



In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

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

HeaOng**Onging Projects, Education******



(Vol. 3:2)

August 2008

AAIIL Worldwide Edition

Editor: Akbar Abdullah

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

INTRODUCTION

It gives us great pleasure to review the significance of the letters embodied in our esteemed magazine, *The HOPE Bulletin*:

1. The letter (**H**) in **HOPE** stands for **Health** of members in the worldwide Ahmadi communities. So far, we have done well to cover this aspect of reporting. We urge our global members not to hesitate to send us prayer requests for their loved ones and any other ailing members in their community.
2. The letter (**O**) in **HOPE** stands for **Ongoing**, and (**P**) stands for **Projects**. The timely production of *The HOPE Bulletin*, including supplements and scores of Special International Editions, can be considered as one of our successful **Ongoing Projects**. Besides this, we periodically report the Central Anjuman's progress on the publication of *Jama'at* literature. *Alhamdollillah!* We have given detailed coverage of this activity under the Publication Section in this month's issue.
3. The letter (**E**) stands for **Education**. The California *Jama'at*, as previously reported, participates with the Central Anjuman in funding a useful financial aid program for the needy children of our *Jama'at* in Pakistan. Each year, Central Anjuman conducts *Tarbehiti* classes at Darus Salaam to enhance the knowledge of Islam and Ahmadiyyat of Ahmadi children in Pakistan and visiting students from abroad. We have published Br Amir Aziz's report on this outstanding project under the section "*Jama'at* Activities." Hazrat Ameer wrote briefly on this subject:

"Would like to share the E(ducation) news as we have had a very successful *Tarbehiti* course attended by 162 children grouped in four according to age criteria."

We strongly urge other global *Jama'ats* to submit their reports for publication on the subject of "**Health**," "**Ongoing Projects**," and "**Education**."

www.aaiil.org

JAMA 'AT NEWS

Activities of the Central Anjuman, Lahore, Pakistan

Brother Amir Aziz, General Secretary, AAIL Lahore, submitted the following report on the outstanding performance of Central Anjuman:

1. A very successful Annual *Tarbiyyati* Course 2008

Central Anjuman has organized a very successful *Tarbiyyati* Course. Almost 200 students attended from all over Pakistan. The Course was divided into three schools: Primary School, Middle School and Senior School. More than 20 subjects were taught and all the teachers and students showed outstanding performance.

Mufti Mumtaz Alam Sahib of India also participated in the course and he was so impressed by it that he requested the Center to organize such a course in Delhi, India next year.

Tayyab Aftab stood first in the final exam in the Senior School. He was awarded the Asif Hameed Gold Medal, the Shahibzada Abdul Latif Saheed Shield and the Sahleha Zahoor Ahmad cash prize.

Sandal Aftab stood first in the Middle School and was awarded the Hamida Rahman Gold Medal, the Prof. Khalil Ur Rahman Shield and the Saleha Zahoor Ahmad cash prize.

A football tournament was held for the boys and a badminton tournament was organized for the girls. An educational trip was also organized for the participants.

2. Installation of water filtration plant

With the help of a donor, a water filtration plant has been installed in Darul Islam. Now the residents of Darus Islam and guests of AAIL can enjoy pure filtered water free of cost.

3. Free distribution of literature

By the grace of Allah Almighty, the Center is distributing its literature free of cost. We believe to present our message to the masses across.

4. *Mujadid-e-Azam*

A complete set of *Mujadid-e-Azam*, a great work by Dr. Basharat Ahmad, is now available with a very attractive title cover.

5. Publication efforts of the Central Anjuman

See the Publication Section for details.

***Tabligh* by Br. Nizam ud Dean of Masjid Noor, Suva, Fiji**

JazakAllah! With the intense *tabligh* efforts of Br Nizam ud Dean, Br Ghufrun finally accepted Ahmadiyyat and we all welcome him into our fold. All praise is due to Allah (and Allah alone). – *Editor*.

My dear brother Ghufrun:

Asslaam alaikum.

Allah be praised! You have become an Ahmadi in spite of all the opposition from everyone around you. May Allah *Subhano Tallah* help you through your difficulties and provide you and your family with support. I am aware that it is not easy being an Ahmadi in your country, and you have sacrificed so much to follow the truth.

