



Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

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

Health, Ongoing Projects, Education



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AAIIL Worldwide Edition

Editor: Akbar Abdullah

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

INTRODUCTION

Dr. Zahid Aziz, Editor of *The Light*, UK Edition, inspired us in his letter (reproduced below) to publish in book form the bio-sketches of Hazrat Mirza Sahib's companions and our *Jama'at's* founding fathers, which were translated from Urdu into English by our venerated brother, Choudry Akthar Masud, Secretary of AAIIL, California, USA, from the book *Yad-i Raftigaan* and appeared in the "All About Us" segment.

"I have always been greatly inspired by reading about the lives of our elders in our Urdu literature, and had wished that these were also available in English. So I am very happy to see the article about Dr Ghulam Muhammad translated into English. Perhaps in future these could be collected together in book form English, just like the Urdu book that they are translated from."

Our proposed compilation of Volume 1 will, *inshaa Allah*, include the biographies and life-sketches of the blessed memories of Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali, Hazrat Hakeem Nur-ud-Din, Maulana Syed Ahsan Amrohi, Maulvi Abdul Karim Sialkoti, Dr. Muhammad Hussain Shah, Al-Hajj Khwaja Kamal-ud-Din, Dr. Mirza Yaqub Beg, Dr. Basharat Ahmad and Dr. Ghulam Muhammad, which appeared in past issues, Maulana Aziz Baksh (this issue), and Hazrat Sheikh Rahmatullah Sahib, which will be published in the April, 2009 issue.

Inshaa Allah, the completed project will be placed on the Central Anjuman's official website, aaiil.org.

JAMA 'AT NEWS

Hazrat Ameer-i-Qaum, Dr. Pasha Sahib informs of the return of Amir Aziz

Thanks for including my message in this most important issue on the condolence for Kamal ud Deen Sahu Khan.

Aamir Aziz has arrived this morning; we all thank Allah for His mercy and help during his journey overseas and for his safe travel. I pray he lives long in the service of Islam.

General Secretary resumes his duties at the Center

This is to inform you that I am back to my office after a very successful trip of Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Holland. It was a great experience to meet my brothers and sisters of the various *jamaats*.

Now all official mails are to be sent to my address and a copy must be sent to Hazrat Ameer as per previous practice.

Keep on praying for me and for all members of the *Jamaat* across the globe.”

[*Inshaa Allah*, we will publish the General Secretary’s tour report with photographs in the April issue. – *Ed.*]

Janaza report from Nizam ud Dean of Suva, Fiji

Mr MK Sahu Khan’s *Janaza* was held in Ba, his hometown, at 1.00 pm on Monday, 23rd February, 2009. He had passed away on 21st February, 2009, at the age of 70.

A busload of *Jamaat* members went from Suva for the *Janaza*, as well. I was informed that this was the largest funeral seen in Ba. It was attended by the Prime Minister, the Attorney General, and leading figures from the Government, statutory bodies, the business community, and the legal fraternity. There were those who had arrived from overseas, including his brother Sadrud Dean Sahu Khan and his wife, Naaz, and his sisters, Nadira, Shahjehan and Firoza, and his niece, Fazeellat.

During the eulogies, Mr Khan was praised as a dedicated and fair-minded person who had the good of the nation at heart and was ready to sacrifice his valuable time in the service of the nation, particularly in the area of ensuring that the country proceeded to a just and fair national election. He was the Chairman of the Electoral Commission at the time of his passing away.

His wife, Noor, informed us that Mr Khan had only just finished his *Tahajud* prayers at 1.00 am.

Janaza was led by Maulvi Fazal Haq, our missionary from Pakistan.

Comments of Dr. Mohammad Shamsu-dean Sahu Khan as reported in the *Fiji Times*

Muslims celebrate

Tuesday, March 10, 2009



Nail Dean and Refaz Ali celebrate Prophet Mohamed's birthday at Lautoka mosque

Muslims were urged to follow the teachings of Prophet Mohammed by the Ahmadiya Anjuman Ishaat-i-Islam (Lahore) Fiji.

President Dr Mohammed Shamsu-dean Sahu Khan said, “The Prophet showed that he was all aspects of life as he was a true leader, excellent father and a very good husband.”

“He even helped his wife in household duties,” he added.

Latest developments in Indonesia [courtesy Shahid Aziz, UK]

Kindly click on the following link to learn more about the pressure on the Indonesian President to declare Ahmadis as non-Muslims: <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/opinion/article/12571.html>.

PRAYER & HEALTH NEWS

Condolence Message from Riaz Ahmed Choudhary, AAIIIL Jammu, India

“We the members of AAIIIL Jammu (J&K) equally share the grief and sorrow with our Ahmedi muslim brothers and sisters world wide due to sad demise of Kamal ud Dean Sahu Khan. May Allmighty Allah place the departed soul in the Jaware rehmat Amin.”

