as with this marriage I would not only be leaving my parents’ home and life behind in the UK, but more importantly would be moving away from the blessed close proximity of Khilafat. With Hazur’saba guidance and Allah’s blessings the proposal went ahead and soon after marriage, my husband and I went to see Hazuraba again for a Mulaqat before leaving for Singapore. Beloved Hazur’saba advice to me in these mulaqats was to serve my waqf through Lajna work in Singapore and with those words in mind, I ventured into the next chapter of my life.

Alhamdulillah, in early May 2012 after a week’s stop-over in Saudi Arabia for Umrah we arrived in Singapore. The immense heat hit me straight away, being near the equator, the tropical climate of Singapore makes it a very humid country. The first few weeks I spent settling down and discovering the various traditions...
Being a new member of the Jama'at, I wished to get to know everyone and, as per beloved Hazur’saba instructions, immerse myself in Jama’at service in any way I could. I got my first opportunity to serve Jama’at Singapore at the Madrassah Taleemul Islam as a teacher. Madrassah Taleemul Islam runs every Sunday with about 40 girls and boys from the age of 4 to 18 years, the classes involve learning the recitation and memorisation of the Holy Qur’an, Hadith, Salat and History of Islam and Ahmadiyyat. Through this opportunity, I came to know and built strong bonds with the many Jama’at children and their parents quickly.

The same year, the concept of Halqa was introduced in Jama’at Singapore. Being a small Jama’at everything ran at National Level, but to reach out to all members, three Halqas were introduced, namely, Central, East and West/Northwest Halqa. As per the constitution of Ahmadiyyat in Singapore was first introduced in 1935 by the late Maulana Ghulam Hussain Ayaz Sahib and the Jama’at has one mosque in Singapore, named Taha Masjid by the Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IVra.
the Jama’at, Halqa Sadran elections were held that year and by the Grace of Allah, I have been blessed with the immense opportunity and responsibility of serving as Central Halqa Sadr of Jama’at Singapore, even to this day.

Early 2013, we received the good news that Beloved Hazurabba would be visiting Singapore later in the year. This news came as a joy for us and for the whole Jama’at. Being a small community with not much manpower a lot of preparations were required for Hazur’sabba visit. Meetings were held to prepare for transport, hospitality, security and everything from as little as deciding Hazur’sabba menu to accommodating the thousands of overseas guests that were to come to see their beloved Khalifa, perhaps even for their very first time. Being from UK and having participated in Gulshan classes and security duty at events, I was blessed to contribute in the planning of Hazur’sabba trip. I used my experience of how Gulshan Waqfe Nau classes were conducted, to the help with rehearsals, programme planning of the classes, as well as security on the Lajna side and during Mulaqats.

During this happy time, by the Grace of Allah we were also blessed with the good news of a child later in the year, which happened to be at exactly the same time as Hazurabba would visit Singapore. This meant that I had to travel back to the UK for the birth and so I would miss Hazur’sabba whole visit to Singapore. I felt very disheartened to be missing the blessed visit but found that Allah the Almighty rewarded me for my patience with an even more blessed opportunity as when Hazurabba arrived back in the UK I was blessed to take my daughter to Gulshan Waqfe Nau class where Hazurabba asked me if she was the one who was born when he was in Singapore.
During the years, I have humbly been serving the Jama'at in whichever way I could, be it washing the dishes in the kitchen, preparing meals for Jama'at members, setting up for events, cleaning the madrassah classrooms, conducting halqa classes, or even translation work for National President Sahib i.e. letters that came in Urdu from Markaz. After seeing the need in the Jama'at, and seeking beloved Hazur’saba guidance, I decided to pursue one of my passions and complete a graphic design diploma. It was a challenging time as I was juggling Jama'at work, household chores, looking after a 2-year-old and completing the course, but by the Grace of Allah, I was rewarded with the skills to serve the Jama'at in a new way. Soon after I finished my diploma, I was blessed to be appointed National Isha’at secretary by the newly elected National Sadr Lajna. This way I embarked on another blessed opportunity to serve the Jama'at even further.

This involved designing and producing the official Lajna Magazine Abidaat and other Isha’at work such as banners for the mosque, invites for Jalsa Salana and e-cards for LajnaSG (Singapore) twitter account. As I had come to Singapore with the purpose that Hazur’saba gave me, I felt it rewarding to be serving the Jama'at and fulfilling my waqf.

Every weekend, holiday and celebration (Eid etc) where in the UK I used to spend time with family, we in Singapore are eager to be spending the day at the mosque with our Jama'at family. The Jama'at members also in return shower my children and I with endless love and compassion. I refer to the senior Lajna as ‘Ibu” which is Malay for ‘Mother’, and some of the Lajna refer to themselves as ‘Nani’ or ‘Dadi’ to my daughter and son. This love from the members has made me realise the significance of Khilafat worldwide, how all members of the...
Jama’at are family united behind one leader. Although Jama’at Singapore is about 7000 miles away from Khilafat, the blessings of it, nevertheless, are seen every day through the oneness of the people. Alhamdullilah, I have now been in Singapore for more than 7 years, and Allah the Almighty has graced me with blessing upon blessing and it is only due to prayers and the guidance of Khilafat that I have been privileged to serve the Jama’at Singapore in these various roles.

I am immensely grateful for the blessings Allah the Almighty has showered upon me, and it is my wish to instil within my daughter and son endless love and passion for Khilafat so that they may be able to serve the Jamaat and complete their Waqfs to the best of their abilities. Ameen.
In this era, we Ahmadi Muslims are extremely fortunate to be led by the blessed institution of Khilafat. In order to guide the members of the Jamaat, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (May Allah be his Helper) regularly travels to different parts of the world to meet and guide the local Ahmadis. Certainly, the bond of love between the Khalifa and an Ahmadi is truly unique. During his tours, Huzuraba also spreads the message of Islam through various lectures, meetings and interviews. Dear readers, we hereby present some inspiring and emotional personal reflections and experiences with Khilafat pertaining to some of Huzur’saba tours. These incidents and narrations have been taken from the diaries written by respected Abid Khan sahib, who has had the honour of travelling with Hazrat Khalifatul Masih Vaba on various occasions.