I am copying this email to Brother Amir Aziz and you will be able to take the *Bai'at* at his hand when he next visits Karachi. Ask Brother Amir to give you the addresses of some Ahmadis in Karachi and you may be able to contact them and get some guidance from them. Keep away from the Qadianis.

Allah will surely help you. Pray to Him daily and ask for help. I pray for you daily and ask for Allah's help for you. May Allah *Talla* reward you and help you for your *iman*.

Activities of AAIIIL Jama'at, Hayward, California

Br Choudry Akthar Masud and his Begum have been in California during the last two months visiting their son, Dr. Qasim Choudry. *Alhamdollillah!* During his stay in California, Choudry Akthar Masud Sahib has been holding weekly Qur'an *dars* in members' homes in rotation.

PRAYER & HEALTH NEWS

Sister Sharmeen's illness

***Du'a* from Mohammad Mustafa**

Assalam-o-Alaikum.

We are very sorry to hear that Sister Sharmeen is ill and recuperating in Pakistan after a serious medical procedure. Our *dua* is with her. May Allah give her speedy recovery. *Aameen.*

***Du'a* from Sis Safia and Br Ali Asghar**

Thanks for your mail. We pray for sister Sharmeen for complete and speedy recovery.

Condolences on the passing away of the late Br Mian Mubarik Ahmad

A.S. Abdul Santoe, Representative, European Region

It is with great sorrow that we have learned of the tragic demise of your dear brother, Mian Mubarik Ahmad Sahib. *Inna lillaahi wa inna elaihi raji'un.*

The untimely loss of a dear one is always a trial to the deprived family, but we should take consolation that the soul of the deceased has already reached its final stage to be reunited with the Almighty, a destiny awaiting all of us. We can only pray to Allah (*swt*) to grant the soul of the deceased *maghfirat* and bestow upon him blessings and eternal peace in *Jinnatul firdaus*. *Ameen.*

Also, on behalf of all members here, I extend to you and all members of the deprived families our sincerest sympathy and condolence with this sad demise of Mian Mubarak Ahmad Sahib.

Shaukat A. Ali, Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Region

We are very deeply saddened to learn that Mian Mubarik Ahmad has left this world to meet with our Maker. *Inna-lillahe wa inna Ilaihi Rajioon.*

We pray that Compassionate and Merciful Allah grant his soul eternal peace and abode in the highest pedestal in *Jannatul Firdous – aameen.*

Please convey our deepest sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family and to the members of the *Jamaat* in particular Mian Umar Farooq sahib. May Allah (swt) grant all of them strength, *sabr* and solace to bear this sad loss.

Abid Raza, President, AAII, New Zealand

Indeed very sad to learn of the demise of Br Mian Mubarik Ahmad Sahib. "*Allazeena iza asabut hum museebatum qaloo inna Lillahi wa inna elaihi raajioon*" (... who when misfortune befalls them say: "Surely we are Allah's and to Him we shall return" (*Al-Baqarah, 2:156*).

May merciful Allah *O Suban O Talla* rest his soul in peace and also grant him a high place in *Janatal Firdoss* and give *sabr* to the deceased family to bear the loss. *Ameen.*

Shabir Buksh, Secretary, AAII, New Zealand

Please offer our condolence and heartfelt sympathy to the deceased family of dear brother Marhoom Mian Mubarik Ahamad Sahib who was called to meet the Maker (*Inna Lillahe wa Inna IlaihiRajeoon*) from myself and my family and from the NZ *Jamaat*. May Merciful Allah grant him a high place in *Janatal Firdoos*. *Ameen.*

Akbar Abdullah, Editor of *The HOPE Bulletin*

Dear Brother Mian Umar Farooq Sahib:

Assalam-o-Alaikum W.R.W.B.

I am deeply saddened to learn about the very sad and sudden demise of your beloved brother, Mian Mubarik Ahmad Sahib Marhoom, who passed away in Multan, Pakistan. *Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Iلهi Rajeeon.*

Please accept my deepest sympathy and condolence. Please also excuse the delay as I experienced a computer problem.

