

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

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

Hhealth, Ongoing Projects, Education



In memory of the late

Mian Fazl-i Ahmad



Mian Fazl-i Ahmad addressing the Annual Gathering in Lahore in December 2006

INTRODUCTION

Those who knew the late Mian Fazl-i Ahmad loved him dearly. There are two forms of love: friendship and philanthropy. Friendship he surely had his whole life; the poor loved him, his workers loved him, his family loved him, his friends loved him and the worldwide AAAIL *Jama'ats* loved him. Of philanthropy, he was very generous, giving freely. He was charitable in principle, but more so, by instinct, having learnt from his illustrious father.

His strength lay in the religious, affectionate, moral and spiritual part of Ahmadiyyat. His intellect was immense. His power of comprehension was vast. His work method embodied a form of understanding, dealing with details and methods, full of imagination, with beauty and power to create with reason based upon the principles of Ahmadiyyat and Islam.

The *Jama'at* knows not yet how great a stalwart it has lost. It seems a pity that he should leave us in the midst of his unfinished task, which none else can fill his shoes and finish. Nonetheless, his soul is content that, in the span of his full life, he achieved a major portion of the goals set for the *Jama'at* by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. May Allah (*swt*) have mercy on his soul and grant him a high place in *Jannate-Firdous*, which He has promised to all righteous people. *Aameen*.

I had a cordial relationship with Mian Fazl-i Ahmad since I first knew him, some thirty-seven years ago. The following illustrates some memorable moments in his life:

First encounter with Mian Sahib

After the fall of East Pakistan in December of 1971 I circulated nearly 50,000 four-page pamphlets throughout the then West Pakistan through the sales organization and personnel of my company located in the major cities of the country. Mian Sahib also obtained a copy. He did not know me at the time but he wrote such an encouraging letter to me which I still cherish till this day. Mian Sahib, thank you.

Historical visit of Bilalian leader to Darus Salaam, Lahore

During the late 1970's the late Imam Muhammad Abdullah brought to Darus Salaam, Lahore Imam Warith Deen Mohammad, the leader of the African-American Muslim community in the USA.. While in Lahore Imam Mohammad, his brother and his nephew were houseguests of Mian Fazl-i Ahmad, who personally ensured that the guests were well taken care of.

Imam Warith Deen Mohammad was so impressed with the Head of Central Anjuman, Lahori members, and the kind hospitality rendered to him and his party that before his departure from Lahore he donated to the Central Anjuman a gold bar worth over Rs.0.4 million. *Jazak Allah!*



Mian Fazl-i Ahmad receiving Imam Warith Deen Mohammad at Lahore, Pakistan



Maulana Muhammad Abdullah at the podium, an unidentified member, Imam Warith Deen Mohammad & Dr Saeed Ahmad Khan Marhoom

Hosting dinner and birthday party

The late Mian Fazl-i Ahmad was admired and respected for his generous hospitality. For many years he would invite foreign delegates and local guests for dinner at his home at the end of the *Salana Duaiyya*. In 2004 I was honoured to be among those invitees and to have partaken of a sumptuous dinner at his residence.

Three weeks later Mian Sahib delighted me with his presence at my birthday party held at the residence of Br Rashid in Gulberg. At this party Hazrat Ameer had provided the birthday cake and presented me a card written with a poem he had composed.



From right to left: Dr Abdul Waheed, Mian Fazl-i Ahmad, Khalid Sahib, Akbar Abdullah, Hazrat Ameer and host Rashid Sahib

Mian Fazl-i Ahmad Sahib's legacy

As Chairman of the Lahore Masjid Building Committee, the late Mian Fazl-i Ahmad was entrusted with the task of collecting funds for the construction of three sides of *masjid's* verandah, its courtyard and the renovation of the ladies section of the Mosque at Darus Salaam, Lahore. He was quite upbeat about the project and I felt honoured to have assisted him as an overseas liaison to the Building Committee.

Mian Sabib was so passionate about this project that on many occasions he was seen spending hours in the *masjid's* courtyard enjoying the work of beauty in progress. He was able to see not only the completion of the verandah project but also witnessed the addition of an underground hall, or, as I term it, "subterranean terrace," an idea conceived by Hazrat Ameer and implemented under his guidance and management. *Jazak Allah!*

Below are photographs of the *darwaza* (entrance) and a section of the courtyard. If the Muntazima/Motmadeen ever considers naming the *darwaza*, it would be fitting to honour the late Mian Sahib by naming the entrance the "Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad *Darwaza*."



Some reminiscing thoughts

For many years the late Mian Sahib corresponded with me and on many occasions he wrote that I was like my late father, dedicated to the cause of Ahmadiyyat. He wrote that I had developed the traits of my late father when it came to promptness in letter writing and concern for fellow Ahmadis in their welfare and in their need of prayers and sympathy.

I am indeed indebted to Mian Sahib for his generosity during the 1988 Ohio Convention when he allotted me some of his own time so I could launch a nucleus of Heaven on Earth Publications, named after the grave of Prophet Isa in Srinagar, Kashmir. He later commended the effort of publishing and distributing literature on Ahmadiyyat during the 1993 Centennial World Parliament of Religions held in Chicago.

In the late 1970's Mian Sahib had the pleasure of visiting Chicago twice and on each occasion he met Imam Warith Deen Mohammad and the late Imam Muhammad Abdullah. On his second visit we had dinner on the Ninety-fifth-floor restaurant of the John Hopkins Building with a beautiful view of Lake Michigan and a night view of the city of Chicago.

Mian Sahib was a great inspiration to me and his words of encouragement energized me to do more for the *Jama'at*. I will surely miss him. May Allah have mercy on his soul. *Aameen*. – Akbar Abdullah, Editor.

OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Brigadier Mohammad Saeed, Central Anjuman, Lahore

Assalaam-o-Alaikum Wa Rakhmatullahi Wa Barakaato Hoo.

It is with great grief that we announce the passing away of a great stalwart of the *Jama'at*, Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahib. *Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Ilehi Rajeroon.*

Mian Sahib, *marhoom*, was admitted to hospital a couple of days ago with a cardiac problem. He was making good progress in the coronary care unit and had his normal breakfast this morning. However he suffered cardiac arrest around 9:30 AM and all efforts to revive him did not succeed. He left for his eternal abode around 10:45 AM on 1 April 2007, his 89th birthday.