Abid Raza thanks Hazrat Ameer, the *Jama‘at* and global members

In a telephone conversation, Br Abid Raza, who sounded quite healthy, thanked Hazrat Ameer-i-Qaum, Dr. Pasha Sahib, the *Jama‘at*, and the members of our “Prayer Circle” for their prayers of *shifa* during his heart surgery and recovery period. *Alhamdollillah!* Br Abid Raza has now resumed normal activities in his retirement. We all wish him a long and healthy life so he may diligently lead the Anjuman’s affairs in New Zealand.

***Du'a-e-shifa* for Brigadier Nasir Ahmad Saeed of Calgary, Canada**

In a letter to us (see "What Our Readers Say" below), Brigadier Nasir Ahmad Saeed commented on the poem, "When angels of death comes", published in the February, 2009 issue, which he said sounded to him "so scary and thought-provoking."

Once again I urge the members of our "Prayer Circle" to fervently pray for Brigadier Nasir Ahmad Saeed and all the ailing brothers and sisters in our worldwide *Jama'at*. May Allah (*swt*), with His immense mercy and graceful blessings, grant complete *shifa* soon, without any further pain, discomfort or suffering, to Brigadier Nasir Ahmad Saeed and all other ailing brethren elsewhere in the world. *Aameen*.

LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDECINE

There was a man who worked all of his life and saved all of his money. He was a real miser when it came to his money. He loved money more than just about anything, and just before he died, he said to his wife, "Now listen, when I die, I want you to take all my money and place it in the casket with me. I want to take my money to the afterlife."

So he got his wife to promise him with all her heart that when he died she would put all the money in the casket with him.

Well, one day he died. He was stretched out in the casket and the wife was sitting there in black next to her closest friend. When they finished the ceremony, just before the undertakers got ready to close the casket, the wife said "Wait just a minute!"

She had a shoe box with her, she came over with the box and placed it in the casket. Then the undertakers locked the casket down and rolled it away. Her friend said, "I hope you weren't crazy enough to put all that money in the casket."

"Yes," the wife said, "I promised. I can't lie. I promised him that I was going to put that money in that casket with him."

"You mean to tell me you put every cent of his money in the casket with him?"

"I sure did. I got it all together, put it into my account and I wrote him a check."

ALL ABOUT US

Life Sketch of Hazrat Maulana Aziz Bakhsh (1870- November 1955)

Translated and adapted by **Akhtar Masud Choudary**, Secretary, AAAIL, Hayward, California, USA

Based on the account by Dr Allah Bakhsh in *Yad-i Raftigaan*

[Photo of Maulana Sahib in a group may be seen in the “Photographic Presentation” section.]

Hazrat Maulana Aziz Bakhsh was born in 1870, the third of five sons of Hafiz Fateh Din, headman and *ziladar* of Murar Village, Kapurthalla State, India, and one of the elder brothers of Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali. An account of the two brothers’ early life and education is given in Maulana Muhammad Ali’s biography, *The Mighty Striving*, available at: www.ahmadiyya.org/books/m-kabir/

Education

After the completion of their high school education, in which the brothers obtained first and second positions respectfully and earned a Government stipend as well as a Kapurthalla State stipend for furthering their education, they were admitted to Government College, Lahore, the most prestigious institution in the University of the Punjab, which at that time was the only university covering, in addition to the Punjab Province, the federal area of Delhi, the state of Jammu and Kashmir, the North West Frontier Province, and Baluchistan.

Both brothers passed their BA examinations in 1896, obtaining First Division marks, but Maulana Muhammad Ali also excelled by standing first in the University in mathematics and earning a gold medal. After that, Maulana Muhammad Ali passed his MA and LL.B examinations, obtaining a Masters degree in English and Law, and Maulana Aziz Bakhsh joined Teachers Training College and attained his Bachelor of Teaching degree. After completing his studies, Maulana Aziz Bakhsh got a teaching job in Jampur Government High School in the then Dera Ghazi Khan District of the Punjab Province. (Jampur has now become a District.)

Work

Maulana Aziz Bakhsh was a brilliant and very hardworking teacher who fully devoted himself to imparting the best education to his students. He would even put in extra hours in order to help them. This hard work had an adverse effect on his health and so he applied to the British Deputy Commissioner of Dera Ghazi Khan for another job. He was offered a position of District Office Record Keeper in Dera Ghazi Khan that was available, and he accepted. He spent the next eighteen years in that position. Many times his wife, his sons and his friends advised him that with his educational qualifications he could have become an Extra Assistant Commissioner in the Revenue Department, and he should try for it, but he always replied that begging for favours was against his nature, therefore he could not do it. He was a living example of *tawakal al-Allah* (complete reliance on Allah alone) and of not thirsting after worldly gains. A Deputy Commissioner once expressed surprise that a graduate with two university degrees was working in his office.