Here in the United States, our thoughts and prayers are that Allah Almighty, in His Infinite Mercy and Compassion, will grant eternal peace, solace and happiness to the dearly departed soul of your beloved brother, and bestow on him an abode in the highest pedestal of Heaven, *Jannate-Firdous (Aameen).*

All of us further wish that our Lord God, with His Cherished Blessings, will grant Mian Mubarak's surviving family and relatives a source of spiritual and physical strength and comfort in their grief and anguish to bear the burden of this irreparable personal loss (*Aameen*).

Condolence on passing away of the late Begum Tahira Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahiba

Riaz Ahmed Choudhary

We, the members of AAII Jammu India are deeply shocked on the demise of Begum Tahira Fazl-i-Ahmad, w/o the late Mian Fazl-i-Ahmad Sahib. We all pray to Almighty Allah to place the departed soul in the *Jawar-e-Rehmat*. *Amin. Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Iلهi Rajeeon.*

POEM

[A translation of Iqbal's poem on death by Capt. Abdus Salam Khan]

About death, a knowing mind doesn't worry like some,
To him, it is just a prelude for things yet to come.

Some think of it to be the end of life,
Nay, it is this life's eventide ... the dawn of an eternal life.

The end result of life's fire isn't a bowl of ashes,
It is not a pearl that one casually smashes.

Life seems so precious in Mother Nature's sight,
It has put the "self-preservation" code in everyone's inside.

If life's imprint could be erased easily by death,
Mother Nature wouldn't have made it common as our breath.

Understand well,
Think death to be naught.

Just like our life, which goes on,
Undisturbed by sleep's onslaught,

FEATURE ARTICLE

The greatest apostle of Allah By Dr Fazlur Rahman

[Dr. Fazlur Rahman is not an Ahmadi, but he presents many of Maulana Vidhyarti's viewpoints. – *Editor*]

Allah said (to the Bani Israel when they had been seriously admonished and punished for worshipping the idol of a calf):

"I visit with My punishment whom I will, but My Mercy is all-comprehensive, it extends to all things. It would not be after long when I would ordain it (My Mercy) for those who would observe piety, be regular in giving charity, those who would firmly believe in My verses. They are those who would follow the Messenger, the Unlettered Prophet, whom they would find mentioned in their Scriptures, the Law (Torah) and the Gospel. He would command them what is right, forbid them what is evil, allow them what is pure and good, prohibit them from what is impure and bad, release them from the heavy burdens, and the yokes which were upon them. So, those who have believed in him, honoured him, helped him, and have followed the Light sent down with him, are the ones who will prosper" (Qur'an, 7:156-157).

In these verses is a pre-figuring of the last and the greatest Apostle of Allah. Prophecies about him are found in the Taurat and the Injil. The following verses of the Torah also promise the coming of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

“The Lord said to me (Moses): What they say is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you among their brothers: I will put My words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. If anyone does not listen to My words that the Prophet speaks in My name, I will Myself call him to account” (Deuteronomy 18:17–9).

It is clear from these verses that what is meant by “a Prophet like you among their brothers” is a Prophet who will come from the line of Ishmael, since Ishmael is the brother of Isaac, who is the forefather of the Children of Israel. The only Prophet who came after Moses and resembled him in many ways, for example, in the bringing of new laws and the waging of war on his enemies, was the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

The Qur’an points to the same fact:

“We have sent to you a Messenger as a witness over you, even as we sent to Pharaoh a Messenger” (*Al-Muzzammil*, 73:15).

Among Christians, there are persons who claim this prophecy foretold by Moses to be in regards to Jesus. Indeed, Jesus was foretold in the Old Testament, but this prophecy does not befit him if we analyse the prophecy.

Moses foretold the following:

1. *The Prophet will be like Moses.* There is no likeness between Moses and Jesus. The resemblance is very prominent between the Prophet Muhammad and Moses. Both the Prophets had natural births while Jesus was miraculously born from virgin Mary. Both had father and mother; Jesus had no father due to which fact some believe him to be son of God. – [Author's viewpoint inconsistent with Ahmadiyya viewpoint. – *Editor*]

Both led normal family life, had children, while Jesus never married.- [Author's viewpoint inconsistent with Ahmadiyya viewpoint. – *Editor*] Both were accepted as prophets by their own people; Jesus was rejected by his people, the Jews, who tried to crucify him. “He (Jesus) came unto his own, but his own received him not” (John 1:11).