Mian Sahib was a well-known and much loved personality among our *Jama'at* members around the world. He had the unique distinction of serving the *Jama'at* with all the five *Ameers*, starting with Hazrat Maulana Mohammad Ali Sahib. He accompanied the late Hazrat Ameer Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan Sahib on many of his visits to overseas *Anjumans* and won the admiration of the worldwide Lahore Ahmadiyya Community. His efforts to strengthen the *Jama'at* in the South Asia Pacific Region, particularly India, are laudable. He held the office of Financial Secretary for many years and rendered invaluable advice on the management of the Central Anjuman's finances. His services as Chairman of the Foreign Missions Committee will always be remembered. He was a very generous donor to the causes of the *Jama'at*.

Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahib's demise is a big loss for the *Jama'at* and the void left by him will be hard to fill.

Mian Sahib leaves behind a widow, Mrs. Tahira Fazl (daughter of the late Maulana Mohammad Ali Sahib), son Tahir Jahangir, daughter Nageen Malik, many grand- and great-grandchildren and countless admirers around the world to mourn him. May Allah *Ta'ala* in His infinite mercy grant the departed soul a high place amongst His virtuous servants in *Jannat ul Firdaos*. May He also grant patience and fortitude to the bereaved family and all of us to bear this great loss. *Aameen*.

Mian Sahib's *Janaazah* will be held at 09:00 am on Tuesday 3 April 2007 at Darus Salaam Lahore. All *Anjumans* are requested to arrange *Ghaaibaana namaaz-i-Janaazah* at their respective centres.

AUSTRALIA

Shaukat A. Ali, Regional Coordinator, Brisbane

It is with very heavy heart and deep distress that I write this message of sympathy and condolence after receiving the shocking news of the death of our stalwart, Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad sahib *mahroom*. *Inna Lillahe wa Inna Ilaihi Rajioon*. May Compassionate and Merciful Allah grant the departed soul abode in the highest pedestal of *Jannat-ul Firdous*, among His chosen ones – *aameen*.

Mian sahib *mahroom* had dedicated a lifetime of service to the *Jamaat* in various capacities; it is an irreparable loss and he will be sorely missed as he had remained active in the affairs of the *Anjuman* till the very end.

I had first met Mian sahib in 1977 in Lahore and had remained in touch with him from time to time ever since. After moving to Bangkok in 1986 we were in regular contact and I know that he had a lot of time for the *Jamaat*.

As Chairman of the Foreign Missions Committee, he was very anxious to see the progress of the *Jamaat* in the Asia and Pacific region, mainly in India, and had followed up the project very keenly. He had provided unflinching support for the activities in the region and had accompanied me on a tour of Indonesia when we agreed to provide 100 million Indonesian Rupiah to the Indonesia *Jamaat* for the completion of a Mosque in Monosovo. Even though he was in his 80s and had cardiac problems, he had the interest of the *Jamaat* at heart and the burning desire, enthusiasm, strength and stamina to undertake this journey to various rugged and mountainous areas during this visit.

On behalf of my family and the members of the *Jamaats* in the Asia and Pacific region, I convey our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the surviving members of his family and to you, Hazrat Ameer, and the Central Anjuman.

"O soul that art at rest, return to thy Lord, well-pleased, well-pleasing, so enter among My servants, and enter My Garden"

May Allah (*swt*) grant strength, comfort, solace and *sabr* to the bereaved family and all of us in the time of great anguish – *aameen*.

Sadarud Dean Sahu Khan, President, AAIL, Australia

I have personally known the late Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahib for a number of years. It became a tradition for him to host a dinner for all the overseas delegates during the annual *Jalsa* at the Centre in Lahore during December. He will no doubt be sadly and notably missed in years to come.

He was a very successful person in every respect. He had a very unique personality. His love, dedication, commitment and sincerity for our *Jama'at* were exemplary. My last meeting with him was at the last *Jalsa* in December in Lahore. He was very appropriately always given the prominence and respect he well deserved.

May Allah Almighty in His infinite mercy grant him a place in *jannat*. *Aameen*. May his soul rest in peace. *Aameen*. May Allah Almighty give his loved ones the courage and patience to bear such a loss. *Aameen*. He will always be remembered by all, young and old.

Ameen Sahu Khan, Editor, *Bashshaar*, Sydney

I had the pleasure of meeting Mian Sahib at an International Convention of the Anjuman in Columbus in the mid-eighties, a pleasure for which I am so grateful to the Almighty Allah. We maintained a regular contact through the post for many years after that meeting. Mian Sahib had that charisma that privileged him to command the respect of his peers, the respect of the old and of the young alike. My first impression of this great man was that he was most honourable. Here was the stalwart who had the interest of the Anjuman at heart, someone who lived what he preached. There was this aura of holiness about Mian Sahib. He had the interest of the Anjuman at heart for the Anjuman was a part of him just as much as he was a part of the Anjuman. I shall long cherish those memories of my meeting and acquaintance with Mian Sahib. It was a privilege to have met this great man. May Allah in His infinite mercy grant his soul *Jannatul Firdause*.

The sun that sets far in the west, proclaiming night's repose,
Continues on to other lands, new brightness to disclose...
The same is true from mortal view when life is passing on,
For what appears as earthly night becomes another dawn.

CANADA

M. Yaseen Sahu Khan, Vancouver, B.C.

The very sad news of the death of Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad, a “star of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Anjuman,” was received with great grief. “*Inna Lillahi wa inna ilehi rajioon.*” “Surely we are Allah’s and to Him we shall return” (2:156).

He was a man of principle. He said and did things in a methodological manner which very few in the present age would even consider. The lovely and highly reputable qualities such as consideration, kindness, humility, generosity and sacrifice in the way of Allah had earned him much love and popularity, and wonderful respect and reputation within and without the Ahmadiyya world. His “patience” knew no bounds as he sincerely believed from the core of his heart, “*Ya aiyuhalladeena amanustaeeno bissabari wassalaat; innallaha ma’assabireen.*” “O you who believe, seek assistance through patience and prayer; surely Allah is with the patient” (2:153), and he readily “forgave” those who falsely accused him, because Allah says, “*Fa man ‘afawa aslaha fa ajruhu ‘Alallah.*” “But whoever forgives and amends, his reward is with Allah” (42:40).

“*Walaman sabara wa ghafara inna dalika lamin azmil umoor.*” “And whoever is patient and forgives—that surely is an affair of great resolution” (42:43).

“A kind word with forgiveness is better than charity followed by injury. And Allah is Self-sufficient, Forbearing” (2:263).

Mian Sahib had always been kind to the orphans and the poor and ever urged the feeding of the needy as he was always mindful of his prayers and earnestly did good “in the way of Allah” and not just to be seen by men.