Spreading Islam

The fact was that Maulana Aziz Bakhsh did not consider worldly gains to be the object of his life. His whole attention in those days was focussed on the matters of Islam and the *Jama'at*. After returning

from his office he used to spend hours in preaching and discussions. He was the first Ahmadi in the town of Dera Ghazi Khan. Due to his influence and preaching in the beginning, some other Government employees joined the *Jama'at*. Some of them were Choudry Nazar Muhammad and his father-in-law Choudhry Dil Ahmad, Mian Muhammad Akbar, Hakim Abdul Khaliq, Master Muhammad Usman, Mian Wali Muhammad, Munshi Faiz Muhammad, Mian Rasul Bakhsh, and Ghulam Hussain, Inspector of Schools.

Issue of *masjid*

Maulvi Aziz Bakhsh was living in Mohalla Patafian in the old Dera Ghazi Khan city. An abandoned *masjid* was lying vacant near his house, with no one having used it in a long time. It was in a dilapidated state, so Maulana Aziz Bakhsh, along with the other persons who had become Ahmadis because of his efforts, got together to repair the *masjid*. After it was restored, they started offering their prayers there and holding *dars-e-Qur'an* and other religious meetings in it. The opponents of the Ahmadiyya Movement did not tolerate this for long and soon they installed one of their own *maulvis*, resulting in two *salahs* being offered in the *masjid* – one by the Ahmadis and the other by the non-Ahmadis.

Court case

Offering prayers separately was not the only object of the enemies of the Ahmadiyya Movement. Soon a situation of disorder and lawlessness was created by them. The matter drew the attention of the District Magistrate. The parties were summoned to court where the District Magistrate first of all enquired from Maulana Aziz Bakhsh whether he had any objections to other persons also offering their prayers in the *masjid*. He said no. When the same question was put to the opponents they said that they objected to Ahmadis offering their prayers in the *masjid* as it belonged to Hanafis and so Ahmadis could not offer their prayers in it. They said the Ahmadis should be asked if the *masjid* belonged to them and Hindus started offering *salah* in it if they will not object. The District Magistrate asked Maulana Aziz Bakhsh his position on it and he replied that instead of objecting to Hindus offering *salah* in the *masjid* the Ahmadis would be very pleased that they were. On hearing this reply, those present in the court were taken aback and the Magistrate rebuked the opposing *maulvis* saying, “Go away. This is all your troublemaking and nothing else.” The Ahmadis therefore kept on offering their prayers in that *masjid* for many years.

Jalsa

Every year Maulana Aziz Bakhsh used to attend the annual *Jalsa* at Qadian. In 1906 or 1907, he proceeded on three months leave and, along with his family, spent this time in Qadian to obtain the spiritual benefits of the company of the Promised Messiah. (Dr Allah Bakhsh writes: I was six or seven years old at the time. The atmosphere of righteousness and piety in Qadian of that time exerted a strong influence upon us.)

Death of Promised Messiah

The telegram carrying the news of the passing away of the Promised Messiah on 26 May 1908 was delivered by the mailman to Maulana Aziz Bakhsh in the *masjid* at Dera Ghazi Khan while he was performing *wudu*. His son, Dr Allah Bakhsh, writes that he remembers seeing that on reading it, tears started flowing from the Maulana's eyes. This was the state of love and devotion the followers of the Promised Messiah had for him. He was dearer to them than anything else in the world.

Relocation

In 1910, the Indus River changed its course and the old city of Dera Ghazi Khan was submerged. As a result, a new city of Dera Ghazi Khan was established at a new location. Maulana Aziz Bakhsh and other Ahmadis purchased plots of land at this new location and plots were also purchased for a *masjid* and a library for the *Jama'at*. Maulana cared so much for being near the *masjid* that he selected the plot adjacent to it even though this location, being away from the road, would be less valuable if he were to sell it in future. After his house and the *masjid* were built, he installed a window in his sitting room which opened onto the courtyard of the *masjid*. The buildings of the homes of the other Ahmadis and of the Anjuman library were located alongside the roadway of the area. Funds for the construction of the new *masjid* and the library were raised through great efforts.

Donations to library

Maulana Aziz Bakhsh was an avid reader of Ahmadiyya literature. He used to buy books, newspapers, and magazines of the *Jamaat* and after reading them, he used to get them bound and place them in the library of the Ahmadiyya *Jamaat*. He used to keep complete files of newspapers and magazines. (*Note by Zahid Aziz: Some of the collections of Ahmadiyya newspapers from the Promised Messiah's time in the Central Anjuman's Library at Lahore today came from the archives kept by Maulana Aziz Bakhsh.*)

Dars

Every day he used to give *dars-e-Qur'an* after the morning prayer and *dars-e-Hadith* in the evening in the *masjid*. His only engagement after his work hours was the enlightenment of people about Islam and Ahmadiyyaat. This was a passion for him, the main object of his life.