Both were victorious over their opponents, the one over Pharaoh who was drowned, the other conquered Makkah, Jesus is claimed by his believers to have been crucified by his enemies.

Both began their mission at forty years of age and died natural death. Jesus began his mission when he was thirty, and disappeared under mysterious conditions and is believed by his followers to be crucified.

Both are normal human beings, none of their followers believes them to be divine, the followers of Jesus believe him to be God incarnate.

2. *The Awaited Prophet will be from the brethren of the Jews.* The verse under discussion is explicit in saying that the prophet will be raised not from the Jewish nation, but Jesus was ethnically a Jew so the prophecy could never befit him. The promised prophet has to come from amongst the brethren of the Jews and who could they be except the descendants of Ismail, the Arabs.

The Jews are the descendants of Isaac’s son, Jacob. The Arabs are the children of Ishmael. And Isaac and Ishmael are two sons of Abraham from two different mothers.

Thus, the Arabs are the brethren of the Jewish nation, a fact borne by the Bible itself: “And he (Ishmael) shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren” (Genesis 16:12). “And he (Ishmael) died in the presence of all his brethren” (Genesis 25:18).

3. God will put His words in the mouth of the Awaited Prophet. The Qur’an says about Muhammad: “Neither does he speak out of his own desire: that is but a revelation with which he is being inspired” (53:3-4).

This corresponds to what is contained in the Genesis: “I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him” (18:18).

Now it is incumbent upon all who believe in the Bible that they must accept the prophethood of Muhammad, whether they be Jews or Christians, as they are enjoined by the Bible to do so.

The Bible also warns those who dare to reject the promised Prophet’s message. Likewise, the Prophet is foretold at several places in the New Testament, for example, John, xiv, 16; xv, 26; xvi, 7. Jesus Christ very clearly informs about the coming of “that Prophet.” To twist these prophecies to his own second advent or his resurrection is quite un-maintainable.

The Quranic message, while corroborating the prophecy of the Prophets Moses and Jesus, is very explicit that only those who believe in the prophethood of Muhammad honour him, help him, and follow the Light sent down with him would prosper, be successful.

Moreover, it lays down in extremely unambiguous words that unlike other apostles of God who were sent to particular nations, countries, or races and for specific periods of time, Prophet Muhammad has been sent to the whole of mankind and for all times to come.

The entire humanity is now duty bound to believe in the prophethood of Muhammad, to follow in his footsteps, to honour him, to help him in all possible ways, and to be led by the Light that has descended with him as this is the only available course of action to achieve success, prosperity and *falah*. If the People of the Book refuse to do so they would be transgressing the clear commandments of their scriptures, disobeying their Prophets and going astray from the right path.

PUBLICATION

This is a continuation of the report filed by Br Amir Aziz of Central Anjuman’s activities.

1. Literary work: Sets of books of Hazrat Mirza Sahib

Central Anjuman has published three volumes of Hazrat Mirza Sahib's book. These volumes contain more than 22 books of Hazrat Mirza sahib. All three sets are available from our Book Depot.

2. Translation of Hazrat Mirza sahib's books

Qazi Abdul Ahad Sahib and I have translated three books of Hazrat Mirza Sahib from Arabic into Urdu. These books have been published and are available in our Book Depot.

3. *Khutbat-e-Muhammad Ali*

The Center has achieved milestone in the history of the *Jammat* that it has published a complete set of Maulana Muhammad Ali's *Khutbat*. The whole set of 24 volumes of *Khutbat* is available from our Book Depot. Its unmatched work and will be the most beneficial work for the whole *Jammat* in future.

4. ***The Founder of Ahmadiyya Movement***

The book *The Founder of Ahmadiyya Movement* by Maulana Muhammad Ali sahib, revised by Dr. Zahid Aziz, has been published and is available from our Book Depot.

5. ***A Survey of Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement***

A Survey of Ahmadiyya Anjuman Lahore by Dr. Zahid Aziz has been published by the Center and is available from our Book Depot. It's a very useful book for Ahmadies as well as for non-Ahmadies. This book clarifies all misunderstandings about Hazrat Mirza sahib and about the Movement. It also covers the history, beliefs, aims and work of our Movement.