He was very humble to his family members, his servants at home and his employees at the office, and I must mention without fail that he honoured his guests with great love and respect—as every true Muslim is duty-bound to do—as very clearly exhorted by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

The Almighty Allah had given Mian Sahib abundance of good—good health, good wealth and much wisdom—and Mian Sahib had very wisely and generously utilized all in the way of Allah for the goodness and benefit of his family, *jamaat* and humanity at large. His monetary sacrifices to the Anjuman were great and he was always amongst the top donors.

“*Man aslama euajhahu lillahi wahuwa muhsinoon falahu ajruhu inda Rabbihee wa la khaufan ‘aleihim wa la hum yahzagoon.*” “Whoever submits himself entirely to Allah and he is the doer of good (to others), he has his reward from his Lord, and there is no fear for such nor shall they grieve” (2:112).

His death is a great loss to the Anjuman—a vacuum created—which will take a very long time to fill. Sincerity and simplicity were the keynotes of his character. He believed that truth must overcome falsehood and that no temporal power with all the temporal resources at its back can annihilate truth.

I, with all due respect and honour, offer my very sincere sympathies and condolences to Begum Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahiba and to Mian Sahib's other very near and dear ones and hope and pray that Allah the Almighty and Most Merciful will grant them the strength and courage to bear the irreparable loss. I too will for ever miss him very much.

“O' soul that art at rest, return to thy Lord, well pleased, well pleasing, so enter among My servants, and enter My Garden” (89:27-30).

FIJI ISLANDS

Mehboob Raza, General Secretary, AAIIIL, Suva

Inna Lilahi was Inna Ilahi Rajihoon.

It was indeed a bolt from the blue when I received the sad news of the demise of our dear Mian Saheb.

My immediate thoughts reflected vividly of his glowing and radiant personality. His presence was always felt by one and all, no matter what the occasion.

He was indeed an icon and his love and contribution to the *Jamaat* was immense. He leaves behind a legacy which will be hard to emulate. Fiji *Jamaat's* prayers are with the bereaved family.

We pray that Allah Almighty will give them strength and solace to overcome this grief by reflecting on the fond memories he has left behind.

We pray that may Allah Almighty grant Mian Saheb the highest abode in His *Jannat-ul-Firdos*. *Aameen*.

GERMANY

Muhammad Ali, Assistant Imam, Berlin Mosque

I would like to express my deepest condolence to the family of Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahib *Marhoom*, and I also pray that Allah may grant him a place in *Jannat-ul-Firdaus* which He has promised for His righteous servants.

During the last two *Jalsas* I had the chance to talk with Mian Sahib. Both times he showed me a lot of love and said very encouraging words to me.

May Allah help us to follow in the path of these people who serve the *Jamaat* wholeheartedly. *Ameen*.

GUYANA

Mansoor Baksh, Religious Head, Essequibo Ahmadiyya Organisation Lahore

The loss of the late Mian Fazl-i Ahmad will no doubt be mourned by the entire *Jama'at*. As you know, he made several trips to the Caribbean as the official representative of the Anjuman. On one of those occasions he was instrumental in bridging a very wide gap between members.

While I was a student in Lahore, I was overwhelmed with Mian Fazl-i Ahmad's response to my requests. He was at that time Chairman of the Finance Committee and he did what he could to see that my stay there was comfortable. I can say without any doubt that all the elders took it upon themselves to ensure that I was treated as a guest for my long stay in Lahore (nearly four years). Mian Sahib was no exception in that regard and being in the position that he was in, it really made a difference to me.

After my return to Guyana, Mian Sahib continued to encourage me. That encouragement meant a lot because those were years of conflict and members of the international community were hesitant to deal with conflicts. He, along with the late Hazrat Ameer Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan Bahadur, really gave me moral support to call the name of Mirza Sahib. In many mosques here, the message of Ahmadiyyat was propagated but people refused to call the name Mirza or Ahmadiyya. Today, the tables have turned and Mian Sahib, even though he is not here, has contributed significantly to it.

We pray for forgiveness and *aafiyat* for Mian Sahib. May Allah grant him his book of deeds in his right hand and may Allah grant him *Janaatul Firdous*. *Ameen*.

HOLLAND

Message from AS Santoe, European Representative, addressed to Begum Sahiba

It is with great grief and sorrow that we have learned of the sad demise of Mian Saheb. *Inna Lillaahi wa inna Elaihi Raaji'un*.

In the course of my responsibility within our *Anjuman*, I have come to know both of you as dear parents of our worldwide community. Not only the great efforts and sacrifices you both have afforded to our *Jamaat* but also the warm hospitality extended to us during our visits to Lahore will always be remembered.

I cherish also the memory of Mian Saheb's everlasting stance on principal matters of the *Jamaat* and his pleasant personality to convince others. His huge business experience had always been to the advantage of the Movement. Accompanying him during his trips through Holland and Germany, I came to know Mian Saheb as a real gentleman, always ready to negotiate without any prejudice whatsoever. I also recall his personal encouragement when I presented my plan for a website to *Muntezime* a few years ago and his subsequent support for this project.

Mian Sahib could also fill gaps in the ultimate management of the Movement whenever necessary. Although he had not been in Holland for some years now, my wife Sara and my children do cherish his memory. We all will miss this great leader of our community. We pray to Allah (*swt*) for forgiveness and that He may grant Mian Saheb's soul everlasting peace in His heavenly abode.

Dear Aapa ji, notwithstanding his blessed age on his 89th birthday and his weaknesses in his latter days, Mian Saheb's departure from this worldly life is a great loss within the family and the *Jamaat*. We can only find solace from God Almighty – *Innallaaha ma'as saabireen*.

May He give you and all the deprived family and *Jamaat* members necessary blessings and consolation. *Ameen*.

Also on behalf of Sara and all members in this part of Europe, we wish to extend our heartfelt condolence to you all.

INDONESIA

Prof. F. Ahmadi, President AAII, Indonesia

If I don't make a mistake, Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad also visited Indonesia some years ago, but unlike Maulana Jaggoe, I have never met him in Indonesia. I and my wife met him when we visited Lahore for the first time to attend convention in Lahore. The next time we met him was when we visited Lahore for the second time to attend the annual convention. As I remembered we all had dinner in his house. Although we met him for relatively short time, we have the impression that like other *Jamaat* members he was a very good man. *Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rojuun*.

