



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

Editor's Note

Alhamdollillah! All praise is due to Allah (and Allah alone) that July 2009 marks the beginning of the fourth year of the publication of *The HOPE Bulletin*. Our prompt circulation is mainly due to your timely contributions of interesting material that enabled us to assemble each month a full-fledged magazine for your reading pleasure.

We try to stress on inclusion by inviting all the worldwide *Jama'ats* to submit activities reports as often as possible so that our global readers are made aware of how our brethren elsewhere in the world are faring. Some *Jama'ats*, where English is not the main language, are hesitant to submit reports. We urge the officials of these *Jama'ats* to not worry about this and just send in their reports; we will edit them before publication. Other *Jama'ats*, where English is not an issue, are also urged to make their submissions.

Throughout this year we will, *Inshaa Allah*, focus on the "All About Us" segment. During the past three years we covered the life-sketches of some of the great personalities of our *Jama'at* who had made great sacrifices in the defence of our Movement.

Dr. Zahid Aziz, Editor of *The Light*, UK Edition, inspired us to publish in book form these bio-sketches of Hazrat Mirza Sahib's companions and our *Jama'at's* founding fathers, which were translated and adapted from Urdu into English by our venerated brother, Choudry Akhtar Masud, Secretary of AAIIL, California, USA, from the book *Yad-i Raftigaan*. *Inshaa Allah*, the completed project will be placed on the Central Anjuman's official website, aaiil.org.

Jazak Allah! We have a new partner in the Central Anjuman's official website, aaail.org. Henceforth, articles, news and photographs of interest will be placed on the archive of this website. According to the webmaster, Dr. Mujahid Ahmad Saeed, "not all issues will appear online, as at times there are personal or confidential matters that should not be placed in the public domain." This online archive can be accessed by clicking on the link, <http://aaail.org/text/articles/hope/hopebulletin.shtml>

Dear readers, on behalf of *The HOPE Bulletin* Team and myself, I thank you all for your contributions of articles, news items, *Jama'at* activities reports, online material of general interest, especially on matters of health and education, and above all for your letters of encouragement and prayers for the success of our project. May Allah (*swt*) with His bountiful mercy and with His graceful blessings grant you all long and healthy lives so that you may enjoy our growing partnership for a long time to come. *Aameen*.

JAMA'AT NEWS

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's poem recorded in Suriname

Courtesy *A Spiritual Note*, one of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Sahib's poems (see POEM segment below) was rendered into song in commemoration of *Milad un-Nabi*, birthday of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), which occurred on 9 March 2009, *Rabi ul-Awwal* 12, 1430. [The poem was translated in to English by Hazrat Ameer-i-Qaum Professor and Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha Sahib.]

The song and Urdu poem can be downloaded at www.ivisep.org/songs/payshwa.htm.

In this rendition, the Urdu vocals are by Sharda Ahmadali-Doekhie, the English is narrated by Amir Aziz, General Secretary, AAAIL, and the musical arrangement and mixing are by Riaz Ahmadali, Editor of *A Spiritual Note*, Paramaribo, Suriname.

Jazak Allah for this very impressive rendition of Hazrat Mirza Sahib's Urdu poem into song that we all appreciate.

Report by Shahid Aziz on the Virtualmosque viewer statistics on the broadcast of the UK Convention

Here are the viewing figures over the internet for the Convention broken down by day:

10th July - 5,450

11th July - 3,496

12th July - 4,845

Insha Allah, for other conventions we can improve on these figures by advertising more widely.

Kindest regards.

PRAYER & HEALTH NEWS

Request for *du'a-e-shifa* for Br Saeb Lalla of the New Zealand *Jama'at*

According to Br Abid Raza, President, AAIIIL, New Zealand, *Jama'at* stalwart Br Saeb Lalla is ill and has been hospitalized in a local hospital in Auckland.

Hazrat Ameer, the *Jama'at* and the members of our global "Prayer Circle" are please requested to pray for Br Saeb Lalla. May Allah (*swt*) with His immense mercy and graceful blessings grant Br Saeb Lalla complete *shifa* soon, and fully ease his pain and suffering. *Aameen*.

Prayer for Manfred Yahya's father, who is suffering from dementia

My very dear Br. Abdullah, *Salam Alejkum*.

We have not forgotten you, but the last weeks where horrible and so we had found no time to stay in contact with all our friends and family members. Since round about three months my father has the dementia disease after a non-seen apoplexy in January of that year. The situation exploded day by day and so the family could not find peace and rest.

Yesterday my wife Gabi and I had brought my father back from a closed special hospital. He was there because he was dangerous against himself! He and we were very happy about that, but on the other side nobody knows what the next days and weeks will bring. His bodily constitution is not very well, also not his diabetic data, so we have to go to our home doctor next week, And nobody could tell us what will happen with his running away without thinking on his medicine, especially his insulin. Second, we have no knowledge about his thinking that his grandson and I are his advisers in all points of his life, especially in financial questions.

Next week a commission will come and see what grade he can receive in the future for his life and all things round about him, the so-called *Pflegestufe*. The chances are not so good, because my father can do many things like washing himself or so and such commission will not take a look for the problems of a person and the family round about him with dementia. So in the moment there is no great chance to find a very good home for him. For a good home you need additional examination from that special doctor!

