

# The ISLAMIC REVIEW

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## In This Issue:

- PROMISED MESSIAH SPEAKS**  
**Holy Qur'an: The Incomparable**  
**Unequaled Word of God**  
By Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad ..... 2
- EDITORIAL- Islam On The March**  
By Masud Akhtar ..... 3
- OBJECT OF PROPHETHOOD**  
By the Late Maulana Muhammad Ali ..... 4
- TRIBUTES TO THE FOUNDER OF**  
**THE 'AHMADIYYA MOVEMENT IN ISLAM'**  
By the Late Maulana Abul-kalam Azad .... 10
- LIFE AFTER DEATH**  
By the Late Khawaya Kamalud Din ..... 11
- A LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF**  
**MUSLIM JOURNAL, CHICAGO**  
By Masud Akhtar ..... 14
- DEMOCRACY, SOCIALISM**  
**AND CONSENSUS**  
By Kh Naseer-ud-Din ..... 16

## EDITORIAL

# Islam On The March

By Masud Akhtar

According to the U.N.E.S.C.O. studies, Islam is the fastest growing major religion of the world during the last decade. During these years, an average of one thousand persons embraced Islam every day from areas as diverse as Africa, Western Europe, Soviet Russia (including its satellites in Eastern Europe), Japan, and Korea in the Farthest East. These converts to Islam come from so diverse stratas of life, ranging from the members of nomad tribes of Africa and the untouchables of India to the highly educated professors of universities and intellectuals of Europe, who have found appeal in the teachings of Islam and have expressed disenchantment with Marxism and disgust with the Christian churches who have made so many compromises with authority and Christian hypocrisy and the cynical Western pretense of equal opportunity to all sections of the society. Roger Garandy, who was a member of the Central Committee of the French Communist Party and one of its leading ideologues and highly regarded poet and translator Eva de Vitary Meyerovitch, a life-long and devout Catholic, are amongst six hundred thousand French citizens who have embraced Islam. So spectacular has been the spread of Islam during this decade that Pope John Paul II took an extensive tour of African countries for mobilizing missionary and episcopal forces for a counter-attack against Islam, which claimed 50 million converts in Africa during the last 15 years. The tragedy with the Christian Missions in Africa is that, because of their origins in the Western world, they suffer from the inherent contradictions of the Western world and, as such, are no match for Islam's simple message of unqualified justice and equality for all human beings without any distinction of CAST, COLOR, ORIGIN, RACE OR SEX, and its total disassociation from the much-hated exploitation by the colonial powers of Europe lagacies, of which still continue to mar the life of African people in many parts of Africa, in one form or the other.

The New Orientalists are alarmed at the fast pace of

Continued on Page 8

# The ISLAMIC REVIEW

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## LET THE MOSQUES BE MASAJID ALLAH AGAIN!

By Masud Akhtar

“Who is more unjust than he who prevents (men) from the Mosques of Allah, from His name being remembered therein, and strive to ruin them? (As for) these, it was not proper for them to enter them except in fear. For them is the disgrace in this world, and theirs is a grievous chastisement in the Hereafter.” (The Holy Qur'-an, 2:114)