Personality

The righteousness, piety, honesty and *taqwa* of Maulana Aziz Bakhsh were known to everyone in the whole district, so much so that one Deputy Commissioner recorded his opinion in the words, "The honesty of Maulana Aziz Bakhsh is proverbial."

Split after Maulana Nur-ud-Din's death

On hearing the news of the passing away of Maulana Nur-ud-Din in 1914, Maulana Aziz Bakhsh went to Qadian. A large number of Ahmadis of Dera Ghazi Khan wrote letters of allegiance (*bai'at*) to Mirza Mahmud Ahmad. Only Munshi Nur Muhammad Chandia, who was an officer in the Irrigation Department and the father and grandfather of Abdur Rahim Khan Chandi and Nur Muhammad Khan Chandi (Advocate of Lahore) respectively, Agha Muhammad Nasir Khan, BA, who later joined the Frontier Service, Sher Muhammad Sabzwar, Munshi Muhammad Bakhsh and two or three other members who were residents of rural areas, joined the Lahore *Jama'at*. However, until the time when Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad enjoined on his followers not to offer prayers behind those who were not his followers, both groups, the Qadian and the Lahori, continued offering prayers behind Maulana Aziz Bakhsh. After Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmud Ahmad's pronouncement, both groups continued offering prayers in the same *masjid*, but the Qadianis held their separate prayers, led by someone belonging to their group.

Lonely after death of wife

In 1920, Maulana Aziz Bakhsh's wife, who had been bedridden for many years, passed away. During those years, in addition to his other duties, he used to prepare food for his family as well as nurse his ailing wife. After her death, he was lonely as both his sons, KS Rahim Bakhsh and Dr Allah Bakhsh,

were students at the University of the Punjab and King Edward Medical College respectively, and his daughter was already married to Ghulam Muhammad, the eldest son of Maulana Aziz Bakhsh's eldest brother, Khairuddin. Hazrat Ameer Maulana Muhammad Ali suggested the Maulana Aziz Bakhsh should go to Lahore and spend some time with him. Maulana Aziz Bakhsh took three months leave from his job and went to Lahore, where he worked as honorary secretary for that time. After these three months, he returned to his job in Dera Ghazi Khan.

Retirement

By this time he had become Superintendent of the Deputy Commissioner's office. In 1923, he was selected for an administrative post and transferred to Lyalpur (now Faisalabad). He worked in that position for about three years and retired from Government Service in 1928, earning a monthly pension of three hundred and fifty rupees, which was a handsome amount in view of the economic conditions of those days. He had in mind to settle down in Ahmadiyya Buildings in Lahore, but a financial need cropped up at that time as his youngest son, Dr Allah Bakhsh, was selected for further education in the medical profession in Europe for two years and he needed funds to meet his boarding and lodging expenses. Maulana took a job as Secretary of the Anjuman Tarraqi-e-Taleem Amritsar to meet these expenses.

In 1930, when Hazrat Ameer Maulana Muhammad Ali appealed to retirees to devote their lives for the service of Islam, Maulana Aziz Bakhsh quit his job, purchased a home in Ahmadiyya Buildings, settled there permanently, and devoted the remaining years of his life by rendering honorary services in various departments of the Anjuman in addition to *imamat* of the five daily prayers in the Central Masjid.

Lifestyle and habits

Hazrat Maulana Aziz Bakhsh was a person of sufistic tendencies. A strong belief in, and love of, Allah was a passion with him. Hence *ibadat* and offering of prayers in congregation in the *mssjid* was a practice which was so dear to him that nothing could stand in his way to fulfil this habit.

In 1953 martial law was declared in Lahore and curfew was imposed due to the anti-Ahmadiyya agitation provoked by the *Ulama*, and no one was allowed out of his house from dusk to dawn. Even in such conditions the Maulana went to the *masjid* for *tahajjud* prayers at 2.00 a.m. Once he was stopped by the military patrol and asked why he had come out of his home. He replied that he was going to the *masjid* to offer prayers. The soldiers were so impressed that they escorted him to the *masjid*. Later, their officer commented that Ahmadis are safe there because of this saintly old man.

