



*In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful*

## ..... **The HOPE Bulletin** .....

**Hhealth, Ongoing Projects, Education**



**January, 2007**

**AAIIL Worldwide Edition**

**Editor: Akbar Abdullah**

**CALIFORNIA JAMA'AT PROJECT: APPROVED BY THE CENTRAL ANJUMAN, LAHORE**

### **Introduction**

#### ***The HOPE Bulletin* guidelines modified**

In our December issue of the *Bulletin* we mentioned that all letters addressed to the Editor either by name or designation must be clearly marked "to publish" or "not to publish" before it could be considered for publication. However, letters that carry announcements of obituary or requests for prayers are exempted from this requirement. In these cases we will be happy to publish such letters with the exception of those that may carry any notation of being "private."

This news magazine is intended to appear each month with our *Jama'at* news, articles, despatches from the Centre, ongoing prayers and obituary announcements etc. Sometimes we find it necessary to issue special editions so that we could provide new and timely news instead of waiting to include it in the next monthly issue which, by then could, could become stale and outdated information. So please be prepared to receive these special editions.

This Editor, with the help of the *HOPE Bulletin* Team, spend many hours in the preparation of each monthly issue, special editions and supplements pertaining to the activities of our worldwide *Jama'ats*. In this venture we try to include the contributions of all the *Jama'ats* and no one is excluded from it. On many occasions we issue several reminders to all to submit their contributions. We want the global *Jama'ats* to be fully informed of our worldwide activities. It is only fair for us to request your feedback. Therefore, if you like the work then tell us and if you do not like the work please tell us how you think we can improve the *Bulletin* to keep readers' interest alive.

In this issue we have included new some columns: **Featured Articles**, which will carry original articles of interest received from the members of the global *Jama'ats*, and a column on **Recipe of the Month**, within the main heading **HOPE Members Service**. Your contributions to the **Featured Articles** column will be highly appreciated, but please ensure that they do not contain any inflammatory material or admonish

others in our *Jama'ats*. Thank you all for your cooperation and for taking your valuable time in reading this news magazine. *Alhamdollillah!*

### **New Year's Greetings**

We intend to publish a special supplement containing New Year's greetings from global *Jama'ats* and from members in their individual capacities. We urge all members to include their country in this project by submitting their contributions. Let us be reminded that the month of January 2007 is significant not only because the Christian new year begins but also because it is the beginning of the Islamic Lunar calendar, as well. The year 2007 also marks the 99<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Hazrat Mirza Sahib, a year away from the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, a very significant event for both sections of Ahmadiyya Movement. In view of these events we expect to receive very powerful New Year's messages from you.

### **Shortened version of *Bulletin***

We have decided to shorten the January issue of *The HOPE Bulletin* since Part Two of Hakeem Nur-ud-Din Sahib's life sketch has taken nearly six pages. We have therefore omitted the **World News** and **Photo Gallery** sections. *Inshaa Allah*, the **Photo Gallery**, depicting the UK *Eid-ul-Adha* celebration, will appear as a follow-up in the form of a supplement.

## **News from the Centre**

### ***Salana Duaiyya 2006***

*Jazak Allah!* The annual *Jalsa* in Lahore, which began on Sunday, 23 December (ladies session) and then the general assembly continued for four days until Wednesday, 27 December, was reported to be most successful. *Alhamdollillah!*

An exhaustive and very fruitful international consultative committee meeting, graced with the presence of foreign delegates in Lahore and chaired by Hazrat Ameer Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha Sahib, was held during the evening of Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> and continued all day on Thursday, 28 December.

The highlight of the concluding evening (Thursday) was a gala dinner served in the newly constructed subterranean terrace (underground hall of the Darus Salam Central Mosque) in honour of the visiting foreign delegates. This venue was also used most impressively for the display and charity sale of artwork crafted by our brother Abdul Ghafoor Saqib Sahib. *JazakAllah!*

During the course of the *Jalsa* this Editor managed telephone contacts with Hazrat Ameer Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha Sahib, the General Secretary, Professor (Retd.) Aziz Ahmad, and foreign delegates Brothers Abdul Santoe (Holland), Sadarud Dean Sahu Khan (Australia), and Mehboob Raza (Fiji Islands). All the foreign delegates gave their appreciation of the arrangements and presentations when compared to the previous year. Some of their comments were: There was a great improvement in the quality of speeches, greater comfort experienced with enhanced guesthouse services and hosting, they were highly impressed with the gala dinner staged in the subterranean terrace area in honour of the foreign delegates, and they were very impressed with the charring of the international consultative committee meeting by Hazrat Ameer.

All the foreign delegates had departed from Lahore by Saturday, 30 December, except Mrs. Abdul Razzaq of India, who remained to celebrate *Eid-ul-Adha* with the Lahore *Jama'at*. We thank Almighty Allah that the 2006 *Salana Duaiyya* concluded successfully *Alhamdollillah!*

## *Jama'at News*

### **Sacrifice and the New Year greeting from Riaz Ahmadali, Suriname**

“Not their flesh, nor their blood, reaches Allah, but to Him is acceptable observance of duty on your part” (22:37).

This week, Muslims around the world will take part in the annual sacrifice of *'Id-ul-Adha*. In the above verse, the Holy Qur'an shows that the sacrifice does not consist of the act of shedding the blood of an animal or eating its meat. The principle of sacrifice finds a deeper meaning in Islam; it signifies the sacrifice of the sacrificer himself, and thus becomes an outward symbol of his readiness to lay down his life and to sacrifice all his interests and desires in the cause of truth. The animal that is sacrificed really stands for the animal within him, a symbol of his lower desires.

### **Fireworks and the New Year**

Many of us hold the tradition to end the old year and start the New Year with fireworks as a means “to chase away devils.” Have you ever noticed the behaviour of your dog, cat or other animals, when setting off fireworks? When they get the chance, they take refuge within your house! So, will the “devils” not take the same path? In order to get the so-called devils out of our houses, should we not let off the fireworks *within* the house?

As a matter of fact, fireworks are a waste of time, money, and cause harm to the environment, and they often disturb those among us who need rest, in particular, the old and the sick. How can we intend to have a better year, to be better for ourselves, our fellow humans, the nature and environment around us, and start the year by bringing harm to all of these?