“Only Islam can bring about such a spiritual transformation and only Islam can give us the capacity to open our hearts and forgive”

Throughout Hazur’s tour, an African-American convert to Islam, Abdul-Hai Dawud Bajwa Thomas (36) from Orlando Jama’at had the opportunity to serve in the Khuddam security team. During the afternoon, we sat together in the courtyard of the Houston Mosque and he told me why he had accepted Islam. As he narrated his personal experiences and what had transpired after accepting Islam, I was left genuinely astonished. Having been born and raised in the suburbs of Dayton, Ohio, Abdul-Hai was not especially religious during his youth. He was raised as a member of the Presbyterian Church but had never felt satisfied by its religious doctrines, especially the Christian belief of Jesus being the son of God. He asked questions from his elders about Christianity but was not given proper answers and merely told to ‘believe whatever the Bible says’. Having been a sceptic of religion, Abdul-Hai candidly admitted to me that as he entered adulthood, he was living a life devoid of spirituality and belief. Like so many other young people in Western society, he fell prey to alcohol and other vices. It all led to the night of his 29th birthday. Telling me what happened, Abdul-Hai said: “After spending the day and night celebrating my birthday, I went...
to bed intoxicated and passed out. Then, suddenly, I woke up unable to breathe. I was frightened and panicked. That moment changed my life. I was tired of living like this and so for the very first time, I truly prayed with all my heart asking God that if He was real to show me a sign. I continued to pray this over the next few weeks.”

After a few weeks of this prayer, Abdul-Hai met an Ahmadi Muslim at the school where he worked and the Ahmadi told him about the advent of the Promised Messiah.

Abdul-Hai said: “I had served in the US Marines when I was younger and had been deployed to Kenya, Djibouti, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia and so had interacted with Muslims before but I never knew what Islam was until I knew of Ahmadiyyat. I read the book the ‘Elementary Study of Islam’ and after reading just a few lines I knew it was the truth. I knew that God had answered my prayers. I felt the light of Islam, which was suddenly as tangible to me as the pages of the book I was reading.”

Abdul-Hai told me that accepting Islam led to a complete change in his life. Apart from giving up alcohol, his social circle changed completely, as he began to make friendships amongst Ahmadis. Yet, there was one haunting element of his past, which came back in a way that he could never have imagined.

Abdul-Hai said: “When I was deployed to Iraq in 2003 my mother became addicted to crack cocaine. I was beyond angry and I pledged that if I ever met the person who fed my mother’s addiction, I would kill him.”

What Abdul-Hai told me next left me completely astounded and shaken. Abdul-Hai said: “In 2013, I went to the UK Jalsa and I met another convert who was also a member of the US delegation. As we started talking, I found out that he was from the same town from where I grew up. He told me how Ahmadiyyat had transformed his life, as before he was living a life of crime as a drug dealer. At that moment, as I sat with this Ahmadi brother, I knew that he was the one who had been selling crack cocaine to my mother.”

In order to confirm his worst suspicions, Abdul-Hai took a photo with the convert and sent it to his mother and asked her if this was the man who used to feed her habit. In reply, his mother wrote back: “Yes, it is him, but he looks so different. Before he looked like darkness but now, he looks like light.” With his suspicions confirmed, Abdul-Hai wrestled with his emotions. He had no idea how to react.

Abdul-Hai said: “I prayed with all my heart that Allah the Almighty enable me to forgive this person, who I had desired to kill. It took some time and prayers but ultimately, I completely forgave him with all my heart. I spoke to him and he accepted what he had done and asked for my forgiveness. Since then we have taken Bai’at twice together at the hand of Khalifatul Masih. This is the epitome of Islam, as only Islam can bring about such a spiritual transformation and only Islam can give us the capacity to open our hearts and forgive.”

I was genuinely stunned by what I had heard. How the message of Ahmadiyyat had brought together these two men in a state of peace, where without it who knows what the results would have been if their paths had ever crossed.

[USA-Guatemala 2018 Diary Part 3, A Personal Account by Abid Khan]
Select the correct answer to the following questions or statements:

1. What does Khaataman Nabiyyeen mean?
   
   a) The First Prophet  
   b) The Seal of the Prophets  
   c) The most accepted of all prophets

2. The Holy Prophet(saw) is...
   
   a) the first law bearing prophet  
   b) the final law bearing prophet  
   c) A non-law bearing prophet

3. In which chapter of the Holy Qur’an does God Almighty mention the second coming of the Holy Prophet(saw)? (Hint: the chapter name is linked to the days of the week)
   
   a) Surah Mujadilah  
   b) Surah Al Kauthar  
   c) Surah Al Jumah

4. Where is Jesus(saw) buried?
   
   a) Bethlehem, Israel  
   b) Muree, Pakistan  
   c) Srinagar, Kashmir

5. According to a Hadith of the Holy Prophet(saw), what was supposed to ascend to the Pleiades?
   
   a) Faith  
   b) Wisdom  
   c) Prophethood

6. The Promised Messiah(saw) was a law-bearing prophet?
   
   a) True  
   b) False  
   c) Neither
7. According to the hadith of Holy Prophet saw, in the latter days, the Muslim Ummah would split into how many sects?

a) 45
b) 73
c) 150

8. With regards to Prophet Jesus as, Ahmadi Muslims believe...

a) he died on the cross
b) he did not die on the cross and was raised to the heavens alive
c) he was never placed on the cross and instead escaped from Israel at night
d) None of the above

9. In which chapter does God Almighty give tidings of the institution of Khilafat?

a) Surah Al Fatihah
b) Surah Al Jumah
c) Surah An Nur

Crossword

K J A G D Z K F I K P C T L L X U Z R Z
G H E Q A R W X G R S U Z D I N O X A
R P A S L M G I J U U P R W G W K M I W
W A H A U P B K C H I V I Q K U L Z A L
E D X 2 T S J I E A D M N S H A R I A H
F C S U P A F A R K V S S X J X Q V W Q
Z M V I G I M P T C O E H Y R W O E N F
O G C I X N C A H G E A R V A O I Q Q S
J I I I R O I N N N X L O T G O X Q H E
R O O B M G U R X N S T U E A V D W M G
K N U V A S G O A E A P D U N W M Z R I
Z E N Z Q R T M D E X B O E T A Z N W J
B H T L V F U A G A B F I H R P P W M Q
S X J G J S I T U Z J W P Y S F K Q O D
B L A Q N E M T T B F T A S Y T U J A N
Q L B T L B G X W A T G H L L E L S V M
V I V P E U J D L V G X B M Y W E E L L
S X J J Y H J H Q G P R U E W Q R N O B
O P R D G X Y Z A B G Z K E P H S R X C
H I H E M J J U H A M U J H A R U S N Y

Answers: 1-18, 2-2, 3-2, 4-1, 5-2, 6-2, 7-1, 8-2, 9-2
Maryam Qayyum

Islam is derived from the Arabic word “Saleema” which means peace, purity, submission and obedience, a name given by Allah (Holy Qur’an 5:4). So Islam, by its very definition evokes a sense of unity and brotherhood amongst its true followers, who are obedient to Allah and who live in peace and harmony with Him and His creations.