Once, when he was almost 85, he fell down in the *masjid* and his eardrum was fractured. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad prescribed a penicillin injection but Maulana refused to get it saying he accepted the will of Allah and if some days of his life are the pleasure of Allah then he will survive. In spite of extreme pain in this condition he did not miss going to the *masjid* for prayers. He was living on the second floor of the building and had to climb more than twenty stairs five times a day to go to the *masjid*. In his old age it was very difficult yet he did not consider it a problem. Once, when Dr. Allah Bakhsh suggested to him that instead of undergoing this hardship he should offer his prayers at home, Maulana replied, "Son, you do not know how many favours and excellences Allah has bestowed upon me. My eyesight and hearing are working perfectly and my mental capacities are in perfect condition in spite of my old age. Are these lesser favours for which I can be extremely thankful to Allah?"

Whenever his sons offer to take him to Murree (Hill Station) to pass the summer he used to turn them down by saying that the top floor of his house is quite airy and vast and serves as a substitute to the hill station. Whenever his attention was drawn to the humidity during July to August, which would be more unbearable in houses located in narrow streets, Maulana used to counter by saying perspiration has a healthy effect.

He was a living example of being thankful to Allah in all conditions, whether favourable or unfavourable. Complaining was not in his nature and even when hardships befell him, he used to bear them with pleasure and thankfulness.

Once, he was staying in Delhi in the home of Choudhry Shah Din, a near relative. Shah Din was worried about losing his job as he was serving on a temporary basis. On seeing him worried, Maulana Aziz Bakhsh advised him not to lose hope of Allah's mercy and favours. In the evening, when Maulana again saw him in the same worried and gloomy mental state, he admonished him by saying to be so gloomy on such an account amounted to *shirk* and lack of faith in Allah and a true believer should remain thankful to Allah in all conditions, whether it be affluence or hardship.

The pleasure of Allah was the pleasure of Maulana Aziz Bakhsh and he used to advise others to behave in the same way.

Worldly gains or desire of wealth, position of power or even attainment of good jobs had no value in Maulana Aziz Bakhsh's view. He was a dervish who was a very humble and contented person. He did not know the word *ego*. It had no place in his life. He was completely selfless and exceptionally honest. Seeking the pleasure of Allah at all times was his sole passion in life. During his service he did not seek even the smallest favour from anyone, whether his superior officers or members of the public. Once, a Baluch *sardar* said: "Maulvi Sahib, I will send you a buffalo for milk." Maulana Aziz Bakhsh refused the offer by saying; "No, thank you. I have a goat whose milk suffices for my family's needs."

Compassionate person

Maulana Aziz Bakhsh was a very compassionate person and used to help needy persons without their having to ask. His second wife, who was a widow of an Ahmadi Muslim when Maulana married her a few years after the passing away of his first wife, was British. She narrated that once Maulana came to know that an employee of the Anjuman who used to work in the office was short of food for his family. Maulana Aziz Bakhsh gave him wheat flour, rice and other cooking necessities, including coals, from his own home.

Dr Allah Bakhsh narrated that once Maulana enquired from him whether he had twenty rupees in his pocket, which he could borrow from him. Dr Bakhsh had only ten rupees at the time, which he offered to his father. Maulana said that he pays twenty rupees monthly to a widow and that that was the day when she was to come to get her stipend and he did not want her to return empty-handed.

A blind person used to deliver three daily newspapers to Maulana Aziz Bakhsh's home. Dr Allah Bakhsh enquired from Maulana why he was buying three newspapers when he does not read them. Maulana replied that the blind man will survive economically. Maulana not only bought the newspapers from him but he also used to feed the blind man every day when he delivered the papers.

Similarly, when Muhammad Yamin (Muhammad Saleh Nur's father), a bookseller of Qadian, used to visit to sell any new book, Maulana Aziz Bakhsh used to buy it in spite of the fact that he already had copies. He used to buy the books in order to help Muhammad Yamin's business.

Abdul Ghani Butt once narrated to me (Masud Akhtar Choudhry) an example of Maulana Aziz Bakhsh's compassion. Abdul Ghani Butt was sitting with Maulana Aziz Bakhsh in his home during winter. It was a rainy day and while a continuous drizzle was coming down a fishmonger was selling fish and shouting, "Fish for sale." Maulana asked Abdul Ghani Butt to call out and stop the fish seller. Abdul Ghani Butt did as he was asked. Maulana Aziz Bakhsh then went to the fishmonger and asked him to weigh his entire stock of fish that he was carrying in a basket on his head and Maulana purchased the whole lot. Abdul Ghani Butt was surprised as he knew that Maulana Aziz Bakhsh and his wife were two elderly people for whom only one fish or so would suffice. He could not help but ask Maulana what he intended to do with the approximately forty pounds of fish he had bought. In reply, Maulana said: "Abdul Ghani, do you not see that it is a cold winter day and that it is raining too? I thought God knows how long he will remain exposed to this severe cold in this rain to earn a livelihood for his family. Therefore, I thought it fit to buy the whole lot so that he could go home and spend the day under his roof with his family. Now, you help me to distribute these pieces of fish. Please give one each to the homes of Ahmadi residing in Ahmadiyya Buildings, a few pieces to the *mahmam khana* (guest house kitchen), and take one or two for your family."