The only way to chase away devils is by evaluating our behaviour. What devilish deeds have we done in the past year, which we should refrain from in the future? Have we done enough in order to have a better physical and spiritual future? On which points should we improve?

This year, the coincidence of the yearly sacrifice and the start of the New Year is a special event. It gives us the opportunity to further evaluate our deeds from the past year. The Holy Qur'an states that everything which we send forward for ourselves (our deeds) is registered, and also it is what we leave behind for posterity. Furthermore, it states that every soul should ponder about what it sends forth:

“Surely We (Allah) write down that which they send before and their footprints and We record everything in a clear writing” (36:12).

“O you who believe, keep your duty to Allah, and let every soul consider that which it sends forth for the morrow, and keep your duty to Allah. Surely Allah is Aware of what you do” (59:18).

As said already, the beginning of a new year is a good time for us to reflect and ponder about our actions. Have we done enough in order to have a better future, both in this world and in the hereafter? And what example are we leaving behind for others, when our time here on earth has ended? These are the points on which we will ultimately be judged.

(Taken from *A Spiritual Note*, dated December 29, 2006.)

### **Discrepancies in the worldwide *Eid-ul-Adha* celebrations**

Some of us are under the impression that the worldwide celebration of *Eid-ul-Adha* must follow the *Hajj* in Saudi Arabia rather than the moon sighting in their respective countries or on the basis of scientific calculation of the new moon. Dr. Zahid Aziz of the UK had done a lot of research on this subject and has kindly provided us with the following link for the information and guidance of our readers:

<http://www.moonsighting.com/eid-or-hajj.doc>

The conclusion of the author is as follows:

“The Islamic way of determining *Eid-ul-Adha* (as with *Eid-ul-Fitr* and Ramadan, as well) for Muslims living far away from Makka, had been to follow local moon sighting. So we need to get together in celebrating *Eid-ul-Adha* by determining it with the local moon sighting. If it coincides with the Pilgrimage date its well and good, if not, we should still be together and united on a stronger and preferable basis and, that is, going with our local moon sighting. [unquote]

I have also read elsewhere that there is no connection between the date of *Eid-ul-Adha* in a particular country and the date of the Pilgrimage in Makka.”

Dr Zahid Aziz also quoted a report from the [www.moonsighting.com](http://www.moonsighting.com) website. Kindly click on the following link to read further:

<http://www.moonsighting.com/1427zhj.html>

[Quote] Dr. Salman Zafar Shaikh (of New Jersey, USA) reported from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: About Official Saudi Report

I am currently in Riyadh. Yesterday – Wednesday, Dec 20 – evening I went with the official Riyadh Moon sighting committee. Of course there was no chance of *Hilal* anywhere here and the 6 Official *Hilal* sighting committees of Saudi Arabia (near Makka, Riyadh, Passim, Hail, Taboo and Astir), each of which includes an Islamic Scholar, an Astronomer, a City council representative and volunteers) all reported negative sighting, as expected. Even the Moonset was before Sunset in Saudi and that is why even the Umbel Quart Calendar also put Dhul Hijja start for Friday, Dec. 22 and *Eid ul Adha* for Dec. 31, 2006.

But, unfortunately, as is often the case, the Saudi Justice Dept. has announced the start of Dhul-Hijja incorrectly for Thursday, Dec 21; *Hajj* on Dec 29, and *Eid-al-Adha* on Dec 30. Also I met Br. Hamza Al-Muzani (Saudi writer) who had written in the Saudi *Al-Watan* Newspaper of Thursday, 10 Dhul Hijja 1425 AH in the article "Testimonies of the Impossible" that last year *Eid ul Adha* witnesses were found to be over 80 years old. I found that after writing that article they put a false charge on the author of making fun of the beard of the Chief Justice and sentenced him to 4 months in prison and 200 lashes! Then, *Alhamdulillah*, the Saudi King Abdullah quashed the sentence!

Also, this year the false start of Ramadan and *Eid ul Fit* was due the well known early witness: Al Khudayri from Huta Sudayr, Saudi Arabia! He is also one of the claimants this time for Dhul Hijja start. [unquote]

This is clear proof that the Saudi announcements are a complete farce.”

### **A report from Robbert Bipat, Suriname**

“I just wanted to mention that Discovery Channel aired a program called ‘The Miracles of Jesus’ yesterday in the early hours before *Fajr* in Suriname. Interestingly enough the program makers concluded that most of the Miracles did not happen and in the rest of the cases were based on illusions. Quite interesting that in those days there were also a lot of illusionists practising their profession.”

## **Featured Articles**

### **The Hidden Hand of the Divine?**

Captain Abdus Salam Khan of California, USA submitted the following inspirational observation for the interest of our readers:

“Sometimes one is astounded by seeing something quite extraordinary and wonders if this was the Hidden Hand of God. I would like to share with the readers some of these supernatural events that have come to my notice.

- There is a photograph of Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali taken in Qadian in his younger days, long before the English Translation of the Holy Qur'an project was even visualized. Behind the photograph of the *Maulana* one can see a hand holding a book with *Qur'an Shareef* written in Urdu on it. The mystery of this unknown hand still remains unresolved!
- When the Pakistan flag was designed by the Government in 1947, they intended to put the crescent on the flag as a symbol. So they thought they did, but did not realize that the crescent (the new moon) faces to the left. In fact, the moon that appears on the Pakistan flag is facing in the opposite direction to the new moon. I was astounded to notice, when I got up to say my *Tahhajjud* prayers at around three a.m. on the 27<sup>th</sup> of Ramadan last, that the moon on the 27<sup>th</sup> of the lunar month looks exactly like the one on the flag. Then I also realized that Pakistan came into being on the 27 of Ramadan.

Thus the moon on the Pakistan flag has inadvertently become a birthday symbol and a reminder to every Muslim in the world that the largest Muslim state was born on this lunar day. And what a day, for the night of the 27<sup>th</sup> of Ramadan is supposed to be the “Night of Majesty” (*Lailat ul Qadar*).