Please accept our sympathy over the passing away of Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad. We pray to Allah Almighty that Allah may accept his good deeds, forgive his sins and enter him into paradise and give protection to his bereaved family.

NEW ZEALAND

Abid Raza, President AAII, New Zealand

The sudden demise of Mian Fazl-i-Ahmed Sahib, *Inna Lillahe wa Inna Illehi Rajeoon*, the *Jamaat's* veteran and pillar of strength, comes at a time when his service and guidance was much needed but alas this was not to be - Almighty Allah had already planned the day and time of his departure from this material world to enter the Spiritual World hereafter.

On behalf of myself and my family and the New Zealand *Jama'at* I pray to Allah *Subhantalla* to grant him the highest pedestal in the *Janatal firdoss* and grant the bereaved family strength to bear the loss of the dear departed soul. *Ameen*.

PAKISTAN

Acknowledgement from Tahir Jahangir, Son

Thank you for your kind words and condolences. Mian Fazal-e-Ahmad was a special person and has left me many principles to emulate. His presence was a great comfort and always inspiring. I pray that I am half a man that he was. May Allah rest his soul in peace. *Aameen.*



With son Tahir Jahangir on return from *Haj*

Usman Malik, Grandson, Islamabad

While I am sure a lot would have been written about Mian Fazl-e-Ahmad's dedication and contribution to the Ahmadiyya Movement, I would just like to add a few words on some other aspects of Mian Sahib's personality, the full extent of which may not be known to all people.

Mian Sahib, who was my maternal grandfather, had this very unique ability to profoundly touch the lives of all who came into contact with him, be it his relatives or friends or mere acquaintances. He had this way with people that he made everyone feel truly special. Among his grandchildren, each one of us felt that he or she was the favourite! And the same was true for other persons close to him. He had a special place in his heart for all his loved ones, probably because he had a big heart to begin with. What is remarkable is that he even extended the same type of treatment to persons who were not his close relatives, such as friends, acquaintances, business colleagues, subordinates and even his servants.

For all the years that I knew him, I cannot recall a single instance where a frown crossed his face. It was as if God had taken anger out of his heart and filled it with kindness. In today's harsh and cynical world, he always treated his peers and subordinates with such respect and kindness in all situations, always giving them the benefit of doubt that at times one feared that people may try to take advantage of him. But, by God's grace, when he departed for the heavenly abode, he left behind no one but his admirers and well-wishers.

It was probably due to this kindness deeply ingrained in his personality that he was so passionate about charity work. One has to say that the amount of work he did to help needy people and his accomplishments in this field are all the more remarkable given that he was equally committed to the *Jammat*, his businesses and his family.

He served both the Rotary Club and the Pakistan TB Association with distinction, and played a leadership role in both organisations. He was the chairman of the TB Association and had the singular distinction of being the first Pakistani appointed as Rotary District Governor for the region that, apart from Pakistan, also included parts of India and Afghanistan. He also worked with the Chest Foundation of Pakistan and was particularly involved in their anti-smoking drive. One of his pet projects, which he conceived and brought to fruition with the Rotary Club, was bringing the "Jaipur Foot" to Pakistan; Jaipur foot being a low-cost artificial limb for poor amputees. He was also instrumental in setting up and running the Mian Muhammad Trust Hospital in Faisalabad, a charity hospital that provides quality medical care free of cost to thousands of poor patients every year. This hospital was very close to his heart, and despite failing health, he remained fully involved in the hospital's various affairs till the end. Given his age and a steadily weakening heart, it seemed as if during his last days Allah directly imbued him with extra willpower to continue making a difference in people's lives via this hospital.

Apart from his volunteer work with organisations, Mian Sahib also used to quietly help out needy people from his personal pocket. Sometimes even his closest family members had no idea about the people he had been helping. Such people even included his fruit vendor and a local bookseller whom Mian Sahib used to patronise. I learned of the bookseller, who now has a well-established business in Lahore, when I went there with Mian Sahib and was surprised when the bookseller refused to charge me when he saw my grandfather accompanying me. When I asked my grandfather why the bookseller did not take any money, he narrated to me the story of how he had helped the bookseller out at one point in time so now he feels obliged not to take any money from him.

Another aspect of Mian Fazl-e-Ahmad's personality that many people may not be aware of was his love for books and literature. He especially used to enjoy Urdu poetry and kept a diary where he would note down any verses that would appeal to him. He was particularly moved by poetry written against tyranny and oppression and used to take great pleasure in reading and sharing such poetry.

At the same time he also had a lighter side to his personality. He specially liked to joke around with his grandchildren, and would patiently humour them at all times. When I would bring my toddler daughter, his great-granddaughter, to meet him, he would, with a twinkle in his eye, say that he is waiting for her to break something in the house.

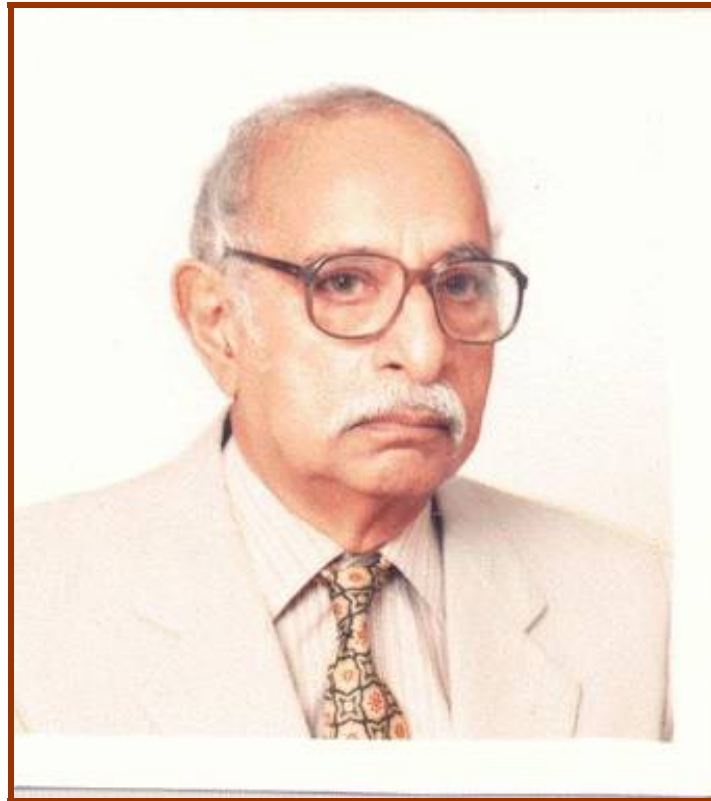
I think my grandfather, Mian Fazl Ahmad, truly lived his life according to the Quranic verses Nos. 22-24 in *Sura Al-Ra'd*: "And those who are steadfast seeking the pleasure of their Lord, and keep up prayer and spend of that which We have given them, secretly and openly, and repel evil with good; for such is the (happy) issue of the abode — Gardens of perpetuity, which they will enter along with those who do good from among their fathers and their spouses and their offspring; and the angels will enter in upon them from every gate. Peace be to you, because you were constant — how excellent is then the final Abode!"

