



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

..... *The HOPE Bulletin*

Hhealth, Ongoing Projects, Education



Eid-ul-Adha

2008

in the

United Kingdom

INTRODUCTION

Akbar Abdullah, Editor

On behalf of *The HOPE Bulletin* team, I extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Mujahid Ahmad Saeed and Brother Nasir Ahmad Sahib of the AAIL *Jama'at*, United Kingdom, for submitting this inspiring report and memorable photograph that have enabled us to put together this special ***Eid-ul-Adha 2008 in the United Kingdom*** supplement.

EID AL-ADHA AT DARUS SALAM, WEMBLEY, UK

I would like to mention it with pride that our dates for the two *Eids* are announced quite beforehand, and so our members never find any difficulty in applying for holidays and to make arrangements for the *Eid* congregations. It is based on the calculations of the UK Observatory, according to the *visibility* and not the *birth* of the moon. It is as simple as that.

The credit for the calculations and the studying of various websites in this connection goes to our learned and hardworking member and editor of the monthly, *The Light*, Dr. Zahid Aziz. We fixed the dates for the last five years and, by the grace of Allah, they have never been wrong or caused any confusion. We are sure that by relying on this method of calculation based on data provided by the UK Observatory, and for that matter, on the basis of each country, we can easily fix the dates for the two *Eids* and remove the confusion which we usually see among Muslims not only in one country but even in the world – different groups celebrating *Eid* on different dates.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that this time, after a long time, *Eid al-Adha* was celebrated on the 8th of December in almost the whole of the UK, Europe, America and Saudi Arabia.

The time for the congregational *Eid* prayer was fixed for 11.00 o'clock so that families coming from as far away as Milton Keynes and Oxford can easily join the congregation. Congregational prayers were led by Mr. Nasir Ahmad and the sermon was delivered by Dr. Jawad Ahmad. Jawad is the grandson of the late Maulana Aftab-ud-Din Ahmad. This was the first time that Jawad, on the suggestion of our worthy president Mrs. Jameela Khan, delivered the *Eid* sermon. The subject was "Prophet Abraham – A life of supreme dedication, submission and sacrifice."

In his well-prepared and well-delivered sermon, Dr. Ahmad started his sermon with the recitation of verses 100-110 of Chapter 37 (*Abraham*). He enumerated the sacrifices of Prophet Abraham, and those made by Lady Hajarah and Prophet Ishmael by migrating to this barren and deserted place of the Ka'bah in Makkah in accordance with the command of Allah. There, both father and son rebuilt this first house of worship to Allah and made intense prayers for making it a place of peace and worship of the One True God – Allah. Prophet Abraham also prayed that Allah may raise a prophet from his progeny who may be blessed with everlasting blessings. In fulfilment of this promise the Holy Prophet (*saw*) was raised. He not only cleared the Ka'bah of the idols but established it as the unique centre for the worship of One God for all times to come. In this connection, he quoted Genesis 17:2, 3 of the Bible and 2:124 of the Qur'an. One part of this prophecy is fulfilled by the advent of the Holy Prophet (*saw*) and the Muslim *Ummah* sending salutations and blessings on the Prophet Abraham in their daily prayers.

He then dealt with the reason why dreams and visions need interpretation. Prophet Abraham (*as*) was so obedient to the command of Allah, even that given in a vision, that he did not try to seek interpretation of the vision, but was ready to sacrifice his first son. This sacrifice is not only unique in its own right but it established the Ka'bah as a permanent and unique house of worship of One God for all times to come. Dr.

Ahmad also quoted an impressive account of the pilgrimage by a British writer, Mrs. Sarah Joseph, editor of a prestigious monthly, *EMEL* (London), and Mr. Abdus Sattar Edhi of Pakistan, world-renowned for his meritorious humanitarian services, about their feelings while going round the Holy Ka'bah.

Then Mrs. Jameela Khan, our worthy president, read out Hazrat Ameer Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim's *Eid al-Adha* message. Mrs. Khan also conveyed *Eid* messages from individuals and *Jama'ats* abroad and those who could not attend the *Eid* congregation. Her closing remarks of appreciation and encouragement are always beautiful and impressive, with intervals of interesting remarks which people always enjoy.

After the sermon, a very enjoyable programme for children was conducted by Mr. Hamad Ahmad. Twin 10-year-old granddaughters of Mr. and Mrs. Shahid Aziz, Rahat and Jannat, read out short talks about Prophet Abraham, who was fully prepared to sacrifice his beloved son Ishmael, but whom Allah stopped and asked to sacrifice a lamb instead. It was followed by a recitation of the Holy Qur'an of the first section of the second chapter, *Al-Baqarah*, by Simrah Khayam. Little Fatima Zahra Saeed tried to say *Allah-o Akbar*. Irfaan Ahmad (eight years) then made an impressive speech about Prophet Abraham's unique sacrifice of his son Prophet Ishmael followed by little Shayaan (6 years), who read with confidence a story about Prophet Abraham's (*as*) inquisitiveness about who created the stars, the moon and the sun. This was followed by a recitation of *Ayatul Kursi* (Throne of Power) from the Holy Qur'an with its English translation by our regular participant, Faizaan Ahmad (12 years). The last child was Inshaal Ahmad (13 years), who read a beautiful poem, "*Eid al-Adha*", which he had composed a day earlier.