The ascetics may call it a coincidence but my inner voice tells me that this is a divine intervention made with the purpose of baptizing the new-born state of Pakistan with a celestial symbol. Now, whenever we see the moon on the flag or the moon in the sky on a late 27<sup>th</sup> night, we will be reminded of the birth of our great country. No other country in the world can vie with Pakistan in the manner in which its birth has been etched on its flag forever!”

### **The Most Amazing and Profound Thing**

The wife of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was once asked:

“What was the most amazing and profound thing you ever saw about the Messenger of God?”

She replied:

“All of his actions were the most amazing and profound... But there is one thing: When night would come, and everyone would go to their beloved, He would go to God.”

This shows us the relationship the Prophet (peace be upon him) had with the Lord. When everyone was busy sleeping and enjoying the comfort of their beds and their spouses, he would leave those comforts for nightly vigil to the Creator. All of the Prophets, from Abraham to Moses to Jesus (peace be upon them), shared nightly communion with God. It was then that they would talk to God, cry to Him to forgive our sins, and for us, the people, to be guided and see His Light.

## Book Review

### **A new publication on the UK Jama‘at’s website**

A booklet has been placed on our website entitled *An Account of the Last Days and Death of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad in Lahore with a Brief History of Ahmadiyya Buildings*. It is the English translation of an Urdu booklet compiled by Mr. Nasir Ahmad which was published in 2004. Our respected compiler has long experience of editing, compiling and publishing books of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha‘at-i Islam, Lahore. Having lived and worked all his life in Ahmadiyya Buildings, he has quite intimate knowledge of the area and its history. In his *Compiler’s Note* Mr. Nasir Ahmad writes:

“In compiling this brief account of the events of the last days and the demise of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, at Ahmadiyya Buildings, Lahore, and a brief history of the Ahmadiyya Buildings, I have made extensive use of the two source books in Urdu: *Mujaddid-i ‘Azam* (The Great Reformer of the Time), the biography of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad by Dr. Basharat Ahmad, and *Mujahid-i Kabir* (The Great Striver for Islam), the biography of Maulana Muhammad Ali by Mr. Muhammad Ahmad and Mr. Mumtaz Ahmad Faruqi. This booklet was originally compiled in Urdu and published in 2004. I am also grateful to Sheikh Fazlur Rahman, Treasurer of the Central Ahmadiyya Anjuman Lahore (Pakistan), for providing useful information, to Capt. Abdus Salam of the U.S.A. for producing the initial translation of the text of this booklet from Urdu into English, and to Dr. Zahid Aziz of Nottingham, England, for thoroughly revising the translation, formatting it for publication and making many valuable suggestions.”

The book can be read at <http://www.ahmadiyya.org/bookspdf/hist-ahm-bld-en.pdf> .

The name *Ahmadiyya Buildings* became famous in the world as the headquarters of the Muslim organisation — Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha‘at Islam Lahore — that was propagating Islam all around the globe. Eminent Muslim leaders and distinguished visitors of all kinds went there to meet leaders of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, most notably to call upon Maulana Muhammad Ali. Divine Providence had ordained that Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad should spend the last month of his life at Ahmadiyya Buildings, Lahore, in May 1908, six years before the Ahmadiyya Anjuman of Lahore came into existence. This set the seal of approval on the “members in Lahore”, his beloved devotees, who served him till the end of his life. [From the December issue of *The Light* UK Edition.]

## All About Us

### Life Sketch of Hakeem Nur-ud-Din (Part Two of two-part series)

(This is an English translation by Choudry Masud Akthar, Secretary, AAAIL, Hayward, California, USA of *Yade Raftagaan*, Volume 1.)

#### Hadzrat Maulana Nur-ud-Din (Allah's mercy be on him) visits Qadian

Days passed by on that incident of the proclamation of Hadzrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib. He obtained a copy of *Barahin-i-Ahmadiyya*. After reading the incomparable arguments and magnificent writings contained in that book, Maulana Nur-ud-Din's fondness to meet that claimant of *ilham*, the author of that really wonderful book, grew stronger. He went from Jammu to Batala, the nearest railway station, to Qadian, and from there he took a *yakkah* (horse cart) to Qadian. He had instructed the *yakkah* driver to take him to Mirza Sahib's house in Qadian. Till then, Hadzrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib was not well known in the vicinity and his paternal cousin, an atheist, was quite famous. The *yakkah* driver took Maulana Nur-ud-Din Sahib to his house. He was busy smoking a *huqqah* (hubble bubble), sitting in front of the entrance gate of his house. His very sight was so repulsive that Maulana told the *yakkah* driver to stop and take him back to Batala. But on second thought he walked up to Mirza Imamuddin and enquired if he was the author of *Barahin-i-Ahmadiyya*. Thereupon Mirza Imamuddin addressed the *yakkah* driver saying:

“Why have you brought him here? Take him to Ghulam Ahmad Maseetar” (one who spends most of his time in the *masjid* (mosque)).

#### Meets the Promised Messiah

On hearing this Maulana Nur-ud-Din Sahib felt relief; otherwise, on seeing Mirza Imamuddin he had been shocked and all his hopes had been dashed to the ground. On reaching Hadzrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's house he notified him of his arrival and Hadzrat Mirza Sahib arranged for his stay at his home and came out to see him at *Asr* prayer time. The proverbial '*Wali ra wali mi Shanaahad*' (Saint recognizes the Saint) proved true and both of them recognized the merit of each other at the very first sight. Maulana Nur-ud-Din was deeply impressed by the Promised Messiah's talk. Next morning, after *Fajr* prayers, both went for a walk and during conversation Maulana Nur-ud-Din Sahib said:

“Once I saw the Holy Prophet (pbuh) in a vision and I enquired from him (pbuh) as to what was the reason that Abu Hurairah (Allah be pleased with him) remembered *Ahadith* (Traditions) in abundance. The Holy Prophet (pbuh) brought his mouth near my ears as if he was to tell me the reason, but just at that moment someone woke me up. I am anxious to know what was the secret that the Holy Prophet (pbuh) was about to disclose to me. Can you shed some light on it?”