When Islam was practiced in its truest form, the world was witness to what history defines as the Golden Age of Islam. Great strides were made in both the spiritual and academic fields and with that the expansion of Islam across the world. But as the followers of Islam began to stray from the true meaning of Islam, and indeed the path of Allah, the world soon went in to spiritual decline. Sadly today, the world is in a state of turmoil, and this is due to various factors; an increasing number of people have forgotten the existence of Allah the Almighty, God’s teachings are being misused and the name of Allah is used as a pretext for one’s own benefit. Due to the mayhem created by man, neither the rich nor the poor are safe, nor is any religion. The injustices that are carried out in the wars today are not caused by religion; rather they are carried out by those who only seek materialistic gains.

It was narrated by Abu Hurairah** that the Holy Prophet Muhammad*** stated:

“By Him in Whose hands is my life, the son of Mary will soon appear among you. He will administer justice.”

This was a sign of the advent of the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad**who would come to revive the true teachings of Islam and promote peace across the land.

In order to carry forward the message of the Promised Messiah** the Holy Prophet Muhammad*** further stated:

“Prophethood shall remain among you as long as Allah shall will. He will bring about its end and follow it with Khilafat on the precepts of prophethood for as long as He shall will and then bring about its end.”

This was indeed a reference to the institution of Khilafat.

Khilafat establishes the authority of Allah on earth, and the Khalifa strives to uphold that. It is important to understand that the system of Khilafat will be in parallel to the head of state. The head of state will take care of political, social and economic matters, while khilafat will provide spiritual welfare of people, as well as guidance to the state. Hence, the Khalifa will act as a guide to state and will not administer the state. He would play a role to ensure that the affairs of state are conducted in accordance with the teachings of Islam, which are based on equality and compassion.
The Khalifa of the time, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (May Allah be his helper) portrays the perfect example of rightly guided Khalifa. His actions, words and teachings are in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Prophetsaw and the Holy Qur’an. The Ahmadiyya Jama’at will bear witness that this religious and social system perfectly reflects the Promise of God Almighty given in the Surah “Al Nur”, where Allah says:

“Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will surely make them Successors in the earth, as he made Successors from among those who were before them; and that He will surely establish for them their religion which He has chosen for them; and that He will surely give them in exchange security and peace after their fear…”

(Ch.24:V.56)

Islam is a mantle for peace, its founder was a man of peace, and in accordance with that Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad has been using every platform and forms of media to promote this message of peace to the four corners of the world. Under his leadership the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama’at has launched campaigns that promote peace, brotherhood and unity throughout society.

Under the guidance of Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, we have distributed millions of “Peace” leaflets to people around the world, we organise inter-faith events, peace symposia and present exhibitions of the Holy Qur’an to shows its true teachings, at local, national and international levels.

Hazrat Ahmad constantly reminds members of the Ahmadiyya Jama’at to carry out Jihad of the self to strive to reform individually, so that one can establish peace on an individual level, and then help others find peace.

Hazrat Ahmad has reiterated throughout his various speeches and Friday Sermons, to prepare for the onset of a possible world war.

In order to avoid nuclear holocaust Hazrat Ahmad has stated that we all must adopt the characteristics of humility and justice, and turn towards Allah with humility and submission.

Hazrat Ahmad has travelled to the world’s greatest nations and addressed leading congressmen, members of parliament, ambassadors, NGO leaders, religious leaders, professors, policy advisors and journalists, reminding them on how to treat people equally and with justice in all financial and political matters. He has written letters to the following leaders, guiding them to act justly, reminding them to end enmities for the sake of humanity and to prevent the destruction of the world:

1. His Holiness Pope Benedict the XVI
2. Prime Minister of Israel, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu
3. President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
4. President of the United States of America, Barack Obama
5. Prime Minister of Canada, Mr Stephen Harper
6. Custodian of the Two Holy places the King of the Kingdom of Saudia Arabia, Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud
7. Premier of the State Council of the people’s Republic of China, Mr Wen Jiabao
8. Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Rt. Hon. David Cameron
9. Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel
10. President of the French Republic, Francois Hollande
11. Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth Realms, Queen Elizabeth II
12. Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Syed Ali Hosseini Khamenei
13. The President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Vladimir Putin

Hazrat Ahmad quotes a verse from the Holy Qur’an and has emphasised its message in his letters which states:
Hazuraba has openly spoken on some of the issues that are causing a Global Crisis and how they can be stopped if the teachings of Islam are followed. Some of those topics include:

1. Islamic Perspective on the Global Crisis
2. Islam’s Teachings of Loyalty and Love for One’s Nation
3. The Devastating Consequences of a Nuclear War and the Critical Need for Absolute Justice
4. The Path to Peace—Just Relations Between Nations, The Key to Peace—Global Unity
5. Can Muslims Integrate into Western Societies?
6. Islam—A Religion of Peace and Compassion
8. The Keys to Peace in a Time of Global Disorder

Hazuraba addressed the National Parliament in New Zealand in 2013 saying:

“The history of your nation is closely linked with prophethood and Divine revelation. Indeed, the Prophets of the Children of Israel made very clear prophecies regarding your nation’s future. As a result of disobedience to the teachings of the Prophets and negligence towards their prophecies, the Children of Israel had to suffer difficulties and tribulations. If the leaders of your nation had remained firm in obedience to the Prophets, they could have been saved from enduring various misfortunes and adversities. Thus, it is your duty, perhaps even more so than others, to pay heed to the prophecies and injunctions of the Prophets. I address you as the Khalifa of that Promised Messiah and Imam Mahdi (peace be upon him), who was sent as the servant of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him); and the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) was sent as the Mercy for All Mankind amongst the brethren of the Children of Israel in the semblance of Moses (peace be upon him) (Deuteronomy, 18:18). Hence, it is my duty to remind you of God’s Message. I hope that you will come to be counted amongst those who hearken to God’s Call, and who successfully find the right path; that path which is in accordance with the Guidance of God the Supreme, the Master of the heavens and the earth”.