There is no problem for Gabi and me that there is no money longer, because my father had taken all his lots of money away in the last maybe 3 years and so we had found only a little sum and naturally the house in which we and he is living. He is the owner of 3/4 and I'm the owner of 1/4. If there is a chance to bring father in a good home, we have not a problem to sell the house and give the money to him. Gabi and I need only a flat with a balcony (for that my wife had asked), not more. All my books can be given to the people and organisations which shall receive them latest after my death.

On the other side we had made all tings clear for him here in his home since 42 years. We have now an examined senior sister from Poland, which my father like so much and *Dzika* (her name) will do anything for my father and the rest of the family. She had told her best friend in Poland that our house is the very best place she had ever worked. Okay, why not! First I'm a Muslim and second *Dzika* is not our slave, so why not be good?

So you have the newest information about the great problems of my family. I pray to Allah that he will bring the poor brain of my father in a status that he can accept the situation it is now – and it is the best for

him. I also pray that I can start again with all that things I will do to honour Allah and for the benefits of our Anjuman and especially our very dear Berlin Mosque. Please pray also for me and my family! Thank you so much for that.

All the very best and *Wasalam*.

Condolence message from Br Shaukat A. Ali, Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Region

Dear Hazrat Ameer,

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahe wa Barakatuhu.

We are very deeply distressed and grieved to learn that our dear brother Dr. Abdul Hayee Saeed Sahib 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 of *Jannat-ul Firdous – aameen.*

Please convey our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the other members of your bereaved family. May Compassionate and Merciful Allah grant all of you strength, comfort and *sabr* at this time of great anguish.

***Du'a-e-shifa* from Shaukat A. Ali**

We are deeply saddened to note that uncle Saeed Hussein sahib is sick and has been hospitalized.

We pray that Allah swt grant him speedy and complete recovery which leaves no ailment behind - *aameen.*

Please convey our Duas from the core of our hearts to uncle and the other members of your family and keep us informed on the progress.

Insha Allah I plan to be in Lahore from 30 July and 17 August and Hazrat Ameer, Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed Pasha Sahib, and other members will also be praying for his quick and complete recovery.

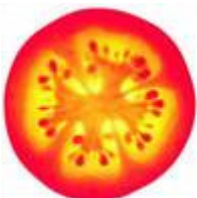
HEALTH INFORMATION

GOD'S PHARMACY

God left us great clues about what foods help what parts of our body. These are more effective when eaten raw.



A sliced carrot looks like the human eye. The pupil, iris and radiating lines look just like the human eye. And, yes, science now shows carrots greatly enhance blood flow to and function of the eyes.



A tomato has four chambers and is red. The heart has four chambers and is red. Research shows tomatoes are loaded with lycopine and are indeed pure heart and blood food.



Grapes hang in a cluster that has the shape of the heart. Each grape looks like a blood cell and research today shows grapes are also profound heart and blood vitalizing food.



A walnut looks like a little brain: a left and right hemisphere, upper cerebrums and lower cerebellums. Even the wrinkles or folds on the nut are just like the neo-cortex. We now know walnuts help develop more than three dozen neuron-transmitters for brain function.



Kidney beans actually heal and help maintain kidney function and, yes, they look exactly like the human kidneys.



Celery, bok choy, rhubarb and many more look just like bones. These foods specifically target bone strength. Bones are 23% sodium and these foods are 23% sodium. If you don't have enough sodium in your diet, the body pulls it from the bones, thus making them weak. These foods replenish the skeletal needs of the body.



Avocadoes, eggplants and pears target the health and function of the womb and cervix of the female - they look just like these organs. Today's research shows that when a woman eats one avocado a week, it balances hormones, sheds unwanted birth weight, and prevents cervical cancers. It takes exactly nine months to grow an avocado from blossom to ripened fruit. There are over 14,000 photolytic chemical constituents of nutrition in each one of these foods (modern science has only studied and named about 141 of them).



Figs are full of seeds and hang in twos when they grow. Figs increase the mobility of male sperm and increase the numbers of sperm as well as overcome male sterility.



Sweet potatoes look like the pancreas and actually balance the glycemic index of diabetics.



Olives assist the health and function of the ovaries.



Oranges, grapefruits, and other citrus fruits look just like the mammary glands of the female and actually assist the health of the breasts and the movement of lymph in and out of the breasts.



Onions look like the body's cells. Today's research shows onions help clear waste materials from all of the body cells. They even produce tears which wash the epithelial layers of the eyes.



A working companion, garlic, also helps eliminate waste materials and dangerous free radicals from the body.

POEM

Urdu poem by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
English translation by Prof. Dr. Abdul Karim Saeed, *Ameer-i-Jama'at*, AAIIIL

Muhammad, my Beloved

He who is our guide,
In whom all lights abide.
Muhammad is his name,
My beloved, excels all in fame.

All prophets are spotlessly pure,
Excel each other for sure.
But the Most Exalted has decreed,
That he should in excellence exceed.

Amongst all prophets he shines out bright,
Like a moon in a full moon night.
All eyes seek him so they may stay aright,
Shining like a moon he changes darkness to light.