## In This Issue:

### PROMISED MESSIAH SPEAKS

#### Object Of Man's Existence

By Mirza Ghulam Ahmad  
Founder Of The Ahmadiyya Movement ..... 2

### EDITORIAL

#### Let The Mosques Be Masajid Allah Again!

By Masud Akhtar ..... 3

### MUHAMMAD IN WORLD SCRIPTURES

#### Two Kinds Of Testimony To

#### The Truth Of The Prophet's Claim

By The Late Maulana Abdul Haq Vidyarthi ..... 5

### CORRECTIONS OF MISLEADING STATEMENTS MADE BY PAKISTANI COMMENTATORS RE: THE CAPE TOWN JUDGEMENT

By Dr. Zahid Aziz DSC ..... 11

### SOME FACTS ABOUT MARRIAGE IN ISLAM

By Dr. S.A. Khulusi, Phd. .... 13

### MUSLIM CONCEPTS OF LAW, LIBERTY AND MORALITY

By Dr. S.A. Khulusi, Phd. .... 14

### GRANDEUR OF MOORISH CIVILIZATION IN SPAIN

By Dr. S.A. Khulusi, Phd. .... 16

### REVELATION IN ISLAM

By The Late Maulana Muhammad Ali ..... 18

The above verse of the Qur'-an states the primary purpose of a Mosque and simultaneously warns that barring entry of people for remembering their Allah or its misuse will bring disgrace in this world and a greivous chastisement in the Hereafter. Mosque has played an important role in Muslim society in various periods of its history and still continues to play a significant role in the present day Muslim world. According to the teachings of Islam, a mosque is vested in Allah in an irrevocable trust. It does not belong to any individual or even a sect or group of people. The Qur'-an calls mosques as Masajid Allah. It is most unfortunate that mosques have come to be named after different sects, such as Hanafi Mosque, Shafii Mosque, Maliki Mosque, Wahabi Mosque, Hanbli Mosque, Shiite Mosque, or Ahmadi Mosque, etc. This deviation from the clear teachings of the Qur'-an has resulted in a division in the ranks of the Muslim Ummah. And this has also led to false thinking that a particular mosque belongs to and is meant for a particular sect of Muslims to the exclusion of all other Muslims. Proceeding from this false presumption, they, in exercise of this supposed right of ownership, bar muslims of other sects from entering their mosque. It sounds strange in the face of the fact that all muslims, to whatever sect they may belong, perform and recite the same prayer and verses of the Qur'-an facing towards the same Qibla addressing their prayers to the same Allah. It sounds stanger still that the people who claim to be the Ummah of a Prophet(peace be upon him), who by allowing the deputation of the Christians of Najran to use the Nabwi Mosque for holding their Sunday Church, had set the example of magnanimity in dealings with followers of other religions yet choose to deny entry to mosques to their co-believers for offering their prayers. It is not only blasphemous but it is clear and open rebellion against Allah and His Messenger(peace be upon him). It is an open challenge to Allah's rights in mosques. The sooner the Muslim world can get rid of this blunder, the better, because if this practice continues, the dream of unity of the Muslim Ummah will remain unfulfilled.

| *Continued on Page 22*

# The ISLAMIC REVIEW

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## “ PURE PAGES CONTAINING LASTING COMMANDMENTS!” (98:2-3)

When orientalist come across statements that the Qur'an is a guidance in every respect for all people and for all times, they give vent to signs of perplexion. They wonder, how a scripture, about which it is claimed that it is literally the word of God because of its preservation in its originally revealed form and language, and wherein no change is either desirable or possible through human effort, can be capable of guiding mankind in all ages. Hence, the need for this explanation.

The Qur'an is a revealed book. For such a revelation to fulfill its primary objective, it must not only emphasize a crystal clear concept of God but it should also inform man as to the relationship between God and the Universe, and the place of man in that Juxta-position.

According to the Qur'an, God has not left the discovery of His existence, His attributes and His unity, to man. If the perfection of the concept of Divine had been left to man's intellect alone, countless generations of mankind would have lived and died in ignorance before a concept of God even remotely approaching reality could have been evolved. Thus, the Qur'an rejects the notion of progressive perfection of the concept of the Divine by man through the use of his intellect or that man's concept of God evolved progressively from the worship of natural objects as a recognition and acceptance of the Divine. This would have meant that man created God through a process of intellectual exercise. On the contrary, the Qur'an informs us that God has, through His Unity, His attributes and revelation, affirmed and borne witness to his existence for the complete fulfillment of life in all Spheres. According to the Qur'an, all attributes of Allah are eternal, none ever falling into disuse. Thus, God has not only vouchsafed revelation to all people in all ages in the past but will continue to reveal until the last day. After the perfection of revelation by the finality of prophethood, prophetic revelation ceased. But revelation for the purpose of revealing the true meaning of the Qur'an to all generations or as a sign of God's existence and eternal operation of His attributes at all times shall continue in the form of saintly revelation, or Wahy-e-Wallayat. Mujaddideen, in the