Maulana Muhammad Ali

Maulana Aziz Bakhsh was very devoted to the Promised Messiah, and, as was already mentioned, on receiving the news of the Promised Messiah's passing away, tears flowed from his eyes even though he was performing ablution. Similarly, he had great love for, and devotion to, Hazrat Ameer Maulana Muhammad Ali. Although Hazrat Ameer was his younger brother and both of them had grown up in each other's company from childhood to their college years in Lahore, yet Maulana Aziz Bakhsh was an admirer of his younger brother's academic and spiritual achievements, and brotherly love was submerged into the love of a follower for his spiritual leader. It was a matter akin to *fana-fi-sheikh*. Even in those days when the physical weakness of old age had made it harder for him to walk he kept up his habit of visiting Hazrat Ameer at Muslim Town almost every week. He used to take something as a gift, would take his lunch with Hazrat Ameer, and go to the Muslim Town *masjid* for *Zuhr* prayer with him. After the prayer, he would lie down on the floor, which was covered with date palm leaves, to rest. When Hazrat Ameer asked him to rest on a proper bed at home, he used to say: "When I can rest here in the *masjid*, what is the need of going to bed at home?"

When Hazrat Ameer Maulana Muhammad Ali passed away in 1951, Maulana Aziz Bakhsh was very grieved. He said it was their turn but that Hazrat Ameer had preceded him. Maulana Aziz Bakhsh led the funeral prayer and once again people saw tears flowing from his eyes when he was praying for Divine mercy and reward to be bestowed on the departed soul of his spiritual *sheikh*, though he was his younger brother.

He published fourteen sermons of the late Maulana Muhammad Ali in book form, which included his last *khutbah* of December 1947, and thirteen from January to April 1948. He had expressed a hope that all the sermons delivered by Maulana Muhammad Ali would be compiled and printed in book form as they contained a wealth of knowledge and spiritual insight. (The late Dr Saeed Ahmad Khan, when he became *Ameer-e-Jama'at*, started work on this project and the first two volumes were published during his tenure. The Central Anjuman has now completed this work in a total of 24 volumes.)

Maulana Aziz Bakhsh was a living example of a person who imbibed the example of the lifestyle of the Holy Prophet, peace be upon him, and his life presents a picture of what a true follower of the Holy Qur'an and the Holy Prophet looks like. May Allah shower His choicest blessings on his soul. *Ameen.*

[A speech on the life of Hazrat Maulana Aziz Bakhsh, given by Shahid Aziz, can be downloaded at <http://www.aaiil.org/text/snd/uk/2006/soundislamahmadiyyauk2006.shtml>.]

PUBLICATION

Captain Abdus Salam Khan on the biography of the late Dr. Ghulam Muhammad

[Reference the article on the late Dr. Ghulam Muhammad in the January, 2009 issue of *The HOPE Bulletin* – some fond memories.]

The excellent piece on Dr. Ghulam Muhammad of blessed memory by Masoud Akhtar Choudry Sahib brought many fond memories of Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Sahib to mind.

The spectrum of memories spreads from the thirties, my childhood years spent in Ahmadiyya Buildings under the gracious shade of Dr. Ghulam Muhammad and other towering personalities of companions of the Promised Messiah – Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali, Dr. Mirza Ya'kub Beg, Dr. Muhammad Hussain Shah Sahib, Khwaja Kamalud Din Sahib – to his sudden demise in 1959. This was an era when the fragrance of the Promised Messiah's spirituality could still be felt through these stalwarts.

In our childhood we used to watch with awe and respect this European-looking gentleman with a French-cut beard taking his daily walk in the grounds of Islamia College, Lahore, with his golden retriever at his heels, or driving through the town in his Austin car with a cloth roof. Occasionally, when we needed medical attention, we would be taken to his clinic, situated in his residential building on the eastern edge of Ahmadiyya Buildings, where we would be given a VIP welcome and free treatment.

Among his clients receiving free service were the Sharif brothers, the eldest of whom was Mian Muhammad Sharif (father of Mian Nawaz Sharif, Ex-Prime Minister and leader of the Muslim League-N) who later became my classmate at Muslim High School, a famous school run by our Anjuman in Ahmadiyya Buildings.