The banks previously by all beseeched,
Only with his help were reached.
I could lay my life for him with pride,
The ship he steers I would safely ride.

He removes the veils that our hearts cover,
So we get close to the inner abode of our Lover.
He helps us get near to our True Friend,
When needed his hand he will always lend.

A Friend, who by confines is not bound,
A Beloved, who by our senses is not found,
I have been able to Him behold,
By following the path he had told.

He is the king of all faiths that were revealed,
He's been crowned and prophethood sealed.
His purity and honesty, in him trust raised,
For these qualities by all he was praised.

To all commands by Truthful God revealed,
He submitted with an utmost yield.
Of all the hidden treasures that were foretold,
My beloved's advent stood out bold.

His eyes saw far and beyond,
His heart was with God in bond.
To guide to faith he held the light,
By which he gave the blind new sight.

The aspects of faith difficult to understand,
Through practice he unravelled with his hand.
Like a generous king he distributed wealth,
That gave his followers a spiritual health.

I have fallen in such a love with flame of his light,
Like a moth I would fly to death for it, feeling no plight.
Compared to his existence there is no significance to my life,
I have decided, for him I could sacrifice mine without strife.

My beloved you can with no one compare,
Of knowledge he was blessed an incomparable share.
To possession of perfect knowledge many people claims lay,
Only his knowledge was spotless and that is how it will stay.

All that we have was through him bestowed,
God, You are witness, he the path showed.
He who guided us to our duty,
Was possessor of an outstanding beauty.

When he in blindness his people found,
Their hearts in hundreds of shackles bound.
He removed the locks from the shackles and set them free,
God selected him to raise their souls and make them see.

He who is our guide,
In whom all lights abide.
Muhammad is his name,
My beloved, excels all in fame.

ALL ABOUT US

Due to the extra reading material in this edition, we have decided to defer publishing until next month the life-sketch of our venerable elder, Abul-Ata Mirza Khuda Baksh (1859-1937), author of *Asl-e-Massafa*.

FEATURE ARTICLE

AL NAHAL AND MIRACLES

A speech delivered on 4 April 2004 by Shahid Aziz

Review of the last talk

On Friday I was talking about a chapter of the Holy Quran, *Sura Nahal* (16:66-70), which in English is translated as *The Bee*, or more accurately as *The Honey Bee*. There were a number of points that I made, and because it was going to be in two parts, for those who were not here on Friday I repeat the early part of what I said. Otherwise this talk will not make sense. It may be that, even after I have repeated said, it will not make much sense to you! Of course, I refer here to a lack of ability on my part to explain things, not on yours to understand them.

I refer here to section nine of this chapter, in which Allah tells us this:

66: “And surely there is a lesson for you in the cattle: We give you to drink of what is in their bellies – from betwixt the faeces and the blood – pure milk agreeable to the drinkers.”

67: “And of the fruits of the palms and grapes, you obtain from them intoxicants and goodly provision. There is surely a sign in this for a people who ponder.”

68: “And thy Lord revealed to the bee, make hives in the mountains and in the trees and in what they build.”

69: “Then eat of all the fruits and walk in the ways of thy Lord submissively. There comes forth from their bellies a beverage of many hues, in which there is healing for men. Therein is surely a sign for people who reflect.”

70: “And Allah creates you, then He causes you to die; and of you is he who is brought back to the worst part of life, so that he knows nothing after having knowledge, surely Allah is Knowing and Powerful.”

An objection against Hazrat Sahib

For those who were not here on Friday, I repeat the point that I made about verse 68 of this chapter of the Holy Quran. The word used here for revelation is *wahi*. That Allah sent *wahi* to the honey bee. One objection against the Promised Messiah is that he claimed to receive revelation or *wahi* from God. It is contended that because he claimed to receive *wahi* from God he was claiming prophethood, in a roundabout way if not directly.

An opponent’s explanation of the word *wahi*

To refute that, I read from an explanation of this verse from a well known scholar of India and Pakistan,

Maulana Mawdudi, who was, at least, an opponent of the *Jamaat* if not an enemy. Referring to this verse and the use of the word *wahi* being sent to the honey bee, he says:

“... literal meaning of *wahi* is a subtle hint made in such a manner that apart from the person who makes that subtle hint, and apart from the person who receives that subtle hint, no one else can feel it. This is how this word bears a similarity with the words *ilqa* (to put an idea into someone’s heart), and with *ilham* (hidden teaching or instruction), and it is used in that sense. The teaching that God sends to His creation is not provided by any institution or school, but by subtle means so that, on the face of it, no one appears to be giving a teaching and no one appears to be receiving the teaching. This is why in the Quran it is described by the words *wahi*, *ilham*, and *ilqa*. Now, the three words have become different technical terms. The word *wahi* has been restricted to prophets, *ilham* for saints and other special chosen ones of God, and the word *ilqa* is used for ordinary people.” (*Tafheem al Quran*, vol. 2, page 551)

What I want to stress is what Maulana Mawdudi says next:

“... but the Quran does not distinguish between this technical terminology. In it heavens receive *wahi* in accordance with which the creation works; *wahi* is sent to the earth and receiving a hint of it, it begins to relate its history; the angels receive *wahi* in accordance with which they work; the honey bee is taught its complete task by this *wahi*, as you can see from the verse under consideration.”