The Promised Messiah started his reply by reciting some verse in Persian:

“*Na Shaban Na Shab parastam keh Hadith-i-Khwab goyam.*  
*Mun Az Aftab hustam hum Az Aftab goyam.*”

Neither am I night nor worshipper of the night that I may talk about dreams. I am from the sun (light) and talk about the sun (light), and after that said whatever I have attained is the bestowal of the spring of grace of the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

The matter of fact is that as it is stated about the Qur'an in the Qur'an that none but those who have been purified (i.e. the righteous) can touch it (i.e., are granted its understanding), the same is the case of the *Ahadith* of the Holy Prophet (pbuh), that purity of heart, *taqwa*, and fashioning ones life in accord with the *Hadith* (i.e. on the model of the Holy Prophet, pbuh) is a precondition for having understanding of the *Ahadith*."

### **Request for *Bai'at* (Pledging Allegiance)**

In short, as much time as he spent with Hadzrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib during his visit, he felt so much more new light being shed on deep secrets of the *Deen*, that all the knowledge which had accumulated through his travels in the Muslim world seemed incomplete, and he felt the need for passing his life in the company of the Promised Messiah in order to complete his knowledge of the Qur'an, the *Hadith* and the stages of *salook* (spiritual journey). Therefore, he requested Hadzrat Mirza Sahib to accept his pledge of allegiance (*bai'at*). The Promised Messiah declined by saying that so far Allah has not commanded him to accept *bai'at*. Thereupon the Maulana said:

"Whenever you are commanded by Allah to accept *bai'at*, then please let me have the privilege of being the first of those who pledge this allegiance at your hand."

The Promised Messiah agreed and Maulana begged leave in order to return to Jammu. When, after some time, Hadzrat Mirza Sahib was commanded by Allah to form a *Jama'at* and accept the pledge of allegiance from people for that purpose, as per his promise, he summoned Maulana Nur-ud-Din from Jammu and Maulana had the honour of being the first person who pledged allegiance at the hands of the Promised Messiah.

### ***Jihad Fi Sabbeel Allah***

After pledging allegiance at the hands of the Promised Messiah, Maulana Nur-ud-Din enquired from him as to what was the *wazeefah* (constant practice) of his *silsilah* so that he may perform that. "*Jihad Fi Sabeel Allah*," came the reply.

"Should I pick up the sword and wage war against the British people?" enquired Maulana Nur-ud-Din.

"No, in compliance with the Qur'anic verse, '*Jahid hum bi hi (the Qur'an) jehadan Kabeerah*' (engage in supreme *jihad* with this Qur'an), confront the false religions with the Qur'an," replied Hadzrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib.

"How?" Maulana enquired again.

"Write a book in refutation of Christianity," answered the Promised Messiah.

Maulana Nur-ud-Din enquired whether he was allowed an accusative reply where he does not find a reply to the objections of the Christians.

"No that is not fair. If something is actually not good then one is not exonerated by saying that the same evil is found in his adversary too. If someone is blind in one eye then that defect in him is not cast away by pointing out that his adversary too is blind in one eye. Our first responsibility, therefore, is that through thorough research we prove that their objection is false and baseless. This will amount to proving to them that our eye is absolutely healthy and their objection is the result of their poor vision. Only after that do we have a right to resort to an accusative reply to point out to them that in fact it is they who are blind not only in one eye but rather are completely blind. And if their objections pertain to a verse of the Qur'an, the solution whereof you do not understand, then write down that verse and place it on the wall before you

so that it remains in front of your eyes all the time. Eventually, as a result of constant reflection on that verse, a time will come when Allah, the Exalted, will grant you the understanding of that verse,” explained Hadzrat Mirza Sahib in reply.

### **Two Excellent Books**

Having received these guidelines, Maulana Nur-ud-Din returned to Jammu. Meanwhile an English *Padre* was busy causing turmoil in Pind Dadan Khan through his anti-Islamic preaching. As a result of his objections against Islam many educated Muslims were about to convert to Christianity. Having been apprised of this state of affairs by his friends, Maulana Nur-ud-Din went to Pind Dadan Khan and met the *Padre* to hold a debate with him. The *Padre* did not agree to a public debate but gave his objections against Islam in writing, seeking a reply to them. Maulana asked those who were about to convert to Christianity to wait till they read his reply before converting. In refutation of the *Padre*'s objections and the false Christian beliefs Maulana Nur-ud-Din wrote his book *Fasal-al-Khattab*. He used to claim that in writing this book he benefited enormously from the guidelines given by the Promised Messiah and as a result of adhering to the method suggested by the Holy *Imam* many verses of the Holy Qur'an became very clear to him. In this book Maulana had followed the same method of first proving the falsity of the *Padre*'s objections through well-researched answers and after that he went on to show the falsity and hollowness of the Christian beliefs. When this book was published, all those educated Muslims who were about to convert to Christianity became like born-again Muslims and they acknowledged this fact in writing.

After publishing *Fasal-al-Khattab* Maulana Nur-ud-Din once again visited the Promised Messiah and enquired about what next he was required to do. “*Jihad*,” was again the reply from his preceptor.

“Against whom?” he enquired.

“Write a book in refutation of the Arya Samajists,” said Hadzrat Mirza Sahib. In those days Lekh Ram had published a book under the title *Takzeeb-i-Barahin-i-Ahmadiyyah*. Maulana Nur-ud-Din wrote an excellent refutation of that book under the title *Tasdeeq-i-Brahin-i-Ahmadiyyah*.

Maulana Nur-ud-Din had repeatedly written to the Holy *Imam* seeking his permission to give up his job at Jammu and to settle down in Qadian in order to be in his company, but the Promised Messiah had advised him that to give up a good job will amount to thanklessness of Allah's bounty, therefore, he should not quit service. However, some opponents of Maulana in the State of Jammu, through backbiting, incited the *Maharaja* against the *Maulana* and the *Maharaja* dispensed with Maulana's service. Maulana returned to Bhera and on the advice of people started constructing a magnificent house, intending to practice as a physician on a large scale. He was very famous as a *hakeem*, therefore, people rushed to him for treatment and a larger source of income compared to what he was making through his job in Jammu, became available.