May God give us all the strength to walk in Mian Sahib's footsteps. *Ameen!*

Javed Iqbal Mirza, Hala Enterprises, Lahore

It is with deep grief and sorrow that we have lost Mian Fazle Ahmad, who died on twelve Rabi ul Awal. May his soul rest in peace.

Photographs from Central Anjuman's files



Administering polio drops to a child



With President Mohammad Ayub Khan
at meeting of Anti TB Society



In discussion with Dr. Valentine,
a research scholar from UK



With members of the *Jama'at* at a wedding function

With delegates from abroad



Rashied Pierkhan, Hafiz Sher Mohammad,
Zafar Abdullah and others



In the company of Mrs. Jamila Khan,
Mrs. Razia Faruqui and Begum Tahira Fazl
at Darus Salaam, London, UK



With delegates from Trinidad



Hosting visitors at his residence



With Chaudhry Masud Akhtar and Dr. Zahid Aziz



With Dr. Hami from the UK, Prof. Aziz Ahmad, and other members of the Central Anjuman

Jalsa 2003



Salana Duaiyyah 2006









Hazrat Ameer Presenting a Souvenir to Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahib, December 2006

SURINAME

Dr Khaliel & Mary Ghafoerkhan

Remembering Br Fazl-i-Ahmad

Inna-Lillahi-Wa-Inna-Ilaihi-Rajioon.

We had already received this sad news from Nomanbhai and have conveyed our condolences to the bereaved family and to Hazrat Ameer and the *Jamaat*. Tomorrow after *Jummah*, *Insha'Allah*, we will pray *Gaibana-Janaza* for our dear brother, Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad, who visited Suriname a few times. Our hearts go out to dear Apa Tahira, her son and her daughter and their families. May Allah grant them courage and fortitude to bear this great loss, *Ameen*. Our prayers and thoughts are with them.

The first time I met Brother Fazl-i-Ahmad was in July 1984 in the VIP Lounge at our airport. Brother Fazl-i- had just arrived in Suriname as a member of the delegation from Pakistan with his dear wife Sister Tahira, , Hazrat Ameer Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan Saheb, and many others.

At the time I was the Secretary of the Opening Committee of our Jama Masjid, in charge of receiving our esteemed guests from abroad together with Mrs. Safioen Ilahibaks, President of the Ladies Committee.

I remember Brother Fazl-i- sitting quietly while Hazrat Ameer was talking with Zafar Abdullah and others about the last time he was here for the 50th anniversary of the SIV when the meetings were very long. I assured Hazrat Ameer that this time things would be different, that the programmes were timed etc. We had lots of fun, laughing and joking.

The inauguration of the mosque and the International Convention all went very well. Before we knew it was time to say goodbye to our dear guests who had made our endeavour so successful. The last meeting before their departure was at our residence where all the guests had their lunch. I still remember Sister Tahira's delight when she found some Chinese food on the table too. After the lunch all prayed *namaaz* in our bedroom and then left for the airport.

Later, we received a report from Markaz about the visit to Suriname and I remember Brother Fazl-i- writing also about the farewell lunch at our home.

If I am not mistaken Br.Fazl-i-Ahmad was also here in 1999.

He had then again invited us to come to Lahore and be his guests. And as Hula Pierkhan had put it: "Your (Chalice's and my) trip to Lahore is long overdue!" So finally we arrived in Lahore in Dec. 2002 for the *Salana Jalsa*, meeting all our sisters and brothers there and witnessing the appointment of our new Hazrat Ameer Dr. Abdul Kareem Pasha.

Brother Fazl-i and Sister Tahira had also invited us for dinner at their residence. When you look at the photos you will see that we enjoyed both their company and the food.

Apart from the *Jalsa* we met several times for dinners and teas and Brother was also very kind to send his car with driver to take Sister Warranty and me for shopping, accompanied by the sweet wife of Brother Anwar. On Jan. 2nd 2003 we left Lahore for a very short visit to Multan and (via Karachi and Dubai) returned to New Delhi where we participated in the festivities of the First Privacy Divas (Indian Diaspora) inaugurated by P.M. Sheri Atlas Vaypaysingh on Jan. 9th 2003.

The sad news that Br. Fazl-i-Ahmad had returned to Allah was a great shock for us. We informed our President, Br. Majidkhan Abdul, who also sent his condolences to Hazrat Ameer and the grieving family and arranged the *Ghaibana-Janazah* in our Jama Masjid for our dear, departed brother, after the *Jummah-namaaz*.

Our prayer is that Allah will bless our brother for all his good works during his life and grant him a very nice place in His Paradise, *Ameen*.

May Allah also give strength and forbearance to dear Sister Tahira, her children and grand-children to bear this great personal loss. Our hearts go out to them and our prayers are with them. May Allah bless them all.





Sheik Mian Muhammad visiting his Mission Trust in Holland in 1956

Sitting from left to right: Sheik Mian Muhammad & Mr Ali Guman

Standing from left to right: Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad, Twahir Mohammedajob & Dr. Khaliel Ghafoerkhan



Unveiling of plaque ceremony, Paramaribo, 1984



Majidkhan Abdul, Dr Saeed Ahmad Khan & Mian Fazl-i Ahmad



Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad seen here with Prof. Ahmadi & Khaliel enjoying dinner at a Chinese restaurant hosted by the President of the ladies *Jamaat*, Sis. Zubaida



Mary and Khaliel with their hosts, Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad & Sis. Tahira

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

We of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Literary Trust of Trinidad & Tobago are very pleased to pay tribute to one of the stalwarts of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement, the late Mian Fazl-i Ahmad.

We were privileged to have been in his company during his visit to Trinidad in 1984, when he had accompanied out late *Amir*, Khan Bahadur Dr Saeed Ahmad, in August of that year.

Before coming to Trinidad, we were well aware of his involvement in various activities of the Central Anjuman as it continued in its propagation work locally and internationally.