Mian Muhammad Sharif and his brothers were working as labourers at a foundry run by a Hindu gentleman and could not afford the medical fees. I came to know this background when I went to Mian Sharif in the 1990's with a request to ask his son, Mian Nawaz Shariff, the then Chief Minister of the Punjab, for migrating my son, a medical student at a Faisalabad College, to a college in Lahore. I took Dr. Waheed Ahmad of blessed memory, son of Dr. Sahib, with me to reinforce my request. Mian Sahib was in a meeting but on seeing our visiting card, he abandoned the meeting, came out running and embraced Dr. Waheed, and kept reminiscing about the good old days when they used to get such gracious service from Doctor Sahib. Although such migrations are banned, he told us he would ask his son to make a relaxation in this case.

Dr. Sahib and my father, Maulana Muhammad Ya'kub Khan (Editor, the *Light*, *The Civil & Military Gazette*, the *Islamic Review*, etc.) were not only bound together by the Ahmadiyya bond, but they also

had another thing in common – the love of duck- and partridge hunting. Twice a week during the cool season from September to April, every Wednesday and Sunday, they would head out of town in the Austin and spend the day hunting in the fragrant fields of the Punjab. Later, in the forties, I also had the honour of becoming a member of this hunting party.

When father left for England in 1956 to take charge of the Woking Muslim Mission and the *Islamic Review*, I had the privilege of taking Dr. Sahib out for his beloved pastime. Although in his seventies, he would not allow anyone to carry his gun or his hunting bag. Ramrod straight, he could still out walk all of us. “My body measurements are the same as they were when I graduated from medical college,” he would remark, pointing to my spreading middle and chiding me for allowing it to happen.

When the news of his death reached Woking, England in 1959, Father broke down and cried like a child. No one had seen Father cry before, not even on the death of his own son! Such was the bond between them, a bond of love and affection that surpassed all other worldly bonds, a bond created by the spiritual aura of the Promised Messiah.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

[Courtesy Shabir Buksh, Secretary AAAIL, New Zealand]

THE HOLY PROPHET

Dialogue between a traveller and the Prophet (saw)

A traveller once came to the *masjid* to see the Prophet. After greeting the Prophet he was asked where he was from. The traveller replied that he came from very far just to get a few questions answered. Following is the dialogue between the traveller and the Prophet.

Traveller: I do not want *azaab* to be written in my account.

Prophet: Behave well with your parents.

Traveller: I want to be known amongst people as an intelligent person.

Prophet: Fear Allah always.

Traveller: I want to be counted amongst Allah’s favourites.

Prophet: Recite the Quran every morning and evening.

Traveller: I want my heart to always be enlightened.

Prophet: never forget death

Traveller: I never want to be away from Allah’s blessing.

Prophet: Always treat your fellow creatures well.

Traveller: I never want to be harmed by my enemies.

Prophet: Always have faith in only Allah.

Traveller: I never want to be humiliated.

Prophet: Be careful of your actions.

Traveller: I wish to live long.

Prophet: Always do good towards blood relations.

Traveller: I want my sustenance to increase.

Prophet: Always be in wudhu.

Traveller: I wish to stay free of *adhaab* in the grave.

Prophet: Always wear pure clothes.

Traveller: I never want to burn in hell.

Prophet: Control your eyes and tongue.

Traveller: How do I get my sins forgiven?

Prophet: Always ask forgiveness from Allah with great humility.

Traveller: I want people to respect me always.

Prophet: Never extend your hands of need at people.

Traveller: I want to always be honoured.

Prophet: Never humiliate or put down anyone.

Traveller: I want to be safe and at peace on day of judgement.

Prophet: Do zikr of Allah from dusk to night.

Traveller: I want to be in full attention and concentration during *salah*.

Prophet: Always do wudhu with concentration and attention.

LESSON OF THE DAY

THE TRIPLE FILTER TEST

(The wisdom of Socrates)

Keep this philosophy in mind the next time you either hear or are about to repeat a rumour.

In ancient Greece (469-399 BC), Socrates was widely lauded for his wisdom. One day the great philosopher came upon an acquaintance who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test."

"Triple filter?"

“That’s right,” Socrates continued. “Before you talk to me about my student, let’s take a moment to filter what you’re going to say. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?”

“No,” the man said. “Actually, I just heard about it and...”

“All right,” said Socrates. “So you don’t really know if it’s true or not. Now let’s try the second filter – the filter of goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?”

“No, on the contrary...”

“So,” Socrates continued, “you want to tell me something bad about him, even though you’re not certain it’s true?”

The man shrugged, a little embarrassed.

Socrates continued. “You may still pass the test though, because there is a third filter – the filter of usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my student going to be useful to me?”

“No, not really...”

“Well,” concluded Socrates, “if what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?”

The man was defeated and ashamed.

This is the reason Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem.

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

Encouragement from Shabir Baksh, Secretary AAII, New Zealand

Once again thank you for the *HOPE Bulletin*. It really is exciting reading the news and articles from other branches.

May Allah *swt* reward you and all the helpers with the great work & time you put in.