### **Permanent Residence in Qadian**

The construction of the new house had not yet been completed when Maulana visited Lahore to purchase some building materials. Before returning to Bhera he thought of making a hurried short trip to Qadian to meet his guide. Since the construction work going on in Bhera necessitated his early return, therefore, at Batala, he hired a *yakkah* for the return trip. The plan was that after seeing the Promised Messiah he would immediately return to Bhera.

During the meeting, while he was just thinking of asking permission to leave for Bhera, the Promised Messiah asked him: “Maulvi Sahib, are you free now?”

He replied in the affirmative and felt that asking permission to depart on that day would not be appropriate and so deferred his departure for a day or two and instructed the *yakkah* driver accordingly.

The next day Hadzrat Mirza Sahib said: “Maulvi Sahib, you might need someone to look after you, so better send for one of your wives.”

Maulana wrote to his wife asking her to come to Qadian, and further wrote that as he most probably will not be able to return to Bhera for some time, therefore, the building construction work should be suspended.

After Maulana’s wife had arrived, one day Hadzrat Mirza Sahib said: “Maulvi Sahib, you are very fond of books. I think you should have your library sent over from Bhera.” Accordingly, his personal library was brought to Qadian.

A few days after that the Promised Messiah said: “Your other wife is not only senior but is also well acquainted with your disposition, so please send for her definitely.” She too came to Qadian.

The Promised Messiah confided to Maulvi Abdul Kareem that he (the Promised Messiah) had been vouchsafed through *ilham* in Arabic that Maulvi Nur-ud-Din should not consider Bhera as his hometown anymore. Maulana Nur-ud-Din often mentioned later that Allah, of His grace, so controlled his thoughts that thereafter the idea of Bhera as his hometown never crossed his mind. “From that day I belonged to Qadian.”

The truth of this statement is borne out by the fact that the *Mahraja* of Jammu and Kashmir wrote to him requesting him to return to his job and begged to be pardoned for whatever had happened in the past due to misunderstanding. Maulana refused to leave Qadian and wrote in reply: “What had been my earnest desire in life I have found. Please do not expect that after that attainment I will pursue any mundane object.”

Similarly, many other chieftains and wealthy persons, by offering large sums as his fee, requested Maulana to visit for a few days to treat them, but he did not leave Qadian except in those few instances where the callers had made a request to the Promised Messiah and he had instructed him to go.

### **An Exemplary Disciple**

Such obedience, faithfulness, respect and veneration for his teacher, which Maulvi Nur-ud-Din had demonstrated for the Promised Messiah, had not been witnessed elsewhere. As great a scholar and man of unique erudition as he was in his own right yet he entertained such an excellent state of respect and regard for the Promised Messiah’s congregation that he used to enter unnoticed and quietly sit down in the last row where the shoes of the attendees would be lying. Whenever the Promised Messiah discovered him seated there, he would immediately call him to come forward and sit next to him. Even when he was sitting near him he would never utter a word except when the Promised Messiah enquired anything and then he would answer the enquiry, otherwise he would just sit quietly with his eyes cast down in veneration for his leader.

### **Incomparable Sacrifices**

To list the sacrifices rendered by Maulana Nur-ud-Din for the *silsilah-i-Ahmadiyyah* is a long story, which needs a separate treatise. Here was a person who was *Fana-fil-Shaikh*; who had put his life on the line; his wealth, his reputation and all that he had was at the will of his master simply for the sake of the pleasure of Allah. Just one instance of his obedience to the Promised Messiah will suffice to show the state of his willingness to sacrifice his everything on the call of the Promised Messiah. When the

Promised Messiah visited Dehli for the last time he had left Maulana Nur-ud-Din at Qadian. For some reason the Promised Messiah telegraphically summoned him to Dehli. The moment Maulana received the telegram he got up from his clinic and set out on foot for Batala, leaving a message for his family that he had been summoned by his leader so they should not worry. On receiving the message the family sent a person behind him in a *yakkah*, with a suitcase containing his clothing, bedding and money for the purchase of his ticket. The man in the *yakkah* caught up with him on the way to Batala, got him into *yakkah* and said: "It is strange, you set out on foot as soon as you received the telegram."

"Allah's appointee has summoned me and even a moment's delay in compliance I consider a sin."

This is what Maulana Nur-ud-Din states about his devotion to his teacher:

"I was most eager to meet the perfect man who should be unique among his contemporaries, and should step out well equipped into the field in support of the faith to silence its opponents. When I returned home from the Hedjaz, I was most perplexed. I went about eagerly in search, awaiting the call of the righteous. In this situation I received intimation of the advent of the most exalted personage, the great learned divine, the Reformer of the century, the Mahdi and the Messiah of the age, the author of *Barahin-i-Ahmadiyyah*. I hastened to him to see for myself, and I realized at once that he was the Promised Arbiter, and it was he who had been appointed by Allah, the Exalted, for the revival of the faith. I immediately responded to the Call of Allah, and fell into prostration in gratitude for this great bounty. Praise be to Thee, Most Merciful, and humble thanks for Thy beneficence.

I devoted myself to the Mahdi of the age, and pledged my allegiance to him with the utmost sincerity. His kindness and beneficence enveloped me completely and I loved him with full devotion of my heart. I held him dearer than my belongings, and my wife and children and parents and all my kindred and my very life itself. His knowledge, erudition and spiritual perception won the homage of my heart. I am most grateful to Allah that He led me to him. It is my good fortune that I preferred him to everything and devoted myself to his service like a faithful servant who is not found wanting in any respect. All thanks to Allah, the Most Beneficent, Who bestowed His beneficence upon me."

How highly the Promised Messiah esteemed Maulana Nur-ud-Din is evident from his writing, as follows:

"I supplicated day and night: Lord, I am alone and helpless, who will be my helper and my assistant? When my hands rose repeatedly in supplication, and the atmosphere became charged with my prayer, Allah, the Exalted, heard my entreaty and the mercy of the Lord of the worlds was roused in my behalf and He bestowed upon me a sincere and faithful friend, who is the very eye of my helpers, and is the essence of those who are my faithful friends in the cause of the faith. His name, like his shining qualities, is Nur-ud-Din (light of the faith). His birthplace is Bhera, and by descent he is Qureshi, Hashmi, and thus one of the chieftains of Islam. He is of gentle birth. My joy at meeting him was such as if a severed limb of mine had been restored to me. My heart was filled with such delight as was experienced by the Holy Prophet (pbuh) on meeting Hadzrat Umar, may Allah be pleased with him.