“This *wahi* is not restricted to the honey bee. To teach the fish to swim, to teach the bird to fly, and for the infant to suckle, he is taught by the *wahi* of God. For a human being to be shown, without his reflecting, making any investigation or research on his part, the correct opinion or guidance, that too is *wahi*.”

Then he quotes the Holy Quran: “... and we sent *wahi* to the mother of Moses,” and elaborates: “*No human being is deprived of such wahi.*”

I have used the word *wahi* rather than revelation because, in Urdu, Maulana Mawdudi has continued to use the word *wahi* and not *ilham* or *ilqa*. He continues:

“In all the discoveries and inventions made in this world, in the great achievements of great thinkers, conquerors, writers and thinkers, *wahi* can be seen to be working. Even ordinary people sometimes find in their heart an idea or think of something, or have a dream, and later experience shows that it was correct guidance which they had received from the unseen.”

And then he goes on to say that amongst the different types of *wahi*, the one that is received by the prophets is different because it consists of instructions, guidance and law, whose purpose is that the prophet should guide humanity through it.

What Hazrat Mirza said

And this was exactly what the Promised Messiah wrote. He said that you have *wahi willayat* and *wahi nabuat*. *Wahi nabuat* is what Maulana Mawdudi is describing here; it has law and guidance for humanity. But *wahi willayat* is God speaking to His chosen ones. Maulana Mawdudi here agrees that even ordinary people can receive *wahi*. The distinction between an ordinary person and a *Mujaddid* is this, that an ordinary person receives *wahi* every now and then, whereas a *Mujaddid* receives it in great abundance.

The point I am making is that Maulana Mawdudi tells us that God has not restricted the use of the word *wahi* for speaking to any animate or inanimate objects. Whether a person is a prophet, a *Mujaddid*, an ordinary person, a physicist or a mathematician, he can receive *wahi*. He says that use of the word *wahi* has become restricted. But the Quran does not restrict it. If the Quran does not restrict it, if God does not restrict it, why should we accept a restriction that a section of Muslims have put on the words of the Quran?

All Divine Attributes are ever-lasting

Up until Hazrat sahib's time Muslims believed that God had stopped speaking to man. For example, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan said you can fall down in prayer and you can pray and you can ask for God to take away your problems but nothing will happen. All that happens is that you satisfy your heart that you have talked to someone and He is going to do something about it. It was Hazrat sahib who said that all of God's qualities and characteristics are ever living. If you are going to say that God used to speak to man and He does not do so anymore, then God is no different from any other human being, because when human beings get old they find it difficult to hear and to see. So in what way is God different? God had a characteristic that was speaking; He lost it. And as Brother Hussein Wilson said the other day, this has nothing to do with whether you accept Mirza Ghulam Ahmad as the Messiah or the *Mujaddid* or not. This goes back to attributes of God. The majesty of God. As Brother Hussein Wilson said the other day, his objection to Jesus being the Son of God is this, that you need a son because you are going to grow old, and you need looking after. You need a son because you are going to die and the son is going to take your place. *But if you are God, if you are ever living, if you are never going to grow old, if you are never going to grow weak, then why would you need a son?*

And the same argument applies here, that it is only human beings, it is only creation that loses its faculties; people like me who have to wear glasses to be able to read or see clearly, or someone might have to wear a heart stabiliser or a hearing aid. God does not need these things. To deny the continuation of wahi is to deny the existence of an ever-living God.

Why do Muslims not accept this?

In fact, it takes me back to something that Hazrat sahib wrote. He said it would take 300 years for people to actually understand the things that he has written. And we see now that although people do not accept him or what he said when we present it from Hazrat sahib's books, they are actually coming to the same conclusions.

I want to tell you of an incident. Someone took an annual calendar for the year 1999 or 2000, which had verses of the Quran translated for each month. Under the translation there was some guidance in Urdu about what that verse meant. He took it to a mosque in Hounslow and showed it to the *Maulana*. The *Maulana* looked at the English translation and then he looked at the guidance and he said that this was absolutely what Muslims needed in this age, and that he wanted to display this calendar in the mosque so that everyone who comes and reads these verses can see what guidance is provided in these verses to Muslims. And the man said: "Well, before you hang it up in the mosque I will tell you that the explanation given at the bottom of each verse is by Mirza Ghulam Ahmad." The *Maulana* said that this *kafir* (heretic) could not have said these things. He threw the calendar bearing verses of the Holy Quran on the floor and said: "I can't even touch that."

So if you do not take Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's name and tell Muslims his exposition of the Holy Quran, they are fine. But mention his name and suddenly the same teaching becomes heretical. What great people companions of the Holy Prophet (*Sallallahu aleyhi ve sellemin*) were. They said: "Look at what is being said, don't look at who is saying it." If guidance is correct then what does it matter who it was who said it?

Reason for the name of the *Surah*

I want to get back to why God has given this chapter the name, *The Honey Bee*. I mentioned the qualities of the honey bee and I went through them in detail in the Friday sermon.