In March 2012, Hazuraba wrote to the Custodian of the Two Holy places, the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud:

In a letter sent to the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr Benjamin Netanyahu in 2012, Hazuraba writes:

“Maryam”
If World War III is indeed destined to occur, at least we should strive to ensure that it does not originate from any Muslim country. No Muslim country or any Muslim individual anywhere in the world, today or in the future, will want to shoulder the blame for being the spark for a global catastrophe, the long-term effects of which will lead to future generations being born with defects or deformities, for if a World War breaks out now, it will surely be fought with nuclear weapons. We have already experienced just a glimpse of the utter devastation caused by atomic warfare when nuclear bombs were dropped on two cities in Japan during World War II.

In his letter to Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth Realms, Queen Elizabeth II, Hazur®® writes:

In this context, on the auspicious occasion of the Diamond Jubilee, I would also humbly request Her Majesty to give the world the message that the followers of any religion, and even those who do not believe in God, should always respect the sentiments of the people of any other faith. Today, misconceptions regarding Islam are prevalent in the world. This on the one hand wounds the sentiments of peace-loving Muslims, whilst on the other, develops contempt and mistrust against Islam in the hearts of non-Muslims. Thus, it will be an act of great kindness and a favour to the followers of all religions, and indeed the entire world, if Her Majesty counsels all people to be respectful to religions and their followers. May the Noble Lord provide His Help and Succour to our Queen in the fulfilment of this objective.

The system of Khilafat in the Ahmadiyya Jama’at encourages compassion and the giving of alms and charity to those in need through the Nusrat Jahan Scheme, Tehrik-e-Jadid, Waqf-e-Jadid Scheme, Humanity First and many others. Thus, establishing schools and hospitals in deprived areas. This is what it means to spread peace throughout the world, regardless of the religious or social backgrounds of the communities. The ever-growing humanitarian works of the Ahmadiyya Jama’at creates awareness of the peaceful teachings of Islam in all corners of the world.

The Annual Peace Symposium, organised by the Ahmadiyya Jama’at here in the UK, and now held in many countries around the world, is another example of how the Jama’at actively goes about propagation of peace. This allows the Jama’at to bring together political and religious leaders, as well as people from different walks of life. A Peace Prize is given to a person/organisation that has been helping communities in a peaceful manner, after which the audience is addressed by Hazur e Aqdas ®®, discussing the most important issue of the time. The aim of this program is to acknowledge, encourage and support all those people who are doing a lot of peaceful work that may otherwise go unheard. It then also encourages the youth to follow in the footsteps of such personalities, by creating peace and harmony in the society. Furthermore, it is a way for people to come together, regardless of faith, race and creed, and focus on bettering the world through education, dialogue and tolerance.

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The Ahmadiyya Jama’at has T.V. and radio stations as per the directions of Beloved Hazur\textsuperscript{aba}, which are used to broadcast programmes that focus on the importance of peace and brotherhood, in accordance with the teachings of Islam. Every Friday, Hazur\textsuperscript{aba} delivers the Friday Sermon, which is heard by thousands of Ahmadis across the world through these channels. If the Friday Sermon is listened to carefully, one would understand that war is always discouraged, and the message of peace and love is delivered with reference to the teachings delivered by Allah the Almighty in the Holy Qur’\textsuperscript{an} and the blessed sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad\textsuperscript{saw}. In the Friday Sermon delivered on 17th May 2019, Hazur\textsuperscript{aba} The Ahmadiyya Jama’at has T.V. and radio stations as per the directions of Beloved Hazur\textsuperscript{aba}, which are used to broadcast programmes that focus on the importance of peace and brotherhood, in accordance with the teachings of Islam. Every Friday, Hazur\textsuperscript{aba} delivers the Friday Sermon, which is heard by thousands of Ahmadis across the world through these channels.

May Allah the Almighty strengthen the hand of our beloved Khalifa, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad\textsuperscript{aba}, who continuously prays for the people of the Jama’at and for all the people around the world. May we all become role-model citizens of this world, who practice what they preach. Ameen.

References:
1. Selected sayings of the Holy Prophet of Islam
   Arabic text with English Translation; Islam International Publications ltd 1988, pg 64
3. The Review of Religions, November 2007 (page 48)
4. The Review of Religions, November 2007 (page 23)
When the people of a nation become tired of tyranny and bloodshed, from among them such individuals arise who strive to stop cruelty and end bloodshed in order to bring peace and tranquility to the world.

This very thing took place in Arabia. For centuries the Arabs had engaged in confiscating others’ wealth, devouring the rights of the weak and providing for themselves by causing bloodshed.

When this situation had crossed all limits, a few kind hearted and noble-minded people from among them recognized that a great injustice was being perpetrated. They realized that the entire nation was falling into a pit of devastation and ruin. The strong were devouring the weak and the weak were buried under the oppression of the powerful. Hundreds of homes were destroyed due to frequent civil wars, looting and plunder. Thousands of children were being orphaned. The whole country was in danger of utter destruction. They became determined to liberate the people from their life of cruelty, hardship and oppression; and bring them peace.

Some of the most influential and commanding chiefs from among the Arabs, including Fudail bin Harith, Fudail bin Wada’ah and Mufdil bin Fudalah, gathered together and made a pact to stop all cruelty, injustice and excess from that day forward. They decided to use their power to stop anyone from being cruel to the weak; to help the oppressed; to assist the one whose rights had been usurped; and to expel from Makkah any person who continued to be cruel and unjust to others.

Since the names of most of those taking the oath had Fadl in them, that event was named as Hilful-Fudul (the ‘Covenant of Fadl) and is known in history as such. As almost all of the prominent chiefs of Makkah had participated in this pact, and had shown much enthusiasm when taking the oath, the helpless, and weak people of the city began to expect that they would be saved from the hold of oppressors. But the condition of Arabia had become so loathsome and offensive, and the attitude of the people had become so base and twisted, that this pact proved to be as short-lived as a bubble. A few days later no one remembered the pact nor did they remember their oath.