Encouragement from Brigadier Nasir Ahmad Saeed, Calgary, Canada

Thank you for the February issue of “HOPE”. As always, it was well laid out. All the articles and comments were of a very good quality. Mr. Shabir Baksh’s poem “WHEN ANGELS OF DEATH COMES” was quite scary and thought-provoking for negligent persons like myself.

May Allah give you the health and will to continue with your good work. *Ameen*.

HOPE MEMBER SERVICE

Recipe of the Month

Spicy Chicken Wings

Ingredients

- 2 pounds chicken wings
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- black pepper to taste
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons red chilli powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 3/4 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 cup plain soda or 7up
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- Vegetable oil for deep-frying
- Parsley sprigs for garnish

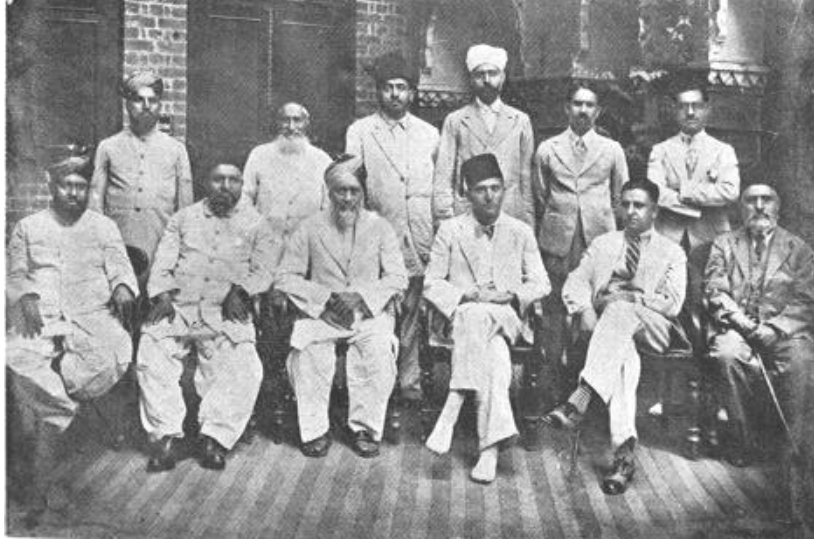
Method of Preparation

- Cut off the wing tips.
- Halve wings at joint.
- Separate the “drumstick”, or first-joint, pieces (the thick ones) from the second-joint pieces.
- Beginning at the narrower end of each drumstick, with a sharp knife cut the tendons and holding the exposed end of the bone with a kitchen towel, scrape the skin and meat down the bone as far as possible toward the thicker end to make a plump drumstick shape.
- Cut through the cartilage at one end of each second-joint piece, separating the bones, scrape the skin and meat down the larger bone to make a plump drumstick shape, and pull out and discard the smaller bone.
- Arrange all of the drumsticks in a shallow dish, sprinkle them with the lemon juice and salt and pepper to taste, and let them marinate, covered and chilled, for 1 hour.
- Make the batter while the chicken is marinating: In a bowl whisk together the flour, the salt, the red chilli powder, the cumin, the thyme, and the cayenne and make a well in the centre.
- Add the soda and the oil in a stream, and whisk the batter until it is smooth.
- Let the batter stand at room temperature for one hour.
- Stir the batter before using it.
- In a large deep fryer or large deep kettle heat two inches of the oil to 375 degrees.
- Dip the chicken in the batter and fry in oil, five pieces at a time, turning it, for three minutes, or until it is cooked through and golden.
- Transfer the chicken with a slotted spoon as it is fried to paper towels to drain and make sure the oil returns to 375 degrees before adding each new batch.
- Sprinkle the drumsticks with salt to taste, arrange them on a platter, and garnish the platter with the parsley sprigs.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION

[Photograph of Maulana Aziz Baksh in the standing row second from left]

Founder-members and leading figures of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement pictured with Baron Umar Ehrenfels (Austrian convert to Islam) and Khalid Latif Gauba (Indian convert to Islam) in March 1933 at Ahmadiyya Buildings, Lahore [courtesy Dr. Zahid Aziz].



From left to right:

1. *Front row, seated:* Dr. Basharat Ahmad, Dr. Syed Muhammad Husain Shah, Maulana Muhammad Ali, Baron Ehrenfels, Khalid Latif Gauba, Dr. Mirza Yaqub Baig.
2. *2nd row, standing:* Babu Ch. Manzur Ilahi, Maulana Aziz Bakhsh, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Syed Amjad Ali Shah, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad, Shaikh Azed Bakhsh.

Please click on the following link to view other historical photographs of our Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement [courtesy Dr. Zahid Aziz]: <http://www.ahmadiyya.org/photos/hist.htm>

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