The fact that a honey bee can do any of the things that it does is a miracle because according to its size, it is impossible for a honey bee to fly. Aeronautical engineering tells us that if you take the ratio of the span of its wings to its body volume and weight and so on, that thing should not be flying. But it is flying, and that is what a miracle is – when life and experience and science tell you that something cannot be done, and yet it happens. People say, Well that’s a natural miracle. Are there any other miracles that you can point to? And I say to you: “Yes, there are.”

All of you sitting here are a miracle. And why is that a miracle? Let me read this to you. This *Jamaat* was created by one man. This man, by the name of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, never went to school. He was unlettered. He had no teaching, he had no certificates. So when he wrote his books and put his ideas forward, the first thing that was said by scholars was: “Where was your *dastarbandi*?” In England, this would be the equivalent to getting a gown and a mortar-board when you get a degree. The equivalent in India and Pakistan for graduation from traditional schools is the *dastarbandi*. “You’ve never been to any school, you’ve never passed any exams in Arabic or Persian or Urdu or *Hadith* or Quran and so on, and yet you are writing these books.” When people say this to me I reply, “You’ve just proven to me that Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was deputed by Allah because if he did not go to any school to learn these things, then who taught him? There is only one Being that is left Who could have taught him and that is God. And if in that day and age God was speaking to this man and prophesying victory of Islam over all other religions, then that in itself was a miracle. Remember that at that time Muslims all over the world were ruled by some Christian nation or another. They had few material resources, educationally they were backward, and as a people they were demoralised. Yet this man called Mirza Ghulam Ahmad said to them: “You have nothing to worry about; Islam shall overcome all difficulties and be victorious.”

Today I received an email from someone who gave me the address of an anti-Islamic website. You should also log on to it and read the objections. He asked me: “How long it will take you to find the objections to these answers?” I emailed him back and said: “About five minutes.” He emailed back in astonishment and asked: “In five minutes you can reply to all these?” I replied: “Yes.” He asked: “How?” I told him: “I have an index of Hazrat sahib’s books and every single objection that is mentioned on that website is mentioned in that index. All I have to do is go to that index, pick up the name of the book and the page number and read the answer to the objection and just translate that into English.” One hundred and fifty years ago this man was writing answers to objections that are being put on the internet now. Is this not a miracle?

Dedication of early Ahmadis

Some years ago I went to Qadian. I went to Lahore Railway Station and I got a bus. And in that I bus I travelled to Wagah, which is the Pakistan side of the border with India. I got off the bus and went through the passport control and so on. I got to border control on the Indian side – which is called Atari. Went through passport control there. Then I took a taxi and went to Amritsar from where I got a bus. And that bus took me to Batala, from where I got off and got another bus, and that bus took me to Qadian. It dropped me off outside Qadian. I got off and I asked around and I walked for 45 minutes and I got to the place where Ahmadiyya Movement started. This was about ten years ago. The whole journey took all day.

Can you imagine what that place was like in 1880 or 1890 when Hazrat Mirza sahib made his claim to

being the *Mujaddid* of the fourteenth century of *Hijra*? Can you imagine what people like Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali and Khawaja Kamal-ud-Din, who used to go to Qadian every week, went through to get there? They would take a train. Then they would change over to a bus, and then they would get off in Batala. They were not lazy like me to take another bus but they would walk all night and arrive in Qadian for the *Tahajud* prayer. They would say the prayer, spend the whole day in Hazrat Mirza sahib's company and at night they will repeat the whole procedure again in reverse to get back to Lahore because in the morning they had to go to work. They were both professors in the Islam College at Lahore at the time, I think.

That is a miracle, that these people such as Hazrat Khawaja Kamal-ud-Din, who was a barrister of such high standing that he used to come to London and plead cases before the Privy Council, went through such hardship week after week just to be in the company of the Promised Messiah. Did Hazrat Khawaja sahib have to do that? What did he have to gain from this man sitting in Qadian? Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali's name had gone forward for the examination to join what is called the Indian Administration Service, I think it was called IAS, where he could have ended up being either the Chief Justice of India or the head of a department or something famous, powerful, earning lots of money. What did he have to gain from all this walking and trouble and sacrifice of his time?

Don't you think it's a miracle that an unlettered man who is living in a remote, inaccessible village attracted all these people who were so highly educated, who took all this trouble to go and be with him? Forget about them, let us talk about Hazrat Maulana Nur-ud-Din, who was such a great scholar that people said to him, if you claim to be the *Mujaddid* yourself we will come and we will take an oath of allegiance on your hand. He went and he sat at the Promised Messiah's feet and he said, "Whatever I have learned is through him."

Miracles

This *Jamaat* itself is not only a miracle but it's a miracle upon miracles. People in the *Jamaat* have been tortured; people in this *Jamaat* have been stoned to death. People in this *Jamaat* have been tied to the back of motorbikes and dragged through the streets. People in this *Jamaat*, old men, had their houses surrounded and set on fire, and they have been fired upon. Pits were dug, they were put in there up to their waist and then stoned to death for the curse of being Ahmadi. It is a miracle that they did not recant their faith.