Mrs. Caneeza Ali-Ashgar, a devoted member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Literary Trust of Trinidad and Tobago, who was on a visit to the UK and who kindly made an effort to attend the *Eid* congregation along with her daughter Shahnaz Samad, was invited to contribute two poems of the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, in her melodious voice. She has already launched two cassettes of her poem recitations. One of the poems she presented was about the beauty of *Surah Fatihah*.

This brought to an end a very interesting session of the children adorned with beautiful contributions with the innocent glow of happiness on their faces.

The formal programme for *Eid al-Adha* came to a close with the fervent prayers of the Qur'an and *Hadith* with English translation recited by Dr. Zahid Aziz seeking Allah's blessings for the welfare of the members of the *Jama'at* and Allah's mercy and cure for the ailing friends and near and dear ones, especially Dr. Muhammad Ahmad Hami in Pakistan, Sis. Akela Haroun in the USA, Br. Khan Muhammad, Sisters Sheela Aziz, Sameena Selim Ahmad and Mrs. Aziz Ahmad in the UK. Allah's peace and mercy were also beseeched for the Muslims in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, Kashmir and in other countries where our fellow brothers and sisters are being persecuted and tyrannised.

Afterwards, a delicious lunch was served to the congregation. It was contributed by Mrs. Jameela Khan and Mr. & Mrs. Zahid Aziz.

Before people left, *Zuhr* and *'Asr* congregational prayers were jointly offered and were led by Dr. Mujahid Saeed.

We are reproducing below the contributions made by the children.

IDOLS DON'T SPEAK

by Irfaan Ahmad

Prophet Abraham (pbuh) turned to his father and his people and asked them: "Why do you worship these idols?"

They replied: “We saw our fathers and forefathers worshipping the idols.”

Prophet Abraham reasoned: “Well then, your fathers and forefathers have done wrong. No, your Lord is the Lord Who created the heavens and the earth and He created them and I am of those who bear witness to this.”

One day Prophet Abraham found himself alone with the idols. He broke all of them into pieces except for the chief idol. When the people returned they were horrified at what they saw.

They shouted: “Hast thou done this to our gods, O Abraham?”

Prophet Abraham cleverly replied: “Surely someone has done it, why don’t you ask the chief idol if he can speak.”

Some people realized that what Prophet Abraham had said was true. They hung their heads in shame.

In this way Prophet Abraham (pbuh) revealed the truth to the people.

PROPHET ABRAHAM WONDERS

by Shayaan Ahmad

When Prophet Abraham was young, he looked at the world around him and thought deeply.

One dark night he looked up and saw a star. “This is my Lord” he said.

But the star eventually set. “I cannot love the star because it has faded,” he thought.

One day he watched a splendid moon rise. “This is my Lord,” he said. But the moon eventually set.

“I need Allah to guide me to the right path,” he reflected.

He watched the fiery red sun rising. “This is my Lord,” he said. “It is the brightest of all.”

But the earth followed its path around the sun and the sun soon faded in the horizon.

Prophet Abraham’s faith became firm and he realized that Allah must be the Lord and Creator of all things. Prophet Abraham searched for Allah sincerely and Allah guided him to the truth just like He guides the star, the moon and the sun.

EID-UL-ADHA

Inshaal Ahmad (13 years), Aylesbury, UK

(Great-grandson of the late Maulana Aftab-ud-Din Ahmad)

Eid-ul-Adha,
A day to remember.

We offer *qurbani*,
In the name of God Almighty.

Our aim should be to help the poor,
Allah will surely reward us with more.

Eid-ul-Adha follows the pilgrimage,
Where Muslims come from every town and village.

The pilgrimage of *Hajj* is the name,
The *ihram* symbolizes that we're all the same.

Hajj is important because it's one of the five,
One of the five on which Islam does thrive.

Of course I am talking about the five pillars of Islam,
So today on every Muslim farm,

A sheep, goat or lamb will be sacrificed.
For the poor it will act as a sort of prize.

When in trouble or need, we should refer to the Quran,
It helps us in every way it can.

Islam is under a lot of pressure in this day and age,
So we need to work together to rid this anti-Islam rage.

Brothers and sisters, it's the way we should be kind to each one and other,
After all, *Eid-ul-Adha* is to pray and get together.

Remember that this isn't just a way to get a day off work,
Instead make the most of it and *Eid Mubarak*.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION



















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