Comments by Dr. Zahid Aziz on reviews of English translations of the Holy Qur'an

Dr. Zahid Aziz circulated the following link on English translations of the Holy Qur'an:

<http://apu-aura.blogspot.com/2008/08/english-translations-of-quran-multiple.html>

Dr. Zahid Aziz, Editor of *The Light*, UK Edition, responded as follows:

“The forum which has reproduced this article should have laid it out more clearly so that we could see who is the author. After reading it carefully, I found the following near the end: ‘Khaleel Mohammed is an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies at San Diego State University.’

This is the author. He is, I think, from Guyana, and at one stage was in contact with the USA *Jamaat*.

Dr. Mohammad Ahmad of our *Jamaat* in Ohio has previously replied to his criticisms of Maulana Muhammad Ali's translation.

I have managed to trace the original source of his article, which is here: <http://www.meforum.org/article/717>.”

WHAT OUR READER SAY

From Fakhar Ud Din Ahmed

Dear and respectable brother,

Assalam-o-alaikum wa rahmatullah wa barakathu.

I cannot find words to offer my heartfelt joy and fervent prayers on the memorable work you have done on the preparation of "The Hope Bulletin" issue in memoriam of the late Mian Farooq Ahmed Sheikh, the illustrious son of a devoted and luminant follower of the Messiah of this time, Allah bless them and you as well.

Main sahib was an architect who built his mission pillar deep and raised it to the sky. May his soul rest in peace and the light kindled by him shine for ever.

Your humble brother.

From Nasir Ahmad, UK

My dear Brother Akbar,

Assalamo alaikum.

Thank you so much for compiling such an impressive supplement in memory of the late Sh. Mian Farooq Ahmad. Have you forwarded it to his daughter Shermeen, whose email address I forwarded to you?

From Mian Azhar Ud Din Ahmad, UK

Thanks for all your hard work for the late Mian Sahib. I am sure he will appreciate in the Heaven.

May Allah SWT give you more strength and power to do more work for the *Jammat. Amen*

From Ali Asghar Sahib

Dear Br. Akbar,

Jazak Allah for the Memorial Supplement of Mian Farooq Ahmad Sheikh Sahib Marhoom.

From Abid Raza – Change of address

Br Akbar,

A.A.

Please advise global members to send all future emails on this email: araza@xtra.co.nz. *Shukria.*

LESSON OF THE DAY

[Courtesy Br. Ameen Sahu Khan]

A young man had been to a Wednesday night class of Quranic studies. The *mualim* had shared about listening to Allah and obeying Him through intuition. The young man couldn't help but wonder, "Does Allah still speak to people through intuition?"

After lessons, he went out with some friends for coffee and pie and they discussed the message. Several different ones talked about how Allah had led them in different ways and that at the end you'll know it was Allah Who has directed you.

It was about ten o'clock when the young man started driving home. Sitting in his car, he just began to pray, "Allah ... if you still speak to people, speak to me. I will listen. I will do my best to obey."

As he drove down the main street of his town, he had the strangest thought to stop and buy a gallon of milk. He shook his head and said out loud, "Allah, is that You?" He didn't get a reply and started on toward home.

But again, the thought, buy a gallon of milk came into his head. "Okay, Allah, in case that is You, I will buy the milk." It didn't seem like too hard a test of obedience. He could always use the milk. He stopped and purchased the gallon of milk and started off toward home.

As he passed Seventh Street, he again felt the urge, "Turn down that street." This is crazy, he thought, and drove on past the intersection. Again, he felt that he should turn down Seventh Street. At the next intersection, he turned back and headed down Seventh. Half jokingly, he said out loud, "Okay, Allah, I will." He drove several blocks, when suddenly, he felt like he should stop. He pulled over to the curb and looked around. He was in a semi-commercial area of town. It wasn't the best but it wasn't the worst of neighbourhoods either.