When a great number of people were killed in the Battle of Fijar, people were reminded of the forgotten pact. Some noble men from among the Quraish desired to revive the Pledge of Fudul and to once again take oaths from people for supporting the oppressed and assisting the weak. Zubair bin ‘Abdul-Muttalib was the one to make this proposal. ‘Abdullah bin Jad’an was considered to be the oldest and most respected noble man in Makkah at that time. This historic assembly of the Quraish took place at his house.

Banu Hashim, Banu ‘Abdul-Muttalib, Banu Asad, Banu Zuhrah and Banu Tamim were all a part of this convention. After some enthusiastic and motivating speeches, all present vowed that they would stop the oppressor from being cruel forthwith; assist the person wronged in getting back what was rightfully his; and help the oppressed. Among this assembly of seasoned elders and chiefs of the nation, was a youth who also took the oath.

Unfortunately, within a few days, the elders had already forgotten their promise and their pact. However, that young man remembered his oath very well and dedicated his entire life to fulfilling his pledge. As long as he lived, he strove to his utmost to help the oppressed and sympathize with the helpless. When he departed from this world, he left behind thousands of devout servants who made supporting the vulnerable the purpose of their lives. When tested, they did not even take into consideration the status of a king if it clashed with the interest of a mere rustic peasant! This young man was our Master.

(Our Beloved Master P81-83).
A walk through Istanbul

By Aneela Ahmad

Whether it’s the sound of the Adhan, the smell of freshly grilled spiced meats, the sight of a glorious 400 year old blue domed mosque or the feel of a soft carpet on display, Istanbul is a feast for the senses for sure. It is sure to say that almost every Muslim has been told that Turkey, particularly Istanbul is a place one must visit in their life. Turkey currently stands at being roughly 97% Muslim, therefore for any Muslim, this would make it a travel destination worth visiting as you are able to see the Islamic influence on Turkish culture; from the ladies dress sense, the differently decorated mosques and the easiness and availability of Halal food at every turn. You could easily make Turkey and in this case, Istanbul, a home away from home.

The artistic culture of Istanbul is soaked in Middle Eastern and Islamic style. Arabic calligraphy can be seen in almost every tourist shop in their small gifts and of course, displayed vastly across the inside and outside of Mosques. The Hagia Sophia, from the Latin word meaning Holy Wisdom, currently stands as a Museum in the heart of the old city and dominates the landscape on land and sea. It has an important place in the world of art due to its structure, grandeur, functionality and size. Its external colour looks like it was purposely made to reflect the colours of the sky with its terracotta and blue tones, yet its beauty stands out immensely.
Although it may look aesthetically like a mosque, it was actually constructed by the East Roman Empire as a Church during the Byzantine Empire in 1330. Its 104 columns and marbles have been taken from ancient cities in and around Anatolia and Syria such as Ephessus and Tarsa. All of its walls are beautifully decorated with different coloured mosaics. Many of which are of historical Christian figures and stories. For example, in the middle of the dome, above where the Imam would have led prayers is a mosaic picture of Hazrat Maryam\(^*\) with Hazrat Jesus\(^*\) on her knee in a traditional Christian style. This is juxtaposed with having the names of some of the Khulafa\(^*\) and family of the Prophet Muhammad\(^*\)\(^*\) written in Arabic on panels measuring 8m wide and known to be the largest calligraphy panels in the Islamic world. There is definitely a feel of both the East and West and Islam and Christianity present in the history within Istanbul. It bounced between the Roman Empire to the Byzantium Empire (both Christian) to the Ottoman Empire (Islamic) to then an independent country and government now known as the Republic of Turkey and having more of an Islamic influence amongst society. However, respect and sanctity towards the Christian historical artefacts around the city of Istanbul and within its museums has been protected and to see the mix between the two is fascinating.

With only one turn of your head you see the Sultan Ahmed Mosque, otherwise known as the Blue Mosque based on its array of blue tiles used in the decoration of the inside of its domes. Shades of blue were prominent in many things in Istanbul. You will find it in the home decoration pieces found in many tourist shops or amongst the array of lit up jewellery shops. Not to mention, Istanbul is surrounded by sea, especially if you are visiting the most tourist dense areas. It is noticeable that on the interior tile work of the Blue Mosque there are more than 50 tulip designs - why is this? Tulips actually originated in Central Asia and Turkey, contrary to many people’s belief that Tulips originated from Holland as they are very popular there. In the 16th Century, Tulips were brought from Turkey to Holland and were wildly cultivated there. However, tulips can be found in a lot of the art work, textiles and embroideries in wall hangings,
rugs and prayer mats. I managed to haggle for an embroidered mat that I found on the walk up to the Galata tower that I am excited to hang up on my living room wall in memory of my trip to Istanbul! Many tulips are grown in Gülhane Park behind the Hagia Sophia, which is another wonderful place to go and unwind in after doing a lot of walking and site-seeing on the cobbled, hilly roads! Although the Blue Mosque is Istanbul’s biggest functioning mosque built in 1616, many non-Muslim tourists make a pit stop there to soak in its atmosphere, learn about its history and most importantly, take many, many pictures!

Other than walking through Istanbul’s historical attractions, you will never get tired of shopping there. Everything is so beautiful, even the small gifts to hand out to friends and family are made in such a nice way. There is jewellery, home furnishings, tourist and picture shops everywhere you go and a place where you can find this all under one roof is the infamous Grand Bazar. Before I went I read a bit about it and found out it is one of the oldest and largest covered markets in the world with 61 streets and over 4000 shops. I knew I would never be able to get around this place in one day and I was also worried about getting lost and not being able to find the place where I entered from! I entered in gate 5 out of 18 after stepping off the tram and was quickly scanned for carrying any dangerous items on me. I straight away realised not only was this a place to simply shop, for Istanbul, this is a treasured historical attraction. Inside are a sea of people walking in all directions. It feels like there is not a free space inside with all the shop vendors mixed in! There are shops to the left and right and what I noticed were predominantly jewellery shops. Turkish ladies clearly like to wear gold but there were also many real sterling silver shops, which most tourists including myself, would find more affordable. It would be hard to “shop around” for jewellery in the Grand Bazar because it is just too big and there are too many
similar shops. Therefore it is best to choose something you like first time as you most probably won’t be able to find a shop that you previously visited again! All the shop owners I met were very warm and welcoming and never put too much pressure to buy anything from them which I liked. It is best to be polite and kind to the shop owners as this is the way they are and it helps when it comes to getting the price you want. Secondly, there were many spice and sweet shops where you can “try before you buy”! Leather bags and Turkish towel shops were also popular there and a nice, unique gift to take back home. The Grand Bazar however is not a place that the majority of the locals shop in as it’s a major tourist attraction. If you want to stop for a tea break or some lunch, there are some cafes and restaurants within the Bazar where you can rest your feet and refuel for some more shopping.