When he came to me and met me, and I looked at him, I perceived that he was a sign out of the signs of my Lord; and I realized that he was the result of my constant supplications, and my intuition informed me that he was one of the chosen servants of Allah. I observe that wisdom flows from his lips, and heavenly light descends upon him. When he addresses himself to the exposition of the Book of Allah, he reveals the sources of mysteries, and causes the springs of

subtleties to gush forth, and uncovers wonderful treasures of wisdom that had hitherto been covered up. He investigates the minutest particles of erudition, and delving into the roots of verities, exposes shining lights. The wise stretch forth their necks in token of affirmation of the miraculous effectiveness of his discourses. He demonstrates the truth like a polished lump of gold, and uproots the objections of the opponents.”

Again:

“All praise is due to Allah, the Exalted, Who bestowed this friend upon me at a time when I was in great need of him. I pray to Allah that He may bless his age, his health and his dignity. Allah is my Witness that I perceive unusual grandeur in his words, and esteem him as one of the foremost in resolving the mysteries of the Holy Qur’an, and in penetrating into its meaning and import. I conceive of him as two high mountains, one of erudition and other of wisdom, facing each other, and I do not know which of them surpasses the other. He is one of the gardens of the sublime faith. Lord, send down on him blessings from heaven, and safeguard him against the mischief of his enemies, and be with him wherever he might be, and have mercy on him here and in the hereafter, O Most Merciful One. *Ameen.*”

“I render humble thanks to Allah, the Exalted, that He has bestowed upon me such an excellent faithful friend who is righteous and possesses learning of the highest degree. He is far-sighted and keenly discerning. He strives in the cause of Allah and has outstripped his contemporaries in his devoted love of Allah. He is in such complete accord with me as the pulse is in accord with the breath.”

One whom the *Mujaddid* of the century, the Mahdi and the Promised Messiah pays so rich tributes to in so magnificent words and feels envious of some of his qualities, who can deny the exalted status of that person? The Promised Messiah held him as an example for the Muslim *Ummah* in his Persian verse, as follows:

*Cheh Khush booday gar her yak za ummat Nur-ud-Din booday,  
Hamein booday gar her dil purr az Noor-i-yaqeen booday*

How excellent would it be if everyone of the *Ummah* were a Nur-ud-Din,  
So would it be if every heart were filled with the light of the certainty of faith.

### **Succeeds the Promised Messiah as Leader of the Ahmadiyyah**

In order to carry out his mission after his demise, the Promised Messiah had formed the Saddar Anjuman Ahmadiyyah and in *The Will* had nominated this *Anjuman* as his *Khalifah* (Successor). He had nominated some members from amongst his righteous disciples as *Motammadeen* (Trustees), constituting the members of this *Anjuman*. He appointed Maulana Nur-ud-Din as the President of this *Anjuman*, Maulvi Muhammad Ali as its Secretary, and Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din as Assistant Secretary. He had left instructions in the Note under his own hand that after his passing away the decisions by the majority of this *Anjuman* in all matters shall be binding on the members of the Ahmadiyya *Jama‘at*. On the passing away of the Promised Messiah the Saddar Anjuman Ahmadiyyah carried out his mission under the leadership of Maulana Nur-ud-Din and the Anjuman exercised powers in all matters as desired by the Promised Messiah in *The Will*. Great progress was achieved by the Ahmadiyyah Movement under the leadership of Maulana Nur-ud-Din (1908-1914).

Some important achievements were:

1. Starting the work of the English translation of the Holy Qur'an with commentary by Maulana Muhammad Ali.
2. Opening of the Woking Muslim Mission in Surrey, England by Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din.
3. Construction of the Taleemul Islam High School building, the hostel for students outside Qadian Town, and the transfer of the school from a mud house in the Town to its new building outside the Town.
4. Construction of a hospital building near the new school building outside the Town.
5. Maulana Muhammad Ali and Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din's participation in the protest meetings over the Kanpur Mosque incident.
6. Maulana Muhammad Ali and Khwaja Kamaluddin's *tabligh* tours in various Provinces of India.
7. Despatch of deputations to visit prominent Muslim *Ulema* and persons in various parts of India.
8. The Ahmadiyya *Jama'at* remained united under his leadership and came to be recognized as a spiritual force of its time in Islam so much so that Allama Dr. Muhammad Iqbal, in a lecture at Aligarh Muslim University in 1912, observed that "In our times, if you want to see the revival of the spirit of the *Khilaphat-i-Rashidah*, than it can be seen in the Ahmadiyyah *Jama'at* at Qadian."

During his leadership, Maulana carried out the administration of the *Jama'at* through the Saddar Anjuman Ahmadiyyah Qadian without disturbing the arrangement laid down in *The Will* of the Promised Messiah.

Maulana Nur-ud-Din had sustained an injury to his temple in 1910 due to a fall from a horse which he was riding. This injury never fully healed. Ultimately, he passed away on 13 March 1914 at the age of seventy-three. Thus came to an end a golden period in the history of the Ahmadiyyah Movement and the *Jama'at* split into two sections.

Maulana Nur-ud-Din was buried in the Ahmadiyya graveyard, *Jannatul Baqe'e*, in Qadian.

## What Our Readers Say

### Message from California, USA

Br. Zainal Abidin Sahu Khan, eldest son of the late Dr. Hamid Sahu Khan, who is retired from the US Air Force, commented on Hazrat Ameer's *Eid-ul-Adha* and New Year's message as follows:

"This is the most inspirational message of *Eid-ul-Adha* (Qur'an: 49:13) I have ever read or heard. It is truly a blessing to see that the message of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-i-Islam is one that this world of our sorely needs. I will do my part and pass this message on.

I am truly honoured to be a recipient of such a beautiful message on *Eid-ul-Adha* from Professor Doctor Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha Sahib.

May Allah grant you his choicest blessings during this sacred occasion of *Eid-ul-Adha*.

Humbly remain in the service of Allah."