The businesses were closed and most of the houses looked dark, like the people were already in bed. Again, he sensed something, "Go and give the milk to the people in the house across the street." The young man looked at the house. It

was dark and it looked like the people were either gone or they were already asleep. He started to open the door and then sat back in the car seat. "Allah, this is insane. Those people are asleep and if I wake them up, they are going to be mad and I will look stupid." Again, he felt like he should go and give the milk. Finally, he opened the door. "Okay Allah, if this is You, I will go to the door and I will give them the milk. If You want me to look like a crazy person, okay. I want to be obedient. I guess that will count for something, but if they don't answer right away, I am out of here."

He walked across the street and rang the bell. He could hear some noise inside. A man's voice yelled out, "Who is it? What do you want?" Then the door opened before the young man could get away.

The man was standing there in his jeans and T-shirt. He looked like he just got out of bed. He had a strange look on his face and he didn't seem too happy to have some stranger standing on his doorstep. "What is it?" The young man thrust out the gallon of milk. "Here, I brought this to you." The man took the milk and rushed down a hallway. Then from down the hall came a woman carrying the milk toward the kitchen. The man was following her holding a baby. The baby was crying. The man had tears streaming down his face.

The man began speaking and half crying, "We were just praying. We had some big bills this month and we ran out of money. We didn't have any milk for our baby. I was just praying and asking Allah to show me how to get some milk." His wife in the kitchen shouted, "I asked Him to send an angel with some. Are you an angel?" The young man reached into his wallet and pulled out all the money he had on him and put in the man's hand. He turned and walked back toward his car and the tears were streaming down his face. He knew that Allah (*swt*) still answers prayers.

HOPE Member Service

Recipe of the Month

Carrot soup

Ingredients

- 10 carrots, scraped and sliced
- 1 1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 cups water
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose (plain) flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 4 cups fat-free milk
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped

Method of Preparation

- In a large saucepan, heat the carrots, sugar and water.
- Cover and simmer until the carrots are tender, about 20 minutes.
- Drain the carrots, reserving some of the liquid. Set aside.
- In a separate saucepan, whisk together the flour, salt, pepper, nutmeg and milk.

- Cook over medium-high heat, stirring constantly until the white sauce thickens.
- In a blender or food processor, add the cooked carrots and white sauce.
- Puree until smooth.
- Add reserved liquid to desired consistency.
- Ladle into separate bowls and garnish each with 1 teaspoon parsley.

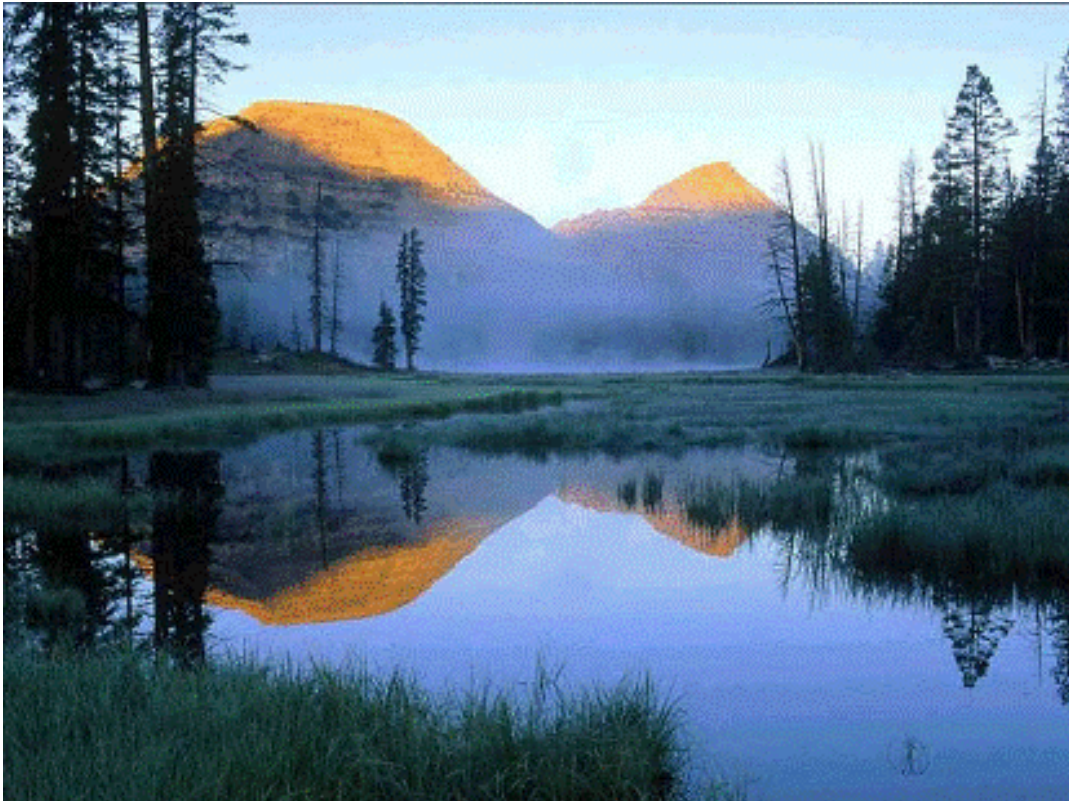
Serve immediately.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION

Scottish Song, “A Gift of a Thistle”
[Courtesy Captain Abdus Salam Khan]

The best kind of friend

Is the kind you can sit on a porch and swing with,
Never say a word, and then walk away
Feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.



It's true that we don't know what we've got until we lose it,
But it's also true that we don't know
What we've been missing until it arrives.



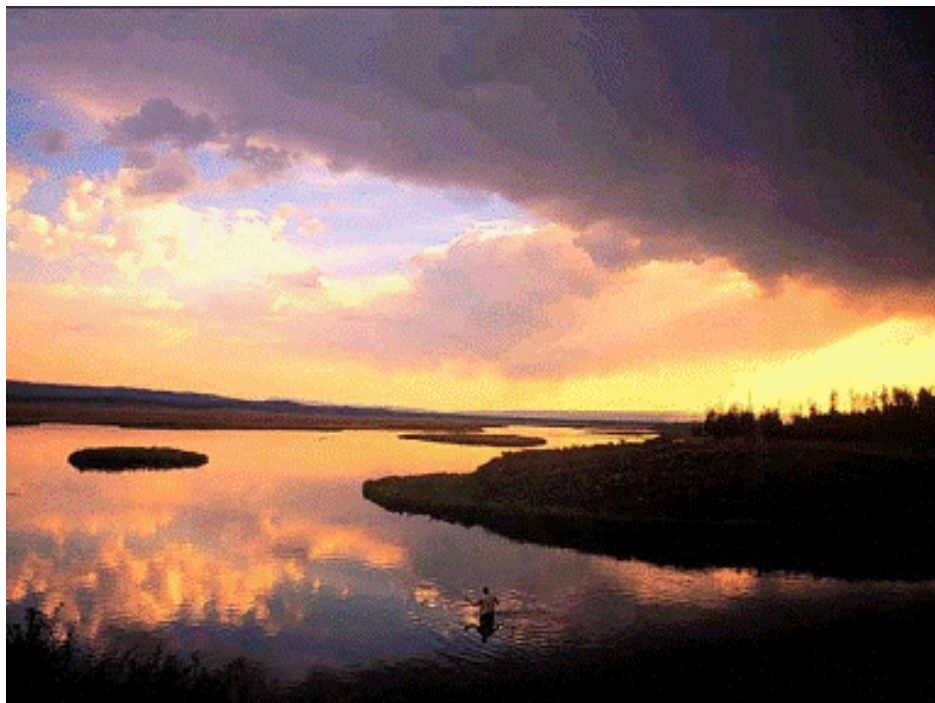
Giving someone all your love
Is never an assurance that they'll love you back!
Don't expect love in return;
Just wait for it to grow in their heart
But if it doesn't, be content it grew in yours.
It takes only a minute to get a crush on someone,
An hour to like someone,
And a day to love someone,
But it takes a lifetime to forget someone.



Don't go for looks; they can deceive.
Don't go for wealth; even that fades away.
Go for someone who makes you smile
Because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright.
Find the one that makes your heart smile.



May you have
Enough happiness to make you sweet,
Enough trials to make you strong,
Enough sorrow to keep you human,
Enough hope to make you happy.



Always put yourself in others' shoes.
If you feel that it hurts you,
It probably hurts the other person, too



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