Whilst you try and pick a place to sit and eat whilst out and about in Istanbul, it becomes obvious that people like to eat there and you can’t help but be drawn into stopping to try a new dish whether sweet or savoury. If you sit outdoors at a restaurant, you can enjoy taking in the atmosphere around you, however many people like to smoke in the outdoor areas. Therefore, if you want to enjoy your meal without waves of cigarette smells flowing your way, it is best to sit indoors where it is still just as pleasant, especially with the air conditioning on! Aside from this, all the restaurants and cafes are decorated in traditional Turkish textiles and wall hangings. Colourful lanterns hang above as you sit on red embroidered cushions with a cat possibly stroking your leg for any leftovers! If you are particularly interested in learning about the history of art and culture in Istanbul and Turkey, then the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts located conveniently next to the Blue Mosque is the place to go. I didn’t have the time to visit there but it is a good excuse to take me back there!
**HAZRAT Umme Haani**

(MAY ALLAH BE PLEASED WITH HER)

**WHO WAS HAZRAT UMME HAANI**

Hazrat Umme Haani was the first cousin of the Holy Prophet saw. She was Hazrat Abu Talib’s daughter and Hazrat Ali’s sister.

She had married a renowned Quraish poet Hubairah Bin Makhzam, however he did not accept Islam and during the conquest of Makkah he went to Najran. She had four sons Hazrat Haani, Hazrat Amr, Hazrat Ja’dah, and Hazrat Yousuf. She was called Umme Haani meaning Mother of Haani, after her eldest son. Her real name was Faakhtah, but some sources refer to her as Hind.

**LOVE OF ISLAM AND FOR THE HOLY PROPHET saw**

Hazrat Umme Haani converted to Islam, even though her husband had deserted her and her four children because of it. She would listen eagerly to the recitation of the Holy Qur’an and take great interest in its analysis, as well as in the Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence). Her brother Hazrat Ali married the Holy Prophet’s daughter, Hazrat Fatimah which meant that the relation she shared with the Holy prophet saw became even closer. This also meant that she took great care in providing comfort to the Holy prophet saw, so much so that it is said that when her children were younger she stopped visiting the Holy Prophet saw regularly as she did not want her children to disturb or annoy the Holy Prophet saw. As Hazrat Umme Haani aged she became worried that she was not able to worship Allah properly, this is because she became physically weaker and she wanted to know some prayers she could recite while resting, so she went to the Holy Prophet saw with this query. He told her; ‘Recite Subhaan-Allah 100 times, Alhamdulillah 100 times, Allahu Akbar 100 times, and Laa Ilaha Illallaah 100 times’. And in doing so she was able to keep herself busy in the remembrance of Allah.


https://www.islam.org/library/books/Hazrat-Umme-Haani.pdf, pg. 7
INSPIRING INCIDENTS

Hazrat Umme Haani® took part in the battle of Khyber with the Holy Prophet® where the Jews had gathered an army of 10,000 and were ready to attack Medina. Among these 10,000 were some tribes of Jews who had taken part in hostilities against the Muslims in cooperation with the Qurash®. The Holy Prophet® gave her, ‘food-grains worth forty camel-loads from the bounty won in the battle’.4

Hazrat Umme Haani® was the only female companion of the Holy Prophet® in whose home the Holy Prophet® performed eight voluntary rak’aat of prayer in gratitude during the late morning, this was at the time of Makkah’s conquest®.

Furthermore, the Holy Prophet® was resting at the home of Hazrat Umme Haani® on the night of the Spiritual Journey or Israa. The Spiritual Journey, where the Holy Prophet® in a vision was visited by the angel Gaberial® who told the prophet to mount a creature (which resembled a white horse) called al-Buraq. The creature then took the Holy Prophet® to the holy city of Jerusalem. It was at this holy place that the Holy Prophet® led congregational prayers with all the prophets of Allah standing behind him. Thus, proving that he was indeed the best among all prophets and that Islam is the true religion.

DEMISE

Hazrat Umme Haani® lived a long life and witnessed the blessed terms of all four Khulafa-e-Raashi-deen. Hazrat Umme Haani® lived even after the demise of her brother Hazrat Ali®. In the year 50 Hijrah, during the reign of Ameer Mu’awiyahra, Umme Haani® passed away. May Allah be pleased with her and may He grant her a place among the righteous. May He give us the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of blessed personalities such as Hazrat Umme Haani®. Ameen

https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Hazrat-Umme-Haani.pdf, pg.5
https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Hazrat-Umme-Haani.pdf, pg.11
In his adolescent years, the Promised Messiah\textsuperscript{as} developed immense love for his Creator, and as time passed his devotion to serve His Master grew to such an extent that he saw no other purpose in life. However, his dedicated nature drove him to not only become a true devotee himself but preach to others with immense enthusiasm. A glimpse of this can be felt through his passionate words: “If only it was in my control, I would go to every dwelling as a beggar and preach the true religion of Allah the Almighty and save the people from destructive polytheism and disbelief. If Allah teaches me the English language, I myself will travel and tour for the sake of preaching and will spend my entire life in this preaching even until death.”

The Promised Messiah\textsuperscript{as} was so devoted that he would dislike anything that came in the way of his service to His Master. This vast affection towards God is further projected through his words: “I, myself, am fully experienced in this path and by the sheer Blessings and Mercy of Allah the Almighty, I have derived great comfort and pleasure. It is my heartfelt desire that if for devoting my life in the way of Allah, I have to die and be reborn and die and be reborn yet again, then every time my desire should keep increasing with enthusiasm. Therefore, since I am experienced myself and have experienced that Allah the Almighty has given me such fervour that if I was told that there is no reward or profit in this devotion and that there is only pain and suffering, even then I would not stop from serving the cause of Islam.”