Continued On Page 4

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## In This Issue

### PROMISED MESSIAH SPEAKS

Man's Aim In Life And How To Attain It ..... 2

### EDITORIAL

“Pure Pages Containing Lasting Commandments ..... 3

### THE AHMADIYYAH MOVEMENT AND ITS FOUNDER

By The Late Maulana M. Yakub Khan..... 6

### BEG YOUR PARDON SIR!

By Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Rajabally ..... 8

### TWENTY REASONS WHY WE BELIEVE THAT HADHRAT MIRZA GHULAM AHMAD DID NOT CLAIM TO BE A PROPHET

By Maulana Hafiz Sher Muhammad ..... 9

### THE DOCTRINES OF ISLAM & CHRISTIANITY-GODHEAD OF JESUS

By Mrs. Ulfat Aziz-us-Samad ..... 14

### SUNRISE FROM THE WEST

By Dr. Saeed Ahmad Khan ..... 15

### REVELATION IN ISLAM

By The Late Maulana Muhammad Ali ..... 19

### ON RECEIVING A QURAN

Letter From Daud S. Muhammad ..... 20

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Georgetown, Guyana.

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## In This Issue

### THE HOLY QUR'AN, THE PERFECT GUIDE

By Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad ..... 2

### EDITORIAL

#### THE MARTYR OF GUYANA

By Ch. Masud Akhtar ..... 3

#### PROUD OF BEING A MUSLIM

By Dr. Muhammad-I-Rajabally ..... 4

#### GUYANA INTERNATIONAL AHMADIYYAH CONVENTION

ISLAM: A Religion of Peace & Unity  
A Speech by President Desmond Hoyte, President of the  
Republic of Guyana ..... 5

#### THE FINALITY OF PROPHETHOOD

A Speech by Choudry Masud Akhtar ..... 8

#### THE DOCTRINES OF ISLAM & CHRISTIANITY

By Mrs. Ulfat Aziz-us-Samad ..... 15

#### IN MEMORY OF IMAM MUHAMMAD ANWAR

By Dr. Zahid Aziz ..... 16

#### ISLAM ON SLAVERY

By the Late Alhaj Alfarooq-Lord Headley ..... 18

#### REVELATION IN ISLAM

By the Late Maulana Muhammad Ali ..... 22

## EDITORIAL

### Imam Anwar Shaheed- the Martyr of Guyana

Our hearts bleed on the assassination of our United Kingdom Missionary, the late Imam Muhammad Anwar Shaheed at Georgetown, Guyana. We hope all sane persons will join us in condemnation of this brutal, pre-planned and conspiratorial murder. It is tragic that some wolves in the garb of clerics go about in the world of religion even in this era of civilization and enlightenment. We know of no scripture which teaches murder, arson, loot and rape simply on account of a difference of opinion in religious matters. It is borne out by history that inspite of no scripture permitting compulsion in the matters of belief, the establishment clerics in various eras have been sowing seeds of hatred and prejudice in the minds of their followers against their fellow human beings in the very name of God and the Religion. Even presently, we Ahmadis and many other religious groups are being persecuted in many lands at the behest and call of the so-called fundamentalists whose cadres are swelled with the susedo religionists, the so-called establishment ulema. Day in and day out they exhort their ignorant followers at criminal acts against those who do not agree with their viewpoint in religious beliefs. Little do they realize that if all religious groups were to choose to play the game according to the rules followed by these criminals, then millions of heads, including theirs, would roll in the dust overnight. Religious platform is not a proper forum for gangsterism and criminal conspirator. By their black deeds, they in fact bring their religion to disrepute and do not render any service to God or the religion itself.

Today's man, because of the ever-looming sense of the danger of the complete annihilation of mankind from the thousands of nuclear warheads amassed and stockpiled by the military powers of this era, stands in need of some harmonizing force which could guarantee peace and thus could grant him the much needed sense of security. Religion, no doubt, is and can prove such a fortifying force in these distressed times; but only if the establishment clerics let free the harmonizing teachings of the religion, based on love, compassion and understanding. It is high time that the