### Message from Germany

Brother Manfred Yahya of Berlin Mosque wrote:

“I am not sure that at this time you are in contact with our dear members at the gathering at Lahore. If it is so, please take my best and warmest greetings to our dear *Ameer*, to Brother Abdul Santoe from Holland and to Brother Muhammad Ali from Berlin. I was not able to come this year to Lahore for different reasons of my occupation, but I will hope to come next year - *Inshallah!*”

My best greetings to you and *Wassalam.*”

### **Letter from Berlin**

My dear Brother Akbar Abdullah, *Salam Aleikum*,

Thank you so much for sending me regular your very interesting information about our worldwide community. As a European Lahore-Ahmadi, living in an absolute diaspora situation, it is very nice to read about all that what happens in our *jamaat*.

All the best to you and *Wasalam*.

Yours, Brother Manfred Yahya from Germany

### **Message from Akela Haroun, UK**

A A.

*The HOPE Bulletin* has been a very great success; it has really developed very fast and the subject matter is wide and varied. Congratulations must go to Bro. Akbar for giving his time and effort, and his know how to pursue this project so diligently. May Allah continue to give him the strength and energy to continue.

I am sure the worldwide *Jamaats* have benefited from the *HOPE Bulletin* by its unifying aspect.

*Allah Hafiz.*

Mrs. Akela Haroun.

## **Health & Prayer News**

### **Noer Sardar, Netherlands**

Sister Mary and Br Khaliel Ghafokhan wrote the following about their brother-in-law, Noer Sardar:

“Noerbhai is doing better; he is out of ICU. His wife asked to thank all those who have prayed for him. Allah has heard their prayers. *Alhamdulillah!* He is however still very weak but steady.”

All praise is due to Allah and Allah alone for this very good news. May Allah have mercy on our dear brother and grant him full recovery soon. (*Ameen.*)

### **Dr. Abdul Habib Sahu Khan, Sydney, Australia**

Sister Nur Jahan Alam writes about her beloved father:

“Thank you for asking about Dad. Yes indeed he was hospitalised but thanks to Almighty Allah he is back home and much better than before. I would like to thank you and everyone else who prays

for his recovery. Dad firmly believes that the prayers of all are keeping him alive. We are indeed very fortunate that we have so many people all over the world who care enough to pray for us. May Allah grant them good health and all their wishes as well, *ameen. Allah Hafiz.*”

### **Akela Haroun, United Kingdom**

Br Haroun of the UK writes about the latest condition of Sister Akela Haroun, who is now undergoing physiotherapy rehabilitation in a special care facility in England. We pray that Allah (*swt*), with His bountiful mercy and graceful blessings, will grant our dear sister, Akela Haroun, progress in her recovery soon. (*Ameen.*)

“The situation is not very promising. The consultant says her body is not responding to the treatment, although she is getting physio twice a day. She has made great progress in eating, drinking, and swallowing. Thanks to Allah and all the prayers, her spirits are good and she tries very hard. They wanted to put her in a care home, but we insisted for her to come home whenever she is released from the rehab home. So by the end of January she should be home, *Inshallah*. With continued prayers from all the *Jama'ats* and with Allah's continued help we will see some changes. Thanks for your concern. *Allah Hafiz*, Br. Haroun.”

## **Ongoing Projects**

### **Central Anjuman establishes an Education Fund**

During the *Salana Duaiyya* 2006 the Central Anjuman approved the setting up of a permanent Education Fund as a result of a very generous donation by our venerable brother, Mian Umar Farouk Sheikh Sahib, Senior Vice-President of the Central Anjuman. *JazakAllah!* The main interest in setting up this Education Fund was as a result of Br. Masud Akthar Choudry's pioneer effort in promoting the cause of education in Pakistan. We reproduce his letter, which first appeared in our July issue of *The HOPE Bulletin*.

### **Education Proposal from AAHL, Hayward, CA., USA**

Message from Br Masud Akthar Choudry, Secretary:

“Hope this letter finds you and your family in fine health. This letter is being addressed to the members of the Lahore Ahmaddiyah *Jama'at* the world over, to draw their attention to an important project of *Jama'at* building for the future, which was launched in 2005 with the blessing of Hadhrat Ameer Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha Sahib. The idea behind it was that in Europe, America and other developed countries of the world, a system of financial assistance for educational purposes in the form of Educational Grants and Student Loans affords an opportunity to the children of the common man desirous of attaining higher or professional education at college and university level. This serves as a backbone of their educational systems. It was thought that if a similar system of financial assistance for educational purposes could be put in place in our *Jama'at* then it will help fortify a sense of belonging to an organization which cares not only for their spiritual needs but also for their mundane well being.

We are all aware that most of those who work for our *Jama'at* as its employees, whether they are on the office staff or work as missionaries, are remunerated minimally and most often at the poverty level and cannot afford to provide better or higher education to their children. In the past the Central Anjuman used to run three High Schools and one College where the children of the employees of the Anjuman, amongst the children of other members of the *Jama'at*, were afforded

equal opportunity for education. These institutions were nationalized by the Government of Pakistan in the early nineteen seventies and since then the source of having access to better education for the children of the Anjuman's employees and other poor members of the *Jama'at* has been closed. It is our moral duty to take care of these children of the *Jama'at* who, in fact, are the future of our *Jama'at*. Any investment for the betterment of their future, in fact, amounts to the betterment of the future of the *Jama'at*.

Thirdly and most important of all, it will enable us to fulfil the requirements of the Divine commandments contained in the Qur'an in 2:177, 4:36-37 and 39, 30:38, 32:16, 51:19, 70:24-25, 107:1-7 and numerous other verses pertaining to charitable behaviour toward the poor, the needy, the destitute. The project aims at institutionalizing charity on *Jama'at* level in an organized manner for the betterment of the needy children of our community.

The printing, translation and publishing of the Holy Qur'an and other Islamic literature undoubtedly are great objects which should not be minimized or lost sight of in any manner, but putting the teachings of the Qur'an to practice is also an equally important aspect of our religion which should always find an equal place amongst the objects of a movement or *jama'at* which chooses to work in the name of Islam. A study of the Qur'an with open eyes and a discerning mind reveals to any honest student of the Qur'an that the Qur'an aims at establishing a spiritual order in mankind which on the mundane side contains a just, equitable and compassionate socio-economic order. Any *jama'at* or organization which stands to work for the dissemination of the Qur'an in the world cannot bypass the nature of the teachings of the Qur'an; and if it chooses to do so then it will be indulging in self deception which will neither do any good to Islam nor to it.