\section*{A Devoted Leader’s Devoted Followers}

The personality of the Promised Messiah\textsuperscript{as} was such that whoever developed a true relationship with him had his world changed forever; an ordinary person became an extraordinary person. A kind of death occurred on their previous lives and they were bestowed with completely new, spiritual lives. They would start covering the stages rapidly to achieve the nearness of God and within a short time they would attain the highest spiritual levels. This great wealth of spiritual and pious revolution that Ahmadiyyat gave to the world continues today. A famous religious scholar of India, Maulvi Hasan Ali, joined the Promised Messiah\textsuperscript{as} in 1894. He was well known in India for his religious services. Someone asked him what he gained by taking Bai’at of the Promised Messiah\textsuperscript{as}? He replied, “I was dead, I have been reborn. It is not right to mention your shortcomings in public. I never felt the grandeur of the Holy Qur’an that I have in my heart now and I never knew the magnificence of the Holy Prophet Muhammad\textsuperscript{pbuh} that I comprehend now. This is all due to Mirza Sahib (the Promised Messiah\textsuperscript{as}).”

On another occasion, Hazrat Maulana Ghulam Rasool Rajekee Sahib\textsuperscript{ra} narrates that Nawab Khan Thesildar once asked Hazrat Maulana Noor Din\textsuperscript{ra}, ‘Maulana Sahib! You were already a venerable holy man. What extra did you gain by taking Bai’at of Hazrat Mirza Sahib?’ Hazrat Maulana Sahib\textsuperscript{ra} replied, ‘Nawab Khan, I have had many benefits from the ‘bai’at’ of Hazrat Mirza
Sahib. But one certain benefit that I have gained is that whereas before I used to have the honour of seeing the Holy Prophet Muhammad ﷺ only in my dreams, now I have the privilege of the visitation in my state of wakefulness.\(^iv\)

**Importance of Time**

The Promised Messiah’s\(^v\) devotion to religion was of such high calibre that he did not like wasting even the smallest amount of time in formalities. He stated, “As far as I am concerned, I feel sorry for the time spent in making the call of nature. I feel so much wasted time could have been used better for the sake of religion. I extremely dislike any occupation or engagement that interferes with religious work. If I have some important religious work to perform, I forget about eating, drinking or sleeping until I have completed that work. We spend our lives for the sake of religion. Therefore, there should be no hindrance in the way of religion.”\(^v\)

**A Devotee’s Worth**

The Promised Messiah\(^v\) used to highly appreciate anyone that would make the slightest effort to support the Truth. He said, “If anyone shows us one word in support of Islam, that word is more precious to us than a bagful of diamonds and gold. Anyone who wishes to be loved by us and who wishes our prayers in his favour to be heard in Heaven, then he should assure us that he has the capacity and willingness to become a servant of Islam.” After taking the oath many times, he further said, “We love everything only for the sake of Allah. Whoever they are, whether wife or children or friends, our relationship with them is only for the sake of Allah the Almighty.”\(^vi\)

The Promised Messiah\(^v\) stated, “… if I find out about a person who is serving the true religion and whose person is useful and beneficial to Allah the Almighty and His Messenger and His Book and for the rest of the humanity. If such a person ever feels any hurt, I feel that hurt as well. I would like all my friends to resolve in their hearts to serve the true religion and in whichever and whatever way is possible for them, start serving as much as they can.” Further, he stated, “I tell you truly that in the sight of Allah the Almighty, they only have respect and honour who are beneficial servants of humanity.”\(^vii\)

**To Stay Awake for Service to Allah is ‘Jihad’**

The Promised Messiah\(^v\) was not only a true believer of sacrificing in the way of God, he practiced what he preached. He once said: “Although my body is fatigued, my heart never feels so. It desires to continue to labour.”\(^viii\) Such was the determination of The Promised Messiah\(^v\). At another occasion, at the time of Fajr prayers, the Promised Messiah\(^v\) stated that “I stayed up till three in the morning proof-reading and correcting the manuscripts. Maulvi Abdul Kareem Sahib, although ill, stayed up with me. Therefore, he will not be able to come presently. This was also a kind of ‘Jihad’. Although one has on occasion to stay awake at night, but what a pleasant time is that which is spent in the cause of Allah.”\(^ix\)

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\(^i\) Malfoozat; vol. 2, p.219  
\(^ii\) Malfoozat; Vol. 1, p. 370  
\(^iii\) Taa’id-e-Haq by Maulvi Hasan Ali Sahib, 23 December 1932, Allah Baksh Steam Press Qadian; p.79  
\(^iv\) Hayat-e-Noor by Sheikh Abdul Qadir, previously Sodager Mall; p. 194  
\(^v\) Malfoozat; vol. 1, p. 310  
\(^vi\) Malfoozat; vol. 1, p. 311  
\(^vii\) Malfoozat; vol. 1, p.215  
\(^viii\) Malfoozat; vol.2, p.691  
\(^ix\) Malfoozat; vol.2, p.691
Contemporary Issues
Topics taken from the Waqfe Nau Syllabus

What is the meaning of Khataman Nabiyyeen?

“Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Apostle of Allah and Khataman Nabiyyeen–The Seal of the Prophets.” [Holy Quran Chapter 33: V.41]

The word Khatam means ‘seal’ (see Tajul Aroos, Lisanul Arab, and Qamoos) and not ‘last’ as wrongly interpreted by non-Ahmadis. Thus the expression ‘Khataman Nabiyyeen’ means ‘The Seal of the Prophets’.

The essential meaning of the word ‘Khatam’ in Arabic usage has always been applied to mean not ‘last in time’ but ‘the ultimate in status’. Hence, Prophet Muhammad(saw) was the final authority on prophethood, or to put it simply no prophet can appear after him who will support or revive any religion other than the religion brought by Prophet Muhammad(saw). Anything to the contrary would effectively seek to ‘break his seal’ on the issue of prophethood. This is because the prophethood of Prophet Muhammad(saw) has incorporated the beauties of all religions and completed the religious teachings to perfection.

Can there be Prophets after the Holy Prophet(saw)?

Yes. Prophets are appointed by God to reform people and guide them to their Creator. Through their high moral and spiritual conduct they bring people back on to the path of righteousness. What distinguishes prophets from saints and other men of religion is the great frequency with which God communicates...
with them and the fact that God gives them intimation of future events.