We were all very happy to be in his company when he visited Suriname at one of the Ahmadiyya conventions there. His advice at all times was that as Ahmadees we devote our time and energy for the propagation of Islam through the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement.

We, Ahmadees of Trinidad and Tobago, extend to our present *Amir*, the members of the Central Anjuman, and the family of the late Mian Fazl-i Ahmad our deepest condolences on his departure from this earthly existence.

May Allah reward him for all that he has done and forgive him for any faults he may have committed knowingly or unknowingly.

At our mosque in Fireburn, we offered *Janaza Gaibina* for our late brother.



Mian Fazl-i Ahmad speaking to a gathering of AhmadIs at the Fireburn Mosque, Trinidad in August 1984. Sitting on his right are the late Hazrat Ameer Dr Saeed Ahmad Khan & Mr Enayat Mohammed

UNITED KINGDOM

Message from *The Light*, UK Edition

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the death, in Lahore on 1st April, of *Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad sahib*, a senior-most figure in the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Lahore — *inna li-llahi wa inna ilaihi raji'un*. He reached 89 years of age on the day of his sad demise.

The *Mian sahib* was a son-in-law of Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali and son of Shaikh Mian Muhammad who had held the office of President of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Isha'at Islam Lahore for a time in the 1950s. The *Mian sahib* himself was for long Financial Secretary of the Ahmadiyya Anjuman Lahore and Chairman of its Foreign Missions Committee. In this latter capacity, and by virtue of his many visits outside Pakistan, he was well known in the foreign branches of the Anjuman in Europe and North and South America. The *Mian sahib* gave much time, money and energy for the work of the Anjuman over many decades. He extended his warm and gracious hospitality to many visitors from Ahmadiyya branches abroad who went to Lahore and he helped them in every way during their stay.

While being a wealthy industrialist, he was at the same time a highly refined and cultured man. He was sociable and genial with everyone equally, whether they were high or low, rich or poor. He addressed gatherings of the *Jama‘at* on many occasions and his speeches, usually impromptu, always suited the moment and captured the mood of the audience perfectly.

The *Mian sahib* was a very engaging raconteur and conversationalist. One incident he related was that once he went to see a friend, a leading businessman, and he found there another visitor already with his friend. The visitor was a leading *Maulana* of the *Jama‘at Islami*, a religious-cum-political party in Pakistan which is in the forefront of branding Ahmadis as non-Muslim. The friend introduced the two, and told his visitor that Mian

sahib was a Lahore Ahmadi. The Mian sahib instantly said to the Maulana: “Please make me a Muslim,” referring to the fact that Ahmadis, of course, already do what is required to make a person a Muslim, namely, profess the *Kalima*. The *Maulana* laughed and replied: “Let it go, Mian sahib. All this is just politics.” Here, then, is a confession, albeit privately, by a leading figure of the *Jama‘at Islami* that declaring Ahmadis as non-Muslim is nothing other than political power play, having no connection with any religious issue.

We extend our condolences to Mian Fazl-i -Ahmad sahib’s wife, Tahira begum, and other family members, and pray that Allah grants him forgiveness, receives him into His mercy, raises his grades in the hereafter and makes him join the righteous servants who departed earlier — *Ameen*.

Eulogy in Poetry

Though I still wish I could stop your pain.
 You must struggle,
It’s a constant battle.
 Do good, be good,
I did, as much as I could.
 If you keep fighting *iblis*,
You will be rewarded with bliss.
 The garden is yours forever,
The bushes, the trees, the hedges,
 Then he made his exit and to Allah he returned,
I cried a river and my stomach churned,
 I reached for him in my sleep,
I did not realise and began to weep.
 It is by his example we will benefit,
That is the greatest reward and gift.
 May he rest in everlasting peace,
May we follow him complete,
 He is with us all,
He saves our soul.
 Please remember him especially on this day,
From the straight path we must never stray.

Dr. Zahid Aziz

One reason which prompts me to write this tribute is that Mian Fazl-i -Ahmad sahib himself used to pay tribute to those who died, and he also used to speak in memory of the earlier departed ones of the *Jamaat*.

I first met Mian sahib in 1979 in Manchester, England, in connection with the reprinting of our English translation of the Quran. Mr Nasir Ahmad was also present at our meeting, due to his involvement in that work. The *Mian sahib* was a gracious host to us in the hotel where he and his wife were staying.

After that meeting, I met him several times in Lahore over the years. He always showed regard and respect for my family, both on my father's and my mother's side. He once told me in detail how he enjoyed a *Nikah khutba* by my maternal grandfather, Maulana Abdul Haq Vidyarthi, given in Lyallpur (now known as Faisalabad), and mentioned in particular an amusing anecdote related by the *Maulana* during the *khutba*.

Some time after my paternal grandfather, Dr Allah Bakhsh, had died in England, Mian sahib became anxious that something should be written about him. Later on, it was as a result of his urging that a memorial in Urdu was issued with contributions from some people.

My father related that once, in the early 1980s, a U.K. *Jamaat* group with some people from Pakistan was travelling to Holland in a hired coach for a convention. My father happened to be sitting alone in the coach, and seeing this the *Mian sahib* immediately came over and joined him and engaged in pleasurable conversation for a long time.

Years later, in 1998, when my father died and his body was taken to Lahore for burial, the *Mian sahib* was in the forefront of those who visited us where we were staying. I recall him saying during that visit: Even if our people live abroad for 30 or 40 years, their hearts still live in Pakistan and they come back to be buried here.

The *Mian sahib* and his wife were also frequent visitors to my mother-in-law, Mrs Razia Madad Ali, who died in July 2006.

In the annual gathering of December 1996, following the death of Hazrat Dr Saeed Ahmad, the *Main sahib* paid him a great tribute in his speech. He recalled how it was due to Hazrat Dr Saeed Ahmad's wise and far-sighted handling of the adverse situation in 1984, after the anti-Ahmadiyya ordinance was implemented by the government, that the *Jamaat* was able to continue functioning (under the truncated name Ahmadiyya Anjuman Lahore) and continue holding the annual gathering under the new name of *Dua-iyya* instead of *Jalsa*.

The *Mian sahib* always had a deep concern for the *Jamaat* and over the years he helped members in many ways, such as finding employment for the poor. He shared in occasions of both joy and grief with any member, however humble he may be.

I have seen the *Mian sahib's* daughter and her sons setting an enviable example of serving the *Jamaat*. May Allah enable them to continue in this path.

May Allah grant forgiveness to Mian Fazl-i Ahmad sahib and admit him into His mercy and join him with the righteous who departed earlier, *Ameen*.