Thus the project of financial assistance to the needy students of our *Jama'at* is, in fact, a humble effort to put an aspect of the teachings of the Qur'an into practice amongst our *Jama'at*, in an institutionalized and organized manner which in the long run could serve as a model for other organizations and even states in the Muslim World.

By the Grace of the Most Merciful and Almighty Allah, the project of financial aid in the form of Educational Grants and interest-free long term student loans to needy and deserving students of our *Jama'at* in Pakistan, which was launched in 2005, has completed one year. A committee headed by Hadhrat Ameer and consisting of Professor Aziz Ahmad Sahib (General Secretary of the Central Anjuman), Ch. Khalid Ahmad (the Auditor of the Central Anjuman), and our most respected sister, Miss Safia Saeed, manages and oversees it. It assesses the needs of each student after selecting them from various applicants who are required to provide information about their parents and other family members, the monthly or annual income of the family, proof of admission to a school, college, university or other professional college etc., duration of the course, amount of fees, cost of books, transport, if residing at home or in *Darus-Salam*, boarding and lodging expenses etc. and disburses the funds. Students up to ninth grade are provided non-refundable student grants whereas interest-free student loans are made available to college, university and professional such as Medicine, Engineering, and Computer Science students. Presently seventeen students are availing this facility, while some others are on the waiting list due to a paucity of funds.

In 2005, a club of ten donors was formed by the Lahore Ahmaddiyah Anjuman for Propagation of Islam, Inc., California which provides three hundred and fifty thousand rupees annually which is remitted to Hadhrat Ameer in two instalments, that is, in January and June. Hadhrat Ameer now desires to have more funds made available to him by enlarging the Club of Donors. The target is to have one million rupees available annually towards this fund. Hence this appeal.

You can choose to donate \$50, \$100, \$200, \$500 or even more per month as your donation to the funding of this project. You may choose to pay monthly instalments or an annual lump sum. In the U.S.A. you can write your check or make automatic monthly payments through your bank to:

**Lahore Ahmaddiyah Anjuman for the Propagation of Islam, Inc.**  
**Account # 0044044618**  
**Wells Fargo Bank**  
**Southland Drive**  
**Hayward, California**

Mail your checks to **Mr. Abdul Majeed**, Treasurer of the said Anjuman at **39483 Sutter Drive, Fremont, CA, 94538**.

This will be Tax Deductible. If for any reason you do not want to pay through the California Anjuman, you may send your payment directly to Hadhrat Ameer in Pakistan. Please do not forget to write on your check 'Donation for Educational Financial Aid.'

Yours fraternally, Masud Akthar Choudry, Secretary.”

We are thankful to Br. Masud Akthar Choudry and the AAAIL Hayward, California, USA *Jama'at* for setting up such an encouraging and useful scholarship programme for our most needy *Jama'at* children in Pakistan. We strongly urge other members to participate in this noble programme, particularly Pakistani immigrants of the *Jama'at* who are fully aware of the difficulties poor families face in educating their children. If any member would like to contribute less than \$50 per month, his/her donation will still be cherished and welcomed by the Education Committee set up in Lahore to manage this project. Spending on this programme is *sadaqa jaariya* which Allah (*swt*) will reward in manifold, either as *sawaab* or in material benefit.

### **Education News**

In the quest for knowledge we learn something new all the time. Captain Abdus Salam Khan of Rancho Cucamonga, California, USA, has provided us with the following very interesting information about the beliefs of the Sikh *mazhab* (religion):

#### **Mention of Qadian in *Guru Garanth Sahib*, the Holy Scripture of the Sikhs, and a Directive to the Sikhs**

When introducing Ahmadiyyat to the Sikhs I have found the following couplet occurring in the Sixth *Pow-ree* of their Holy Book, *The Garanth Sahib*, to be of immense help:

*Wail na pa'ee pundita'n likhan-lekh paraan,*  
*Waqht na pa-ee-oe Qadian jadown par-han likhan Quran.*

The Hindu priests (the pundits) could not find time to write their scriptures,  
So when they start in Qadian to recite and publish the Qur'an, do not hamper and molest them.

This is a prophecy about Qadian becoming the centre for re-discovering and disseminating the Holy Qur'an, and telling the Sikhs not to meddle with and hamper this sacred work.

## HOPE Members Service

### Recipe of the Month

#### *Shorwa (Assorted Vegetable Soup)*

#### Ingredients

Serves 4

- 3 tablespoons corn oil
- 2 large onions, chopped
- 4 cups water
- 2 medium potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 large carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 ribs celery with leaves, sliced
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tablespoons flat leaf parsley, chopped

#### Method of preparation

- Heat oil in a soup pan, add onions, a pinch of salt and stir fry over moderate heat for 2 minutes.
- Add water, potatoes, celery, remaining salt, pepper and cinnamon and bring to a boil.
- Simmer soup, covered, for 30 minutes.
- When ready to serve, dribble beaten egg into pan of soup in a circular motion.
- Sprinkle with parsley.
- Serve hot.

Please send in your comments on how the recipe worked out for you. Thanks in advance for your feedback. Please send in some recipes that you think other global members could enjoy.

#### Laughter is the best medicine

I was shopping and noticed a little old lady following me around. I stopped, she stopped. Furthermore she kept staring at me. She finally overtook me at the checkout, and she turned to me and said: "I hope I haven't made you feel ill at ease; it's just that you look so much like my late son."

I answered: "That's okay."

"I know it's silly, but if you'd call out "Goodbye, Mom" as I leave the store, it would make me feel so happy."

She then went through the checkout, and as she was on her way out of the store, I called out: "Goodbye, Mom."

The little old lady waved, and smiled back at me. Pleased that I had brought a little sunshine into someone's day, I went to pay for my groceries.

"That comes to \$121.85," said the clerk.

"How come so much? I only bought five items."

The clerk replied: "Yeah, but your Mother said you'd be paying for her things too."

## **Contact information**

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