Sahibzada Abdul Latif was not an ordinary person; he was a prince. They hated to kill him, and the king of Afghanistan kept saying to him: "All you have to say is that Mirza Ghulam Ahmad misled me and I have come back to the true faith and you will be freed and your lands and estate and honours restored to you." He replied: "I shall not buy my life by selling the truth. I can't do that." He continued: "If you kill me now I will never die." And he will never die because whenever those who give up their lives for their faith are mentioned, Sahibzada Abdul Latif's name will shine forth.

A prophecy about Afghanistan

There is another miracle. At that time the Promised Messiah wrote a book, and, addressing the Afghans, he said:

"You slaughtered like lambs Abdur Rahman and his companion, and God did not send down any retribution because He wanted to give you a chance. Then Sahibzada Abdul Latif went from Qadian to Afghanistan and he spoke to you and he explained his beliefs to you using arguments from the Quran. And he showed you from the Quran that he did not believe anything that was against Islam or the Quran. Yet you still stoned him to death. Oh land of Kabul! Today you fell

from God's grace. And from today fire will rain down upon you, oh land of Afghanistan, and rivers of blood shall flow upon you because you have refused to repent for the injustice you have done."

And so it has come to pass.

Miracle that was the creation of this *Jamaat*

When Hazrat Sahib's son distorted Hazrat Sahib's beliefs and views, Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali came to Lahore, and this is how he lived. I quote from his biography:

"After the death of the Promised Messiah, when conditions in Qadian became very bad, then Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali sent his wife and children to Dr Basharat Ahmad."

Dr Basharat Ahmad was his father-in-law, who at that time was in Rawalpindi. The biographer continues:

"On 20 April 1914 he migrated to Lahore alone."

Now listen to this about how he lived, next to the mosque in Ahmadiyya buildings:

"Next to that was a building that was being constructed. Construction of two rooms on the ground floor had finished, but up until that time there was no plaster on the walls and the floor was unpaved. He had a door put to one room and that became his office. He kept the other room for his guests. Later on, on the second floor two rooms were constructed for his family. They did not have any doors. They used to take bags in which you buy rice or flour, cut them up and hang them on the opening for privacy. Food was cooked outside in the open."

That was the house to which Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali brought his family and that is where he lived. That is where he translated the Holy Quran into English. And that is where he translated it into Urdu, and that is where he wrote all the other books. And yet we still ask for miracles.

This is why I say all of you sitting here today are a miracle. You are a miracle of the teaching of the Holy Prophet, *Sallallahu aleyhi ve sellem*. Let me tell you something else. At the first meeting of this *Jamaat* that today stretches from Fiji and Indonesia all the way to Trinidad and Surinam, the total number of people who gathered together was twenty-nine. The total gathering in that meeting where this *Jamaat* was created was 29 people. An appeal was made for funds, and the collection at that time was 325 rupees, which in today's terms is £3.25. People ask me for miracles and they tell me miracles don't happen.

These were great men and I keep repeating their stories to show you that this *Jamaat* got here not through ease, not through comfort, but through sacrifice. I have this note regarding an incident I had forgotten. Zahid was translating a *khutbah* by Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali from an old issue of *Paigham-i-Sulah*, from Urdu into English. On the second page I noticed that they had printed a letter from an Ahmadi, I forget his name now, but it went something like this:

"Dear Sir, I hope you will print this letter in *Paigham-i-Sulah* because this is my apology to the *Jamaat*. For so long as my children had not left home I could only contribute one third of my earnings to the work of the *Jamaat*. But now that they have become independent, from now on I will give one half of everything I earn to the work of this *Jamaat*."

What was his apology for?

“I apologise to the *Jamaat* that it couldn’t have been done sooner.”

An article was published recently in German about the Berlin Mosque, and in that there is a moving description of a meeting. The author had gone to see Chaudry Saeed Ahmad, who was the *imam* of the Berlin Mosque, and this journalist wrote:

“Chaudry Saeed caressed the walls of the mosque and said, ‘In these bricks lie the jewellery owned by my mother. When Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Ali made an appeal for a mosque to be built in Berlin, the *Jamaat* did not have any money, so he turned to the ladies and said that in Islam Allah has made women equal to men. Their brothers and their fathers and their husbands have been making sacrifices. And now he was turning to the women of the *Jamaat*. Every single woman who was there took off all her jewellery to donate. My mother went home and brought all the jewellery she had and people tell me that gold rained down from the ladies’ gallery. And when they started to collect it, the bundle was so heavy that they could not lift it. Every single woman in the *Jamaat* sacrificed her jewellery for the construction of this mosque.’ And that was why Chaudry Saeed Ahmad caressed the wall and kissed it and said, ‘My mother’s jewellery lies buried in the bricks of this mosque.’ ”

The creation of this feeling of sacrifice in itself is a miracle. What is dearer to anyone than worldly possessions, what is dearer to ladies – with all due respect – than their finery and jewellery and gold and diamonds? This is the only instance, in history, when, not rich queens and princesses of Islam, but ordinary women and girls sacrificed their possessions for the completion of a mosque.