Prophethood commenced with Prophet Adam\textsuperscript{as} and reached its pinnacle with Prophet Muhammad\textsuperscript{saw}. According to Islam no new independent prophet can now appear. However, Prophethood as an institution has not ceased. According to the Holy Qur’an and other Islamic sources there can be a prophet after Prophet Muhammad\textsuperscript{saw} provided he follows the Shariah of Muhammad\textsuperscript{saw} and is completely subordinate to him – since Islam is the perfect religion. This perfection of teachings, however, is no guarantee of the perfection of mankind and Muslims – like followers of all religions before them – were also to drift away from the true teachings of their religion after the demise of Prophet Muhammad\textsuperscript{saw}. There would therefore be a need for a prophet to rekindle the true teachings and spirit of Islam and put mankind back to the ‘right path’ and this is why according to Islam only law-bearing prophethood ended with Prophet Muhammad\textsuperscript{saw} but not prophethood itself.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad\textsuperscript{as}, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi and founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, claimed to be such a follower and subordinate of the Holy Prophet\textsuperscript{saw}. Commenting on his divinely appointed title of prophet, the Promised Messiah\textsuperscript{as} writes,

‘This status and title has been bestowed on me only because I am a true follower and servant of the Holy Prophet, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.’

[Tajalliyat-i-Ilaahiya, pg24-25].

Therefore, the Holy Qur’an, the Ahadith and religious history all support the view that prophethood has not ceased. Prophets can still appear but the only proviso is that they are Muslims and their advent reaffirms the divinely bestowed title of the Holy Prophet\textsuperscript{saw} as ‘Khataman Nabiiyyeen’.

**Did Jesus\textsuperscript{as} die on the cross?**

The Holy Qur’an is clear about the fact that Jesus\textsuperscript{as} did not die on the cross and was not killed by any other means. The Jews believed that someone who died on the cross was in fact cursed. If Jesus\textsuperscript{as} had died on the cross it would mean that those who rejected his truth were right in their beliefs. By killing him on the cross they would have proved that he was (God forbid) an accursed person. God does not allow this humiliating end for His true servants. On the contrary He always protects them and causes them to be victorious to prove their truth to their own people and also to allow them to fulfil their missions during their lives in this world. So, by proving that Prophet Jesus\textsuperscript{as} did not die on the cross, we are actually endorsing his honour and dignity.
According to Islamic Belief was Jesus as the Son of God?

Muslims believe that Prophet Jesus as was undoubtedly called the son of God, but this title has only been employed metaphorically and in fact is used for all the chosen ones of God. Jesus as prayed to God like all other God-fearing individuals, and engaged in spiritual exercises such as fasting. Furthermore, he lacked knowledge of the future, as only the Divine Being possesses perfect and complete knowledge. According to Ahmadi Muslim beliefs understood from the Holy Qur’an, Jesus as survived the crucifixion, travelled to preach to the lost tribes of Israel and lived to an old age and was given a permanent abode in a valley of rivers which we believe is Kashmir in India.

What is the Caliphate?

Caliphate or Khilafat is a spiritual institution that succeeds prophethood. It provides unity, progress, righteousness and security to the followers of a prophet. The Caliph or ‘Khalifa’ is a prophet’s spiritual heir, his vicegerent and subordinate. He derives his authority from his Master-Prophet and as such becomes the central authority for his followers.

“Allah has promised to those among you who believe and do good works that He will, surely, make them Successors in the earth, as He made Successors from among those who were before them.” [Holy Quran Chapter 24; Verse 56]

The above verse alludes to the fact that successors will be made in the earth just as successors were made by God from among people who were before them which, includes the concept of the establishment of Khilafat after the advent of previous prophets.

The death of the Holy Prophet of Islam saw, was followed by the spiritual institution of Khilafat who are known as the Rightly Guided Khulafaa or the Khulafaa al-Rashideen.

When the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad as passed away, Khilafat was established once again as promised by God Almighty. This is known as the Khilafat al-Ahmadiyya. The fifth successor and the present Khalifa of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmadaba.
One fine summers day Chicken Licken went for a walk in the woods. Now Chicken Licken was not very smart, he would often act first and think later. So, when an acorn fell on his head, he came to the conclusion that the sky must be falling in. So, he decided to rush off and alert the King.

On the way he met Henny Penny and Cocky Locky.

“I can’t talk in a hurry, I am off to tell the King that the sky is falling in,” he clucked importantly.

“We want to come too,” said Henny Penny and Cocky Locky, so off they went.

Now, Chicken Licken, Henny Penny and Cocky Locky set off to see the King. On the way they met Ducky Lucky and Drakey Lakey.

They were curious to see where they were all going. “We are off to tell the King that the sky is falling in,” clucked Chicken Licken importantly.

“Oh really?! well we will come too,” said Ducky Lucky and Drakey Lakey.

So, Chicken Licken, Henny Penny, Cocky Locky, Ducky Lucky and Drakey Lakey all set off to find the King.

It was not long before they all bumped in to Goosey Loosey and Turkey Lurkey.

“We are off to tell the king that the sky is falling.”

“Oh my goodness!” exclaimed Goosey Loosey and Turkey Lurkey, “That is very serious we should come too.”

So, Chicken Licken, Henny Penny, Cocky Locky, Ducky Lucky, Drakey Lakey, Goosey Loosey and Turkey Lurkey, all set off to find the King. Suddenly they came across the cunning Foxy Loxy.

“We are off to tell the King that the sky is falling in,” clucked Chicken Licken proudly.

Foxy Loxy began to grin, “Well what a good think I met you all,” said Foxy Loxy with a cunning smile. “I know the way, follow me.”

So, Chicken Licken, Henny Penny, Cocky Locky, Ducky Lucky, Drakey Lakey, Goosey Loosey and Turkey Lurkey all set off behind Foxy Loxy. But Foxy Loxy was cunning and had no intention of bringing them to the King, instead he led them all straight to his den, and ate each and every single one of them for dinner!

So, what is the moral of this tale? Never follow ignorance blindly, because more often than not it can lead to your undoing.

Abu Hurairah reported the Holy Prophet ﷺ as saying:

If anyone pursues a path in search of knowledge, Allah will then by make easy for him a path to paradise; and he who is made slow by his actions will not be speeded by his genealogy.

So, pursuing the path of knowledge will ultimately bring you closer to Allah.