Continued On Page 4

# The ISLAMIC REVIEW

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## OUR BELIEFS

- (1) That there is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger.
- (2) After the Holy Prophet(peace be upon him), Allah has completely barred the appearance of a prophet, old or new.
- (3) After the Holy Prophet, Gabriel can never descend and bring Prophetic Revelation (*Wahy Nubuwwah*) to any person.
- (4) If Gabriel were to descend with one word of Prophetic Revelation (*Wahy Nubuwwah*) on any person, it would contradict the two complementary verses:  
"This day have I perfected your Religion for you"(5:5); "He is the Messenger of Allah and the Last of the prophets."
- (5) The Holy Prophet also said: "I am Muhammad and I am Ahmad and I am *al-'Aqib* (the one who comes last) after whom there can be no prophet." (Al-Bukhari : Kitab al-Manaqib)
- (6) In the light of the above Islamic fundamentals, the Holy Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement never claimed to be a *Nabi*, but the God-Ordained Mujaddid("The Promised Messiah") of the 14th Islamic Century, having been expressly raised to re-establish the predominance of Islam in the world.
- (7) He named his followers 'Ahmadi' after the Holy Prophet's *Jamali* (beatific) name 'Ahmad'.
- (8) He proclaimed that no verse of the Holy Qur'-an has been abrogated nor shall ever be abrogated.
- (9) All the Companions of the Holy Prophet and the Imams are venerable.
- (10) It is spiritually conducive to our Faith to accept the revivalist Islamic missions of *all Mujaddids(Renovators)*.
- (11) *Any one who declares his faith in the Kalimah* (Muslim formula of faith- *la ilaha ilallahu Muhammadur Rasulullah*) is a Muslim.

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## In This Issue

### PROMISED MESSIAH SPEAKS 'UMOORE GHAIBIYYAH'

By Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad ..... 2

OUR BELIEFS ..... 3

### EDITORIAL

### Crime, Punishment, Socio-Economic Order and Moral-Spiritual Values

By Ch. Masud Akhtar ..... 4

MESSAGE OF DR. SAEED AHMAD KHAN  
TO THE GUYANA AHMADIYYA  
CONVENTION ..... 6

SPEECH BY YASEEN SAHU KHAN AT  
THE GUYANA AHMADIYYAH  
CONVENTION ..... 7

ABU BAKR- THE FIRST CALIPH OF ISLAM  
By The Late Maulana Muhammad Ali ..... 8

THE EXILEMENT OF ISHMAEL TO THE  
WILDERNESS OF ARABIA WAS THE REAL  
SACRIFICE OF ABRAHAM  
By Zahid Khan ..... 16

REVELATION IN ISLAM  
By The Late Maulana Muhammad Ali ..... 17

EDITOR'S MAIL ..... 20-22

THE SACRIFICE OF ABRAHAM  
By Dr. M.I. Rajabally ..... 26

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### In This Issue

**PROMISED MESSIAH SPEAKS**  
**'The Concept of Perfect Man In Islam'**  
By Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad ..... 2

**OUR BELIEFS** ..... 3

**EDITORIAL**  
**Some Misnomers, Some Misstatements**  
By Ch. Masud Akhtar ..... 4

**THE UNIQUENESS OF ISLAM**  
By Muhammad Sadiq  
(Dudley Wright, Phil.D., F.Z.S. .... 5

**REVELATION IN ISLAM**  
By The Late Maulana Muhammad Ali 10

**ISLAM OR CHRISTIANITY**  
By The Late Mirza Masum Beg ..... 14

**CHILDREN vs PARENTS**  
By Dr. M.I. Rajabally ..... 23

**SOME QUESTIONS FOR MUSLIM ULEMA**  
By Maulana Hafiz Sher Muhammad ..... 23

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## In This Issue

### PROMISED MESSIAH SPEAKS

**The Second Advent of the Messiah: A Discussion of some Fallacies**

By Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad ..... 2

**OUR BELIEFS** ..... 3

### EDITORIAL

**USURY...The Challenge and the Response**

By Ch. Masud Akhtar ..... 4

### REVELATION IN ISLAM

By The Late Maulana Muhammad Ali M.A.LL.B5

### REASON & RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

By The Late Khawaja Kamal uddin ..... 7

### ISLAM- PEACE FOR MAN AND MANKIND

By M. Yasin Sahu Khan ..... 11

### ROLE MODEL

By Dr. M. I. Rajabally ..... 12

### JESUS AND MUHAMMAD- THEIR MISSIONS- FAILURE AND SUCCESS

By The Late Muhammad Sadiq Dudley Wright, Phil. D, FZS ..... 13

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The Islamic Review- December / January 1987 ..... 3

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