Think about the *jamaat* in the UK. Remember the *Id* we celebrated in a small church vestry in North London? Who was there? Rifaat and I were there, so were Jameela and Faiz. My mum and dad, Zahid, Samina, Walter, Sheila, Zamarn and Shami, and Dr Faruq Abdullah. This was the sum total of the number of people who were there. But these miracles don’t happen without effort and work and sacrifice, and that’s what the honey bee does. It makes an effort; it gets up and it goes out and it collects the nectar and it takes it back to others, and that is what your *Jamaat* was created for, that the nectar that has been collected in this Holy Book of God, for you to take to the rest of humanity. It is nectar because the fruit of all religions has been gathered together in this book.

You can take Maulana Mawdudi’s translation, you can take anyone’s translation of the Holy Quran, and you can put it to people, but it will not have the same effect as this translation. The reason being that it’s based on the Promised Messiah’s writings, and I give you a practical example of that. When General Zia had to make a speech to the general assembly about Islam, he did not use Maulana Mawdudi’s translation, although he was related to the leaders of the *Jamaat-e-Islami*. He asked a Lahori Ahmadi to write for him the speech that he was going to make to the United Nations to tell non-Muslims what are the teachings of Islam, and how it can solve the problems of this world. Do you really think that if you take the traditional teaching and tell people that we can attack India, and if we win we can take their women away and we can keep them as our wives without marrying them and have intimate relations, that is going to spread Islam? Do you really think Islam is going to spread if you say that it’s every Muslim’s duty to pick up the sword and go out into the street and kill the first Hindu or Sikh or Muslim or Christian or Jewish person that you find out there? You cannot say that there is one concept of Islam in Pakistan and Muslim countries which is exactly what I have just told you about. Take up the sword, go out and kill all non-Muslims. But when the same leaders come over to the UK, the concept of Islam changes. Now God cannot have sent two different teachings. The point about our *Jamaat* is that what we say in Pakistan, we say over here, the same thing we say in Australia, the same thing we say in Fiji, the same thing we say in America. There is

no difference in what we teach about what Islam says.

How do we teach tolerance?

In Pakistan we teach tolerance. How do we teach tolerance in Pakistan? We say, anyone who says the *Kalima* – There is one God, and the Holy Prophet, *Sallallahu aleyhi ve sellem*, is His messenger and prophet – that person is to be regarded as a Muslim, and no one but no one has the right to say to such a person the he is not a Muslim or he is a *kafir* or a heretic. Whether someone's views are right or wrong, whether someone's actions are right or wrong, are to be judged by God and God alone on the day of judgement. He has not made us the police constables or magistrates or judges. It is only for Him to decide what is right and what is wrong, and that will be done on the day of judgement. I will be there and you will be there, and those who disagree with us will be there. And He will judge between us. This was the teaching of the Holy Prophet Mohamed, and this was the teaching that was followed by the companions of the Holy Prophet Mohamed. For example, when people rose up against Hazrat Ali, he was the *Khalifa*. He was asked by his supporters to declare his opponents as heretics. He said: "They are our brothers although they follow the wrong path." But this teaching had been completely forgotten for 1400 years. If the Promised Messiah deserves to be remembered for one thing, and nothing else that he did, that is, one thing he deserves to be remembered for, that he said anyone and everyone who recites the *Kalima* is a Muslim.

A Shia went to him and said: "I want to join your *Jamaat* but I will leave my hands open when I pray." He replied: "Do so." The man said: "I want to join your *Jamaat* but I believe that the hand should be cut off at the fingers rather than the wrist, as a punishment of theft." The Promised Messiah said: "Keep believing that." He said: "I will give *zakat* in accordance with Shia jurisprudence." The Promised Messiah replied: "Okay, keep giving *zakat* in accordance with your own *fiqa* and not the Sunni *fiqa*." This man went through a whole list of things and at the end he asked: "Do I have to give up anything?" The Promised Messiah replied: "You have to stop abusing the companions of the Holy Prophet." Because as he said elsewhere, we do not deserve as much honour as the particles of dust on which these people, the companions of the Holy Prophet, walked, because of the sacrifices they made.

Muslims follow the Promised Messiah

What happened in 1947, or from 1940-47 when Muslims wanted a separate homeland for themselves? The greatest empire the world had seen since the Muslim and the Roman Empires – the British Empire– did not agree with it. They did not want India to be divided into India and Pakistan. The Congress Party, which was the main political party which had been set up many years before Muslims awoke, did not want India divided into India and Pakistan. Hindus, who mostly formed the Congress, were well educated; Muslims were ignorant. Hindus had all the businesses in their hands; Muslims, they were poor. In jobs, Hindus had all the top jobs; Muslims had all the menial jobs. Mr Jinnah stood up with only one slogan – Pakistan. What did Pakistan mean? There is only one God and Muhammad is His Messenger. How did Mr Jinnah define Muslim? He said anyone who says "I am a Muslim" is a Muslim. He didn't differentiate between Shia and Sunni and other groups. The first foreign minister that he appointed was a Qadiani. On matters of religion he consulted our *jamaat*. And just by the simple device of saying anyone who says "I am a Muslim is a Muslim" he united the Muslims of the whole of India. He took on the British Empire and he took on the Congress Party and he won.