Dr Allah Baksh (centre) & Shahid Aziz (right) in the company of Mian Fazl-i Ahmad during the annual *Jalsa* of 1978 or 1979. In the background is Darus Salaam.



Suriname convention, August 1999

Shahid Aziz, Secretary, AAII, UK

I got to know Mian Fazle Ahmad sahib when I first went to Pakistan at Hazrat Amir, Dr Saeed Ahmad sahib's invitation. From that time every time I went to Pakistan he would not only be present in the meetings of the Executive but also hold private meetings with me. He always had the Centre's interest at heart and from the time of the Holland Muslim Mission.

At the time of the second Holland convention Mian sahib constantly talked about the purchase of a building in the UK to serve as the Centre here. His happiness at our purchase of Dar-us-Salaam know no bound. He came to its opening ceremony and spoke to the Executive at great length about how to strengthen the *Jamaat*.

On all of his trips he would try to spend time on visiting book shops and publishers to push *Jamaat's* literature. I believe he was the one who arranged a contract with Dr Salaam to have the English translation of the Holy Quran by Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali printed in the US. Hind sight is a great teacher and some people now criticise that decision now that the situation is different and various *Jamaat's* can print the books themselves.

I remember Mian Sahib going to Foyles and other book shops to prepare the ground for us and members of the *Jamaat* would then follow and get orders. I have reason for personal gratitude as well. Once when I needed some assistance in a business matter. He invited me to go and see him to discuss the matter. I forgot and Mian sahib wrote to me in UK asking me why I hadn't gone to see him. When my son needed to promote his business Mian sahib again did his best to help him. And on one occasion I publicly criticised Mian Sahib, as it turned out wrongly. When I discovered what I had done I apologised to him. Mian sahib graciously accepted my apology and never mentioned the matter again and continued to treat me with his usual kindness and invitations to his house whenever I visited Lahore.

May Allah bless his soul and may his children live up to their father's example.

UNITED STATES

Dr. Noman Malik

It is a with great sense of loss that I inform you of the sad demise of my dear khaloojan Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad who passed away this afternoon in Lahore Pakistan. *Inna Lillahi wa inna Ilaihi Raajioon.*

May Almighty Allah admit him to His Mercy and Grant him a place in paradise.

Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad had a long and dedicated service to Ahmadiyya Jamaat, serving on the *Majlis -i-Muntizma* of the Central Anjuman Lahore. Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad was the son of Mian Mohammad and son-in-law of Maulana Muhammad Ali. We turn to Almighty Allah in this hour of grief for strength and patience.

Zafar Abdullah, President AAII, Hayward, California

I met Mian Fazle Ahmad in Lahore, Pakistan in 1968 in the office of the late Ameer Maulana Sadruddin. After completing my University education I came to Pakistan to receive Islamic training. Mian Sahib was introduced to me as the grandson in law of Maulana Muhammad Ali and the son of the late Mian Muhammad

of Lyallpor. I learned a great deal about Mian Sahib from my father Maulana Muhammad Abdullah. Mian sahib wanted to give me a scholarship to study Islam in Jordon town when I was a young man.

While in Pakistan I attended *Jumah* prayers at the mosque in Muslim town. I attended classes at the mosque and lived in a hostel for foreign students. Mian Sahib, his wife and son attended *Jumah* prayers every Friday at the mosque. Mian Sahib and his wife also attended and bi-weekly Quran Study conducted by Mian Naseer Ahmad Fariqui. I had an opportunity to get to know him and his family well during this time.

As President of the *Jamaat* Mian Sahib was an active member. Over the years he held many positions on the Board of Directors of the Central Anjuman. He was chairman of several important committees. The last position he held before his death was as Chief Financial Officer.

In 1980 Main Sahib travelled to California in order to have bypass surgery at Stanford Hospital. He stayed with my family and me during his recovery. I was amazed that he kept in touch with the board of directors by phone and mail during his recovery period. He was very dedicated and took his responsibilities to the *Jamaat* very seriously, despite his compromised health.

Two years ago I had the opportunity to meet with Mian Sahib in Pakistan. During our meeting he was in good spirits. Although he was frail and weak from age, he was still active and very involved in every aspect of the local and global *Jamaats*.

The Anjuman and world community is highly indebted to the contributions of Mian Sahib in the cause of Islam. The *Jamaat* would not be where it is today without his financial support, time and commitment. He had wonderful sense of humour, was committed to the members of the *Jamaat*, his family and to all who knew him. He will be gravely missed. May Allah give him peace in *Janaat*.

Masud Akthar Choudry, Secretary, AAII, Hayward, CA

An e-mail message from the Central Anjuman on April 1, 2007 bearing news of the passing away of Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahib was like a shockwave which rendered all of us in deep grief. *Inna Lilah-i-wa-inna-Ilehi-Rajeoon*. May Allah rest his soul in eternal peace and grant strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable personal loss with patience and fortitude. *Ameen*.

Only a few days back, during a short visit to Pakistan in March, 2007, I and my son Monee had met Mian Sahib in Friday prayers at Darussalam Mosque and he had invited us to breakfast with him and have a chat at the dining table. We initially had a plan to visit him therefore we made a promise to him to come to see him. Unfortunately, due to shortage of time we could not make good our promise, and now this will remain a constant prick in the mind for our whole life.

While we were awaiting departure of our flight, Mian Sahib phoned and asked, "How come you are returning without a meeting with us?" I expressed my sorrow on not being able to steal some time during the ten days visit in which I went to Karachi, Okra and Faisalabad and promised that, *InshaaAllah*, we will again visit Pakistan in December of 2007 and will stay at Lahore for some days and will definitely break bread with him.

Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahib was my benefactor and I had the good fortune of knowing him from very close quarters as I had worked as General Manager of Hala Industries Ltd. For a few years, Mian Sahib was the Chairman of Tee Jay Corporation Ltd. I found him to be a person possessed of sterling character. Allah had favoured him with great qualities of heart and mind. In all his relationships, whether of family, friends or *Jamaat*, he was highly compassionate, sincere and devoted. His self control, forbearance, humility and

pleasant nature were exemplary. He had a habit of completely trusting those who worked with him or for him. He used to treat his employees and colleagues with respect and honour and never made anyone to feel annoyed with him. Anyone who once came into contact with him in any capacity would become his admirer because of his non-egoistic, pleasant and polite demeanour.

Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahib had been rendering services for the cause of the *Jamaat* since long. Since the nineteen fifties he had been in charge of the publishing and sale of books of the *Jamaat*. He had been President of the Lahore (Local) *Jamaat* for many terms. He had been a member of the *Motamadeen* (General Council) and *Muntazima* (Executive body) of the Central Anjuman since the late nineteen fifties. He had been Chairman of the Foreign Missions Committee since the nineteen eighties. He had also been Financial Director of the Central Anjuman since the nineteen eighties.

He rendered services to the cause of Hamadryad very devotedly. Just to illustrate his dedication to the cause and interest of the *Jamaat* I will like to relate one instance. When, after the Land Reforms, a major portion of land in Chawk No. 6 in Okra had been taken away, the Anjuman was still holding the remaining land for some years, though it was not, economically speaking, a profitable matter. After the anti-Hamadryad stance of the Bhutto Government one was not sure as to what other drastic measures may be resorted to by that Government for their political expedience. Under those conditions the Central Anjuman decided to sell the remaining land at Okra. Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahib was assigned the task of selling these lands. Agricultural lands in that area were quite expensive and if disposed through public sale could bring quite a good price. But the snag was that the sale was not to be made public and thus purchasers had to be found from among the members of the *Jamaat*. Mian Sahib discussed this matter with me.

On market enquiry it had come to our notice that the offer received was less than the going market price. Mian Sahib was faced with a difficult situation. He did not like to give away the Anjuman's lands on less than the market value, there being no other bidder or offer – the only offer which was available in those circumstances was likely to be accepted. There were some non-Ahmadi acquaintances who were willing to buy at the market price, but non-Ahmadi bids could not be put in. Mian Sahib found an Ahmadi willing to join with non-Ahmadi acquaintances and on the next day a competing bid based on the going market price was placed on file. This compelled the original bidder to revise their offer and the land was sold to them on the basis of that revised offer. This one instance should suffice to show how devotedly Mian Sahib guarded the interest of the Anjuman.

After my migration to the U.S.A., we kept in touch with each other through regular correspondence. Whatever I could not say to our elder leaders, due to high esteem and respect in which we held them, I could freely write to Mian Sahib. Our correspondence, which continued till September 2003, invariably pertained to discussing the *Jamaat* affairs and discussing the ways and means of overcoming the challenges faced by the Movement. As In-Charge of Foreign Missions Committee such an exchange of views was a part of his duties. After September 2003, e-mails became the mode of correspondence.

Mian Sahib was a very compassionate person. The late Muhammad Sail Nor informed me that when Mian Sahib's father, the late Mian Muhammad, had gone to Holland for the opening of the Mian Muhammad Trust Mission at Holland with Sheikh Muhammad Quail as Missionary employee of that Trust, the charge of Premier Textile Mills was left with Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahib who, during that period, granted stipends to scores of needy students, satchet payments to widows and hospital treatment bills of poor, ailing persons on a monthly basis. On resuming charge of the Mills, when those bills were presented to the late Mian Muhammad Sahib, he exclaimed, "I did not know my son is so generous and compassionate." And he honoured these commitments.

Mian Sahib was the President of Pakistan T.B. Association and a Trustee of the Mian Muhammad Trust Hospital and occasionally used to mail us appeals for donation to these institutions. He was also a life

member of the Pakistan Flour Mills Association. During General Ayub Khan's time he had been Advisor to the Governor of West Pakistan for industrial development. He held a B.Com degree from the University of Punjab.

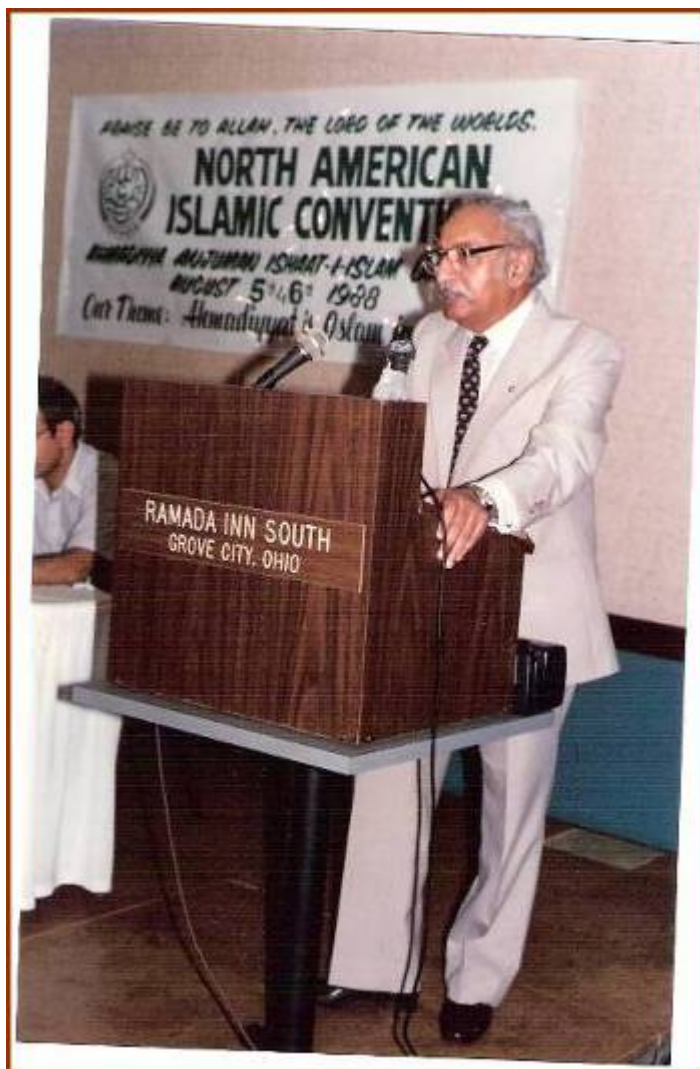
In his death we have lost an illustrious member of our *Jamaat*, a sincere and devoted friend and a kind brother. With his death an era in the *Anjuman* comes to an end.

The Secretary, Oakland Mosque, California

We are very sad to hear about Mr. Mian Fazal Ahmed Saheb. May his soul rest in peace. May Allah give his family strength in this time of grief.

Captain Abdus Salam Khan, California

The late Mian Fazal-e-Ahmed was the illustrious scion of a very remarkable Ahmadi family. Apart from being my brother-in-law (he was married to my cousin), he had been a colleague, mentor and friend in need for the past half century. We will miss you, Mian Sahib. May your soul rest in peace in the highest reaches of heaven. *Ameen*.



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