Practical abrogation of the *Kalima*

When they say that the *Kalima*, the profession of Muslim faith, is blessed, they are right. It is blessed for the reason that it unites everyone. But if you are going to say that it is alright to recite the *Kalima* but unless you take the pledge and join the *Jamaat* you are not a Muslim, then you have actually abrogated the *Kalima*. Or if you say you have recited the *Kalima* but unless you follow this person or you recited the *Kalima* but unless you are an Ahmadi or a Suni or Ahl-i Hadith or whatever, in effect you are saying you

have abrogated the *Kalima* because the *Kalima* is not enough to make you a Muslim. And as long as you do that Muslims will keep on fighting, Sunni Pakistan will fight Shia Iran. And Sunni Pakistan will fight Wahabi Saudi Arabia. And so long as you don't have unity you will see what we saw last year – every single Muslim country and president and nation grovelling to the Americans and saying: Do whatever you want to do to Afghanistan or Iraq, kill the Muslims there, but leave us alone.

That was the miracle that Hazrat sahib wanted to create and that is why when the Woking Muslim Mission was created it was not created as an Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission. When a mosque was built in Berlin, it was the German Muslim Mission, it was not the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission. When a mission was created in Fiji, it was the Muslim League, it was not the Ahmadiyya League. When a mission was created in Surinam it was the Surinam Muslim Association and not the Ahmadiyya Association. Name one place that members of this association went to and created a sectarian *Jamaat* under the name Ahmadiyya. We did not do so. It was always Muslim Association, Muslim League, the Woking Muslim Mission, Berlin Muslim Mission, and so on and so forth. And look at the success that these missions and places had.

The miracle of the honey bee is that it receives guidance and it takes it back to the hive and it tells the other bees where that flower or fruit is located from which they then also go and get the same guidance. It does not say: "I like this one I'm going to tell him or her where that flower is located, but that one I don't like them so I'm not going to tell them." This is the lesson of the honey bee. This is what the Quran says: Why don't you learn from animals? I have created them. Look at the honey bee. It is the unity of that beehive that makes it successful. If all the bees started fighting amongst themselves, I do not think that beehive would survive. And if we, as human beings, cannot learn a lesson from what the honey bee teaches us, then may God have mercy on our souls.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

AL-MIQDAAD IBN AMR The First Muslim Cavalryman

When I received the article by Sadiq Noor Sahib of Calgary, Canada, I was on my way to the United Kingdom to participate in the convention there. However, we are now publishing this inspirational lesson in this issue. Since the article submitted is in pdf, we are mailing it as an attachment to this edition. – Ed.

PUBLICATION

Web link to *The HOPE Bulletin* on Central Anjuman's official website

The aaiil.org Webmaster will place online, at <http://aaiil.org/text/articles/hope/hopebulletin.shtml> some selected issues of *The HOPE Bulletin* and some articles and special photographic supplements which do not carry any sensitive or confidential matters of our worldwide *Jama'at*.

Web link to the audio archive with links to photographs taken at the UK Convention

A new page has been launched at aaiil.org, with complete coverage of the UK Convention:

<http://aaiil.org/uk/conventions/20090710to12mga100th/20090710to12mga100th.shtml>

You will find links to the audio archive and to photographs taken at the event. More links to be added to this page soon. This special page has a link from the top right side of the homepage, and from the UK section's homepage.

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

Appreciation from Arshad Alvi, Lahore, Pakistan

Thanks for mail with May, 2009 edition of *The HOPE Bulletin*. Nice to see and we appreciate your efforts regarding working of *Jamaat* with deepest interest missionary spirit and sincerity.

Encouragement from Nur Jahan Alam, Sydney, Australia

Thanks for your news. I am glad that Parveen Bhabhijan is getting used to the States. It is not easy moving from one place to another and starting over again. May Allah make it easy for your relocation, *ameen*.

Mum is doing her best, but she does not keep as well as we would like her to be. However, Allah knows best and is giving her the strength to carry on. Whatever we have, we should be very grateful to Allah for it, as so many do not have the opportunities and benefits as we do.

Carry on the good work that you are doing with your "Hope". May Allah give you rewards for it, *ameen*.

HOPE MEMBER SERVICE

Recipe of the Month

Lamb with rice

Ingredients

- 2-1/2 lbs. lean lamb meat, cubed
- 2 onions, chopped
- oil for frying
- 2 cups rice
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon cardamom
- 1/4 cup almonds, toasted
- 1/4 cup pine nuts, toasted

Method of Preparation

- Brown lamb and onions over medium heat in vegetable oil, in a large skillet.
- Season with salt, pepper, cinnamon and cardamom.

- Adjust seasoning to taste.
- Add enough hot water to cover the lamb.
- Cover pan and simmer until lamb is tender.
- Drain the lamb, reserving the liquid in a measuring cup.
- Add enough water to the liquid to measure three cups.
- Pour liquid into saucepan and bring to a boil.
- Add the rice.
- Cover pan and reduce heat to low.
- Let rice simmer for 30 minutes, while lamb and onions are kept warm in the oven.
- Mound rice on a serving platter.
- Top with lamb and onions, and garnish with toasted almonds and pine nuts.

PHOTOGRAPHIC PRESENTATION

Guided tour of London by Habiba Anwar





Guided tour of Woking by Azhar Ahmad





Tour of Windsor Castle conducted by Shahid and Riffat Aziz



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